

Early River Civilizations (approx. 7000 BCE –approx. 500 CE)

Students will begin with a brief overview of the developments, particularly in agriculture, necessary for the beginnings of what are defined as “civilizations.” Students will explore the concept and attributes of civilizations. They will analyze the impact of geographic location and resources in terms of water and rivers on the development of early civilizations. Students will compare and contrast the government, culture, and ideas of Mesopotamia and the Fertile Crescent, Egypt, China, and India. Students will trace the development of city-states and early government. They will investigate the causes and consequences of the rise and decline of empires through conquest and expansion. They will examine the growth and effects of barter and trade across these regions, including the diffusion of cultures and ideas. Students will compare and contrast polytheism and monotheism and analyze the impact of religion on the early river civilizations. Students will demonstrate knowledge of our Jewish spiritual heritage and trace the development of covenant relationship salvation history.

Mesopotamia

IDEAS

1. civilization
2. division of labor
3. empire
4. polytheism
5. social hierarchy
6. architecture
7. alphabet
8. imports
9. exports
10. monotheism
11. Judaism
12. Ten Commandments
13. Fertile Crescent

PEOPLE/ROLES

1. Nebuchadnezzar
2. Assyrians
3. Phoenicians
4. monarch
5. Abraham
6. Moses
7. Genesis 12:1-9, 17:12-58

PLACES/INSTITUTIONS

1. Tigris
2. Euphrates
3. Fertile Crescent
4. Sumer
5. Babylon
6. Phoenicia
7. Mediterranean Sea
8. Holy Land

EVENTS

1. development of city-states
2. wheels
3. Epic of Gilgamesh
4. Hammurabi's Code
5. chariot
6. Exodus
7. Covenant with Abraham

Egypt**IDEAS**

1. afterlife
2. mummies
3. hieroglyphics
4. theocracy
5. Ten Commandments

PEOPLE/ROLES

1. Ramses the Great
2. King Tutankhamen
3. Queen Hatshepsut
4. pharaoh
5. dynasty
6. nobles
7. Akhenaten
8. Moses

PLACES/INSTITUTIONS

1. delta
2. cataracts
3. pyramids
4. Nile
5. Upper Egypt
6. Lower Egypt
7. temples (sphinxes, obelisks)
8. Kush, Nubia
9. Mt. Sinai

EVENTS

1. Old Kingdom
2. Middle Kingdom
3. New Kingdom
4. Rosetta Stone
5. papyrus
6. Exodus
7. Covenant with Moses

India**IDEAS**

1. Hinduism
2. caste system
3. reincarnation

4. karma
5. Buddhism
6. Four Noble Truths
7. nirvana

PEOPLE/ROLES

1. Aryans
2. Siddhartha Gautama (Buddha)
3. Gupta
4. Asoka

PLACES/INSTITUTIONS

1. subcontinent
2. Indus
3. Mohenjo Daro

EVENTS

1. Mauryan Empire
2. Gupta dynasty
3. metallurgy
4. inoculation
5. astronomy
6. Hindu-Arabic numerals

China**IDEAS**

1. Confucianism
2. Daoism
3. Legalism
4. diffusion of Buddhism
5. dynast

PEOPLE/ROLES

1. Confucius
2. Shi Huangdi

PLACES/INSTITUTIONS

1. Huang He River
2. Yangzi River
3. Great Wall
4. Silk Road

EVENTS

1. Shang Dynasty
2. Zhou Dynasty
3. Qin Dynasty
4. Han Dynasty
5. acupuncture
6. seismograph

SKILLS**SAMPLE COMPELLING QUESTIONS**

1. Why did Siddhartha Gautama decide to leave his home and what was the result of that

- decision? (Standard 1)
2. How did Hammurabi's Code affect the rights and responsibilities of the citizens of Babylon? (Standard 2)
3. How did the beliefs of Brahmanism and Hinduism impact Indian society? (Standard 3)
4. What are some of the differences between the Shang, and Zhou dynasties? (Standard 4)
5. How did geography influence the development of early river civilizations? (Standard 5)

