Unit 5 Vocabulary

1. Manifest Destiny: the belief popular in the United States in the 1800’s that the country had the right and must expand its boundaries to the Pacific Ocean

2. Annexation: the process of one country taking over part or all of another country

3. Cession: the granting of land from one country to another

4. Executive Branch: the branch of government charged with the execution and enforcement of laws and policies and the administration of public affairs

5. Legislative Branch: the branch of government having the power to make laws

6. Judicial Branch: the branch of government that interprets the laws

7. Popular Sovereignty: a doctrine in political theory that government is created by and subject to the will of the people

8. Republicanism: a country that is governed by elected representatives and by an elected leader (such as a president) rather than by a king or queen

9. Federalism: A system in which a national and a local government share

10. Checks and Balances: a system in which each branch of government has the power to block the actions of the other.

11. Separation of Powers: the division of the functions of government among branches in order to prevent any one branch from having too much power

12. Individual Rights: the liberties of each individual to pursue life and goals without interference from other individuals or the government.

13. Limited Power of Government: a governing or controlling body whose power exists only within pre-defined limits that are established by a constitution or other source of authority.