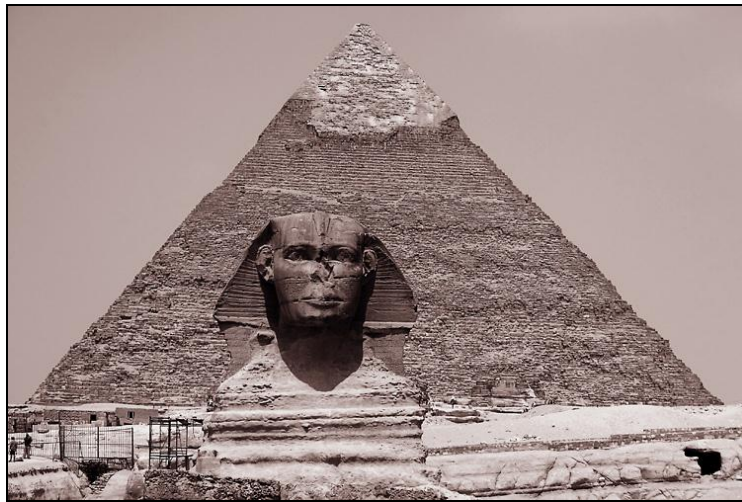


# 6<sup>th</sup> Grade History Review



**Name:**

**Date:**

**Period:**

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## Review Strategies

### ***Levels of Reading***

1. First, read through the passage quickly to get the gist. Mark up your text with symbols:  
√ = I know this already.  
! = Wow! That's new information!  
? = Huh? I don't understand this...
2. Compare your marks with your study partners. See if they can help you understand parts of the text you don't understand.
3. Now, take a little more time. Read the questions in the margins. Highlight the parts of the text that contain answers to the questions. Be sure you are getting all of the information that answers each question.

### ***Vocabulary Selective Highlighting***

1. As you read the text, use a highlighter to highlight the vocabulary words that appear in bold print, as follows:  
*Blue = I pretty much know what this word means.*  
*Yellow = Okay, I don't have a clue what this word means.*

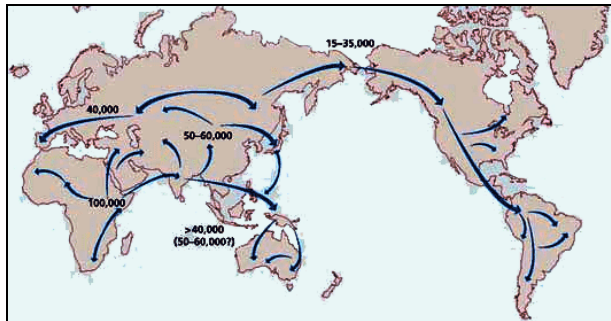
**Remember:** You already know a lot!! This is all about reviewing what you might have forgotten.

## DEVELOPMENT OF HUMANKIND

**Big Idea:** Based on the work of anthropologists, paleontologists, and archeologists, we can reconstruct the development of humans from hunter-gatherer societies to settled communities. Early human communities populated Africa, Europe, and Asia, and later migrated to Australia and North and South America, adapting to the diverse environments found in each location.

**Time Frame:** 3 Million BCE - 3000 BCE

**Where in the World?**



Questions	Text
<p>What were some of the developments leading to modern humans? <i>Some of the developments leading to modern humans were...</i></p> <p>How did early modern humans adapt to their environment? <i>Early humans were able to adapt to their environment by...</i></p>	<p><b>Early Humans</b></p> <p>Based on the work of <b>anthropologists</b>, <b>archeologists</b>, and <b>paleontologists</b>, historians have been able to reconstruct the mysteries of prehistoric humans. In 1974, Donald Johanson discovered evidence of early <b>hominids</b> such as <i>Australopithecus afarensis</i> (“Lucy”) living in Africa about 3 to 4 million years ago. They were bipeds, meaning they walked on two feet. Louis and Mary Leakey found evidence of hominids in Africa who used early tools and who lived about 1.5 to 2 million years ago. They called these hominids <i>Homo habilis</i>, or “Handy Man.” In 1891, Eugene Dubois discovered the bones of a group of hominids who lived in Asia 1.8 million to 200,000 BCE. He called this group <i>Homo erectus</i>, or “Upright Man.” This group of hominids is notable for more advanced tools and being able to use fire to cook meat.</p> <p>Prehistoric humans, known as <i>Homo sapiens sapiens</i>, or “Doubly Wise Man,” originated in Africa and spread to Europe, Asia, and Australia between 35,000 to 12,000 BCE. Eventually, they migrated to North and South America. The first humans looked more like us. They were able to survive in cold climates through <b>adaptation</b>, their ability to create better tools, shelter, and clothing. These early humans also created artwork, including cave paintings, carved images of clay, bone, and ivory, and even musical instruments.</p>

<p>What are some key differences between the Old Stone Age and New Stone Age?  <i>Some differences between the Old Stone Age and New Stone Age are...</i></p>	<p><b>From Old Stone Age to New Stone Age</b></p> <p>The Old Stone (<b>Paleolithic</b>) Age began about 2 million years ago and lasted until about 8000 B.C.E. It was during this time that early modern humans developed. Like the hominids who came before them, early humans were <b>hunter-gatherers</b>. They wandered from place to place, looking for animals to hunt and plants to gather for food. Often they took shelter in caves.</p> <p>The New Stone (<b>Neolithic</b>) Age began when people learned to farm and produce their own food. The discovery of farming did not happen all at once. Over thousands of years, people gradually learned to raise animals and plant crops. Eventually they began to rely on farms for their food. Many historians call this the agricultural revolution. Now they could settle down in one place instead of roaming in search of things to eat. The Neolithic Age began around 8000 B.C.E. and lasted until about 3000 B.C.E., when people learned to make tools out of metal instead of stone. Farming and the <b>domestication</b> of animals developed in many parts of the world during this time, including parts of Europe, Africa, Asia, and the Americas.</p>
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**Key Vocabulary**

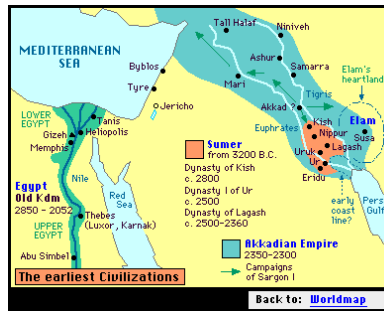
- adaptation
- anthropologist
- archaeologist
- domestication
- hunter-gatherer
- Neolithic
- Paleolithic
- paleontologist

MESOPOTAMIA, EGYPT, AND KUSH

**Big Idea:** Settled farming societies located next to major rivers developed into early civilizations (Mesopotamia around the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers; Egypt around the Nile River). These early civilizations had highly structured governments that maintained political and social order through religious beliefs. They developed writing, refined art and architecture, and law codes, such as Hammurabi’s Code.