Ancient Greece (approx. 2000 BCE – approx. 70 CE)

Students will recognize the beliefs and ideas of the ancient Greeks as the foundation of western ideas that shape the world today. Students will recognize and evaluate the role of geography in shaping Greek civilization. They will trace the development of city-states in Greece and compare and contrast Sparta and Athens in terms of the rights and responsibilities of citizens. Students will examine the influence of Greek mythology, literature, philosophy, architecture on the modern world and early Catholic tradition. They will analyze continuity and change in the context of the growth of the Persian Empire, and the empire of Alexander the Great. Students will explore the spread of the Hellenistic culture during the reign of Alexander the Great.

IDEAS

1. classical age
2. direct democracy
3. representative democracy
4. philosophy
5. Greek architecture (columns)
6. oligarchy
7. mythology
8. Hellenistic culture
9. Greek Theater
10. Olympics
11. Catholic social responsibility

PEOPLE/ROLES

1. Minoans
2. Mycenaeans
3. Pericles
4. Aesop
5. Homer
6. Cyrus the Great
7. Socrates
8. Plato
9. Aristotle
10. Alexander the Great
11. Euclid
12. Hippocrates
13. Philip II

PLACES/INSTITUTIONS

1. Acropolis
2. Sparta
3. Athens
4. Persia
5. Macedonia
6. Syria
7. Alexandria
8. polis

EVENTS

1. Trojan War
2. Persian War
3. Peloponnesian War

4. Empire of Alexander the Great

SKILLS**SAMPLE COMPELLING QUESTIONS**

1. How did Spartan values impact the education of boys? (Standard 1)
2. How were the rights and responsibilities of citizens the same and different in Athens and Sparta? (Standard 2)
3. How do Greek myths and literature still influence our world today? (Standard 3)
4. How did Alexander the Great change the lands he conquered? (Standard 4)
5. How did the geography of Greece both help and hinder its development? (Standard 5)

Ancient Rome (approx. 753 BCE – approx. 1453 CE)

Students will trace the rise and fall of the Roman Republic and the Roman Empire and recognize the differences between the two. Students will examine the enduring achievements of the Romans in engineering, architecture and government. They will examine the origins of Christianity and its impact as it spread throughout the Roman Empire. They will understand how the Pax Romana shaped the world at the time. Students will understand the connections between economics, military, and engineering and how they worked together to shape the world. They will analyze how economic choices and corruption led to loss of government stability and the eventual decline of the Roman Empire.

IDEAS

1. republic
2. dictatorship
3. patricians/plebeians
4. consul
5. senate
6. veto
7. Latin
8. Roman engineering
9. roads
10. civil law
11. Judaism
12. Messiah
13. Christianity
14. Christian Bible

PEOPLE/ROLES

1. Romulus & Remus
2. Virgil
3. Hannibal
4. Spartacus
5. Cicero
6. Julius Caesa
7. Jesus of Nazareth
8. 1st and 2nd Triumvirate
9. Mark Anthony
10. Augustus
11. Constantine
12. Attila
13. Justinian & Theodora
14. St. Paul
15. the apostles

PLACES/INSTITUTIONS

1. Forum
2. Carthage
3. Gaul
4. Roman Empire
5. Italy
6. Constantinople

7. Byzantine Empire

EVENTS

1. Law of the Twelve Tables
2. Punic Wars
3. Pax Romana
4. spread of Christianity
5. division of Rome
6. fall of Rome
7. martyrdom

SKILLS**SAMPLE COMPELLING QUESTIONS**

1. How did Rome's expansion affect trade? (Standard 1)
2. How did changing views on freedom of worship in the Roman Empire affect the spread of Christianity? (Standard 2)
3. What ideas from the government in the Roman Republic influenced the government of the United States? (Standard 3)
4. How do Roman accomplishments continue to impact our lives today? (Standard 4)
5. How did Rome's location on the Mediterranean affect its growth into a world power? (Standard 5)

