

Ancient World History Curriculum

Unit 1: Beginnings of Civilization, 4 million B.C. – 200 B.C.

Chapter 1: The Peopling of the World, Prehistory – 2500 B.C.

Section 1: Human Origins in Africa – Standards 8.4.9B and 8.4.9C

- Describe key scientific findings about human origins
- List human achievements during the Stone Age
- Trace emergence of modern humans
- State discoveries about early humans

Section 2: Humans Try to Control Nature – Standards 8.4.9B, 7.3.9D

- List technological and artistic achievements of the Paleolithic Age
- Describe the Neolithic Revolution
- Explain the growth of villages

Section 3: Civilization, Case Study: Ur in Sumner – Standards 8.4.9B, 7.3.9C

- Explain how villages grew into cities
- List the characteristics of civilization
- Describe how the city of Ur exemplifies early civilization

Chapter 2: Early River Valley Civilizations, 3500 B.C. – 450 B.C.

Section 1: City-States in Mesopotamia – Standards 7.1.9B, 8.4.9B&C

- Summarize how geography affected culture in the Fertile Crescent
- Describe city-states and how other cultures learned about them
- Describe Sumerian religious beliefs, social structure, and technology
- Explain the influence of Sumer on later civilizations

Section 2: Pyramids on the Nile – Standards 8.4.9B&C, 7.1.9B

- Summarize the effect of geography on the development of Egyptian culture
- Explain how Egypt united into a kingdom
- Describe ancient Egyptian religion, social structure, and technology

- Explain the decline of the Old Kingdom

Section 3: Planned Cities on the Indus – Standards 8.4.9B&C, 7.1.9B

- Describe the impact of geography on the Indus Valley culture
- Describe Indus Valley cities and culture
- List theories about the decline of the Indus Valley civilization

Section 4: River Dynasties in China – Standards 8.4.9B&C, 7.1.9B

- Explain the effects of geography on cultural development in China
- Describe the growth and structure of the Shang Dynasty
- Describe Shang family structure, religion and technology
- Summarize the rise and fall of the Zhou Dynasty

Chapter 3: People and Ideas on the Move, 2000 B.C. – 250 B.C.

Section 1: The Indo-Europeans – Standards 7.3.9A,B, &D

- Describe the spread of Indo-Europeans and their language
- Identify the Hittite empire and effects of its technology on other societies
- Summarize the possible Aryan invasion of India and the culture that resulted

Section 2: Hinduism and Buddhism Develop – Standard 8.4.9C

- Describe the origins, beliefs, and development of Hinduism
- Explain the origins, beliefs, and practices of Buddhism

Section 3: Seafaring Traders – Standards 8.4.9B

- Describe Minoan civilization
- Identify contributions of the Phoenicians
- Summarize the extent and impact of ancient world trade

Section 4: The Origins of Judaism – Standards 8.4.9C&D, 6.4.9B

- Summarize the history and beliefs of the ancient Hebrews
- Explain the historical and cultural importance of the Exodus
- Describe Israel under Saul, David, and Solomon
- Describe Israel's destruction and the Hebrews' exile in Babylon

Chapter 4: First Age of Empires, 1570 B.C. – 200 B.C.

Section 1: The Egyptian and Nubian Empires – Standards 8.4.9A&B

- Understand why the Hyksos were able to invade Egypt
- Identify key events in the history and decline of Egypt's New Kingdom
- Describe the Kushite conquest of Egypt
- Summarize the achievements of Meroë

Section 2: The Assyrian Empire – Standards 8.4.9A&B

- Analyze the sources of Assyrian military strength
- Evaluate Assyrian achievements
- Trace the Assyrian decline

Section 3: The Persian Empire – Standards 8.4.9A&B, 5.1.9B

- Explain the rise of the Persian Empire
- List features of the Persian government
- Describe Zoroasterism

Section 4: The Unification of China – Standards 8.4.9A, B,&C

- Summarize Confucian ideas about the family and about society
- Identify ethical systems of this period
- Describe the rise and fall of the Qin Dynasty

Unit 2: New Directions in Government and Society, 2000 B.C. – A.D. 700

Chapter 5: Classical Greece, 2000 B.C. – 300 B.C.