**Time Frame:** 3000 BCE – 350 CE

**Where in the World?**



Questions	Text
<p>Where did early civilizations arise? Why?  <i>Early civilizations arose around... because...</i></p> <p>Describe early city-states in Mesopotamia.  <i>Early city-states in Mesopotamia were...</i></p>	<p><b>Early Civilizations and the Environment</b></p> <p>Early <b>civilizations</b> arose in areas whose environmental factors could support large populations. The most important factor was water for drinking, bathing, <b>irrigation</b>, and transportation. For this reason, early civilizations arose around rivers. Since early civilizations needed enough food to support large populations, two other factors were important: topography and <b>climate</b>. The topography (land surface) had to be relatively flat to allow for farming, and the climate needed to support vegetation, or plant life, especially the crops people grew.</p> <p><b>Mesopotamia (Sumer, Babylonia)</b></p> <p>The first civilization arose in Mesopotamia (modern-day Iraq) in the area between the Tigris River and the Euphrates River. Cities first appeared in the southern part of this land, an area called Sumer. These first cities were like small, independent countries, with their own ruler and their own farmland; for this reason, they are called <b>city-states</b>. The Sumerians built complex irrigation systems and developed tools such as the plow that enabled them to increase their food supply that resulted in a <b>surplus</b> of food to support its population. To defend themselves from attack, Sumerian city-states built walls and dug moats around their cities.</p> <p>Sumerian city-states were ruled by kings. Sumerian kings were <b>priest-kings</b>, and the Sumerians believed that their kings were chosen by the gods. This belief made their kings very powerful, since Sumerians believed they must obey the will of the gods. A Mesopotamian city-state called Babylon united all of Mesopotamia under</p>

<p>Who was Hammurabi? Why is he important?</p> <p><i>Hammurabi was...</i></p> <p><i>He is important because...</i></p>	<p>the rule of Hammurabi, the king of Babylon. Hammurabi is best known for his detailed <b>legal code</b>, which covered many situations, such as trade, payment for work, marriage and divorce. Hammurabi used the code of laws to unify his empire and to preserve order.</p> <p>The Sumerians created a written language called <b>cuneiform</b> around 2400 BCE. It was used to record information about the goods Sumerians exchanged with each other, and later for literature.</p>
<p>What were some of the achievements of the ancient Egyptians?</p> <p><i>Some of the achievements of the ancient Egyptians were...</i></p>	<p><b>Egypt</b></p> <p>The Nile River valley provided Egypt with an <b>environment</b> in which crops and cities could flourish. Ancient Egypt enjoyed three long periods of stability and unity under the rule of <b>pharaohs</b>. The Old Kingdom lasted from about 2700 to 2200 B.C.E. During this time, early pharaohs set up a strong central government. Some pharaohs, like Khufu, built great pyramids as tombs for themselves. During the Middle Kingdom (about 2000 to 1800 B.C.E.), Egyptians made many great achievements in literature, art, and <b>architecture</b>. The New Kingdom (about 1600 to 1100 B.C.E.) is often called Egypt's Golden Age. During this time of peace and stability, Egypt's power reached its height. Hatshepsut, Egypt's first female pharaoh, supported Egyptian trade. Ramses the Great was a superior military leader and built gigantic monuments.</p>
<p>What did the Egyptians believe about their pharaohs?</p> <p><i>The Egyptians believed that...</i></p>	<p>As in Mesopotamia, religion played a central role in Egypt's social and political order. The pharaohs were believed to be gods. They owned all the land and were responsible for the people's well-being. During their lifetimes, they built massive temples dedicated to the gods and other monuments to glorify their power and success. After they died, they were buried in great tombs that were built to last forever.</p> <p>Like the Sumerians, Egypt developed its own writing system, called <b>hieroglyphic</b> writing. Hieroglyphic writing uses pictures called hieroglyphs to represent sounds and ideas. The Egyptians used hieroglyphic writing to record their history, keep records, and write literature.</p>
<p>What was Kush?</p> <p><i>Kush was...</i></p>	<p><b>Kush</b></p> <p>The Kushite civilization settled to the south of Egypt, along the southern part of the Nile. Their civilization began around 2000 BCE and lasted until 350 CE. Egypt and Kush had close ties for centuries. Each country invaded and conquered the other. Kushite pharaohs ruled Egypt for nearly a century, and modeled the art and architecture of their own civilization after Egypt.</p>

**Key Vocabulary**

- architecture
- city-state
- civilization
- culture
- environment
- GRAPES
- hieroglyph
- irrigation
- legal code
- pharaoh
- priest-king
- surplus

THE HEBREWS

**Big Idea:** The Hebrews originated the world’s first monotheistic religion based on the idea of one God who gives laws regarding proper behavior. The teachings and beliefs of Judaism influenced Western Civilization in the areas of religious belief, observance of law, and ideas about right and wrong. In spite of the dispersion of the Jewish population from Jerusalem after 70 CE, Judaism survives to the present day.

**Time Frame:** 1800 BCE – 70 CE

Where in the World?



Questions	Text
<p>How did the ancient Hebrews develop Judaism?  <i>The ancient Hebrews developed Judaism...</i></p>	<p><b>The Ancient Hebrews and the Origins of Judaism</b></p> <p>The Hebrew civilization developed gradually after 1800 B.C.E. and flourished until 70 C.E. The people who became the Hebrews originally lived in Mesopotamia. Around 1950 B.C.E., they moved to the land of Canaan (modern-day Israel). The Hebrews were the founders of Judaism, one of the world's major religions. The Hebrews eventually became known as the Jews. <b>Judaism</b> is the Jewish religion. The origins of Judaism and its basic laws are recorded in its most sacred text, the <b>Torah</b>. The word Torah means "God's teaching." The Torah consists of the first five books of the Hebrew Bible. (Christians refer to the Hebrew Bible as the Old Testament.)</p> <p>Historians rely on many artifacts to learn about the ancient Hebrews and their time, including the Torah. According to the Torah, the ancestor of the Hebrews, a man named Abraham, lived near Ur in Mesopotamia. Around 1950 B.C.E., Abraham and his clan migrated to the land of Canaan. Settling in Canaan, the Hebrews herded flocks of sheep and goats. About 1800 B.C.E., many Hebrews moved to Egypt. According to the first book of the Torah, they fled Canaan because of a famine. For a time they prospered in Egypt, but eventually they were made slaves. In time, one of their leaders, Moses, led the Hebrews in their escape from Egypt. For 40 years, says the Torah, the Hebrews wandered in the wilderness, until they settled once again in Canaan. By 1000 B.C.E., the Hebrews had set up the kingdom of Israel in Canaan under King David and his son, King Solomon. David forged the Hebrews into one united nation. Solomon built a magnificent temple in the capital city of Jerusalem.</p>





## ANCIENT GREECE

**Big Idea:** The ancient Greeks developed a vibrant civilization in the region of the Aegean Sea. Early democratic forms of government developed, especially in the city-state of Athens. Alexander the Great spread Greek culture through much of the ancient world. The achievements of the Greeks in the fields of literature, arts, and sciences, influence us today.

