

In this document, you will find the key words and their associated definitions for World History A (Beginnings).

| Unit 3: Early Civilizations |
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| Lesson 1  | **agriculture** - the practice of cultivating soils for raising crops and animals to provide food, fibers, and other products**hunter-gatherers** - nomadic people who subsist from hunting, fishing, and gathering plants |
| Lesson 2 | **anthropologist** – a person who studies the development of human societies and cultures**Bering Strait** – the strait separating the Chukchi Peninsula of Russia from the Seward Peninsula of Alaska**climate map** – a map that shows information about the climate of different parts of the world**Code of Hammurabi** – an early legal code from Mesopotamia**complex society** – a society that has a clear social structure, hierarchy, and system of government, and has developed to include different elements of culture such as religious practices, arts, and the use of technology to solve problems within the society**cuneiform** – an ancient writing system used in Sumer in the Fertile Crescent**deductive reasoning** – the process of developing a general statement or hypothesis about a topic, then examining sources to come up with a logical conclusion**domestication** – the process of breeding a wild plant or animal for food**Fertile Crescent** – an area in the present-day Middle East, where some of the first agricultural societies began to develop; it is located along and around the Tigris and Euphrates rivers, which flow through modern Iraq, Syria, and Turkey**historical hypothesis** – a claim or statement that can be proved with evidence**Homo sapiens** – the primate species to which modern humans belong**hunter-gatherer society** – a nomadic group that killed animals for food and set aside plants and grains for later consumption**inductive reasoning** – the process of making broad generalizations about a topic from specific observations**Neolithic Revolution** – the time around 10,000 BCE when early humans began to abandon hunter-gathering to take up farming and establish permanent settlements**physical geography** – a branch of geography focused on physical features and processes**physical map** – a map showing the geographic features of an area**pull factors** – positive factors that prompt migration to a location**push factors** – negative factors that prompt migration away from a location**sedentary** – a way of life defined by permanent settlements**thematic map** – a map that shows one or more specific themes of an area |
| Lesson 3 | **aesthetic** – the way things look; valuing beauty above all else**agrarian** – related to farming**alloy** – a mixture of metals**aqueduct** – a man made system for moving water**archipelago** – an island group or island chain**basin irrigation** – a type of watering system that floods entire fields between canals**city-state** – a political system in which the leaders of the city can make all decisions for the people within their territory and are not overruled by a larger centralized government**colony** – a permanent settlement established away from a homeland**deity** – a being that is worshiped**domesticate** – the practice of taming and breeding animals for work and food**empire** – a system of government in which there is one authority (individual or group) who rules over a large territory**etymology** – the study of the origin of words**fresco** – a type of artwork that involves painting on wet plaster in order to retain vibrant colors**head-dam** – a structure at the beginning of a canal that controls the flow of water**homogenous** – referring to similar things**infrastructure** – basic systems, such as road and building construction, that are necessary for a society to function effectively**irrigation** – a human made system of channeling water from a natural source like a river to crops**legitimacy** – the right of a government or ruler to have power**Latins** – the predecessors to the Romans who settled along the Tiber River in Rome**metallurgy** – the process of mining, mixing, and using metals**monsoon** – a weather event with extreme rainfall**mosaic** – a decorative image created from small colored stones, ceramics, or glass**nomadic** – a lifestyle of continual movement to meet survival needs**obsidian** – volcanic glass that is one of the sharpest materials in the world**polytheism** – the belief in more than one god (deities)**polytheistic** – worshiping more than one god**regulator-dam** – a structure inside a canal system that controls the flow of water**sedentary** – a settled, stationary lifestyle**sinew** – an extremely strong fiber that holds muscles and bones together**social hierarchy** – a system that exists within a community where members have unequal power**silt** – the sediment and nutrients that fertilize crops**textile** – a product made from cloth**topography** – the surface of terrain**traverse** – to move or walk across**urban planning** – the intentional development and design of urban areas (cities) |
| Lesson 4 | **absolute monarchy** – a government where the monarch holds unlimited power**agrarian** – related to farming**alloy** – a mixture of metals**aqueduct** – a man-made system for moving water**archipelago** – an island group or island chain**aesthetic** – the way things look; valuing beauty above all else**basin irrigation** – a type of watering system that floods entire fields between canals**city-state** – a political system in which the leaders of the city can make all decisions for the people within their territory and are not overruled by a larger centralized government**colony** – a permanent settlement established away from a homeland**deity** – a being that is worshiped**domesticate** – the practice of taming and breeding animals for work and food**dynasty** – a series of rulers from the same family**empire** – a system of government in which there is one authority (individual or group) who rules over a large territory**etymology** – the study of the origin of words**fresco** – a type of artwork that involves painting on wet plaster in order to retain vibrant colors**head-dam** – a structure at the beginning of a canal that controls the flow of water**hieroglyphics** – a system of writing using images to represent sounds**Homogenous** – referring to similar things**Hyksos** – a group of non-Egyptian invaders that controlled parts of Egypt for 100 years**infrastructure** – basic systems, such as road and building construction, that are necessary for a society to function effectively**irrigation** – a human-made system of channeling water from a natural source like a river to crops**legitimacy** – the right of a government or ruler to have power**Lower Egypt** – the area of Egypt near the Nile Delta, close to the Mediterranean Sea**metallurgy** – the process of mining, mixing, and using metals**monotheistic** – worshiping only one god**monsoon** – a weather event with extreme rainfall**mosaic** – a decorative image created from small colored stones, ceramics, or glass**Neolithic Revolution** – the time around 10,000 BCE when early humans began to abandon hunter-gathering to take up farming and establish permanent settlements**nome** – a religious and governmental district used in ancient Egypt**nomadic** – a lifestyle of continual movement to meet survival needs**oasis** – a fertile area in a desert or arid region due to a freshwater source**obsidian** – volcanic glass that is one of the sharpest materials in the world**pharaoh** – a ruler of ancient Egypt**polytheism** – the belief in more than one god (deities)**polytheistic** – worshiping more than one god**regions of influence** – the areas of land that Egyptians did not control politically but were in some way connected to the kingdom, such as allied territories**scorpion king** – an early king of the Upper Egyptian kingdom, before the kingdom was united**sedentary** – a settled, stationary lifestyle**sinew** – an extremely strong fiber that holds muscles and bones together**smelting** – the process of removing metal from its ore by heating and melting it**social hierarchy** – a system that exists within a community where members have unequal power**textile** – a product made from cloth**theocracy** – rule by divine guidance**topography** – the surface of terrain**traverse** – to move or walk across**Upper Egypt** – the area of Egypt that is in the southern part of Egypt, near Lake Nasser, where much of the Nile gets its waterflow**vassal leadership system** – a government system in which a ruler appoints someone to own and oversee land, often an outside source from the native population**ziggurat** – a temple in ancient Mesopotamia, which might have inspired the early |
