

World History I: Essential Questions

1. How did physical geography influence the lives of early humans?
2. What were the characteristics of huntergatherer societies?
3. How did the beginning of agriculture and the domestication of animals promote the rise of settled communities?
4. How does archaeology provide knowledge of early human life and its changes?
5. Why did ancient civilizations develop in river valleys?
6. Where were the earliest civilizations located?

7. When did these civilizations exist?

8. What were the social, political, and economic characteristics of early civilizations?

9. What religious traditions developed in ancient civilizations?

10. What were the essential beliefs of Judaism?

11. How did Judaism influence Western civilization?

12. What forms of language and writing existed in early civilizations?

13. How did Persia govern its empire?

14. Why were physical geography and location important to the development of Indian civilization?

15. What impact did the Aryans have on India?

16. Why was the caste system central to Indian culture?

17. What were the accomplishments of the Mauryan and Gupta empires?

18. What are the beliefs of the Hindu religion?

19. How did Hinduism influence Indian society and culture?

20. What are the beliefs of Buddhism?

21. How did Buddhism spread?

22. Why was the Great Wall of China built?

23. What were contributions of classical China to world civilization?

24. Why were Confucianism, Taoism, and Buddhism important in the formation of Chinese culture?

25. How did the mountains, seas, islands, harbors, peninsulas, and straits of the Aegean Basin shape Greek economic, social, and political development and patterns of trade and colonization?
26. How did mythology help the early Greek civilization explain the natural world and the human condition?
27. What impact did Greek mythology have on later civilizations and the contemporary world?
28. How did democracy develop in Athens?
29. How did Sparta differ from Athens?

30. Why were wars with Persia important to the development of Greek culture?

31. Why was the Peloponnesian War important to the spread of Greek culture?

32. Why was the leadership of Pericles important to the development of Athenian life and Greek culture?

33. What were some important contributions of Greek culture to Western civilization?

34. How did the empire of Alexander the Great establish a basis for the spread of Hellenistic culture?

35. How was geographic location important to the economic, social, and political development of ancient Rome?

36. What was the source of Roman mythology?

37. What impact did Roman mythology have on later civilizations?

38. How did the government of the Roman Republic become more democratic in its decision making?

39. Why was Rome able to conquer Carthage and then go on to extend its influence across the entire Mediterranean basin and much of Western Europe?

40. Why did the Roman Republic fail to survive challenges by Julius Caesar?

41. How did military conquests alter economic and social life in Rome?

42. How did an imperial monarchy come to rule Rome?

43. What was the Pax Romana?

44. What was the impact of the Pax Romana on the Roman Empire?

45. How did Christianity become established within the Roman Empire?

46. What were the essential beliefs of the early Christian faith?

47. How and why did Christianity spread?

48. What was the impact of the early Church in the late Roman Empire?

49. How did Roman achievements influence Western civilization?

50. Why did the Western Roman Empire decline?