African Civilizations and the Islamic World (approx. 500 BCE – approx. 1500 CE)

Students will explore the impact and accomplishments of the early empires of West Africa. They will examine the role of trade, particularly in West Africa's resources of gold and iron, in connecting people, cultures, and ideas. Students will analyze the factors leading to decline in early African empires. They will explore the impact of geography and climate on the culture and development of civilizations in Africa. Students will examine the origins of Islam in Southwest Asia. They will trace the expansion of Islam and its role in preserving intellectual and cultural traditions while acting as a bridge between eastern and western worlds. Students will analyze the role of trade in the spread of Islamic beliefs. Students will investigate Islamic contributions in art, architecture, science, and mathematics.

IDEAS

1. extended family
2. animism
3. overgrazing
4. oral history
5. caravan
6. migratory people
7. prophet
8. Qur'an
9. pilgrimage
10. jihad
11. minaret
12. Five Pillars of Islam

PEOPLE/ROLES

1. Mansa Musa
2. Askia the Great
3. caliph
4. Janissaries
5. Suleyman the Magnificent
6. Shia
7. Sunni
8. Ibn Battutah
9. Omar Khayyam
10. Muhammad

PLACES/INSTITUTIONS

1. Niger River
2. Sahara
3. Ghana
4. Mali
5. Morocco
6. mosque
7. Arabia
8. Baghdad
9. Cordoba
10. Timbuktu

EVENTS

1. Muhammad's journey from Medina to Mecca
2. travels of Mansa Musa

3. Songhai kingdom
4. Great Zimbabwe
5. crusades

SKILLS**SAMPLE COMPELLING QUESTIONS**

1. How did choices about how trade was conducted affect the wealth of Ghana? (Standard 1)
2. What role did village society play in defining rights and responsibilities in early West African communities? (Standard 2)
3. How are Islam, Christianity, and Judaism similar and different? (Standard 3)
4. How do Muslim ideas in math and medicine still influence the world today? (Standard 4)
5. How did geography affect culture and trade in West Africa? (Standard 5)

Asian Empires (approx. 500 CE – approx. 1600 CE)

Students will compare and contrast the strengths and weaknesses of China's dynasties. They will investigate new inventions and technology in China and their impact on society. They will investigate the growth of Buddhism and its increasing influence on life in China during the Sui and Tang dynasties. Students will analyze the impact of trade on China and other nations, including their exports of tea, rice, silk, spices, and jade. They will examine the influence of Confucianism on the government. Students will evaluate dynastic cycles in China.

Students will recognize the role of geography in impacting life in Japan, from developing a unique culture because of its isolation as an island to its reliance on seafood. They will recognize the influence of China and Korea on Japanese culture. Students will analyze the Shogunate in Japan after 1100. They will recognize the decline of central power in Japan after the Mongol invasions of the 13th century.

China**IDEAS**

1. rice culture
2. growth of cities
3. porcelain
4. Neo-Confucianism
5. civil service
6. examination system

PEOPLE/ROLES

1. Empress Wu
2. Genghis Khan
3. Kublai Khan

PLACES/INSTITUTIONS

1. Korea
2. Japan
3. Mongolia

SKILLS**Japan****IDEAS**

1. Shinto
2. calligraphy
3. Noh
4. Zen Buddhism
5. Heian literature
6. tea ceremony and pure Land Buddhism
7. Bushido

PEOPLE/ROLES

1. Prince Shotoku
2. Lady Murasaki Shikibu
3. daimyo
4. samurai
5. shogun
6. Paul Miki

PLACES/INSTITUTIONS

1. Kamakura
2. Heian-kyo

EVENTS

1. Kamakura shogunate
2. Mongol invasion

SKILLS**SAMPLE COMPELLING QUESTIONS**

1. How did the creation of an imperial court in Heian influence the growth of the arts in Japan? (Standard 1)
2. How did concepts of political power in Japan change over time? (Standard 2)
3. How did Confucian ideas influence government during the Song dynasty? (Standard 3)
4. How did the Mongol conquest change China? (Standard 4)
5. How did advancements in agriculture advance Chinese civilization? (Standard 5)