**Time Frame:** 800 BCE – 320 BCE

## Where in the World?



Questions	Text
<p>How did the Greek civilization develop? <i>Greek civilization developed...</i></p>	<p><b>Development of Greek Civilization</b></p> <p>The Greeks settled first in isolated communities because of their country’s mountainous geography. Most Greeks survived by farming, but good farmland was scarce. So the Greeks took to the seas, creating new colonies and trading with other peoples.</p>
<p>How did democracy develop in Athens? <i>Democracy in Athens developed...</i></p>	<p><b>Athens and the Rise of Democracy</b></p> <p>The ancient Greeks knew they had many things in common and had a unified <b>culture</b>. For example, they all spoke the same language. But they did not think of themselves as one country. Instead, every Greek identified with a hometown that he or she called "the city." The city included both a settlement and its surrounding farmland. Most Greeks were fiercely proud of their cities. Each city had its own laws, its own army, and its own money. Most important, each city had its own form of government. For this reason, ancient Greek cities are called <b>city-states</b>.</p>
<p>How is Greek democracy different from today’s democracy?</p>	<p>Four forms of government that developed in the Greek city-states: monarchy, <b>oligarchy</b>, <b>tyranny</b>, and <b>democracy</b>. Unhappiness with one form of rule led the Greeks to try another. Early monarchies (governments led by a king), gave way to oligarchies (government by a few). In turn, many oligarchies were replaced by tyrannies (government where one person takes power by force). Eventually, Athens developed a democracy or “rule by the people,” a government where all citizens shared in the ruling power.</p> <p>Ancient Greek democracy was different from democracy today. The government of Athens was a <b>direct democracy</b>. In this type of government, every citizen can vote on every</p>

<p><i>Greek democracy is different from today's democracy because...</i></p> <p>How were Athens and Sparta alike? Different? <i>Some ways Athens and Sparta were alike are...</i></p> <p><i>Some ways Athens and Sparta were different are...</i></p> <p>What were the roles of Athens and Sparta in the Persian War? In the Peloponnesian War? <i>In the Persian War, Athens and Sparta...</i></p> <p><i>In the Peloponnesian War, Athens and Sparta were...</i></p> <p>What were some of the accomplishments of Alexander the Great? <i>Some of the accomplishments of Alexander the Great were...</i></p> <p>What are some of the important contributions of the Greeks? <i>Some of the contributions of the Greeks are...</i></p>	<p>issue. Unlike Athens, the United States is a <b>representative democracy</b>. In this type of government, people vote for representatives who decide issues in their name.</p> <p><b>Athens and Sparta</b></p> <p>Athens and Sparta were two very different city-states in ancient Greece. Athens was a democracy, though only free men could take part in its government. Its economy depended on trade. Boys were educated to be good citizens. Girls learned skills for managing the household. Women and slaves had far fewer rights than men had. Sparta was more isolated than Athens. It was primarily a military state. Its government was an oligarchy in which a few men held most of the power. The Spartan economy depended on farming and conquest. Boys and girls alike were educated to protect the city-state. Spartan women had more rights than other Greek women. The city depended on slaves and other non-citizens to provide for many of its needs.</p> <p>Athens and Sparta were bitter rivals. However, they came together with other Greek city-states to defeat the Persian Empire, which threatened to take over Greece. With the defeat of the Persians, Athens became the dominant city-state in Greece. Later, Athens and Sparta fought each other in the Peloponnesian War. Sparta defeated Athens in this war, and Athens lost its dominance.</p> <p><b>Alexander the Great</b></p> <p>Alexander the Great became king of Macedonia after his father's murder. By that time, Macedonia already controlled most of Greece. As skilled general, Alexander conquered a vast empire that spanned much of Asia as well as Egypt. To unify this huge territory, he spread Greek ideas, used religion, and showed respect for the cultures of the people he conquered. Alexander's empire soon died, but Greek ideas lived on.</p> <p><b>Contributions of the Greeks</b></p> <p>The Greeks made many important <b>contributions</b> to Western civilization. For example, Hypatia was the first woman to earn fame as a mathematician, teaching Greek philosophy and mathematics in the city of Alexandria. Euclid was another famous Greek mathematician. His geometry textbook became the basis for the teaching of geometry for more than 2,000 years.</p> <p>The Greeks also produced famous philosophers. Socrates was always encouraging people to question the things they thought they knew. He taught others by asking questions that forced them to think about their beliefs. His example inspired many other Greek thinkers, especially his student Plato. Plato taught these same ideas to Aristotle, who was the teacher of Alexander the Great.</p> <p>Greek <b>literature</b> influences us today. The <b>mythology</b> of the Greeks, Greek <b>epic</b> poetry such as Homer's Iliad and Odyssey, even Aesop's Fables are stories we still read today. Historians today follow in the footsteps of Thucydides, considered one of the greatest historians of the ancient world, who wrote about the wars between Athens and Sparta.</p>
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**Key Vocabulary**

city-state  
contribution  
culture  
democracy  
direct democracy  
epic  
GRAPES

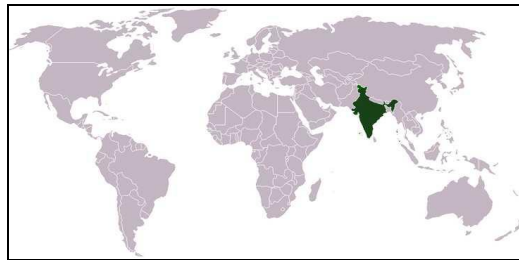
literature  
mythology  
oligarchy  
representative democracy  
tyranny

## ANCIENT INDIA

**Big Idea:** Early civilizations arose in India along fertile rivers. They developed an elaborate social structure known as the caste system, which divided society into several levels. Early belief systems, such as Buddhism, developed in India and spread beyond its borders. The early civilizations of India developed impressive cultural achievements in literature, science, and mathematics.