Section 1: Cultures of the Mountains and the Sea – Standards 8.4.9A,

- Identify the ways geography and climate shaped Greek life
- Explain the rise and development of Mycenaean civilization
- Describe how Homer and Greek myths contributed to early Greek culture

Section 2: Warring City-States

- Identify the different political systems that developed in the Greek city-states
- Describe the government of Athens

- Explain how Athenian and Spartan governments differed
- Summarize the battles and results of the Persian Wars

Section 3: Democracy and Greece's Golden Age

- Identify three goals of Pericles
- Describe Greek art and architecture
- Summarize the work of Greek dramatists and historians
- Explain the major conflicts in the Peloponnesian War
- Identify Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle

Section 4: Alexander's Empire

- Describe Philip's conquest of Greece
- Explain how Alexander defeated the Persian Empire
- Summarize Alexander's conquests and their impact on future cultures

Section 5: The Spread of Hellenistic Culture

- Define Hellenistic culture
- Identify the achievements of Hellenistic culture
- Summarize the major philosophies and artistic styles of the Hellenistic period

Chapter 6: Ancient Rome and Early Christianity, 500 B.C. – A.D. 500

Section 1: The Roman Republic

- Describe how geography influenced Rome's development
- Explain the main institutions of the Roman Republic
- Describe how the Punic Wars helped increase Roman power

Section 2: The Roman Empire

- Analyze problems facing the Republic
- Summarize events leading to creation of the Roman Republic
- Describe the empire's economy and government

Section 3: The Rise of Christianity

- Summarize the life of Jesus
- Trace the spread of Christianity in the Roman Empire

- Analyze Christianity's appeal

Section 4: The Fall of the Roman Empire

- Summarize the decline of the Roman Empire
- Describe the reforms of Diocletian and Constantine
- Trace the fall of the Western Roman Empire

Section 5: Rome and the Roots of Western Civilization

- Describe the legacy of the Greco-Roman civilization
- Identify Roman achievements in the arts, sciences, and law

Chapter 7: India and China Establish Empires, 400 B.C. – A.D. 550

Section 1: India's First Empires

- Trace the rise and fall of India's first unified kingdom
- Compare events in India's three regions after the fall of the Mauryan Empire
- Describe the rise of the Gupta Empire

Section 2: Trade Spreads Indian Religions and Culture

- Explain why and how religion changed in India
- Describe achievements in Indian literature, art, science, and mathematics
- Summarize Indian trade and its effects on India and other Asian culture

Section 3: Han Emperors in China

- Describe the rise and rule of the Han Dynasty and the structure of the Han government
- Characterize Han technology, commerce, and culture
- Analyze the fall and return of the Han

Chapter 8: African Civilizations, 1500 B.C. – A.D. 700

Section 1: Diverse Societies in Africa

- Identify the different geographic regions of Africa and explain how early Africans adapted to their environment
- Summarize the achievements of early West African societies
- Trace growth of African ironworking

Section 2: Migration, Case Study: Bantu-Speaking Peoples

- Summarize the causes and effects of human migration
- Describe the Bantu migrations into the southern half of Africa

Section 3: The Kingdom of Aksum

- Explain how maritime trade led to Aksum's growth
- Give examples of Aksum's achievements
- Explain the effects of the Muslim invasion of Aksum

Chapter 9: The Americas: A Separate World, 40,000 B.C. – A.D. 700

Section 1: The Earliest Americans

- Trace the route of the first inhabitants' migration to the Americas
- Explain how origins and impact of agriculture in the Americas

Section 2: Early Mesoamerican Civilizations

- Describe the achievements of Olmec civilization
- Trace the rise and fall of the Zapotec
- Identify contributions to later Mesoamerican cultures

Section 3: Early Civilizations of the Andes

- Describe the first people of the Andes and the Chavin civilization
- Explain the rise of the Nazca and Moche societies

Unit 3: An Age of Exchange and Encounter, 500 – 1500

Chapter 10: The Muslim World, 600 -1250

Section 1: The Rise of Islam

- Describe Arabia before the rise of Islam
- Explain how Muhammad began to unify the Arabian Peninsula under Islam
- Identify Islamic beliefs and practices

Section 2: Islam Expands

- Describe how Muhammad's successors spread Islam

- List conflicts within the Umayyad state
- Explain how rivalries split Islam

Section 3: Muslim Culture

- Describe society under the Abbasids
- Identify Muslim accomplishments in art and science
- Describe Muslim attitudes toward philosophy and religion