| Lesson 5 | **chattel slavery** – the enslaving and owning of human beings and their children; in the system of chattel slavery, people were treated like livestock and families were enslaved for generations**labor specialization** – the division of labor in a society in which different members perform different jobs**Neolithic Agricultural Revolution** – the time around 10,000 BCE when early humans began to abandon hunting and gathering to take up farming and establish permanent settlements**nomadic** – a lifestyle of continual movement to meet survival needs**patriarchal society** – a social system in which men hold the most power and restrict the lives and rights of women**patriarchy** – a system in which men hold the most power and exclude women**prisoner of war** – a person held prisoner by the enemy during wartime**social class** – the division of people based on their social and economic power in a society**social hierarchy** – a system that exists within a community in which members have unequal power**social stratification** – the separation of people based on their power and labor specialization**social structure** – the organization of people based on their social and economic power in a society**surplus** – an amount produced beyond what is needed for survival**slavery** – when one human is the legal property of another |
| Lesson 6 | **Alexander the Great** – king of Macedonia who ruled over a large area of land from Europe to Asia**Amu Darya** – a major river in Central Asia**agriculture** – the practice of growing plants and animals to provide food and resources**arable land** – land that can be used by humans to grow plants**arid** – describes a dry climate with little rain**Ashoka** – the third ruler of the Mauryan Empire**BCE** – shortening of “Before Common Era”; anything before the year 0 is deemed to be before the Common Era**Bindusara** – the second ruler of the Mauryan Empire**Brihadratha** – the last ruler of the Mauryan Empire**Buddhism** – a religion that started in India thousands of years ago; it is still practiced by millions of people worldwide**Buddhist** – coming from or belonging to Buddhism, a religion that started in India thousands of years ago; it is still practiced by millions of people worldwide**bureaucracy** – the departments, agencies, and commissions within a government that often make important decisions**canal** – a human-made way of moving water from one place to another; an artificial river**CE** – shortening of “Common Era”; anything after the year 0 is deemed to be in the Common Era**Chandragupta Maurya** – first ruler of the Mauryan Empire**deity** – a religious, supreme being such as a god or goddess**edict** – an official order or rule given by a person of authority**emissary** – someone who is sent on a special mission**engineer** – a person who designs and builds things, such as canals and bridges**Ganges River** – a river in northeastern India**Gandhara** – a location in modern-day northwestern Pakistan and eastern Afghanistan**Gupta Empire** – an empire that ruled over much of what is now the country of India from the early fourth to the late sixth centuries CE**gunpowder** – an explosive used in weapons such as guns and cannons**Gunpowder Empires** – a name given to the Safavid, Mughal, and Ottoman Empires as they used gunpowder in their military weaponry in order to build their empires**heir** – someone who is entitled to a person’s property or power after that person dies**Hindu** – coming from or belonging to Hinduism, a religion that started in India thousands of years ago; it is still practiced by more than a billion people worldwide**India** – a country in southern Asia**Indian subcontinent** – a geographical region in South Asia composed of the modern-day countries of Pakistan, India, and Bangladesh**Islam** – a monotheistic religion that developed in the Middle East around 600 CE**Islamic empires** – empires that have Islam as their official religion**Kushan Empire** – an empire that controlled land in South and Central Asia in the first, second, and third centuries CE**Kushan people** – people who were from the Kushan Empire**Mauryan Empire** – an empire that ruled parts of the Indian subcontinent from 321 to 185 BCE**military** – an armed, organized force used to fight wars**Mongol Empire** – a land-based empire founded in the twelfth century CE by Genghis Khan in what is now the country of Mongolia**Mughal Empire** – an empire that ruled over land in the modern-day countries of Pakistan, India, and Bangladesh**Muslim** – someone who follows the religion of Islam**Ottoman Empire** – an Islamic empire founded in the fourteenth century CE in what is now the country of Turkey**Pataliputra** – the capital of the Mauryan Empire **Punjab** – a geographical region in northwestern India **Safavid Empire** – an empire that ruled over land in the modern-day countries of Iran, Azerbaijan, Armenia, parts of Russia, Iraq, and Afghanistan**Seleucids** – a group of people who were early rivals of the Mauryan Empire **Silk Road** – a web of trade routes connecting China with Europe**Shunga Empire** – the empire that ruled parts of the Indian subcontinent after the Mauryan Empire **Son River** – a river in central India**Syr Darya** – a major river in Central Asia **vacuum of power** – a condition in which someone has lost power, usually a ruler, and there is no one to replace them**wealth** – having a lot of goods, resources, and/or money **Zoroastrian** – coming from or belonging to Zoroastrianism, a religion that started in Iran thousands of years ago; it is still practiced by hundreds of thousands of people worldwide |
| Lesson 7 | **alchemist** – a person who mixes or manipulates different materials or elements to create something that has healing or mystical powers**artisan** – a skilled worker in a trade; a craftsperson who is an expert in a certain trade**assimilate** – absorb into the dominant culture**assimilation** – the act of a dominant culture absorbing other groups’ people and culture into their own**Buddhism** – a belief system that teaches human life is full of suffering as a result of desire and that meditation, self-reflection, and moral behavior will lead to the goal of enlightenment**bureaucracy** – a system of government that consists of a number of appointed officials who make important decisions rather than elected representatives**bureaucratic** – having an organized division of labor**caste system** – a strict system of hereditary social classes**cartography** – the study of mapmaking**city-state** – an independent city that controls the dependent surrounding area**colonization** – the process a country takes to control a foreign land and its people for economic gain**colonize** – to control a foreign land and its people for economic gain**commerce** – trade; buying and selling**Confucianism** – a philosophical system centered on virtue, education, and respect to achieve harmony**conscription** – government-required military or state service**crossbow** – a kind of bow that shoots horizontally versus vertically and has a mechanism that shoots projectiles down a wooden groove by releasing a string**dynasty** – leadership of a country that is passed on over multiple generations, such as a monarchy or empire**enlightenment** – the attainment of full spiritual awareness**feudal system** – a system of organization involving landownership in which a central authority grants land to individuals with power over regional territories and its citizens in exchange for tax revenue, crops, and soldiers**geography** – the study of the earth, including its physical features and how humans interact with the land and resources**granary** – a place for storing large amounts of grain**hierarchy** – a system of individuals or groups that are ranked according to influence, status, or authority, from a top tier of power (tends to be a small group) to a lower tier (typically a larger group)**hereditary** – the inheritance of property or a position of rank after a person’s death**hydraulic** – water or another liquid under pressure resulting in a device moving up and down**irrigation** – a human-made system of channeling water from a natural source such as a river to crops**junk** – a ship from the Han and Tang dynasties in China with sails, a stern rudder for steering, and oars; capable of carrying large amounts of cargo**legalism** – a political system based on appointing people who are qualified rather than born into a position of leadership**loom** – a machine for weaving yarn or thread into fabric**Mandate of Heaven** – a Chinese philosophy claiming that it is the natural order of things for a morally fair leader to be the “Son of Heaven”; a system that was used in ancient China to justify the position of ruler based on their being chosen by the universe**meritocracy** – a system of government based on education or merit**monopoly** - a single party controls all of a market, good, or service; no competition**navigation** – the study of steering a boat or other form of travel, typically using a compass and maps**province** – territory of an empire or country controlled by a local government that acts as part of the central government**rudder** – a piece of wood or metal with a hinge to move back and forth that is found under the stern (back) of a boat used to steer**Silk Road** – a network of trade routes connecting China to Asia, Europe, and North Africa**standardized** - a widely accepted form of measurement or quality; a universally used system**Taoism** – a philosophical system focused on harmony, balance, and simplicity **virtue** – acting with high moral standards**voucher** – a paper that can be exchanged for a good; credit **yin-yang** – the ancient Chinese concept of duality of nature, representing the flow of different forces such as good and evil; represents how all things are interconnected and balanced |