**Time Frame:** 2700 BCE – 550 CE

## Where in the World?



Questions	Text
<p>Where did the early civilizations of India develop? <i>Early civilizations of India developed...</i></p> <p>What was the caste system? How did it develop in India? <i>The caste system was...</i></p> <p><i>It developed in India...</i></p>	<p><b>Early Civilizations in India</b></p> <p>Like many ancient peoples, the first people in India settled by rivers, such as the Indus River and the ancient Sarasvati River. The rivers provided plenty of water. The <b>fertile</b> soil was ideal for farming. The rivers could also be used for travel and trade. Soon, a vibrant civilization arose in such cities as Mohenjodaro, which was a large and well-planned city with a high quality of life.</p> <p><b>Hinduism and the Caste System</b></p> <p><b>Hinduism</b> was India's first major religion. It teaches concepts such as dharma (law, obligation, and duty), deities (multiple gods), samsara (reincarnation) and karma (what we do in this life affects future lives). It developed over a long time, perhaps being brought into India by Aryan <b>invaders</b>. Early Hindu religion is called Vedism, after sacred texts. A class of priests and religious scholars, called Brahmins, became important because only they knew how to interpret the Vedas and perform the rituals. Brahmins became the dominant class in India. Later Vedism is known as <b>Brahmanism</b>.</p> <p>Brahmanism taught that a well-organized society was divided into <b>social classes</b>. Europeans later called this the <b>caste system</b>. Each social class had its own duties. Brahmins were the highest caste; untouchables were the lowest. Indians were born into a certain caste, and they could not change it. People could marry only within their own caste.</p>

<p>Who was the Buddha?  What did he teach?  <i>The Buddha was...</i></p> <p><i>He taught...</i></p> <p>How did Buddhism spread to other parts of Asia?  <i>Buddhism spread to other parts of Asia by...</i></p> <p>What were some of the achievements of ancient India?  <i>Some of the achievements of ancient India were...</i></p>	<p><b>Buddhism</b></p> <p><b>Buddhism</b> is another great religion that began in India. Buddhism is based on the teachings of the Buddha, which means “Awakened One.” The Buddha was a man who lived in India from about 563 to 483 BCE. Before earning the title of Buddha, he was a young prince named Siddhartha Gautama. At the age of 29, Prince Siddhartha walked away from his royal life and went in search of spiritual peace. During his journeys, he learned great truths that changed his life, By sharing these truths with others, he began the great religion of Buddhism.</p> <p>Buddhism was different from Hinduism in several ways. It was not based on complicated rituals and beliefs in many gods, as Hinduism was. Instead, it was a way of life based on simple teachings. Unlike ancient Hinduism, Buddhism embraced all people regardless of their caste. It taught people how to reach enlightenment, or happiness that comes from the knowledge of deep truth, as embodied in the Four Noble Truths (life in suffering; suffering is caused by desires; the way to end suffering is to give up desires; to give up desires one must live a moral and focused life). Buddhists believed that once they reached enlightenment, they would no longer be reborn again and again. The Buddha chose to teach others the path that he had found. In time, his followers spread his teachings throughout India and other parts of Asia.</p> <p>Later, India was unified for the first time under the Mauryan <b>Empire</b>. The Mauryas created their empire through a series of wars and conquests. This changed when King Ashoka turned away from violence. Ashoka adopted Buddhist values. He promoted Buddhism, justice, and security.</p> <p><b>Achievements of Ancient India</b></p> <p>India reached its <b>Golden Age</b> during the time of the Gupta Empire. The Guptas encouraged learning by building universities. Writing, painting, sculpture, and metalwork flourished. For example, Gupta writers created many kinds of literary works. The <i>Bhagavad Gita</i> (“Song of the Lord”) is one of the most beautiful works of Hinduism. In this poem, a prince is taught basic truths of Hinduism by Krishna, an early form of the deity Vishnu. Gupta mathematicians also made important advances, such as place value, the decimal system, and the concept of zero. Many of these achievements, especially in mathematics and literature, continue to affect the world today.</p>
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**Key Vocabulary**

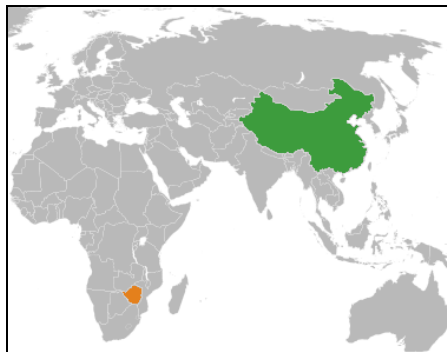
- Brahmanism
- Buddhism
- caste system
- empire
- fertile
- golden age
- GRAPES
- Hinduism
- invader
- social class

## ANCIENT CHINA

**Big Idea:** As in other parts of the world, early civilization developed in China around the Huang-He river valley. During a turbulent period, the philosopher Confucius taught peace and order could be achieved through proper behavior. Qin Shihuangdi unified China and became its first emperor. During the Han Dynasty, China developed a strong centralized government. China became wealthy through trade along the Silk Road.

**Time Frame:** 1700 BCE – 220 CE

## Where in the World?



Questions	Text
<p>What were some key achievements of the Shang Dynasty? <i>Some key achievements of the Shang Dynasty were...</i></p> <p>Why did Confucianism and Daoism develop? What are their key teachings? <i>Confucianism and Daoism developed because...</i></p> <p><i>Some of the key teachings of Confucianism are...</i></p> <p><i>Some of the key teachings of Daoism are...</i></p>	<p><b>Origins of Chinese Civilization</b></p> <p>One of China's earliest dynasties was the Shang <b>dynasty</b>. Shang kings were powerful rulers who kept their power through military might. The Shang practiced ancestor worship and, sometimes, human sacrifice. Their writing used logographs as well as pictographs. Shang craftspeople excelled in working with bronze and jade. The Shang ruled in the valley of the Huang He for some 500 years. It was followed by the Zhou Dynasty.</p> <p><b>Confucianism and Daoism</b></p> <p>During the Zhou Dynasty, three Chinese philosophies developed: <b>Confucianism</b>, <b>Daoism</b>, and Legalism. During the Zhou Dynasty's later years, China collapsed into disorder. Political instability led many scholars to debate the proper way to rule. Confucius taught that peace and order depended upon proper behavior. Those in authority must lead by example. Those below them must obey. Daoists believed that people should live simply and in harmony with nature. They said the best rulers were those who ruled the least. Finally, Legalists like Hanfeizi believed that people were driven by their own self-interest. They taught that rulers could create order only through strict laws and harsh punishments.</p>

