

## WHI Journal Prompts

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### **General Lesson Set or Closure ideas:**

Hangmen using a key word about the lesson, have the winner explain why the word is/was pertinent to the lesson.

Picture analysis

Quote from someone of the period or someone from a different period reflecting on the period the students are studying.

Give the students five terms and have them write a paragraph using the words.

Have the students rewrite a nursery rhyme about the period being studied.

Metaphors: students can create a metaphor using food, technology, etc. and the period.

Current Events: relate to the period.

Give them a vocabulary words and see who can give the most synonyms, antonyms.

Rewrite a section of information from the period as a text message.

Play "Who am I" by giving them clues until the students identify the person. A variation of this would be "Where am I".

Stump the Student or Stump the teacher: questions are asked to see who will get stumped first.

Give them a series of vocabulary words and ask them what they have in common.

What if??? Questions, ie: What if Cave Man had not learned to speak, create fire, etc. What if Guttenberg had not created the movable type printing press? Etc.

What civilization is similar to the one you're studying?

Exit Passes: Students must hand you an answer to a question about the day's lesson as they leave the room.

### **SOL 2**

If you were setting up colonies on another planet, how might the development of your settlements compare to the hunter gather societies?

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Which was more important to the hunter-gatherer society- tools or fire? Defend your answer..

Imagine you are early man and describe how you discovered the relationship between seeds, sun, water and food, (development of agriculture). Describe how you came about this discovery.

What location in America would you feel is the most significant in terms of archaeology? Defend your answer.

Whatever an archaeologist finds belongs to the archaeologist. Do you agree? Defend your answer.

### **SOL 3**

One of the most important developments of the Sumerian culture was the development of writing, why could this be considered both a curse and a blessing? Consider Social, Economic

and Political factors in your answer.

The Egyptian civilization was the greatest of the ancient civilizations. Defend or refute this statement

Which examples of codification has "stood the test of time" and why?

The plow was man's most important invention. Defend or refute this statement.

Which of the river civilizations would you have wanted to live in? Why?

The monotheism of Abraham became the foundation of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam religions that changed the world, which of these religions has the greatest impact today? Defend your answer

Writing and language is said to define a civilization, could civilizations develop without one of these two developments? Defend your answer.

#### SOL 4

What systems of transportation and communication today might be compared to the Royal Roads of Persia?

How did the Persian rulers lead to the development of the political concept of a ruling monarchy?

Classical Indian civilization began in the Indus River Valley and spread to the Ganges River Valley, then through the Indian subcontinent. It continued with little interruption because of its geographic location. Support this statement with specific examples.

The Indo-Aryan people migrated into the area, creating a structured society (caste system) blended with those of the indigenous people. Was the blending of the societies beneficial?

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~~What environmental reasons may have caused Indo-Aryans migration?~~

What impact did the Aryans have on India?

Why was the caste system central to Indian culture?

Hinduism influenced Indian society and culture and is still practiced in India today. How has this influenced changed over time?

Which of the contributions of China has made the greatest impact on Chinese lives today, defend your answer.

"Chinese are wise in comprehending without many words what is inevitable and inescapable and therefore only to be borne. " **Pearl S. Buck**

A Quote by Benjamin Hoff on Taoism, learning, and wisdom: "The wise are not learned; the learned are not wise." **Source:** The Tao of Pooh. Do you agree? Why or why not?

## SOL 5

In today's world, is geography a limiting factor in cultural development? Defend your answer.

What impact did Greek mythology have on later civilizations and the contemporary world?

Compare the rights of citizens in early Greece to the rights of citizens in early America.

Pericles said, "When it becomes a question of putting one person before another in positions of public responsibility, what counts is not membership of a particular class, but the actual ability which the man possesses." Was Pericles's thinking before his time? Defend your answer.

Should the "Socratic Method" of teaching be used in the classroom today? Defend your answer.

Alexander the Great loved books, especially Homer's Iliad, how did you think the book influenced his military strategy?