| Lesson 10 | **Asoka chakra** – a Buddhist symbol of a wheel with 24 spokes that appears on many monuments erected by Asoka and also on the modern flag of India**Brahman** – in Hinduism, the ultimate reality, source and purpose of all spiritual understanding, often described as indescribable**Buddha** – any “enlightened one,” but generally referring to Prince Siddhartha Gautama, whose teachings are the primary source of Buddhism**Buddhism** – Eastern religion, prominent in India and across East and Southeast Asia, that seeks to understand the true sources of suffering and the method to eliminate them, the Four Noble Truths**bureaucratic** – having an organized division of labor**capital** – an architectural term referring to the top portion of a column**caste system** – social levels within a society that are strictly defined, for example in ancient Indian culture; each level has its own duties and individuals are expected to marry someone from their own level, take a job appropriate to their level, etc.**Confucianism** – an Eastern religion and philosophy developed from the writings of Master Kong and concerned with improving society through virtuous living**edict** – an official order or rule given by someone with a lot of power**emissary** – a person who is sent on a special religious or political mission; a type of diplomat**Four Noble Truths** – in Buddhism, a summary of the causes of suffering and the method of eliminating them**Hinduism** – Eastern religion, originating in India; a diverse set of religious practices that aim to help the soul to rejoin Brahman or ultimate reality**Indus River Valley** – The fertile basin surrounding the Indus River in modern-day Pakistan, in which ancient civilizations arose**Legalism** – the doctrine in Chinese philosophy that political order should be established by a strong central government that creates strict laws and standards enforced by rewards and punishments**Mandate of Heaven** – the belief in Chinese philosophy that rulers were entitled to keep their power because of their ability to be a successful bridge between heaven, earth, and humanity**Mauryan Empire** – an empire that ruled parts of the Indian subcontinent from 321 to 185 BCE**meditation** – the act of focusing on one’s own thoughts; in some Eastern religious traditions many particular forms of meditation have been developed as part of spiritual practices**oral tradition** – the passing down of beliefs, stories and practices through teaching without the use of writing**oracle** – a person, often a priest or priestess, through whom a god or gods are believed to send messages or advice**orientalism** – the use of inaccurate representations of an Asian culture that emphasize its “exotic” or “uncivilized” aspects, seen in some European art and writing from the nineteenth century**reincarnated** – in Hinduism, when a living thing has died and its soul is reborn into another body**relic** – an object of religious significance from the past**romanization** – the representation of the pronunciation of a language using the Latin (Roman) or English alphabet**scripture** – a written text considered to be of major importance to a religious tradition**stupa** – a Buddhist shrine or monument containing relics**subcontinent** – a large land mass within a continent**Taoism** – an Eastern religion and philosophy developed from ancient Chinese concepts of balance and harmony with nature; also spelled “Daoism”**UNESCO World Heritage site** – a site designated by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to protect and preserve culture and history around the world; these sites are considered valuable to all of humanity because of their cultural significance.**Vedas** – ancient Hindu scriptures, written between the fifteenth and fifth centuries BCE, based on oral traditions**Warring States period** – a period in ancient Chinese history (475–221 BCE) in which several smaller states or kingdoms fought for power and control of what is now the modern country of China**wu wei** – the Taoist concept of acting in alignment with nature in order to accomplish much with little effort**yin-yang** – the Taoist concept of balance where opposites like dark and light, fast and slow, hard and soft, act together to create the living processes of nature **yoga** – ancient Hindu practice developed to unite body, mind, and spirit |
| Lesson 11 | **Black Death** – a pandemic that swept through Asia, Africa, and Europe between 1346–1353, killing between 75 million and 200 million people; also known as the bubonic plague**Crusades** – a series of military and religious movements by Europeans seeking to conquer Muslim lands associated with the life of Jesus and expand Christianity**Indian Ocean trade network** – a series of sailing routes across the Indian Ocean that connected Asia, Africa, and the Middle East**ortaq system** – a trade practice that paired a Mongol elite or government official with a merchant traveling the Silk Road trade route**Pax Romana** – Latin for “Roman peace,” a period of stability for the Roman Empire lasting 200 years**Silk Road** – an ancient network of trade routes that connected China to the Mediterranean Sea and allowed for widespread cultural interaction**Spice Routes** – the maritime (sea) trade routes related to the Silk Road, where spices were primarily traded**Trans-Saharan trade network** – the trade routes of northern Africa that were known for trading gold, salt, and other goods |
| Lesson 12 | **Analects** – a written collection of Confucius’s sayings**Analects for Women** – a collection of behavior codes for women written by sisters Song Ruohua and Song Ruozhao**apex** – the top point of a triangle or pyramid**arranged marriage** – a marriage agreed upon by the families of the bride and groom, who usually have little to no say in this matter**artisan** – a skilled worker who makes materials partly or entirely by hand**Aryans** – a group of Indo-European speaking people who invaded northern India during the second millennium BCE**Brahmins** – priests and other religious officials who were part of the highest level in the caste system**Buddhism** – a widespread Asian philosophy or religion that was developed by Siddharta Gautama in India between the sixth and fourth centuries BCE**bureaucracy** – a government administration managed by departments staffed with non-elected officials**casta** – the term used by the Portuguese to separate classes by race or ancestry**caste system** – a class structure determined by birth and occupation**chastity** – the practice of refraining from sexual relations**chattel** – a personal possession**civil servant** – a career worker within the various departments and divisions of government**concubine** – a woman who is in an interpersonal, sexual relationship with a married man of a higher social rank**Confucianism** – a system of ideas developed in ancient China that focused on worldly goals such as maintaining social order and good government**Dalit** – the modern term given to those who were considered to be “untouchable” or “unseeable” in the caste system**Dao** – a code of behavior stressing harmony with the natural world**Daoism (Taoism)** – an ancient Chinese philosophy developed by Laozi that emphasized living in harmony with nature**Double Tax system** – a tax reform issued during the Tang dynasty in which farmers paid taxes on their land twice a year rather than being assessed by the number of people in a household**dowager** – the widow of the previous emperor in ancient Chinese dynasties**dowry** – property or money brought by a bride to her new husband**Dravidian** – describing the common language spoken by people native to India**dynastic cycle** – a four-phase cycle that traced the rise and fall of Chinese dynasties according to the Mandate of Heaven**dynasty** – a line of hereditary rulers in a country or empire**Era of Warring States** – early period in Chinese history from 480 to 221 BCE that was characterized by warfare between feudal lords**female infanticide** – the deliberate killing of newborn female children**feudalism** – a system of government in which nobles received land from more powerful nobles in exchange for military service and loyalty**fiefdom** – the land granted by a powerful noble or member of the ruling class to a lower member of the nobility in exchange for service and loyalty**Four Virtues** – a Confucian philosophy that regulated women’s behavior in terms of etiquette, appearance, speech, and work**gentry** – people of high social ranking**Gong** – an ancient Chinese social class made up of artisans and craftspeople**Han dynasty** – the imperial Chinese dynasty established by Liu Bang that lasted from 202 BCE to 220 CE**hemp** – fiber cultivated from cannabis