Chapter 11: Byzantines, Russians, and Turks Interact, 500-1500

Section 1: The Byzantine Empire

- Describe Byzantine politics and the rise of Emperor Justinian
- Describe Justinian's achievements and life in Constantinople
- Identify causes of the Byzantine Empire's collapse
- Explain why the Eastern and Western churches created two traditions

Section 2: The Russian Empire

- Summarize the Slavic, Greek, and Viking roots of Russia and the Russian culture
- Describe the Kievan state
- Explain how the Mongols conquered and ruled Russia
- Describe Russia's rise to independence

Section 3: Turkish Empires Rise in Anatolia

- Describe the rise of the Seljuk Turks and their impact on Persian culture
- Explain how internal problems and foreign attack ended Seljuk power

Chapter 12: Empires in East Asia, 600-1350

Section 1: Tang and Song China

- Identify main rulers of the Tang Dynasty
- Describe the causes and effects of the Song Dynasty's retreat to the south
- Summarize the achievements of the Tang and Song empires
- Describe changes in Chinese society

Section 2: The Mongol Conquests

- Describe the geography of the steppe and the lifestyles of nomads
- Explain the Khan's successes
- Summarize the extent of the Mongol Empire and its divisions

Section 3: The Mongol Empire

- Summarize Kublai Khan's conquest
- Describe Mongol rule in China
- Explain the fall of Mongol rule

Section 4: Feudal Powers in Japan

- Describe Japan's early history and culture
- Draw conclusions about life in Heian court
- Describe feudal Japan

Section 5: Kingdoms of Southeast Asia and Korea

- Describe kingdoms of Southeast Asia
- Summarize early Korean history

Chapter 13: European Middle Ages, 500-1200

Section 1: Charlemagne Unites Germanic Kingdoms

- Identify effects of Germanic invasions
- Explain new ideas about government
- Trace the spread of Christianity among Germanic peoples
- Identify Charles Martel's successes
- Describe Charlemagne's empire

Section 2: Feudalism in Europe

- Describe the effects of new invasions on western Europe
- Explain the structure of feudalism and the role of the manor system

Section 3: The Age of Chivalry

- Explain the technology, standards, and training of knights
- Analyze how medieval literature depicts chivalry, knighthood, and women
- Summarize the roles and status of medieval women

Section 4: The Power of the Church

- Describe the Church's structure, power, and influence
- List events in the power struggle between popes and German emperors
- Explain why Germany's feudal states did not unify during the Middle Ages

Chapter 14: The Formation of Western Europe, 800-1500

Section 1: Church Reform and the Crusades

- Explain the spiritual revival and Church reforms that began in the 11th century
- Describe the Gothic cathedrals of the 12th century
- Summarize the causes of the Crusades and analyze the effects of the Crusades

Section 2: Changes in Medieval Society

- Describe advances in agriculture
- Explain the importance of guilds
- Trace the growth of trade and finance and the development of medieval towns
- Explain the new interest in learning

Section 3: England and France Develop

- Describe the various invaders who contributed to English culture
- Explain how England's government took the first steps toward democracy
- Describe the Capetian dynasty in France

Section 4: The Hundred Years' War and the Plague

- Identify the problems faced by the Church during the 1300s and early 1400s
- Describe the bubonic plague and its effects on Europe
- Explain the Hundred Years' War and its impact

Unit 3: Connecting Hemispheres, 500-1800

Chapter 17: European Renaissance and Reformation, 1300-1600

Section 1: Italy: Birthplace of the Renaissance

- Explain the conditions in Italy that gave rise to the Renaissance
- Identify values and ideas prized during the Renaissance
- Describe the artistic breakthroughs and achievements of Renaissance artists
- Summarize influential literary works and techniques of key Renaissance writers

Section 2: The Northern Renaissance

- Explain the origins and characteristics of the Northern Renaissance
- Trace the impact of the Renaissance on German and Flemish painters
- Profile key Northern Renaissance writers
- Describe the origins of the Elizabethan Age and Elizabethan drama
- Explain how printing spread ideas

Section 3: Luther Leads the Reformation

- Analyze historical forces and religious issues that sparked the Reformation
- Trace Martin Luther's role in the movement to reform the Catholic Church
- Analyze the impact of Luther's religious revolt
- Explain the spread of the Protestant faith to England

Section 4: The Reformation Continues

- Explain Calvin's Protestant teachings
- Describe the beliefs of other reformers and the roles of women in the Reformation
- Trace reforms in the Catholic Church
- Summarize the legacy of the Reformation