



7th Grade World History Study Guide

Medieval and Early Modern Times

Roman Empire:

Standard 7.1: Students analyze the causes and effects of the vast expansion and ultimate disintegration of the Roman Empire.

1. What were the borders of Rome at the height of its empire?
2. What caused the “Fall of Rome”?
3. What were the legacies of Rome in government, architecture, and Christianity?
4. How do the accomplishments of the Roman Empire affect people today?

Byzantine Empire – Eastern Roman Empire:

1. Where is Constantinople and why was its location important to the Byzantine Empire?
2. What caused the “Great Schism” within the Catholic Church?
3. What is the difference between Orthodox and Catholic Christianity?

Islam:

Standard 7.2: Students analyze the geographic, political, economic, religious, and social structures of the civilizations of Islam in the Middle Ages.

1. What are the physical features and climate of the Arabian Peninsula?
2. How did Islam begin?
3. What is the importance of the Koran and Sunna?
4. What are the Five Pillars of Islam and why are they important?
5. What religious belief do Christians, Jews, and Muslims share in common?
6. How did Islam spread through the Middle East, Spain, and parts of Africa?
7. Identify at least one Muslim achievement for each area:
 - a. science
 - b. geography
 - c. math
 - d. philosophy
 - e. medicine
 - f. art
 - g. literature
8. What regions of Africa and Asia are predominantly Muslim today?

Africa:

Standard 7.4: Students analyze the geographic, political, economic, religious, and social structures of the sub-Saharan civilizations of Ghana and Mali in Medieval Africa.

1. What were the regions people traveled through to conduct the salt for gold trade in Africa?
2. How did the salt for gold trade contribute to the emergence of the empires of Ghana and Mali?
3. How did Islam spread to the empires of West Africa?
4. What made Ghana a strong unified kingdom?
5. What other goods were traded in Ghana besides gold and salt?
6. What is oral history and why is it important?
7. How did the slave trade develop in Africa?
8. What were the effects of the slave trade in Africa then and now?
9. What influence did the Arabs have on Africa?
10. What system of government developed in Ghana and Mali, and how does this system of government hold its power?
11. Where in Africa did the empires of Mali and Ghana exist?

China:

Standard 7.3: Students analyze the geographic, political, economic, religious, and social structures of the civilizations of China in the Middle Ages.

1. How was China unified under the Tang Dynasty?
2. What were the reasons for the spread of Buddhism under the Tang and Song Dynasty?
3. What were the achievements of the Tang and Song Dynasties in the areas of agriculture, trade and technology?
4. How did Confucianism influence Chinese society?
5. How did Confucianism change during the Song and Mongol Dynasties?
6. What was traded on the Silk Road?
7. What maritime expeditions were conducted by China during the Middle Ages and what was the significance of these voyages?
8. What was the importance of the following items?
 - a. gun powder
 - b. paper
 - c. printing
 - d. the compass
 - e. tea
9. Why was the “merit” system of government important to China?

Japan:

Standard 7.5: Students analyze the geographic, political, economic, religious, and social structures of the civilizations of Medieval Japan.

1. How did China influence Japan in the following areas?
 - a. religion
 - b. writing
2. What were the characteristics of court life during the time of Prince Shotoku?
3. What was the role of the Samurai in Japan's military society during the medieval period?
4. How did the feudal system give stability to Japanese society?
5. What form of Buddhism is practiced in Japan?
6. How does the Tale of Genji reflect on Japanese culture today?

Americas:

Standard 7.7 Students compare and contrast the geographic, political, economic, religious, and social structures of the Meso-American and Andean civilizations.

1. How did the Mayans, Aztecs, and Incas feed their respective societies?
2. How were Aztec and Inca societies structured (hierarchy) and what were the roles of each social class?
3. Where did the Mayan, Aztec, and Inca civilizations exist?
4. What are the major landforms of Latin America?
5. What would be the most logical order for the following social system?
 - a. commoners/peasants
 - b. lords/kings
 - c. nobles
 - d. slaves
 - e. merchants
6. What was the importance of the defeat of the Aztecs?
7. What were ten Inca achievements?
8. How did disease contribute to the defeat of the Aztecs?
9. What role did weapon technology play in the defeat of the Incas and Aztecs?
10. What role did civil wars and rebellions play in the defeat of the Aztecs and Incas?

Europe in the Middle Ages:

Standard 7.6: Students analyze the geographic, political, economic, religious, and social structures of the civilizations of Medieval Europe.

1. What are three examples of Christian Monastic orders in medieval Europe?
2. Why were monks important then and now? (give four reasons)
3. Describe the feudal system hierarchy from most powerful to least powerful.
4. Why was Charlemagne important in European history?
5. Why did Henry IV challenge Pope Gregory VII?
6. Why is the Magna Carta important in the history of representative governments?
7. What were the three main causes of the Crusades?
8. What were three important effects of the Crusades on world history?
9. In what ways did the Catholic Church share leadership with kings?
10. Why did Muslims and Jews leave Spain in the last half of the Middle Ages?

Renaissance:

Standard 7.8: Students analyze the origins, accomplishments, and geographic diffusion of the Renaissance.

1. How did cities like Florence and Venice help spread Renaissance ideas?
2. How was “humanistic” thinking different from medieval thinking?
3. Identify the differences between classical, medieval, and renaissance art?
4. Why was Marco Polo important to world history?
5. Why were the ideas of the following men significant?
 - a. Dante Alighieri
 - b. Leonardo Da Vinci
 - c. Michelangelo
 - d. William Shakespeare

Reformation:

Standard 7.9: Students analyze the historical developments of the Reformation.

1. What did Johann Gutenberg invent?
2. How did the printing press affect Christianity?
3. Why did the Catholic Church sell indulgences?
4. What were the religious and political effects of these Reformation figures? How did the following people affect world history?
 - a. Martin Luther
 - b. Desiderius Erasmus
 - c. John Calvin
 - d. William Tyndale
5. How did Protestantism affect the way people thought about government?
6. What areas of Europe and the world became Protestant?
7. How did Catholics respond to the Protestant Reformation?
8. What are Jesuits?
9. What happened at the Council of Trent?

Scientific Revolution:

Standard 7.10: Students analyze the historical developments of the Scientific Revolution and its lasting effect on religious, political, and cultural institutions.

1. How did Renaissance thinking contribute to the beginning of the Scientific Revolution?
2. What new scientific theories did the following people develop or propose?
 - a. Copernicus
 - b. Galileo
 - c. Kepler
 - d. Newton
3. Why are the following inventions important?
 - a. telescope
 - b. microscope
 - c. thermometer
 - d. barometer
4. How did the Scientific Revolution affect the way people thought about their religion and their government?

Exploration and Enlightenment:

Standard 7.11: Students analyze political and economic change in the sixteenth, seventeenth, and eighteenth centuries (the Age of Exploration, the Enlightenment, and the Age of Reason).

1. Why are Columbus and Magellan important?
2. What did Europe, Africa, Asia, and the Americas exchange as a result of European exploration?
3. What is capitalism and how did it start in Europe?
4. How did John Locke and Charles Montesquieu change ideas in government?
5. How did the Magna Carta influence the English Bill of Rights and the American Declaration of Independence?