plants**hierarchical** – arranged in order of rank or status**hierarchy** – a system of organization in which groups of people are ranked one above the other based on wealth or power**hierarchy** – a system of separating people by rank according to their status or authority**imperial** – relating to an empire**infrastructure** – basic systems, such as road and building construction, that are necessary for a society to function effectively**jade** – a hard green stone used for ornaments or jewelry**jati** – a subcaste that identified with a specific trade or specific region in India**Jian** – a double-edged sword carried by military members belonging to the Chinese noble class**Kshatriyas** – warriors and other powerful leaders who made up the second-highest varna in the caste system**Legalism** – an ancient Chinese philosophy calling for strict discipline and enforcement of harsh laws to maintain order**Mandate of Heaven** – the Chinese belief that emperors and dynasties are able to rule as long as they have the blessing of the gods**Mánusmriti (Code of Mánu)** – a legal code written during the late Vedic Period that stated the rules for proper behavior and conduct**matriarchal** – describing a form of social organization where women are heads of their families**memorial** – a statement of facts addressed to a government or a person controlling a government**Nong** – ancient Chinese social class made up of peasant farmers**oracle bones** – charred animal bones or tortoise shells that Chinese spiritual leaders inscribed with symbols to communicate with the gods and predict the future**patriarchal** – describing a system controlled by men**patrilineal** – tracing descent through the father’s side of the family**peasant** – a farmer of low social rank who raised crops on land rented from a wealthy landowner**purdah** – the practice of female seclusion and veiling in some Hindu and Muslim societies**pyre** – wood and other combustible materials used to burn a corpse during a funeral service**Qin dynasty** – the imperial Chinese dynasty that lasted from 221 to 206 BCE under the rule of Emperor Shi Huangdi**rajah** – the warrior chief of an Aryan political division**Rig Veda** – the oldest of the written Vedas**sati** – the practice in which a widow was cremated alive on her dead husband’s funeral pyre**serf** – a peasant farmer bound to a noble’s land for life**sericulture** – the farming and production of silk**Shang** – merchants and traders who made up the lowest social class level in ancient China**Shang dynasty** – the first-known historical dynasty that ruled China from 1766 to 1122 BCE**Shi** – an upper class of warriors, nobles, and scholars that made up the gentry of ancient Chinese society**Shudras (Sudras)** – servants and conquered people who performed unskilled labor and occupied the lowest varna in the Indian caste system**stratified** – describing a society divided into different levels based on rank, wealth, and power**subcaste** – a division within a larger caste**subcontinent** – a large landmass that juts out from a continent**Sui dynasty** – the short-lived dynasty in the sixth century CE that adopted Buddhism as China’s state religion**Tang dynasty** – the Chinese dynasty that ruled from the seventh to tenth centuries CE**The Way of Virtue (Tao Te Ching)** – a book of Daoist ideas written by Laozi**Three Obediences** – the Confucian philosophy that regulated relationships for women throughout their lifetimes**tribute** – wealth given by one person or party to another as a sign of respect and submission**tunic** – a loose, simple knee- or ankle-length garment**Vaishyas** – commoners who performed basic services such as farming, herding, and trading and were part of the third varna in the caste system**varnas** – the four classes based on a person’s ability or interest that were part of the Indian caste system**Vedas** – a collection of prayers and other religious teachings developed in ancient India around 1500 BCE**Vedic Period** – the time period in early India from 1500 to 500 BCE**well-field system** – the process where plots of land farmed by Chinese serfs were clustered around a spring or well for easy access to fresh water**yin and yang** – the idea that the universe reflected a delicate balance between two opposite forces**Zhou dynasty** – hereditary dynasty that ruled China from 1122 to 256 BCE |
| Unit 4: Mediterranean |
| Lesson 2 | **aristoi** – the aristocratic class in an ancient Greek city-state**artisan** – a skilled worker in a trade; a craftsperson who is an expert in a certain trade**Bronze Age** – a period of history characterized by the bronze tools used in the development of contemporaneous civilizations**Companion Cavalry** – an elite, heavily armored cavalry within the Macedonian Empire**Council of 500** – a governing body of Athens that dictated the agenda of the ecclesia**deme** – a geographical territory located within a certain polis (listed twice, as 2 and 10)**ecclesia** – an Athenian assembly consisting of Athenian citizens who made up the majority of the democracy in Athens ekklesia – a Spartan assembly consisting of Spartan citizens**ephor** – an elected Spartan magistrate who would serve alongside the two kings**Gerousia** – a council of elders in a Greek city-state helot – a Spartan laborer, sometimes referred to as an enslaved person in Sparta**hellenization** – a process of enculturation whereby Indigenous cultures adopt the Greek culture**hoplite** – a heavily armored infantry soldier in ancient Greece**korete** – a governor of a district in the Mycenaean state**Macedonian** phalanx – a variation of the phalanx military formation in which lines of 256 men armed with sarissa made a tight defensive formation**metic** – a foreign person residing in Athens**palatial monarchy** – a monarchy that functioned primarily through a centralized palace where daily political, cultural, and military affairs took place**perioikoi** – a landholding middle-class citizen who dwelled on the outskirts of a Greek city-state**pitched battles** – a battle between two or more armies on land, generally in an open environment not within or attacking a city or settlement**poleis** – the plural form of polis**polis** – a Greek city-state**sarissa** – an extremely long spear used in the defensive formation of the Macedonian phalanx**satrap** – a governor of a satrapy, a territory within the Persian Empire**senate** – a Roman governing body that advised consuls and emperors**shahanshah** – the Persian equivalent of an emperor**siege** – a battle attacking a specific place, such as a city; the goal is to make the targeted place surrender by cutting off outside access so the people under siege cannot get supplies they need**suffete** – one of two elected rulers who governed the Carthaginian oligarchy**wanax** – a Mycenaean king in charge of religious, political, and military matters**xenoi** – an ancient Greek word to describe people from foreign lands |
| Lesson 3 | **abstract** – existing in thought or as an idea but not having a physical or concrete existence**acropolis** – the fortified height or citadel of an ancient Greek city**Aeschylus** – a Greek playwright who is considered to be the “father of tragedy”**amphitheater** – an open-air venue with a stage surrounded by rows of seats used for performances and athletic events**Archaic period** – the cultural and political period of Greek history from 800 BCE to 480 BCE characterized by expansion across the Mediterranean that established the Greek world**aristoi** – the aristocratic class in an ancient Greek city-state**Aristophanes** – a Greek playwright who is considered to be the “father of comedy”**Aristarchus** – a Greek mathematician and astronomer who first proposed a heliocentric model of the universe**Aristotle** – a Greek philosopher who founded the principle of the golden mean**Athena** – the Greek goddess of war**Athens** – the most powerful city-state in ancient Greece; capital of modern-day Greece**Babylonians** – the ancient people whose empire was located in the modern-day Middle East and who made great advancements in math and science**city-state** – a city that retains sovereignty and autonomy generally reserved for nation states**Classical period** – the two hundred-year period from 480 BCE to 323 BCE in ancient Greece that saw the rise of Athenian democracy, the Peloponnesian Wars, and significant cultural advancements**comedy** – a genre of Greek literature characterized by humorous satire**Companion Cavalry** – an elite, heavily armored cavalry within the Macedonian Empire**Corinth** – the Greek city-state that was known as a hub for trade**Council of 500** – a governing body of Athens that dictated the agenda of the ecclesia**deity** – a supernatural being**demigod** – a person who is believed to be the offspring of a human and a god and who is worshiped as a deity or semi-deity**deme** – a geographical territory located within a certain polis**deductive reasoning** – the formation of an idea or conclusion based on a traditionally accepted statement or fact**divine** – a god or goddess**ekklesia** – a Spartan assembly consisting of Spartan citizens**ephor** – an elected Spartan magistrate who would serve alongside the two kings**epic** – a long poem that usually focuses on the exploits of heroes and gods**empirical** – an idea or thought that is verified by observation or experience through the five senses: touch, taste, sight, smell, hearing**Eratosthenes** – a Greek astronomer who used geometry to calculate the size of Earth**Euclid** – a Greek mathematician who wrote The Elements and is considered a founder of geometry**Euripides** – a Greek playwright who tragically portrayed epic heroes as ordinary people going through extraordinary circumstances**The Elements** – the most widely read and taught math textbook in history; written by Greek mathematician Euclid**Egyptians** – the ancient people whose civilization was located in present-day Egypt and who made great advancements in math and science**Fibonacci sequence** – a math sequence in which each number is the sum of the previous two numbers, for example, (0, 1, 1, 2, 3, 5, etc.)