Sources of Social Change

What makes our society dynamic?
All cultures change over time because cultures are **DYNAMIC**, not **STATIC**. There are many factors that stimulate change, the text focuses on six of them:

* values and beliefs
* technology
* population
* diffusion
* the physical environment
* wars and conquests
new values and beliefs in systems of **ideology** (beliefs or ideas that justify a social, moral, religious, political or economic interest) can cause social change.

Ideologies are often spread through **SOCIAL MOVEMENTS** (a long-term, conscious effort to promote or prevent social change) which involves large numbers of people.....

What are some examples of social movements and how they’ve changed society?

Sometimes there is no official or obvious social movement that spurs our changes, it can also be the result of how we as a society view things that morphs over time
By the end of the 18th century, this area was home to a large number of African Americans, many of them freed slaves. Their settlement was largely due to the efforts of local Quakers. A congregation of the African Methodist Episcopal Church was established here circa 1863. On June 12, 1866, the congregation purchased land from Henry W. Potter as the site for their church, which they named 'Star of the East.' Members of the church are believed to have participated in the activities of the Underground Railroad, and the church's name is attributed to the symbol of the star as a guide for escaping slaves.
* Defined: knowledge and tools people use to manipulate their environment for practical purposes

* New technologies arise through **discovery** (new uses for existing elements) or **invention** (use existing knowledge to create something that did not previously exist). Inventions can be material objects, ideas or patterns of behavior (those last two are a little out of the norm from what you think when you hear “invention”, huh?!).

* Think about: How has the invention and expansion of the Internet both benefitted and hurt American society?
change in the size of population - moving, age structure, etc... cause changes in society.

Size affects schools, energy consumption, hospitals, businesses, and transportation, to name a few things... the economy can be stimulated or limited (or fail) as a result

examples:
* living in a resort town: in-season living versus off-season

* aging baby boomers or influx of a lot of “young families” to an area (schools, day cares, recreation, retirement homes, hospitals and other services affected)
the spreading of traits (ideas, acts, beliefs and objects) from one culture to another.

This is one of the state geography benchmarks! More contact = more diffusion

….just think of all the foods we eat!!!

Movies, fashion, music, ideas, etc… making their way around the globe and what it tells us about each other
PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

- Can they grow food or do they import?
- Natural disasters
- Living near a volcano or in an earthquake or hurricane or flood-prone area also changes how you live versus someone NOT in those areas (also a Geography standard!)
- change in supply of natural resources - water, natural gas
- natural disasters
WARS AND CONQUESTS

- Can bring the greatest amount of change in the least amount of time (especially with coup d’états)
- lost lives, broken families, destruction of property, change/shift in industry, change in government and advances in technology and medicine, just to name a few!
- The lasting effects of Imperialism are still felt today throughout the world – shaky governments, inability for self-sustainability, resentment...
Egypt NGO Trial: Sam LaHood, Ray LaHood's Son, Among 19 Under Investigation

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/02/06/egypt-ngo-trial-sam-lahood_n_1257432.html
Change does not occur without opposition, however. Most changes are the result of compromise. New ideas or trends may take years to be accepted and some people never do accept the changes, they just put up with them!!

There are three factors of resistance to cultural change:

* Ethnocentrism
* Cultural lag
* Vested interests
ETHNOCENTRISM

- feeling that one’s own culture or group is superior – this is a concept we mentioned before with cultural stagnation.
- If you think your group is superior, compromising with another group or borrowing their ideas may be difficult
the situation in which some aspects of a society change less rapidly than other aspects... they LAG behind.

New products are usually more readily accepted over new ideas. Why might that be?

The traditional school year and cultural lag
as humans we have a vested interest to protect what we know and how we’re used to doing things

we don’t like change, especially change that could threaten our security or standard of living, EVEN if what we have is not perfect!

The traditional school year and vested interest