

The US School System

Chapter 14 section 1 Pages 341-348

Development of individual citizens:

- Americans place great value on “the individual” (people thinking for themselves, and doing the things they feel are important to them)
- Americans believe that all citizens should be given the opportunity to study and learn to develop their own individual talents and abilities

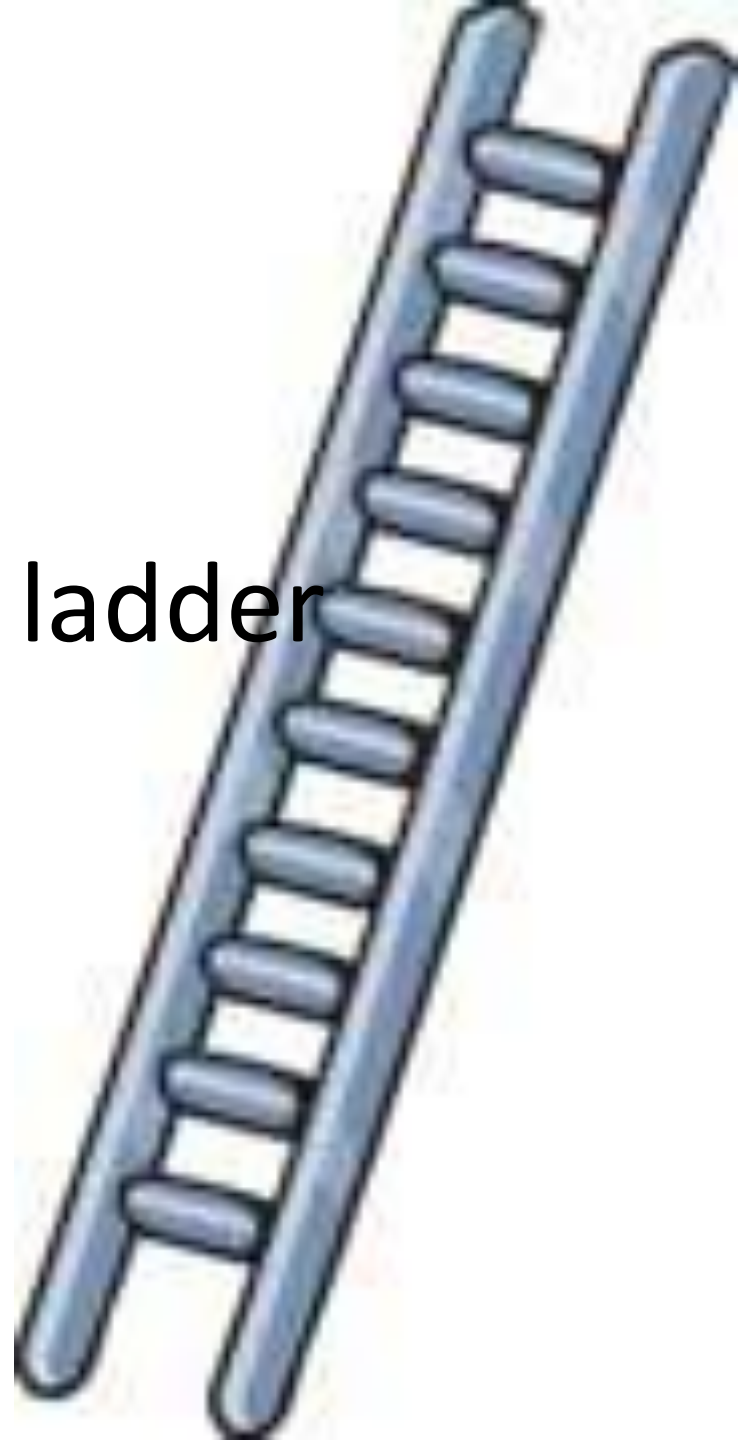
Development of the country:

- The well being of all Americans depends on people using their talents for the welfare of the entire country
- Our countries future depends on all Americans learning to work together for the common good



The educational ladder

Page 343



Preschool:

- Preschools accept children who are 3-4 years of age.
- Most preschools are private, however, some communities accept preschool as part of their public education system



Kindergarten:



- Many public school systems start with kindergarten for 5 and 6 year olds
- The word kindergarten is German and means “garden for children”
- This is where children spend a year learning how to get along with others and preparing for first grade

Elementary school:

- Most children enter the first year of elementary school at age 6 in the first grade.
- Here, children learn the “building blocks” of education
 - Reading
 - Writing
 - Arithmetic
 - Citizenship
- The curriculum also includes subjects like history, science, health, art, and music



Junior High School:



- Usually made up of grades 7, 8, and 9
- In modern days these are being replaced with middle or intermediate schools grades 4-8
- In Carmichaels, we use this time to not only further your knowledge, but also prepare you for the structure of high school

High School

- Students who complete the first 8 or 9 grades enter high school.
- There are generally 3 types of high schools:
 - Academic, which prepare students for college
 - Vocational, which teach students a trade or occupation
 - Comprehensive, offer both options



Magnet schools:

- Designed with a curriculum that focuses on 1 or a few areas of studies while still providing base knowledge in all subject areas
- These schools are designed to attract students interested in that schools core subject area
- Any student in the community can apply to these schools



Higher education

Page 344

The need for higher education in America has grown with new advancements in technology

Community Colleges

- Also called junior colleges
- Often supported by tax payers
- Offer courses for low tuition
- Many community college students transfer to 4 year colleges to finish their education or training



Colleges and Universities

- There are roughly 1,500 colleges and universities in the United States
- Most offer 4 year degrees (bachelors degree) in a variety of fields
- Most are coeducational, they accept both male and female students



Types of colleges

- Colleges and universities range in size from small private schools with a few hundred students to large institutions with 10,000 or more students
- Some are organized into universities, which mean that they incorporate 1 or more colleges
- Many colleges offer a graduate school, which allows you to continue your education after receiving a 4 year degree.
- Degrees from Graduate school are called “master” or “doctorate” degree

Stay in school:

- Generally, it pays to stay in school
- People with higher education degrees make more money annually than people who limit their education.