<p>What were some of the accomplishments of Qin Shihuangdi? <i>Some of the accomplishments of Qin Shihuangdi were...</i></p> <p>What are some of the accomplishments of the Han Dynasty? <i>Some of the accomplishments of the Han Dynasty were...</i></p> <p>What was the Silk Road? What goods and ideas were traded along the Silk Road? <i>The Silk Road was...</i></p> <p><i>Some goods and ideas that were traded were...</i></p>	<p><b>Qin and Han Dynasties</b></p> <p>Qin Shihuangdi was China's first <b>emperor</b>. The Emperor of Qin had a major influence on China. He unified China and greatly expanded its borders. He centralized the government. He standardized Chinese laws, money, weights, measures, and writing. Among his many construction projects was the Great Wall. Later Chinese rulers built on what the Emperor of Qin left behind, including government institutions and the Great Wall itself. The office of emperor that he created lasted for 2,000 years. Even China's name in the western world comes from the word Qin. But the harshness of the Emperor of Qin's rule led to an early end for his dynasty.</p> <p>The Han Dynasty ruled China for more than 400 years. Most of this period was a time of peace, wealth, and achievement for China. Under the Han, the Chinese made advances in many areas. New weapons helped Han emperors succeed in war and expand their <b>empire</b>. The government was organized into a <b>bureaucracy</b> staffed by civil servants who were chosen for their ability. A number of inventions improved agriculture and the important silk and salt industries. The invention of paper advanced the art of calligraphy. Healers used techniques and practices that are still used today. Finally, Chinese scientists made important observations and invented the seismograph and the compass.</p> <p><b>The Silk Road</b></p> <p>The <b>Silk Road</b> was a network of trade routes between China and the West (Europe). The Silk Road was opened under the Han and remained a major route of trade for more than 1,000 years. Many goods were exchanged along the Silk Road, including silk from China and glassware from Rome. In addition to new products, trade brought cultural <b>diffusion</b> and change to both East and West. One of the most important changes was the introduction of Buddhism to China.</p>
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**Key Vocabulary**

- bureaucracy
- Confucianism
- Daosim
- diffusion
- dynasty
- emperor
- empire
- GRAPES
- Silk Road

## ANCIENT ROME

**Big Idea:** The Roman civilization first developed on the Italian peninsula. The Romans developed a republican form of government that later transitioned to an empire under Augustus, which expanded to cover most of the Mediterranean world. After years of persecution, Christianity eventually became the state religion. Roman art, architecture, technology, literature, language, and law influence us today.

**Time Frame:** 753 BCE – 476 CE

### Where in the World?



Questions	Text
<p>How did Rome begin? <i>Rome began...</i></p> <p>What were some key features of Roman government during the Republic? <i>Some key features of Roman government during the Republic were...</i></p>	<p><b>The Beginnings of Rome</b></p> <p>According to mythology, Romulus founded and named the city of Rome after the death of his twin brother Remus. Supposedly, they were descended from Aeneas, a hero of the Trojan War who settled on the Italian <b>peninsula</b>.</p> <p>The reality is somewhat different. The city of Rome was founded by Latins who settled near the Tiber River. Over time, the Romans borrowed many ideas and skills from their neighbors. Two groups who greatly influenced Roman culture were the Etruscans and the Greeks. Romans learned a great deal about engineering from the Etruscans. They also adopted some Etruscan sporting events. Greek civilization had a huge influence on Roman culture. You can see the influence of Greek ideas in Roman architecture, writing, art, and mythology.</p> <p><b>The Roman Republic</b></p> <p>The Romans overthrew the Etruscans and created a <b>republic</b>, a government that was based on the concept of elected officials, in this case the Roman Senate. Romans were proud of their republic and of being Roman citizens. Sometimes, during times of war, they handed power over to a <b>dictator</b>. Dictators were men who were given special powers for a limited period of time. But for the most part, elected leaders ruled Rome for 500 years.</p>

<p>How do Rome's republican ideas influence us today? <i>Some ways Rome's republican ideas still influence us are...</i></p>	<p>Rome's republican form of government inspired future ages in Europe and America. Rome set an example of a government ruled by a written <b>constitution</b> (set of basic laws). Future republicans also pointed to Roman ideals of elected assemblies, citizenship, and civic duty. They adopted the model of governmental bodies that could check each other's power. Above all, they were inspired by the spirit of republicanism. Cicero, a famous Roman statesman, captured this spirit when he wrote, "The people's good is the highest law."</p>
<p>How did Rome become an empire? <i>Rome became an empire by...</i></p>	<p><b>From Republic to Empire</b></p> <p>Between 145 to 44 BCE, Rome came to rule the entire Mediterranean world. But the republic was in trouble. <b>Civil wars</b> divided the city. They set their armies against the power of the Senate. Julius Caesar, a Roman general, himself ruled as a dictator before he was murdered in 44 BCE by senators who thought he had become too powerful. The men who killed Caesar thought they were saving the power of the Senate. However, Caesar's grandnephew, Octavian, seized power. The Senate named him Augustus. Rome was now an <b>empire</b> governed by one supreme ruler.</p> <p>Augustus added a great deal of new territory by pushing the borders of the empire all the way to natural boundaries, like rivers, to make it easier to defend. Later emperors added even more territory. In the year 117 CE, Rome reached its greatest size.</p>
<p>What are some of the beliefs of Christianity? <i>Some of the beliefs of Christianity are...</i></p>	<p><b>Christianity</b></p> <p><b>Christianity</b>, a monotheistic religion based on the teachings and worship of Jesus of Nazareth, started in Judea. Writers wrote accounts of Jesus' life in books called gospels, which contained his teachings. Jesus based his teaching on traditional Jewish beliefs, but the gospels say he put special emphasis on love and mercy. After Jesus' death, one of his followers, Paul, became a Christian missionary and tried to convert others to Christianity. He preached across the Roman Empire, stressing the need to believe in Jesus as the Son of God.</p> <p>At first, Christians were exposed to severe persecution by emperors who thought that Christians were a threat to the empire. Gradually, people of all classes adopted the new faith. In 313 CE, Emperor Constantine gave Christians the freedom to practice their religion openly. Future emperors also accepted the new faith. In 392, Emperor Theodosius I banned all <b>pagan</b> sacrifices. By the time he died in 395, Christianity was the official religion of the Roman Empire.</p>
<p>How does ancient Rome influence us today? <i>Some of ancient Rome's influences are...</i></p>	<p><b>The Legacy of Rome</b></p> <p>The end of the Roman Empire did not mean the end of Roman civilization. Many of the ideas of the ancient Romans still affect us today. For example, Roman ideas about art (mosaics, frescoes, sculpture), <b>architecture</b> (domes, arches, columns), language (Latin root words and prefixes), law (legal codes, concepts of justice and citizenship), and <b>technology</b> (roads, aqueducts) are some of the ways that Rome still influences us today.</p>