Early Americas (approx. 500 BCE – approx. 537 CE)

Students will compare and contrast the civilizations of the Mayas, Aztecs, and Incas in the Americas. Students will examine the impact of geography on the culture and way of life of these civilizations. They will investigate religion, family and social structure, government, trade, and innovations of the Mayas, Aztecs, and Incas. They will examine the causes of the decline and conquest of these civilizations.

IDEAS

1. maize
2. observatories
3. calendars

PEOPLE/ROLES

1. Moctezuma II
2. conquistadors
3. Hernan Cortes
4. Pachacuti
5. Atahualpa
6. Francisco Pizarro
7. Juan Diego
8. Our Lady of Guadalupe

PLACES/INSTITUTIONS

1. Mesoamerica
2. Lake Texcoco
3. Mexico
4. Tenochtitlan
5. Andes
6. Machu Picchu

EVENTS

1. Classic Age of Mayan civilization
2. Cortes conquers Aztecs
3. Inca Empire
4. Pizarro conquers the Incas

SKILLS**SAMPLE COMPELLING QUESTIONS**

1. How did trade impact Mayan civilization? (Standard 1)
2. How did the Incas use central rule to control the vast Incan empire? (Standard 2)
3. How did religion impact Mayan culture? (Standard 3)
4. What events led to the end of the Incan empire? (Standard 4)
5. How did the Aztecs address the geographic challenges of building Tenochtitlan? (Standard 5)

Middle Ages in Europe

Students will recognize the influence of the Catholic church on the small kingdoms of Europe after the fall of the Roman Empire. They will investigate the invasion of Europe by Muslims, Magyars, and Vikings. Students will examine the conflicts between religious and political leaders and how they shaped society and culture. Students will draw conclusions about the causes and effects of the Crusades. They will investigate changing views on rights as expressed in the Magna Carta and through the development of Parliament in England. They will evaluate the impact of the Black Death on European society and the impact of the Church through charitable contributions.

IDEAS

1. Crusades
2. medieval
3. missionaries
4. feudalism
5. chivalry
6. growth of towns and trade
7. Parliament
8. excommunicate
9. Christendom
10. scientific method

PEOPLE/ROLES

1. St. Patrick
2. monks and friars
3. Pope
4. Benedict
5. Charlemagne
6. William the Conqueror
7. Eleanor of Aquitaine
8. Thomas Aquinas
9. Pope Urban I
10. Saladin
11. King Richard I
12. St. Francis of Assisi
13. St. Vincent DePaul

PLACES/INSTITUTIONS

1. Rome
2. Britain
3. Ireland
4. monasteries
5. Gaul (France)
6. Holy Roman Empire
7. Holy Land
8. Spain
9. Catholic hospitals and universities

EVENTS

1. Battle of Hastings
2. Crusades
3. Magna Carta

4. Hundred Years War
5. Black Death
6. Reconquista
7. Gothic architecture

SKILLS**SAMPLE COMPELLING QUESTIONS**

1. How did the attempts to retake the Holy Land from the Muslims through the Crusades impact Europe and the Middle East? (Standard 1)
2. How did feudalism define the rights and responsibilities between lords and vassals? (Standard 2)
3. How did Christianity influence education in the Middle Ages? (Standard 3)
4. What factors led to the growth of medieval towns in Europe? (Standard 4)
5. What effect did the bubonic plague have in Europe? (Standard 5)
6. How did the Catholic faith influence charitable giving in the Middle Ages?