

COURSE OUTLINE

**Periodization 1:
Foundations (5,000 BCE-600 CE)**

- **Unit 1: River Valley & Classical Civilizations**
- Unit 2: Greece & Rome

**Periodization 2:
Post-Classical Era (600-1450)**

- Unit 3: Islam & Africa
- Unit 4: Byzantine Empire & the Middle Ages
- Unit 5: Americas, China, & the Mongols

Periodization 3: Transition to the Modern World (1450-1750)

- Unit 6: The Renaissance & Protestant Reformation
- Unit 7: Exploration & Scientific Revolution

**Periodization 4:
Early Modern Era (1750-1914)**

- Unit 8: The Middle East, Japan, & China
- Unit 9: Enlightenment, Revolutions, & Napoleon
- Unit 10: Industrial Revolution & Imperialism

**Periodization 5:
The World at War (1914-1945)**

- Unit 11: World War I & the Russian Revolution
- Unit 12: World War II

**Periodization 6:
Late 20th Century (1945-Present)**

- Unit 13: The Cold War
- Unit 14: Decolonization & Globalization

World History Organizer

Unit 1: River Valley and Classical Civilizations

The Big Picture:

When modern humans emerged, their intellectual abilities allowed for the gradual adoption of farming which allowed permanent settlements to become possible. In Mesopotamia, Egypt, China, and India, permanent settlements gave rise to the first civilizations among the fertile soils provided by the major rivers of these areas. These first civilizations were different from other settlements and from each other in their use of irrigation, cities, writing, religion, government institutions, and labor forces. China and India went on to create such advanced cultural innovations, historians refer to their later development as “classical civilizations.”

Unit Pacing:	Bellwork	Key Terms and Phrases:	
8/4 – Neolithic Revolution & Rise of Civilizations	8/4 – 1.2 & 1.3	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Neolithic Revolution 2. Cultural Diffusion 3. Mesopotamia 4. Hammurabi’s Code 5. Monotheism vs. polytheism 6. Judaism (Hebrews) 7. Zoroastrianism 8. Cuneiform 9. Phoenicians 10. Egypt 11. Pharaohs 12. Hieroglyphics 13. India 14. Maurya Empire 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 15. Gupta Dynasty 16. Emperor Ashoka 17. Hinduism 18. Buddhism 19. Caste System 20. China 21. Dynastic Cycle 22. Mandate of Heaven 23. Zhou Dynasty 24. Qin Dynasty 25. Han Dynasty 26. Examination System 27. Confucianism 28. Silk Road
8/5 – Civilizations of Mesopotamia	8/5 – 2.1 & 3.4		
8/6 – Ancient Egypt	8/6 – 2.2		
8/7 – Ancient India	8/7 – 2.3 & 3.1 (pgs 63-65)		
8/10 – Hinduism & Buddhism in India	8/10 – 3.2		
8/11 – Ancient China	8/11 – 2.4 & 4.4		
8/12 – From River Valleys to Empires; The Persian Empire	8/12 – 4.3		
8/13 – Classical India & China	8/13 – 7.1 & 7.2		
8/14 – Summary & Comparisons	8/14 – 7.3		
8/17 – Unit 1 Review	8/17 – Complete		
8/ 21– Unit 1 Test	Unit 1 Organizer		

Essentials Questions:

1. How did the Neolithic Revolution and geographic features contribute to the rise of river valley civilizations in Mesopotamia, Egypt, India, and China?
2. How did the river valley civilizations of Mesopotamia, Egypt, India, and China differ in their: (a) religions, (b) governments, and (c) economies?
3. Compare the cultural achievements of the Persian Empire, Gupta India, and Han China.

Standards:

1. SSWH1: They student will analyze the origins, structures, and

Interactions of complex societies in the ancient Eastern Mediterranean from 3500 BCE to 500 BCE.

Unit 1 Reading Guide—River Valley and Classical Civilizations

Chapter 1, Section 2

1. In what ways did Cro-Magnon people change human culture?
2. How did life change during the Neolithic Revolution?
3. What problems did early farming villages face?

Chapter 1, Section 3

1. How did life become more complex as farming villages began to grow?
 2. Name the five characteristics of a civilization.
 3. What social classes existed in the Sumerian city-state of Ur?
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Chapter 2, Section 1

1. What advantages did living in the “Fertile Crescent” provide for the Sumerians?
2. Who governed the Sumerian city-states?
3. What was Sumerian religion like?
4. Why was Hammurabi’s Code important?

Chapter 3, Section 4

1. What role did Abraham play in early Hebrew history?
 2. What were the Ten Commandments?
 3. How was Israel split?
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Chapter 2, Section 2

1. How did the Nile River create boundaries?
 2. How was an Egyptian pharaoh different from a Sumerian king?
 3. How was Egyptian society organized?
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Chapter 2, Section 3

1. What challenges did the people along the Indus River face?
2. What were Harappan cities like?
3. Name two reasons why the Indus Valley civilization may have ended?

Chapter 3, Section 1, pages 63-65 only

1. What is a caste?
 2. Explain the four major Indian castes.
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Chapter 3, Section 2

1. Name the Hindu beliefs of reincarnation, karma, and enlightenment (nirvana)
 2. Who was Siddhartha Gautama?
 3. What is the “Eightfold Path”?
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Chapter 2, Section 4

1. **Why** did China develop apart from other cultures?
2. What was Chinese religion like?
3. Explain the dynastic cycle.

Chapter 4, Section 4

1. How did Confucius try to restore ancient Chinese values?
 2. Explain the difference between the ethical systems of Daoism and Legalism.
 3. Name two changes Shi Huangdi made in China.
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Chapter 4, Section 3

1. What made Cyrus a great leader for Persia?
 2. How did Darius change Persia?
 3. What mark did Persians leave on history?
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Chapter 7, Section 1

1. Why was Chandragupta important in Indian history?
 2. What changes did Ashoka make in the Mauryan Empire?
 3. How was the Gupta Empire different from the Mauryan Empire?
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Chapter 7, Section 2

1. What changes did the split in Buddhism bring?
 2. What advances did scientists and mathematicians make?
 3. What Indian goods and ideas were spread to other parts of the world by Indian traders?
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Chapter 7, Section 3

1. How did China change under the Han Dynasty?
 2. Explain the importance of Chinese civil service exams?
 3. What caused the fall of the Han Dynasty?
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