### Key Vocabulary

architecture  
Christianity  
civil war  
constitution  
dictator

empire  
GRAPES  
legacy  
pagan  
peninsula

republic  
technology



## 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Glossary

### A

**achievement:** an accomplishment  
**adaptation:** changing in response to new surroundings  
**anthropologist:** someone who studies the origins, behaviors, and development of humans  
**aqueduct:** a pipe or channel that brings water from distant places  
**arch:** an upside-down U- or V-shaped structure that supports weight above it, as in a doorway  
**archeologist:** an expert who studies the past by examining objects that people have left behind  
**architecture:** the art of designing buildings

### B

**Brahman:** in Hinduism, the one supreme power, or divine force, that everything is a part of  
**Brahmanism:** an ancient Indian religion in which the Brahmins (priests and religious scholars) are the dominant class  
**Buddhism:** a religion of India begun by Prince Siddhartha, or the Buddha  
**bureaucracy:** a form of government characterized by many levels of organization

### C

**caste:** a class, or group, in Hindu society  
**Christianity:** the religion based on the life and teachings of Jesus Christ  
**citizenship:** belonging to a democracy with certain rights and responsibilities  
**city-state:** an early city that was like a small, independent country with its own laws and government  
**civilization:** a culture marked by developments in arts, sciences, government, and social structure  
**civil war:** a war between regions of the same country  
**climate:** the average weather conditions at a particular place  
**commerce:** business  
**Confucianism:** a Chinese philosophy that emphasizes proper behavior  
**constitution:** a document that outlines the plan for a government

**contribution:** something valuable that is given without expectation of compensation  
**culture:** a characteristic of civilization that includes the beliefs and behaviors of a society or group of people  
**currency:** money

### D

**Daoism:** a Chinese philosophy that emphasizes living in harmony with nature  
**democracy:** a form of government in which the ruling power is shared by all citizens  
**Diaspora:** the dispersal of the Jews from Judea in the 6<sup>th</sup> century BCE  
**dictator:** an ancient Roman leader who was called to serve during a time of crisis  
**diffusion:** spread  
**direct democracy:** a democracy in which all citizens take part in making political decisions  
**domestication:** training a wild animal to be useful to humans  
**dynasty:** a family or group that rules for several generations

### E

**economy:** a system of managing the wealth of a community or region  
**emperor:** the leader of an empire  
**empire:** a large territory in which several groups of people are ruled by a single leader or government  
**environment:** natural surroundings  
**epic:** a tale of a hero, often in the form of a long poem  
**era:** period of time  
**ethics:** beliefs about what is right and wrong  
**Exodus:** the escape of the Hebrews from Egyptian slavery

### F

**fertile:** good for farming

### G

**geography:** the physical features of an area  
**golden age:** a civilization's high point, during which it has its greatest power and cultural achievements in art and literature

### H

**hieroglyph:** a symbol used in hieroglyphics, a system of writing developed in about 3000 B.C.E.  
**Hinduism:** India's first major religion

	<b>hunter-gatherer:</b> one who survives by hunting wild animals and gathering plants found in the wild		<b>philosophy:</b> a theory or set of values by which one lives; the search for wisdom or knowledge
I	<b>imperial:</b> having to do with an empire <b>invader:</b> someone who enters a country by attacking it <b>irrigation:</b> system a means of supplying land with water		<b>politics:</b> having to do with government <b>priest-king:</b> a ruler who is both a political and religious leader
J	<b>Judaism:</b> a major world religion that was founded by the Hebrews <b>justice:</b> fairness under the law	R	<b>religion:</b> a set of spiritual beliefs, values, and practices <b>representative:</b> an elected official who represents those who elected him <b>representative democracy:</b> a form of government in which elected officials make decisions in the name of the voters <b>republic:</b> a form of government with elected leaders
K	<b>karma:</b> in Hinduism, the belief that how a person lives will affect their next life		
L	<b>legacy:</b> a contribution of one culture to another <b>legal code:</b> a collection of laws <b>literature:</b> works of writing such as novels, histories, poems, or plays	S	<b>settlement:</b> a small community or village <b>Silk Road:</b> a network of trade routes that stretched more than 4,000 miles across Asia <b>social class:</b> a group of people who share similar economic or social backgrounds within a society <b>social structure:</b> the way a society or civilization is organized <b>surplus:</b> extra <b>synagogue:</b> a place of Jewish worship
M	<b>merchant:</b> a person who makes money by selling goods <b>migration:</b> moving from one geographic region to another <b>monotheism:</b> the belief that there is only one God <b>moral law:</b> laws that teach what is right and wrong <b>mythology:</b> traditional stories that help to explain a culture's beliefs	T	<b>technology:</b> the use of tools and other inventions for practical purposes <b>territory:</b> an area of land <b>Torah:</b> the first five books of the Jewish Bible <b>trade:</b> the business of buying and selling or exchanging items <b>trade route:</b> a network of roads along which traders traveled <b>tyranny:</b> a form of government in which the ruling power is in the hands of one person who is not a lawful king
N	<b>Neolithic Age:</b> the later part of the Stone Age, called the New Stone Age, from 8000 to 3000 B.C.E.		
O	<b>oasis:</b> a place where water can be found in a desert <b>oligarchy:</b> a form of government in which the ruling power is in the hands of a few people	V	<b>Vedas:</b> a collection of Hindu sacred writings <b>vegetation:</b> the plant life of a place or region
P	<b>pagan:</b> non-Christian <b>Paleolithic Age:</b> the first period of the Stone Age, called the Old Stone Age, from about 2 million years ago to around 8000 B.C.E. <b>paleontologist:</b> a scientist who studies prehistoric times <b>peninsula:</b> an area of land surrounded by water on three sides <b>pharaoh:</b> an ancient Egyptian leader		

**Grade 6**

**Curricular Narrative**

# Grade Six—World History and Geography: Ancient Civilizations

Notes/Vocabulary

In the 6th grade, you learned about the important people and major events of early Western and non-Western civilizations, including the early societies of the Near East and Africa, the ancient Hebrew civilization, Greece, Rome, and the civilizations of India and of China.