**Gerousia** – a council of elders in a Greek city-state**Greco-Persian Wars** – the series of wars fought between Greece and Persia while Persia was attempting to conquer**heliot** – a Spartan laborer, sometimes referred to as an enslaved person in Sparta**hellenization** – a process of enculturation whereby Indigenous cultures adopt the Greek culture**Homer** – the writer of the epic poems The Iliad and The Odyssey, which are considered some of the foundational works of Western literature**hoplite** – a heavily armored infantry soldier in ancient Greece**hypotenuse** – the longest side of a right-angled triangle**korete** – a governor of a district in the Mycenaean state**libation** – a drink poured as an offering to a deity**logic** – a system designed by Aristotle that uses reason and known truths to reach conclusions**Macedonia phalanx** – a variation of the phalanx military formation in which lines of 256 men armed with sarissa made a tight defensive formation**metic** – a foreign person residing in Athens**Mt. Olympus** – the highest mountain in Greece and legendary home of the Greek deities**mythology** – a traditional story, especially one concerning the early history of a people or explaining some natural or social phenomenon, and typically involving supernatural beings or events**oligarchy** – a government whose decisions are made by a small group of people**Olympia** – a sacred site dedicated to Zeus and the site of the ancient Olympic Games**oral tradition** – a verbal history told through storytelling and songs**Panathenaea** – a festival dedicated to the deity Athena and hosted by the city-state of Athens that included religious services, large feasts, animal sacrifices, and competitions in music, poetry recitation, and athletic games**Parthenon** – temple to the Greek goddess Athena located on the acropolis in Athens**Peloponnesian War** – the war fought between Athens and Sparta from 431 BCE to 401 BCE**perioikoi** – a landholding middle-class citizen who dwelled on the outskirts of a Greek city-state**pitched battles** – a battle between two or more armies on land, generally in an open environment not within or attacking a city or settlement**playwright** – a person who writes plays**polis** – a Greek city-state; plural: poleis**polytheistic** – worshiping more than one god**propylon** – the structure or gateway forming an entrance to a temple**Pythagoras** – an ancient Greek mathematician and philosopher who created the Pythagorean Theorem**Pythagorean Theorem** – a theorem that states if a triangle is a right triangle, then the sum of the squares of the legs is equal to the square of the hypotenuse; a2 + b2 = c2**sarissa** – an extremely long spear used in the defensive formation of the Macedonian phalanx**satire** – the use of humor, exaggeration, or ridicule in plays or literature toward people, groups, or society**Sophocles** – a Greek playwright best known for his tragedies such as Electra, Oedipus Rex, and Ajax**Sparta** – the militaristic Greek city-state located on the Peloponnesus**state** – a nation or territory organized under one government and recognized as independent**supernatural** – the forces that are beyond scientific reason and natural law**suffete** – one of two elected rulers who governed the Carthaginian oligarchy**temple** – a building devoted to the worship of a god or goddess who is believed to reside in the temple**The Iliad** – an epic poem set during the Trojan War about the Mycenaean**The Odyssey** – an epic poem chronicling the events of Odysseus as he travels home at the conclusion of the Trojan War **tragedy** – a genre of Greek literature characterized by human suffering and morality tales**Zeus** – the supreme ancient Greek deity |
| Lesson 4 | **apostle** – an early follower of Jesus who implemented his messages and practices**Asia Minor** – a geographic location that is made up of mainly present-day western Turkey; also known as Anatolia**Battle of Milvian Bridge** – a battle fought between Roman Emperors Constantine and Maxentius in 312 CE**bishop** – a senior member of the Christian faith**Christianity** – monotheistic religion that developed in the Middle East around the first century CE, based on the teachings of Jesus of Nazaret**consul** – a Roman leader of government elected yearly by the Roman senate**devout** – having or showing a deep religious commitment**disciple** – a committed follower of Jesus from his early life**edict** – an official order made by a person(s) of authority**Edict of Milan** – an official declaration of religious acceptance of Christianity in the Roman Empire**First Triumvirate** – three-person rule consisting of Caesar, Pompey, and Crassus**Gallic War**s – Caesar’s conquests of Gaul**Holy Trinity** – the Christian god existing as the father, the son, and holy spirit**Ides of March** – 15th of March in Latin, the date of Caesar’s death**imperator** – Roman emperor**Judea** – region in Eastern Mediterranean Sea, present-day Israe**martyr** – a person who is killed because of their religious beliefs**messiah** – a leader or savior of a group or cause**Optimates** – Roman political party supporting patricians**patricians** – landholding, upper-class citizens of Rome**Pax Romana** – Latin for “Roman peace,” a period of stability for the Roman Empire lasting 200 years**persecute** – to treat a specific group of people hostilely, based on their beliefs, race, and or culture**plebeians** – the middle class of artisans, farmers, merchants, and traders in Rome**Populares** – Roman political party supporting plebeians**scapegoat** – a person blamed for the problems faced by others**Second Triumvirate** – three-person rule of Octavian, Lepidus, and Antony**sect** – a religious, political, or cultural subgroup**senate** – a Roman governing body that advised consuls and emperors**synagogue** – a building or place of Jewish worship**tribune** – an elected official in Rome who represented the interests of the plebeians |
| Lesson 5 | **apostle** – an early follower of Jesus who implemented his messages and practices**Asia Minor** – a geographic location that is made up of mainly present-day western Turkey; also known as Anatolia**Battle of Milvian Bridge** – a battle fought between Roman Emperors Constantine and Maxentius in 312 CE**bishop** – a senior member of the Christian faith**Christianity** – a monotheistic religion that developed in the Middle East around the first century CE, based on the teachings of Jesus of Nazareth**devout** – having or showing a deep religious commitment**disciple** – a committed follower of Jesus from his early life**edict** – an official order made by a person(s) of authority**Edict of Milan** – an official declaration of religious acceptance of Christianity in the Roman Empire**Holy Bible** – the holy book of the Christian faith**Holy Trinity** – the Christian god existing as the father, the son, and holy spirit**Judaism** – a monotheistic religion based on the teaching and principles of the Tanakh**Judea** – region in Eastern Mediterranean Sea, present-day Israe**martyr** – a person who is killed because of their religious beliefs**messiah** – a leader or savior of a group or cause**monotheism** – the belief in one god**persecute** – to treat a specific group of people hostilely, based on their beliefs, race, and or culture**polytheism** – the belief in more than one god**prophet** – a person chosen to spread God’s messages and teachings**scapegoat** – a person blamed for the problems faced by others**sect** – a religious, political, or cultural subgroup**synagogue** – a building or place of Jewish worship**Tanakh** – the holy book of the Jewish faith |
