

Course Description:

Welcome to the first half of World History: Peoples of the Ancient World! This course explores the beginning of early civilizations through the Gupta dynasty in ancient India. Students will analyze the shift from nomadic societies to agricultural societies. Students will study the development of civilizations, including the areas of

Mesopotamia, Egypt, Ancient Israel, and India. The study of these civilizations will include the impact of geography, early history, cultural development, and economic change.

This course is designed to build on students' prior knowledge and skill sets in the application of geographic information and tools to understand complex relations between the physical environment and human existence. While focusing on each part of the world, students are able to recognize characteristics distinguishing regions in the Middle East, South Asia and Africa. Each regional study encompasses an in-depth study of the physical geography, culture, economy, government, and social dynamics defining the land and people. A historical element is intertwined into the regional studies, as an investigation of the earliest civilizations demonstrates how and why people migrated to different locations, and how the people in these places survived and advanced with available resources.

Throughout the course, students examine and analyze readings, biographies, videos, and other materials that paint a picture of historical topics. Discussions with peers will help students to think creatively and critically about topics. The project that spans the course is designed to develop and sharpen the students' writing skills.

Major Concepts

- Prehistory
- Paleolithic Era
- Mesopotamia
- Egypt
- Phoenicia
- Hebrews
- Persians
- India

Course Objectives:

- Describe the effect of water in the development of ancient civilizations.
- Trace how humans formed civilizations.
- Describe the characteristics of different social classes.
- Examine the relationship between religion and social order.
- Describe the characteristics of society, including political, economic, and social.
- Examine the ways groups adapt to different regions, cultures, and environments.
- Describe the effect of physical geography in the development of ancient civilizations.
- Explain important advancements in societies.
- Examine primary and secondary sources for bias and credibility.
- Reexamine unit concepts through interactive reviews.
- Explain how major events are related to one another in time.

Required Materials:

In course.

Schedule of Work:

Unit 1 Dawn of Civilization

- Lesson 1: Thinking Like a Historian
- Lesson 2: The Study of Prehistory
- Lesson 3: Physical Geography
- Lesson 4: Human Geography
- Lesson 5: Paleolithic Era

Unit 2 Mesopotamia

- Lesson 6: Agricultural Revolution
- Lesson 7: Sumerians
- Lesson 8: Ancient Babylonians and Akkadians
- Lesson 9: Assyrians
- Lesson 10: Chaldeans and the Neo-Babylonians

Unit 3 Egypt

- Lesson 11: Nile River Geography
- Lesson 12: Early Egyptian Civilization
- Lesson 13: Middle and New Kingdoms
- Lesson 14: Life in and around Egypt
- Lesson 15: Nubia and Phoenicia

Unit 4 The Hebrews and Ancient Persians

- Lesson 16: Hebrew's Beliefs
- Lesson 17: Hebrew History
- Lesson 18: Judaism History
- Lesson 19: The Rise of Persia
- Lesson 20: Persian Empire

Unit 5 Ancient India

- Lesson 21: Subcontinent Geography
- Lesson 22: Harappans
- Lesson 23: Migration and Religions
- Lesson 24: Mauryan Empire
- Lesson 25: Gupta Empire

Unit 6 Review and Final Exam

- Lesson 26: Unit 1 Review
- Lesson 27: Unit 2 Review
- Lesson 28: Unit 3 Review, Vocabulary Review
- Lesson 29: Unit 4 Review, Vocabulary Exam
- Lesson 30: Unit 5 Review, Final Exam