## Big Ideas

Civilizations may be analyzed using the GRAPES model. GRAPES stands for:

- Geography – landforms, water features, and the environment
- Religion – belief systems about **deity**, right and wrong, and death
- Achievements – great accomplishments and contributions
- Politics – government and law
- Economics – production and distribution of goods and services; money
- Social Structures – organization of people within a society

**deity:** god

As you think about what you learned in 6<sup>th</sup> grade, see if you can identify something you learned in each of the GRAPES categories for each civilization.

Remember, history is divided into two parts: BC (Before Christ) and AD (Anno Domini). These two periods are also labeled BCE (Before the Common Era) and CE (Common Era). You should be familiar with both sets of terminology.

## Famous People

Among the major figures you learned about in 6<sup>th</sup> grade were those who helped to establish these early societies and their codes of **ethics** and **justice** and their rule of law, such as Hammurabi, Abraham, Moses, David, Pericles, and Asoka; those who extended these early empires and carried their influence into much of the ancient world, including Alexander the Great, Julius Caesar, and Augustus Caesar; and those whose ideas and teachings became lasting influences in Western and non-Western thought, especially Socrates, Jesus, the Buddha, and Confucius. For all these societies, remember that these major contributions, achievements, and belief systems have lasted across the centuries to the present day.

**ethics:** right and wrong

**justice:** fairness

## Early Humankind and the Development of Human Societies

**paleontological:**  
prehistoric

**environment:** natural  
surroundings

**nomadic:** having no  
permanent home

**agricultural:** farming

**social:** human  
interaction

**irrigation:** watering  
crops

**influence:** power or  
control

**empire:** a country that  
rules itself and other  
countries

**dynasty:** family of rulers

**Paleontological** discoveries in East Africa by Donald Johanson, Tim White, and the Leakey Family (Louis, Mary, and Richard) support the belief that ancestors of present-day humans lived in East Africa 4.5 million years ago. During the Old Stone Age (Paleolithic), Middle Stone Age (Mesolithic), and New Stone Age (Neolithic), the interaction between the **environment** and the developing lifestyles of prehistoric peoples changed as they moved from **nomadic** hunter-gatherers to settled food producers (farmers).

During this time, early peoples attempted to explain the universe through cave art and early forms of religion; they developed a wide range of tools, beginning with stone tools (at first, simple and later, more complex) and later developing metal tools (iron and bronze); and they developed language as a medium for transmitting and accumulating knowledge.

### **The Beginnings of Civilization in the Near East and Africa: Mesopotamia, Egypt, and Kush**

The peoples of Mesopotamia, especially the Sumerians, settled between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers. As they settled, there were major events that marked their history: the spread of their **agricultural** villages by 4000 B.C. to lower Mesopotamia; their technological and **social** accomplishments, including invention of the wheel, plow, and **irrigation** systems; their systems of cuneiform writing, of measurement, and of law; and the developing social, economic, and political systems that these accomplishments made possible.

In ancient Egypt, Khufu was an important early pharaoh who was responsible for building the Great Pyramid of Giza. Later, during the New Kingdom, two great rulers were Queen Hatshepsut and Ramses II, or "Ramses the Great." During Queen Hatshepsut's reign, Egyptian art and architecture flourished, and trade extended Egyptian **influence** throughout the Middle East. Ramses II, more typical of the New Kingdom pharaohs, was concerned with warfare and maintaining an Egyptian **empire** that extended north into the region known as Canaan. Much is known about the daily lives of other people in Egyptian society, such as farmers, tradespeople, architects, artists, scribes, women, children, and slaves, because of the detailed images and models from tombs. In terms of geography, the Nile River was extremely important to Egypt's development; some of the same irrigation practices are still in use.

Finally, you learned about Africa's oldest interior empire, the kingdom of Kush, which conquered Egypt in 728 B.C. and established the twenty-fifth **dynasty** of pharaohs. Conquered in turn by the Assyrians, the kings of Kush reestablished their capital farther south. The kingdom of Kush developed a

distinctive culture that included the development of iron agricultural tools and weapons; an alphabet; and a profitable trade that extended to Arabia, India, sub-Saharan Africa, and possibly China.

### The Foundation of Western Ideas: The Ancient Hebrews and Greeks

One of the **principal** roots of Western civilization can be found in the **enduring** contributions of the ancient Hebrews to Western **ethical** and religious thought and literature, most notably by the Old Testament. The Hebrew Scriptures (Old Testament) are an important part of the literary **heritage** and ethical teachings of Western civilization. For example, you probably know the stories about the Creation, Noah, the Tower of Babel, Abraham, the Exodus, the Ten Commandments, Ruth and Naomi, David, and Daniel and the Lion's Den. However, it is important to know that the Hebrew Scriptures also contain the Hebrew people's concepts of wisdom, righteousness, law, and justice.

Another principal root of Western civilization is the Greco-Roman civilization. The ancient Greeks developed early **democratic** forms of government; the beginning of **rational** thought expressed in Greek **philosophy**, mathematics, science, and history; and the enduring cultural contributions of Greek art, **architecture**, drama, and poetry.

The Greek polis (city-state) provided political organization for Greek civilization and was the center of life for the Greeks. Athens was one important city-state that started with a government that changed from **tyranny** and **oligarchy** to an early form of **democracy**. Even though they had a form of democracy, the Athenians still had slaves. Athens was located at the crossroads of the ancient world and had an important fleet of ships that provided trade and protection. The rivalry between Athens and Sparta led to the Peloponnesian War, which Athens lost. Later, the king of Macedonia, Alexander the Great, conquered many lands and spread of Greek culture throughout the Mediterranean and Middle Eastern worlds. Ultimately, Greece fell to the Romans and became part of the Roman Empire. You learned about the daily life of women and children in Athens and Sparta, the games and sports of the Olympiad, the education of youths, and the trial of Socrates. Remember that the Greeks had a rich mythology and great literature (such as Homer's Iliad and Odyssey) that have deeply influenced Western art, **drama**, and literature.

