



6th Grade World History Study Guide

Ancient Civilizations

The Paleolithic Era:

Standard 6.1: Students describe what is known through archaeological studies of the early physical and cultural development of humankind from the Paleolithic era to the agricultural revolution.

1. How did people in a hunter-gatherer society live?
2. How did tools and fire improve life for early humans?
3. How did the domestication of plants and animals change life for early humans?

Mesopotamia, Egypt, and Kush:

Standard 6.2: Students analyze the geographic, political, economic, religious, and social structures of the early civilizations of Mesopotamia, Egypt, and Kush.

1. What agricultural practices led to a surplus food supply in early civilizations?
2. Why did the world's first cities develop around river systems?
3. What type of society developed between the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers? (Include information on art, architecture, and trade.)
4. Explain the importance of Cuneiform.
5. Describe the historical significance of Hammurabi's Code.
6. What type of society developed on the Nile River? (Include information on art, architecture, and trade.)
7. What important contributions were made during the reign of Pharaoh Hatshepsut?
8. Who was Pharaoh Ramses II and why was he important?
9. What is the historical significance of hieroglyphics?

The Ancient Hebrews:

Standard 6.3: Students analyze the geographic, political, economic, religious, and social structures of the Ancient Hebrews.

1. What is monotheism?
2. What do Jews call the Hebrew Bible or Old Testament, and why is this book important?
3. How do Hebrew traditions influence western religion, government, and morals?
4. Why are the following people important to Judaism?
 - a. Abraham
 - b. Moses
 - c. Naomi
 - d. Ruth
 - e. David
 - f. Yohanan ben Zaccai
5. Why did the Jews migrate to Egypt and what was the Exodus?
6. How has Judaism survived despite the diaspora?

Greece:

Standard 6.4: Students analyze the geographic, political, economic, religious, and social structures of the Ancient Greece.

1. Why did city-states develop around the Aegean Sea?
2. What is a tyrant and how did they keep power in government?
3. What is an oligarchy?
4. What were the characteristics of Athenian Democracy?
5. What are the differences between Athenian and American Democracy?
6. What were the responsibilities of a Greek citizen?
7. Why was mythology important to the Ancient Greeks?
8. How are themes from Greek mythology reflected in literature today?
9. How did the Spartans and Athenians defeat the Persians?
10. How were Spartans and Athenians similar and different?
11. Why did the Athenians and Spartans fight the Peloponnesian War and who won?
12. How did Alexander the Great come to power?
13. In what ways did Alexander the Great spread Greek culture?

14. What were the long term contributions made by the following Ancient Greeks?
- a. Hypatia
 - b. Socrates
 - c. Plato
 - d. Aristotle
 - e. Euclid
 - f. Thucydides

India:

Standard 6.5: Students analyze the geographic, political, economic, religious, and social structures of the early civilizations of India.

1. How and why did Indian civilization start on the Ganges River?
2. What was the significance of the Aryan invasions of India?
3. How did the teachings of the Brahmins influence Hinduism?
4. What groups of people made up the Indian Caste System?
5. Why did Buddhism begin?
6. How did Buddhism spread throughout Central and Eastern Asia?
7. What are the Four Noble Truths of Buddhism and the Eightfold Path?
8. What does it mean to live according to the Middle Way?
9. How did Asoka unify the Mauryan Empire?
10. What were the Indian achievements in the following categories?
 - a. medicine
 - b. metallurgy
 - c. math
 - d. literature

China:

Standard 6.6: Students analyze the geographic, political, economic, religious, and social structures of the early civilizations of China.

1. How and why did Chinese civilization start on the Huang He River?
2. What landforms isolate China?
3. What problems did China face during the time of Confucius and how did he try to solve them?
4. What is Daoism?
5. How did Shi Huangdi unify China under the Qin Dynasty?
6. Why did the Han Dynasty have so many respected government workers?
7. Where was the Silk Road?
8. Why was the Silk Road important during the Han Dynasty?
9. How did Buddhism spread through China during the Han Dynasty?

Rome:

Standard 6.7: Students analyze the geographic, political, economic, religious, and social structures of the early civilizations of Rome.

1. According to legend, how and where did Rome begin?
2. How was the Roman Republic's government organized? (written constitution, tripartite government, checks and balances)
3. How did Cincinnatus demonstrate "civil duty"?
4. Why did the Roman Empire expand?
5. What were the borders of the Roman Empire at its height?
6. How did Rome's currency and trade routes help the empire grow wealthy?
7. How did Julius Caesar, and later Augustus, help transform Rome from a republic to an empire?
8. How and why did the Romans restrict the Jews from living in Jerusalem?
9. What was the role of Jesus in the creation of Christianity?
10. What is the Christian belief about the Trinity, the resurrection, and salvation?
11. Why was St. Paul important to the Christian faith?
12. How did Christianity spread throughout Europe during Roman times?
13. What are the legacies of Rome in the areas of
 - a. art
 - b. architecture
 - c. technology
 - d. science
 - e. literature
 - f. language
 - g. law