Alexander the Great had a great respect for Aristotle as a teacher, what attributes do you feel Aristotle exhibited to gain this respect?

## SOL 6

Do you think the Roman Republic owed its success more to its form of government or its army? Why?

Was the Roman Republic the foreshadowing of the aristocracy to come later in history? Defend your answer.

How did Rome's treatment of conquered people affect Rome's expansion?

Rome's republican form of government was not able to meet the needs of all the people in the areas that Rome conquered and ruled as provinces. Do you agree or disagree?

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Under what circumstances does a civilization have the right to conquer another civilization? Defend your answer.

## SOL 7

"The marriage of Justinian and Theodora defied traditions and was the love affair of the time." Do you agree or disagree, defend your answer.

Assess the following: "Civilizations live forever through its art." Defend your answer.

Do you think it is possible for a reunification of the Catholic Church? Defend your answer

Roman and Byzantium civilizations are heralded for their many accomplishments, which accomplishment has stood the "test of time" the best. Defend your answer.

## **SOL 8**

What similarities do you see between Islam and Christianity? Judaism?

How could recent conflicts in the Middle East, particularly the Arab Israeli conflict and the Persian Gulf War, be the result of historical events?

How do you feel Islamic history would have changed if the Sunni and Shiite's had not split?

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

## **SOL 9**

If the Roman Catholic Church had not adopted a secular position, would feudalism have succeeded? Defend your answer.

How is the game of chess a depiction of feudal society? Explain your answer.

Who was a better leader, Alexander the Great or Charlemagne? Defend your answer.

Various names for this time period in history have included the Middle Ages, medieval times, medieval period, Dark Ages, Age of Faith and The Age of Invasions, How does these various nomenclature's affect how you think about the time period? What nomenclature would you give the time period you live in today? Defend your answers.

## **SOL 10**

Trade among different groups contributes to a diffusion of culture and language and can promote positive and/or negative interactions between cultures. Discuss the aspects of this interaction. How may trade benefit a culture? What disadvantages may result from trading with other cultures?

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

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How does the African civilizations locations reflected in the map of modern Africa?

## **SOL 11**

Many great civilizations developed in the Eastern Hemisphere, but contrary to previous thought, research has shown that great civilizations also flourished in the Western Hemisphere. Why do you think that the Western Hemisphere civilizations were ignored by many historians for so long?

Based on the achievements of each of the civilizations, rank the civilizations in order of their contributions to today's society. Defend your answer.

The Mayan's political set up were a series of city states, why did democracy not develop there as it had in Greece? Defend your answer.

## SOL12

Horses were integral to the success of military campaigns, how would history been changed if the stirrup had not been invented?

What are the rules of engagement in modern warfare? How does it differ from this time period?

What characteristics do today's rulers' exhibit that reminds you of the rulers from the past?

How do rulers gain more power today? Do they use the same methods as the rulers from the Late Medieval Period?

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

Was the Black Death biological warfare?

Church scholars preserved ancient literature in monasteries in the East and West. How might ancient literature differ if it had been written by a secular scholar?

## SOL 13

What products do you think we use today were introduced to Europe because of the Crusades?

Church rule against usury and the banks' practice of charging interest helped to secularize Northern Italy. What does this mean for us today?

Does the end justify the means?

Are you a "Renaissance man (humananist)"?

Show the students a picture of the Sistine Chapel, ask them who painted it? Then tell them for ~~four years, painter and sculptor Michelangelo stood on top of a high scaffold, painting the~~ enormous ceiling of the Sistine Chapel in Rome. He hadn't wanted to take the job, but the pope had insisted. Michelangelo wrote a poem about the work: "My belly is shoved up under my chin . . . My beard faces skyward and the back of my neck is wedged into my spine . . . My face is richly carpeted with a thick layer of paint from my brush . . . I don't want to be here and I'm no painter." Discuss the irony of the poem.

True or False: The Gutenberg moveable type printing press was the most important invention of the time and led Europe into the modern age.