| Lesson 6 | **Battle of Milvian Bridge** – the final battle fought by Constantine to become emperor of the Roman Empire in 312 CE**Byzantine Empire** – a term used by historians to refer to the Roman Empire in the east that persisted until the 1400s; based around the city of Constantinople (formerly Byzantium)**caesaropapism** – control over religious authorities by a secular king, such as the Byzantine emperor’s power over the Eastern Orthodox Church**Council of Nicaea** – a meeting in 325 CE between Constantine and leadership in the Catholic Church to streamline religious teaching**Crusades** – a series of military and religious movements by Europeans seeking to conquer Muslim lands associated with the life of Jesus, expand Christianity, and suppress heresy in Europe**Dacia** – a kingdom in Central Europe located between the Black Sea and Carpathian Mountains; conquered by the Emperor Trajan**Donatist Schism** – a small division in the church when Bishop Donatus and his followers split from the church because of canonical issues and a disagreement with Emperor Constantine**East-West Schism** – a split in the Christian church, forming the Western church and the Eastern church; also called the Great Schism of 1054 CE by historians**ecumenical**  – universal or worldwide**Edict of Milan** – a religious agreement (313 CE) between Constantine I and Licinius that allowed people within the Roman Empire to freely choose to be Christian without fear of execution**excommunication** – the complete exclusion from the Roman Catholic Church and the denial of sacraments for refusing to obey Church law**Fragment of a Marble Tomb** – a religious symbol preserved from the time period of Constantine’s rule showing leaders in the early church; proof of the spread of Christianity**Germanic tribes** – the groups of people that lived in what is now known as Eastern Europe and Scandinavia**Hagia Sophia** – a magnificent church built by Justinian; the name means “Holy Wisdom”**heresy** – a set of beliefs or opinions contrary to conventional doctrine**iconoclasm** – the destruction of religious images to prevent their worship**Justinian’s Code** – a collection of laws (528–529 CE), including ordinances from the Roman Empire, all compiled into one ensemble**Nicene Creed** – the affirmation of Christian faith that was written by the attendees of the Council of Nicaea**Nika Revolt** – an uprising (532 CE) caused by Justinian’s debt from expansion of the Byzantine Empire and subsequent raising of taxes**papal supremacy** – the claim made by popes during the Middle Ages that they had ultimate authority over all secular rulers because they were “God’s representative on Earth”**Parthian Empire** – the Persian Empire existing between 247 BCE and 224 CE**patriarch** – a religious official in the Eastern Orthodox Church**pope** – the head of the Roman Catholic Church who also serves as bishop of Rome**Sasanian Empire** – the last Persian Empire to exist before the conquest of the Muslims; considered a high point in Iranian culture**Silk Road** – an ancient network of trade routes that connected China to the Mediterranean Sea and allowed for widespread cultural interaction**theology** – the study of religion**Trinity** – the relationship among God (the Father), Christ (the Son), and the Holy Spirit (Holy Ghost)**Vandals** – the Germanic people who gained power during the decline of the Western Roman Empire through invasions**Western Roman Empire** – the western part of the ancient Roman Empire |
| Lesson 7 | **ceded** –to give up land by a treaty**Crusades** – a series of military and religious movements by Europeans seeking to conquer Muslim lands associated with the life of Jesus, expand Christianity, and suppress heresy in Europe**mercenary** – a soldier hired to fight in a foreign army**primary source** – a source that was developed by someone who experienced**secondary source** – a source developed by someone who did not experience an event first-hand**Seljuk Turks** – the inhabitants of the Seljuk Empire that was based in Persia and competed with the Byzantine Empire for control of lands in the Middle East |
| Lesson 8 | **East-West Schism** – the split between Western Catholic and Eastern Orthodox Christianity that developed during the early Middle Ages **excommunicate** – to formally exclude someone from participation in a church or religion **Theodosian Walls** – the walled fortifications around the city of Constantinople built between 408 and 450 CE during the reign of Theodosius II; the largest and strongest walls built during that time period |
| Lesson 9 | **Abbasid Caliphate** – the second Islamic dynasty**Allah** – Arabic for “god”; the one and only Islamic god**Aṣḥāb** – a group of ten followers of Muhammad said to have personal contact with him**caliph** – a central Muslim religious and political leader**caliphate** – an Islamic state or empire**centralize** – the concentrated organization of a group or system to a specific geographic location**companions** – the followers of Islam who are considered eyewitnesses to Muhammad’s teachings through their connections to him**fasting** – reducing or stopping the consumption of food for religious practice**Five Pillars of Islam** – the founding religious beliefs that guide Muslims’ practice**Hadith** – a written record of Muhammad’s teachings and traditions**Hijra** – Muhammad’s journey from Mecca to Medina that marked the beginning of the Muslim era**Islamic Golden Age** – the era during the Abbasid Caliphate during which Islamic art and culture flourished**monotheistic** – the religious worship of one singular god**Quran** – sacred scripture and teachings that all Muslims follow**Ramadan** – the ninth month of the Islamic calendar when Muslims fast**Sunni-Shiite split** – a dispute between who should take Muslim leadership following the death of Muhammad**Umayyad Caliphate** – the first Islamic dynasty |
| Lesson 10 | **Abbasid Dynasty** – the successors to the Umayyads, ruling the Islamic empire from about 750 to 1258; only minor territorial gains occurred during their rule**arabesque** – a pattern of art using stems, leaves, and flowers in a scrolling design**Aristotle** – a Greek philosopher who founded the principle of the golden mean**Battle of Kosovo** – a 1389 battle led by Murad I to expand the Ottoman Empire during which his forces defeated a group of European armies but Murad I was killed**caliph** – a Muslim civil and religious leader**calligraphy** – a method of writing script**claim** – a statement that needs proof to support it**devshirme** – a practice by the Ottoman Empire to remove Christian boys from their homes and train them to be part of the Ottoman military**evidence** – a fact or information about a person, place, event, or idea**Golden Age** – a time of great prosperity, invention, and achievement**hajj** – a pilgrimage made to the Kaaba in the sacred city of Mecca in Saudi Arabia**hijra or hegira** – a name for the “flight” by Muhammad from Mecca to Medina, because he was being persecuted for trying to get people to join the Islamic faith as it was developing in its earliest years. It now marks the start of the new year for Muslims  **historiography** – the writing of history**Kaaba** – a square building draped in a silk and cotton veil, located in Mecca and recognized as the holiest shrine in Islam and the “House of God”  **mosque** – a place of worship for the Islamic faith**Muslim** – a follower of Islam**non-figurative** – a design that does not include human figures or animals**Ramadan** – a month of the Islamic calendar celebrating Muhammad’s first message from God**reason** – a type of thinking that uses facts and logic**sultan** – the head of an Islamic state or empire, specifically in the Ottoman Empire**translation movement** – a movement to translate ancient texts into Arabic**tribe** – an extended family group that lives together and shares a distinct culture**Umayyad Dynasty** – a group that began after the death of Ali, the last of the four “rightly guided caliphs” who ruled after Muhammad’s death from 661 to about 750. The most territorial expansion of the Islamic Empire occurred during these years |
| Lesson 11 | **Arabization** – a change or shift toward Arab influence in culture, language, or policy**caliph** – the successor of the prophet who serves as the spiritual leader of Islam**caliphate** – a government or institution that rules a territory under Islamic rule, typically led by a caliph**Christianity** – a monotheistic religion that developed in the Middle East around the first century CE, based on the teachings of Jesus of Nazareth**Crusades** – a series of military campaigns to Jerusalem from 1095 to 1291, organized by popes and European kings focused on taking the land away from Islamic rulers**devshirme** – the practice of recruiting Christian subjects to convert and train them into the Ottoman bureaucracy and military**dynastic rule** – a form of rule in which control remains within a family line**evangelical** – a religion that tries to draw in or convert new followers**fitnah** – literally temptation or trial, but often used to refer to a conflict or civil unrest; the civil wars among caliphs are often referred to as fitnahs**fratricide** – the murder of a sibling, biological or otherwise**gnostic** – a religion that does not share information with outsiders, does not try to draw in or convert new followers**heresy** – beliefs or opinions contrary to conventional doctrine**Holy Land** – the area between the Mediterranean Sea and the Jordan River in the Arabian Peninsula, considered religiously significant to