

# Grade 6: World History and Geography: Ancient Civilizations

How did the environment influence human migration, ancient ways of life, and the development of societies?

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What were the early human ways of life (hunting and gathering, agriculture, civilizations, urban societies, states, and empires), and how did they change over time?

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How did the major religious and philosophical systems (Judaism, Greek thought, Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism) support individuals, rulers, and societies?

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How did societies interact with each other? How did connections between societies increase over time?

## 1 Early Humankind and the Development of Human Societies 1

- a How did the environment influence the migrations of early humans? How did early humans adapt to new environments and climate changes? 1.A
- b How did people live by the gathering and hunting way of life? 1.B
- c Why did some people develop agriculture and pastoral nomadism? What were the effects of these new ways of life? 1.C

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## 2 The Early Civilizations of Mesopotamia, Egypt, and Kush 2

- a How did civilizations—complex urban societies—develop in Mesopotamia, Egypt, and Kush? 2.A
- b What environmental factors helped civilizations grow? What impact did civilizations have on the surrounding environment? 2.B
- c How did people’s lives change as states and empires took over these areas (increase in social differences, rule by monarchs, laws)? 2.C
- d From 4000 BCE to 500 BCE, how did contact, trade, and other links grow among the urban societies of Mesopotamia, Egypt, Kush, India, and the eastern Mediterranean? 2.

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## 3 The Ancient Israelites (Hebrews) 3

- a What were the beliefs and religious practices of the ancient Israelites? How did the religious practices of Judaism change and develop over time? 3.A
- b How did the environment, the history of the Israelites, and their interactions with other societies shape their religion? 3.B
- c How did early Judaism support individuals, rulers, and societies? 3.C

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## 4 Ancient Greece 4

- a How did the environment of the Greek peninsula and islands, the Anatolian coast, and the surrounding seas affect the development of Greek societies? 4.A
- b What were the differences in point of view and perspective between the Persians and the Greeks, and between Athenians and Spartans? 4.B
- c What were the political forms adopted by Greek urban societies? What were the achievements and limitations of Athenian democracy? 4.C
- d How did Greek thought (a cultural package of mythology, humanistic art, emphasis on reason and intellectual development, and historical, scientific, and literary forms) support individuals, states, and societies? 4.D
- e How did Greek trade, travel, and colonies, followed by the conquests of Alexander the Great and the spread of Hellenistic culture, affect increasing connections among regions in Afroeurasia? 4.

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## 5 The Early Civilizations of India 5

- a How did the environment influence the emergence and decline of the Indus civilization? 5.A
- b How did religions of Ancient India, including, but not limited to early Hinduism, support individuals, rulers, and societies? 5.B
- c How did the religion of Buddhism support individuals, rulers, and societies? 5.C
- d During the Indus civilization, the Vedic period, and the Maurya Empire, how did the connections between the Indian subcontinent and other regions of Afroeurasia increase? 5.D

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## 6 The Early Civilizations of China 6

- a How did the environment influence the development of civilization in China? 6.A
- b How did the philosophical system of Confucianism support individuals, rulers, and societies? 6.B
- c What factors helped China unify into a single state under the Han Dynasty? What social customs and government policies made the centralized state so powerful? 6.C
- d How did the establishment of the Silk Road increase trade, the spread of Buddhism, and the connections between China and other regions of Afroeurasia? 6.

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## 7 The Development of Rome 7

- a What were the strengths and weaknesses of the Roman Republic? Why did the Roman Republic fall? 7.A
- b How did the Romans advance the concept of citizenship? 7.B
- c How did the environment influence the expansion of Rome and its integrated trade networks? 7.C
- d How did other societies (the Greeks, Hellenistic states, Han China, Parthian Persia) influence and affect the Romans? 7.