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| Course Title: | Pre-AP World History & Geography to 1500 |
| Grade Level: | 9th |
| Course Description: | **\*The title Pre-AP designates a preparatory course for AP work, not a College Board Advanced Placement course.\***  Pre-AP World History and Geography to 1500 A.D. is an advanced course in world history from pre-history to 1500 A.D. Students will explore the historical development of people, places, and patterns of life from ancient times until 1500 A.D. in terms of the impact on Western Civilization. Students will review and strengthen map and globe skills, skills in interpreting and using information, and historical thinking skills. |
| Textbook Titles: | Ancient World History: Patterns of Interaction- Holt McDougal  Ways of the World-Strayer (Supplementary) |

**Course Outline:**

1. **Human Origins**

# Human Origins reviews the foundations of human society focusing on the geographic and cultural processes that gave rise to human communities in Paleolithic and Neolithic societies culminating in the development of the first civilization.

## Development of early humans and Paleolithic society

* + 1. Impact of Geography
    2. Characteristics
  1. **Neolithic society and the Agricultural Revolution**
     1. Characteristics
     2. Impact of advancements of the Neolithic Era

## Geography of stable communities through archeology.

* + 1. Growth of stable communities around river valleys

1. **Early** **Civilizations (River Valleys, Hebrews, Phoenicians, Nubia)**

River Valley Civilizations examines the similarities and differences between the first areas of civilizations through the patterns that developed.

## Tigris-Euphrates River Valley (civilizations of Mesopotamia, Phoenicians and the Fertile Crescent)

* + 1. The development of cities-states in Mesopotamia were based on:
       1. Centralized government with hereditary rulers: Dynasties of kings
          1. Rulers often based on religious authority
          2. Hammurabi-Marduk
          3. Polytheism was practiced by most early civilizations.
    2. Written law codes: Code of Hammurabi
       1. Rigid class system where slavery was accepted
    3. Cuneiform: Sumer & Alphabet: Phoenicia
       1. Used to support centralized government of the city-state.
    4. Increasing agricultural surplus because of better tools, plows, irrigation
       1. Causes increasing trade along rivers and by sea.
          1. Interactions caused by trade.

## Nile River Valley (Egypt and Nubia)

* + 1. The development from kingdoms and empires in Egypt and Nubia were based on:
       1. Centralized government with hereditary rulers: Dynasties of pharaohs
          1. often based on religious authority
          2. Polytheism was practiced by most early civilizations.
       2. Rigid class system where slavery was accepted
    2. Hieroglyphics: Egypt
       1. Used to support centralized government of the city-state.
    3. Increasing agricultural surplus because of better tools, plows, irrigation & the use of metal (e.g., bronze, iron) tools and weapons
       1. Causes increasing trade along rivers and by sea.

## Indus River Valley (Harappa and Mohenjo-Daro) and Ganges River Valley (Aryan culture)

* + 1. Development of the world’s first cities (city planning, Plumbing etc.)
       1. Harappa and Mohenjo-Daro
       2. Increasing agricultural surplus: Better tools, plows, irrigation
       3. Use of metal (e.g., bronze, iron) tools and weapons
    2. Because of city planning and use of new technology there was increased trade along rivers and by sea.
       1. Spread of Buddhism
    3. Development of the practice of slavery within most cultures in the ancient world, taking various forms
       1. Introduce the Indo-Aryans and the caste system, which influenced all social interactions and choices of occupations.

## Huang He River Valley (China under Shang and Zhou Dynasties)

* + 1. The development of empires in China were based on:
       1. Centralized government with hereditary rulers: Dynasties of kings
          1. Rulers often based on religious authority
          2. Zhou dynasty -Mandate of Heaven
          3. Polytheism was practiced by most early civilizations
  1. **Hebrews**
     1. Beginnings of religion: geographic location in comparison with other early civilizations.
     2. Beginnings of religions: Important figures
     3. Beliefs and traditions compared to another early civilization.
        1. Spread of Judaism over time.

1. **Early Civilizations (Persia, India , China and the Americas)**

# Classical Asian Civilizations addresses the development of large-scale civilizations in Persia, India and China, and the Americas, including the development government, economics, social structures, and religions.

## Persia

* + 1. Impact of Geography: Conquered civilizations in Mesopotamia
       1. Imperial Bureaucracy, Royal Roads
       2. Tolerance
    2. Interactions with India and China.
  1. **India**
     1. Impact of Geography on the development of Indian Civilizations.
     2. Indo-Aryans
        1. Caste System
        2. Introduction of Hinduisms; Beliefs: many forms of one God, Reincarnation, Karma, development of sacred writings-Vedas and Upanishads:
           1. Spread along major trade routes
     3. Development and contributions of Mauryan and Gupta Empires
  2. **China**
     1. Impact of Geography on the development of China
        1. Constructions of the Great Wall.
        2. Interactions on the Silk Road.
     2. Development of Empire
        1. Dynasties-Mandate of Heaven
        2. Civil Service system.
        3. Impact of Confucius and Taoist beliefs on society.
     3. Spread of Buddhism to China and its impact on society.
  3. **Maya, Inca, Aztec**
     1. Compare patterns of geographic, cultural and economic development amongst the North American societies.