Judaism, Christianity, and Islam**Islam** – a monotheistic religion that developed in the Middle East around 600 CE, based on the teachings of Muhammad ibn Abdullah**janissary** – an elite infantry force in the Ottoman military loyal to the sultan**jihad** – literally struggling or striving, but often used to refer to a holy war fought with the ideal of spreading Islam**Judaism** – a monotheistic religion based on the teaching and principles of the Tanakh**masjid** – another word for mosque, typically one that includes a school of some sort**messianic** – related to a messiah, savior, or liberator**monotheistic** – worshipping only one god**polytheistic** – worshipping more than one god**prophet** – someone who speaks on behalf of God or whom God speaks through**proselytize** – preach to someone in an attempt to convert that person to a religion**schism** – a division within an organization or institution, often applied to religious splits**secular** – related to life and events outside of religious authority**Shi’a Islam** – one form of Islam developed in the years after Muhammad’s death because early adherents strongly believed the leader of Islam should be related to Muhammad; practiced today by a minority of Muslims around the world**sultan** – title similar to king or emperor**Sunni Islam** – the current dominant strand of Islamic practice in the world that believes Muslims should choose the successors to Muhammad**vassal** – a landowner who swore loyalty to a lord**Zoroastrian** – follower of Zoroastrianism, a monotheistic faith |
| Lesson 12 | **burgh** – a commercial district or chartered town**caliphate** – an Islamic state/empire**caravan** – a group of merchant traders traveling together, frequently across hostile territory**caravansary** – a rest area**dhimmi** – non-Muslims**dinar** – the main currency of several Middle Eastern nations, originally of the Abbasian Empire**funduqs** – urban commercial centers for specialized trade**hajj** – pilgrimage to Mecca that each Muslim must make during their lifetime**jizya** – a tax levied on non-Muslims**lingua franca** – a commonly adopted language used as a bridge where there are many different local languages**mosaic** – a decorative image created from small colored stones, ceramics, or glass**nomadic** – a lifestyle of continual movement to meet survival needs**ostracon** – a pottery shard used as a writing surface**pilgrim** – an individual traveling to a sacred site for religious purposes**salat** – praying daily**sawm** – fasting**sect** – a group with slightly different beliefs than larger faith body**secular** – nonreligious**shahada** – confessing the faith**sharia** – Islamic law**shariah** – Islamic code of law that guides behaviors**steppe** – grassland**Sufi** – a follower of Sufism, a mystic form of Islam that focuses on knowledge through direct personal experience of God**umma** – collective Muslim community**zakat** – almsgiving |
| Lesson 13 | **Abbasid Caliphate** – the Islamic caliphate centered in the city of Baghdad, known as the birthplace of the Islamic golden age**ancient Greece** – a civilization that existed in the Mediterranean from the twelfth to the ninth centuries BCE**astronomy** – the study of the stars, planets, and other things in the universe beyond Earth**bias** – a feeling or action that favors one viewpoint over another**Bible** – the holy book of the Christian faith**bookbinding** – the process of making a book out of loose sheets of paper**Buddhism** – an Eastern religion, prominent in India and China, that seeks to understand the truths of the world, called the Four Noble Truths**Buddhist** – belonging to Buddhism, an Eastern religion prominent in India and China that seeks to understand the truths of the world, called the Four Noble Truths**Byzantine Empire** – a term used by historians to refer to the Roman Empire in the east that persisted until the 1400s; based around the city of Constantinople (formerly Byzantium)**Catholic Church** – the branch of the Christian Church based in Rome (now Vatican City)**CE** – an abbreviation for “Common Era”; replaces the older AD, anno Domini, Latin for “in the year of the Lord”**Christian society** – a society that follows the religion of Christianity**Christianity** – a monotheistic religion that developed in the Middle East around the first century CE, based on the teachings of Jesus of Nazareth**convent** – a building or complex of buildings that serves as a home, religious center, and workplace for nuns**Crusades** – a series of military and religious movements by Europeans seeking to conquer Muslim lands associated with the life of Jesus, expand Christianity, and suppress heresy in Europe**dhimmi** – Muslim description of Jews or Christians living in their empires. It means “People of the Book” [Quran] and regards Jews and Christians as other monotheists who have similar religious views to Muslims**East-West Schism** – the split between Western Catholic and Eastern Orthodox Christianity that developed during the early Middle Ages**Eastern Orthodox Church** – the branch of the Christian Church based in Constantinople (now Istanbul)**Eurasia** – the world’s largest continental area, composed of Europe and Asia**feudal kingdom** – a kingdom based on a social system in which people would work or fight for nobles/landowners in return for protection and use of the land**Hindu** – belonging to Hinduism, an Eastern religion originating in India in which a diverse set of religious practices aim to help the soul rejoin Brahman, or ultimate reality**Holy Land** – territory in the Middle East that has religious importance to Jews, Christians, and Muslims; the territory is regarded as sacred to people of many faiths**Holy Roman Empire** – a collection of medieval principalities, mostly in present-day Germany and Italy, loosely organized in an attempt to succeed the Western Roman Empire**Islam** – a monotheistic religion that developed in the Middle East around 600 CE**Islamic empire** – an empire led by rulers who followed the religion of Islam**Islamic society** – a society that follows the religion of Islam**Jesus** – a prophet in the Abrahamic religions, such as Judaism, Islam, and Christianity**jizya** – a tax that Muslims require Jews, Christians, and other nonbelievers to pay while living in their empire**Judaism** – a monotheistic religion based on the teaching and principles of the Tanakh**knowledge institution** – an organization that collects knowledge, then passes it on to others**Middle Ages** – a period in European history roughly lasting from the fall of the Western Roman Empire to the Renaissance or the voyages of Christopher Columbus, depending on interpretation; characterized by a lack of strong secular governments able to promote stability or economic growth**monotheistic** – the religious worship of one singular god**Moses** – a prophet in the Abrahamic religions, such as Judaism, Islam, and Christianity**movable type** – a system of printing that uses movable keys to reproduce writing on a piece of paper**Muhammad** – the central holy figure in Islam, viewed as the final prophet of Allah**navigation** – the study of steering a boat or other form of travel typically using a compass and maps**Ottoman Empire** – a powerful Muslim state established by Turkic peoples who settled in modern-day Turkey and other regions of West Asia; conquered the remains of the Byzantine Empire in the 1400s**point of v**iew – the perceptions of the author that influence the creation of a source**pope** – the head of the Roman Catholic Church who also serves as bishop of Rome**primary source** – a historical record created by a person who experienced something firsthand**printing press** – a machine that prints words and pictures onto paper**prophet** – a person chosen to spread God’s messages and teachings**Quran** – the holy book of Islam**Reconquista** – a series of conflicts leading to the conquest of Muslim kingdoms in the Iberian Peninsula by Christian states**religious institution** – an organization that exists to further and protect a religion**Renaissance** – an era in European history when people began to show a greater interest in the arts and sciences**Roman Empire** – a large centralized government controlled by an emperor in Rome that extended from the Mediterranean Sea in Europe to Northern Africa and Western Asia from 27 BCE to 476 CE and covered 1.7 square miles of land**scripture** – a written text considered to be of major importance to a religious tradition**secondary source** – a historical record created by a person who did not experience those events firsthand**Turkic** – relating to the Turkic branch of languages spoken in modern-day Eurasia**vacuum of power** – a void of governmental power after the collapse of an empire, or similar**writing system** – visual symbols, such as letters, put in order to represent verbal communication |
| Unit 5: Africa to 1500 |
| Lesson 2 | **animal husbandry** – branch of agriculture in which animals such as horses and cattle are domesticated**cereal grains** – seeds that come from crops such as wheat, rice, corn, rye, oats, barley, sorghum, and some millets**migrating** – moving from one place to another**savanna** - semiarid grassland**subsistence** – producing just enough for survival |