### The Early Civilizations of India and China

When Alexander the Great began bringing Greek civilization to the parts of

**principal:** main  
**enduring:** lasting  
**ethical:** having to do with right and wrong  
**heritage:** something of value left by others

**democratic:** governed by the people  
**rational:** based on reason  
**philosophy:** pursuit of wisdom  
**architecture:** buildings

**tyranny:** rule by one person  
**oligarchy:** rule by few people  
**democracy:** rule by all people

**drama:** plays

**complex:** intricate

**plain:** low, flat land

**metallurgy:** metal work

**ethical teachings:**  
teachings about right  
and wrong

**enlightenment:** escape  
from suffering and  
wanting; nirvana

**compassion:** concern for  
others' suffering

**tolerance:** open-  
mindedness

**civil disobedience:**  
disobeying laws in order  
to bring about change

**unified:** united; one

**roots:** beginnings

**bronze:** metal made by  
combining copper and  
tin

**succeeding:** following

**frontier:** farthest edge

**chaos:** disorder

**moderation:** balance

Asia he conquered between 327 to 325 B.C., his was not the first civilization of this region. Over a thousand years earlier, the Harappan civilization had developed and reached its highest point in the Indus River Valley, having developed **complex** cities, brick platforms, writing, granaries, and craft workshops. After its collapse, succeeding waves of Aryans from the north spread their influence across the Punjab and Ganges **plains**. This resulted in a composite civilization rich in its artistic culture (architecture, sculpture, painting, dance, and music) and in its intellectual traditions (Arabic numbers, the zero, medical tradition, and **metallurgy**).

One of the major religious traditions of India developed during this time. Buddhism, an influential philosophy that emerged in the sixth century B.C., was based on the life and **ethical teachings** of "The Buddha" or Siddhartha Gautama. Buddha's early life, his Hindu background, and his search for **enlightenment**, resulted in the central beliefs and moral teachings of Buddhism: unselfishness (returning good for evil); **compassion** for the suffering of others; **tolerance** and nonviolence; and not lying, stealing, killing, finding fault with others, and gossiping. While Buddhism did not survive on Indian soil, Jainism, which introduced the idea *ahimsa*, or nonviolence, has continued to play a role in modern India, especially through Gandhi's idea of nonviolent **civil disobedience**. Hinduism is another great religion of India and has as one of its most revered texts the *Bhagavad Gita*. Asoka, the great philosopher-king who **unified** almost all of India, gave up violence as a national policy, and established Buddhism as the state religion.

Buddhism spread northward to China during this time. You learned about China during the Qin and Han Dynasties (221 B.C. to A.D. 220). The **roots** of Chinese civilization go far back into ancient times when Shang society (the "molders" of China) first emerged around 1500 B.C. in the Huang-He Valley and established the Chinese language and a highly developed technique of working with **bronze**.

During **succeeding** centuries, especially the Zhou Dynasty, China grew by conquering the people on its borders and absorbing the lands of these people as **frontier** states within Chinese society. By the sixth century B.C., the balance of power between the princes of these newer states and the old imperial centers of central China had broken down, plunging China into political **chaos** and war. It was during this time, when traditional values were neglected and government was in disarray, that Confucius lived and wrote. He tried to make sense of a troubled world and suggested ways in which individuals and society could achieve goodness. The good person in Confucius's teaching practiced **moderation** in conduct and emotion, kept one's promises, learned the traditional ways, respected one's elders,

improved oneself through education, and avoided people who were not good. Confucius's teaching promoted the dignity of humanity. However, the role of women in Confucian society was to always take a position lower than men.

**administration:** management  
**civil service:** government workers  
**filial piety:** respect for parents  
**flourished:** grew

Between 221 and 207 B.C. the Qin Dynasty was able to unite China. The longer-lasting Han Dynasty built on the unification, made Confucian teachings official, and placed governmental **administration** in the hands of the educated **civil service**, and began a time of peace and **prosperity**. Confucian **filial piety** and family ties strengthened the social structure of Han society. Art, literature, and learning **flourished**. Agriculture, trade, and manufacturing thrived. There was a growing trade and cultural exchange among China, India, and Rome at this time. The great caravan, or "Silk Road," that linked China and the Middle East was in operation by the first century B.C. By the second century A.D., the various sea routes that linked China, Malaya, South India, and Egypt were completed, connecting the Far East with the Mediterranean world and Rome in one great **commercial** network.

**commercial:** trade and business

## Rome

**republic:** a government in which citizens vote for their leaders

Rome was a great power in the ancient world. Starting as the Roman **Republic**, it eventually became an empire and spread throughout the Mediterranean world. Julius Caesar was one great leader who conquered much land for Rome; later, Senators assassinated him in 44 B.C. because they thought he was becoming too powerful. Rome's first emperor, August, ushered in the period of peace known as the "Pax Romana." Eventually, the Roman Empire was divided into two empires: Rome in the West and the Byzantine Empire in the East.

**suppress:** hold back

During this time, Christianity spread throughout the Mediterranean world. Christianity began with the life and teachings of Jesus; however, the Romans tried to **suppress** Christianity. Later, the emperor Constantine accepted Christianity (A.D. 313) and it was later established by Theodosius I as the official religion of the empire. Jesus' teachings in the Sermon on the Mount and the parables of the Good Samaritan, the lost sheep, and the Prodigal Son, promoted compassion, justice, and love for others.

**engineering:** designing structures other than buildings  
**adapted:** changed

The Romans were greatly influenced by the Greeks in art, architecture, **engineering**, political thought, religion, and philosophy, but **adapted** those ideas to serve their own empire. Both Greek and Roman cultures influenced Western civilization and continue to influence our lives today.



**site:** location  
**natural resources:** useful things found in nature

**dominance:** supreme power  
**relative location:** location of one place in relation to other places

**factor:** something that brings about a result

**evolution:** development

**chronological:** in order, from earliest to latest

**simultaneously:** at the same time

### Questions to Think About:

- Why did certain societies develop in certain areas? (Think about the geographic relationships between **site**, **natural resources**, and settlement such as in the river valley settlements of Mesopotamia, Egypt, India, and China.)
- What role did technological, agricultural, and economic development and international trade play in these societies?
- Why did certain societies rise to **dominance** at particular times in the ancient world? (Think about the importance of **relative location** in the case of ancient Greece, for example.)
- Why did great civilizations fall, including the collapse of the Indus civilization of India, the decline of Egypt in the years of the later empire, and the fall of Greece to Rome?
- What **factors** contributed to the **evolution** of ancient societies across the whole of the ancient world?
- How did language and writing evolve in Mesopotamia, Egypt, and China?
- What were the major religious belief systems? How did they teach people to live a good life?

### Can You?

- Create a timeline that places events in **chronological** order and comparing events that occurred **simultaneously** in different parts of the world?
- Find on a map where societies first developed? Can you trace where they spread?
- Show how ideas such as religion spread through economic trade and military expansion?
- Explain how early societies and ancient civilizations influence us today?