

Activity 1. Factors that Shape History

Instructions: The National Council for the Social Studies identifies ten “thematic strands” for the teaching of social studies and history (<http://www.socialstudies.org/standards/strands>, accessed June 4, 2010). The strands are a list of factors that have shaped human history. They include culture; geography and the environment; individuals and groups; power and authority; the production, distribution, and consumption of goods and services (economics); the impact of science and technology; and the important of global connections (such as trade and the diffusion of innovations). In your opinion, which of these “strands” or factors has had the greatest influence on human history? Explain your choice.