

**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 20<sup>th</sup> Century (1945-Present)**

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

**World History Organizer**  
**Unit 5: The Americas, China & the Mongols**

**The Big Picture:**

During the Post-Classical era, more areas of the world became connected through trade and the cultural isolation that existed in the Foundations era became less common. In the Americas, a series of successful cultures including the Olmecs, Mayans, Aztecs, and Incas built powerful societies with impressive innovations such as calendars, writing systems, roads, and temples. Meanwhile, China experienced a golden age during the Post-Classical era. Under the Song and Tang Dynasties, China developed a series of innovations such as gunpowder, magnetic compass, vaccinations, and moveable-type printing. These innovations spread through Asia and Europe as merchants traded with China. In a surprising move, the Chinese under the Ming Dynasty end their strict isolation and begin a brief wave of overseas voyages led by explorer Zheng He. The Post-Classical era ended as Genghis Khan and the Mongols conquered most of Asia and created the largest continuous land empire in world history. During the era of Mongol rule, known as the Pax Mongolica, the Silk Road was protected and central Asia experienced a long era of peace and prosperity.

| Unit Pacing:  | BELLWORK                          | Key Terms and Phrases: |                           |
|---|-----------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|
| 10/21– Olmec, Mayan, Aztec, & Inca Civilizations in America | 10/21 – 9.2, 16.2                 | 1. Mesoamerica         | 10. Tang & Song Dynasties |
| 10/22 – Mesoamerican Achievements                           | 10/22 – 16.3,16.4                 | 2. Olmecs              | 11. Ming Dynasty          |
| 10/23 – Chinese Dynasties                                   | 10/23 – 12.1                      | 3. Mayans              | 12. Zheng He              |
| 10/26 – Chinese Achievements                                |                                   | 4. Aztecs              | 13. Mongols               |
| 10/27 – Mongols & the Pax Mongolica                         | 10/27 – 12.2                      | 5. Inca                | 14. Genghis Khan          |
| 10/28 – Impact of the Mongols                               | 10/28 – 12.3                      | 6. Glyphic writing     | 15. Pax Mongolica         |
| 10/29 – Periodization Review                                |                                   | 7. Tenochtitlan        | 16. Khanates              |
| 10/29 – Unit 5 Review                                       |                                   | 8. Chinampas           | 17. Kublai Khan           |
| 10/30– <b>Unit 5 Test</b>                                   | 10/29 – Complete Unit 5 Organizer | 9. Quipu               | 18. Marco Polo            |

- Essentials Questions:**
1. How did each of the American civilizations rise and fall: (a) Olmecs, (b) Mayans, (c) Aztecs, and (d) Incas?
  2. What were the similarities and differences among the Mayan, Aztec, and Inca Empires?
  3. Compare and contrast the achievements of China during the (a) Tang and Song Dynasties, (b) Ming Dynasty, and (c) Yuan Dynasty when China was ruled by Kublai Khan and the Mongols.
  4. Identify three impacts of Mongol rule on Asia, Europe, and/or the Islamic Empire.

**AKS**  
 AKS 33 g  
 AKS 34 f  
 AKS 36 a-b  
 AKS 39a

## Unit 5 Reading Guide—The Americas, China & the Mongols

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### **Chapter 9, Section 2**

1. Why are the Olmecs often called Mesoamerica’s “mother culture”?
2. What type of Olmec statues were found around 1860? What made these unique?
3. How did the Olmecs contribute to later Mesoamerican civilizations?

### **Chapter 16, Section 2**

1. What is known about Maya cities?
2. What advances did the Maya make in math and religion?
3. Why do historians think the Maya declined?

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### **Chapter 16, Section 3**

1. Where were the Aztecs supposed to build their capital?
2. How was Aztec society organized?
3. Why and how did the Aztecs sacrifice to the sun god?
4. Why did conquered peoples rebel against the Aztecs?

### **Chapter 16, Section 4**

1. How was the Inca government similar to Egypt’s?
  2. How did the government unite the empire?
  3. Why did the Incan Empire fall?
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### **Chapter 12, Section 1**

1. What changes occurred during the Tang Dynasty?
2. Name three advances in technology under the Tang and Song Dynasties.
3. What social changes occurred in China during the Tang and Song periods?

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### **Chapter 12, Section 2**

1. Name three characteristics of the nomads of the steppes.
2. Name three reasons for the success of the Mongols as conquerors.
3. What were two effects of the Mongol empire on Central Asia?

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### **Chapter 12, Section 3**

1. How did Kublai Khan rule China?
2. What did Marco Polo do while he was in China?
3. Name two reasons why Mongol rule came to an end.