# Classical Civilizations-Greece:

# Classical Civilizations-Greece explores the emergence, interaction and spread of European civilizations throughout the Mediterranean region.

* 1. **Impact of geography on the development of Greece.**
     1. City-State development
        1. Examine architecture in those regions.
     2. Economic developments
     3. Colonization
  2. **Examine use of mythology and polytheism in Greece through Homer-*Iliad* and *Odyssey***
  3. **Development of Democracy**
     1. Comparing city-states and social structures.
     2. Examine the role of philosophers: Socrates, Aristotle and Plato
  4. **Persian Wars through Peloponnesian wars.**
     1. Importance of the Persian wars through Aeschylus and Herodotus
     2. Importance of the Peloponnesian wars through Thucydides
     3. Golden Age of Pericles.
  5. **Conquest of Greece and the Hellenistic Eras.**

# Classical Civilizations-Rome:

# Classical Civilizations-Rome explores the emergence, interaction and spread of civilizations throughout the Mediterranean region.

* 1. **Impact of geography on the development of Rome. Reference Virgil’s *Aeneid.***
     1. Protection
     2. Economic developments; trade.
     3. Geography of expansion-Mediterranean Basin
  2. **Compare myths and polytheism of Rome with Greece.**
  3. **Development of Democracy**
     1. Growth of a Republic and social structures.
        1. Code of Laws-Twelve tables
        2. Forum
  4. **Evolution from a Republic to an Empire**
     1. Examine the expansion of Rome after the Punic Wars, which allowed an Empire to dissolve the Republic.
     2. Origins of the Empire under Julius Caesar
     3. Development of the Empire under Augustus Caesar.
        1. Social- aqueducts and Roman arches allow for public baths, public water systems, medical schools
        2. Economic- Roads with safe trade
     4. Origins and beliefs of Christianity and the impact it had on the Roman Empire.
        1. Colosseum.
     5. Division of Rome and the reasons for the decline of the Roman Emperor/Empires power
        1. Location of Constantinople and the Eastern Roman Empire/Byzantine Empire.

1. **Byzantine & Russia:**

Byzantine the eastern part of the old Roman Empire maintained a brilliant civilization centered in Constantinople. With a separate Christian Church, it developed a culture different from that of Western Europe. Slavs and Vikings joined to create a new culture in Russia, which was influenced by the Eastern Church.

* 1. **Geography of Constantinople**
     1. Development of Byzantine Empire as the Roman Empire falls.
  2. **Development of Byzantine under Justinian**
     1. Code of Laws
     2. Culture
        1. Adoption of Greek culture and language.
        2. Division from the Western Church.
        3. Expansion & Spread of Culture to Russia.

1. **Middle East & Africa (Islamic & African Civilization):**

The Muslim world began on the Arabian Peninsula and quickly spread to other places including Africa and Spain. The wide range of climate and resources in Africa offered different opportunities to kingdoms throughout the continent and help promote regional interactions and trading patterns.

* 1. **Origins, beliefs and spread of Islam that impacted the Byzantine Empire and African Kingdoms.**
     1. Geographic extent of expansion and the turning points along the way: Asia to Spain
     2. Cultural Impact of Islam on the Western World.
  2. **Development of sub-Saharan East and West Africa**
     1. Impact of geography for development of the Eastern and Western African civilizations.
     2. Compare the development and spread of religion from Eastern and Western African civilizations.
     3. Diffusion of goods, technology and ideas along trade routes; especially the Silk Road, maritime and trans-Saharan trade routes.

1. **Asia ( Japan, Korea & China):**

Japanese cultural development was influenced by proximity to China. Cultural diffusion played an important role in the spread of ideas, beliefs, and technology throughout Asia.

* 1. **Diffusion of traditions and culture**
     1. Impact of geography on the development of traditions, culture and religion.
     2. Diffusion of goods, technology and ideas along trade routes; especially the South China Sea route.

1. **Western Europe: Early Middle Ages**

The Early Middle Ages also known as the Dark Age is a time when trade and learning were sluggish and the Feudalism in conjunction with the manorial system along with the Christian church was empowered.

* 1. **Decline of Roman Empire and the importance of the Church.**
     1. Influence of the Catholic Church on the formation of medieval society.
     2. Reasons for the structure of medieval society; look at the migration and invasion of migratory groups in Europe.
  2. **Revival of the Roman Empire.**
     1. Charlemagne becomes the Holy Roman Emperor and used military power and an alliance with the church to expand territory and revive trade and learning.

1. **Western Europe: Late Middle Ages to the Renaissance:**

Kings became less dependent on the early structure of medieval society and began to consolidate their power to form nation-states, which leads to conflicts mostly over territory. Nation-States began to flourish during the Renaissance.

* 1. **Crusades**
     1. As the church begins to reorganize it rallies a Crusade to regain the Holy Land.
     2. Results of the Crusades as they pertain to medieval society.
  2. **Development of Nation-States**
     1. Explain the causes for a shift from a church centered to a monarch centered society.
     2. Impact of the Plague
  3. **Birth and spread of the Renaissance**
     1. Impact of education during the middle ages to the birth of the Renaissance: Preservation of ancient literature by the church scholars.
     2. Impact of geography on the birth of the Renaissance: City-states
     3. Changes from Medieval art and literature to Renaissance art and literature.
     4. Where and how the spirit of the Renaissance spread.