

World History I: Essential Questions

1. How did physical geography influence the lives of early humans?
2. What were the characteristics of hunter-gatherer 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?

51. Why was Constantinople established as the capital of the Eastern Roman Empire?

52. What was the influence of Justinian's codification of Roman law on the Byzantine Empire and later legal codes?

53. What was Justinian's influence on the expansion of the Byzantine Empire and its economy?

54. What were the contributions of Byzantine art and architecture?

55. How did Greek and Roman culture survive within the Byzantine Empire?

56. What factors produced the division within the Christian Church?

57. Why did the Byzantine Empire have so much influence on religion, culture, and trade in Russia and Eastern Europe?

58. Where did the Islamic religion originate? Where did it spread?

59. What are the beliefs, traditions, and customs of Islam?

60. How did geography influence the rapid expansion of territory under Muslim rule?

61. How did political and cultural geography facilitate trade and cultural activity in the early Islamic lands?

62. What were some major historical turning points that marked the spread and influence of Islamic civilization?

63. How did Islamic civilization preserve and extend ancient Greek, Persian, and Indian learning?

64. What were some contributions of Islamic civilization?

65. How and why did the Church grow in importance during the Middle Ages?

66. How did a feudal society develop in Europe during the Middle Ages?

67. How did the medieval manor function as a social and economic system?

68. How did Charlemagne revive the idea of the Roman Empire?

69. How did invasions by the Angles, Saxons, Magyars, and Vikings influence the development of Europe?

70. Where were the major trade routes in the Eastern Hemisphere from 1000 to 1500 A.D. (C.E.)?

71. How did trade facilitate the diffusion of goods and ideas among different cultures?

72. How has Japan's geography influenced its development?

73. How did Chinese culture influence Japan?

74. Why were Shinto and Buddhism important to the development of Japanese culture?

75. What were the characteristics of civilizations in sub-Saharan Africa during the medieval period?

76. What were the characteristics of the Mayan, Aztec, and Incan civilizations?

77. How did European nation-states expand their territories and consolidate their power?

78. What were key events and effects of the Crusades?

79. What were the effects of the Mongol invasions?

80. What were the effects of the Ottoman invasions of Europe?

81. How did the Black Death (Bubonic plague) alter economic and social institutions in much of Asia and then in Europe?

82. How did European scholars begin to interpret and value ancient learning?

83. How did the Crusades stimulate trade between Europe and the Muslim Empire?

84. What were the economic foundations of the Italian Renaissance?

85. How did northern Italian cities benefit from their geographic location?

86. How did Italian city-states achieve importance and develop politically?

87. What were Machiavelli's ideas about power?

88. How did the arts and literature of the Renaissance differ from those of the Middle Ages?

89. Who were prominent Italian Renaissance artists and writers?

90. How did knowledge of the classical Greeks and Romans foster humanism in the Italian Renaissance?

91. How did ideas of the Italian Renaissance change as they were adopted in northern Europe?

92. Who were important artists and writers of the Northern Renaissance?