| Lesson 3 | **architect** – a designer of buildings, roads, and systems **arid** – having minimal precipitation **Axum** – an empire in northeastern Africa near the junction of the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden, also called Aksum**Bab el-Mandeb Strait** – strait between Yemen on the Arabian Peninsula and Djibouti and Eritrea in the Horn of Africa **Bronze Age** – a period of history characterized by the bronze tools used in the development of contemporaneous civilizations **bureaucracy** – government administrative departments, may make policy **caliph** – a Muslim civil and religious ruler **Cape of Good Hope** – one of the southernmost parts of the African continent; ships traveling from the Atlantic Ocean to the Indian Ocean pass by this point of land **caravan** – a large group of people who traveled through the deserts of North Africa and the Middle East **clan** – a family group **cleric** – a priest or religious leader **convert** – a person who adopts a specific belief or faith **currency** – money **djeli** – a member of a hereditary caste among the peoples of West Africa whose main function is to keep an oral history of the tribe or village drought – a period of limited precipitation **enterprise** – a task or financial project **hajj** – the pilgrimage to Mecca that each Muslim must make during their lifetime **Horn of Africa** – the easternmost peninsula on the African continent **import** – a trade good brought into a civilization that was produced in another civilization **inflation** – an increase in cost of goods due to declining purchasing power of money **Iron Age** – a period of history characterized by the use of iron tool **iron-smelting** – the process of melting iron to reduce impurities in the ore and craft ironworks **kin** – family **mansa** – a king of Mali **Mediterranean** – the region surrounding the Mediterranean Sea **mosque** – a place of worship for Islamic faith **oral tradition** – a verbal history through storytelling and songs **raiders** – a group that attacks suddenly, usually to steal **revenue** – income or money earned **Sahara** – a large desert that runs from the western coast of Africa to the east coast, separating the northern region on the Mediterranean from regions to the south **sovereign** – the ultimate political power of the land **Stone Age** – a period of history characterized by the use of stone tools  **sub-Saharan** – regions below the Sahara in Africa **succession** – the process for what or who comes next **Sunni** – a division of Islam that believes the leader of the faith should be selected by an elite group of followers and does not have to be a member of the prophet Muhammad’s family **Swahili** – a word meaning “people of the coast” that derives from the Arabic “sahil”; also the name of the language in the Swahili Coast that derives from Arabic and Bantu **Swahili city-states** – a loosely connected collection of more than 35 independent cities that worked together to control trade off the Swahili Coast **Swahili Coast** – the region on the eastern coast of Africa where Arabs and Africans created the Swahili culture and language starting in the eighth century and city-states emerged as an economic power **trade network** – a system of routes between countries or continents for buying and selling goods **Trans-Saharan trade network** – trade routes of northern Africa that were known for trading gold, salt, and other goods **tributary** – typically refers to a stream that feeds water into a larger river; in governance and economics it is a smaller state that pays tribute (usually money or goods) to a larger state in exchange for protection or trade preference |
| Lesson 4 | **Abbasid Caliphate** – the successors to the Umayyads, ruling the Islamic Empire from about 750 to 1258; only minor territorial gains occurred during their rule**Abbasid Dynasty** – the successors to the Umayyads, ruling the Islamic empire from about 750 to 1258 CE; only minor territorial gains occurred during their rule**Buddhism** – an Eastern religion, prominent in India and China, that seeks to understand the truths of the world, called the Four Noble Truths**Byzantine Empire** – a term used by historians to refer to the Roman Empire in the East that persisted until the 1400s; based around the city of Constantinople (formerly Byzantium)**caravan** – a large group of people who traveled through the deserts of North Africa and the Middle East**Constantinople** – the capital of the Byzantine Empire, located in both Asia and Europe; conquered by Mehmed II in 1453 despite its status as an impenetrable city; a major trading center because it connected the East with the West; now known as Istanbul in present-day Turkey**Damascus** – an ancient city located in present-day Syria that was ruled by various Muslim dynasties throughout time**Indian Ocean trade network** – a series of sailing routes across the Indian Ocean that connected Asia, Africa, and the Middle East**Mali Empire** – an empire in West Africa that followed the Ghana Empire; existed c. 1235–1670 CE**Mehmed II** – an Ottoman sultan who ruled from 1444 to –1481; conquered the Byzantine Empire and Constantinople, earning him the title “the Conqueror”**merchants** – traders who bought and sold goods for a living**Mohammadans** – name given to the followers of the Muslim prophet Muhammad (those who follow Islam)**oasis** –a fertile area in a desert or arid region due to a freshwater source**Ottoman Empire** – the powerful Muslim state established by Turkic peoples who settled in modern-day Turkey and other regions of West Asia; it conquered the remains of the Byzantine Empire in the 1400s**papacy** – the religious institution and bureaucracy of the Catholic Church, with the pope as its leader**physical geography** –the study of Earth’s physical features and natural processes**porcelain** – a shiny, hard pottery**Samarkand** – trading hub located in present-day Uzbekistan; considered its own independent state until conquered by the Abbasid Caliphate**Silk Road** – an ancient network of trade routes that connected China to the Mediterranean Sea and allowed for widespread cultural interaction**Song Dynasty** – a Chinese imperial dynasty between 960 and 1279 CE**Tang Dynasty** – a Chinese imperial dynasty between 618 and 907 CE**Trans-Saharan trade network** –trade routes of northern Africa that were known for trading gold, salt, and other goods**Umayyad Dynasty** – began after the death of Ali, the last of the four “rightly guided caliphs” who ruled after Muhammad’s death; Umayyads ruled from 661 to about 750 CE, and most territorial expansion of the Islamic empire occurred during these years**Zoroastrianism** – a religion based on the Iranian prophet Zoroaster, with a dual cosmology of good and evil |
| Lesson 5 | **cultural exchange** – the diffusion or transmission of ideas, traditions, and beliefs among groups or societies**diaspora** – a mass migration of people from their homeland**Indian Ocean trade network** – a series of sailing routes across the Indian Ocean that connected Asia, Africa, and the Middle East**mercantilism** – the idea that the government should control trade to benefit the state**Middle Passage** – the sea journey that transported enslaved people from Africa to the Americas**Silk Road** – an ancient network of trade routes that connected China to the Mediterranean Sea**slave trade** – the sale and exportation of enslaved people for profit**trade networks** – a system of routes between countries or continents for buying and selling goods**Trans-Atlantic slave trade** – the enslavement and forced migration of African people to the Americas following European colonization**transatlantic trade network** – a trade network across the Atlantic Ocean that transported goods between Africa, Europe, and the Americas |
| Lesson 6 | **cash crop** – a crop, such as cotton, that is grown for profit and production, rather than food**chattel slavery** – the enslaving and owning of human beings and their children; in the system of chattel slavery, people were treated like livestock, and families were enslaved for generations**Colombian Exchange** – the exchange of plants, animals, and diseases between Africa, the Americas, and Eurasia after the arrival of Christopher Columbus**Dum Diversas** – a papal decree in 1452 that stated that anyone who was not a Christian could be considered a slave**primary source** – a historical record created by a person who experienced something firsthand**secondary source** – a historical record created by a person who did not experience those events firsthand**Silk Road** – an ancient network of trade routes that connected China to the Mediterranean Sea and allowed for widespread cultural interaction |
| Lesson 7 | **altar** – a flat-topped platform or table that is used for religious services**amulet** – a small piece of jewelry that is thought to give protection against witchcraft**ancestor** – in Indigenous African religious practices, a deceased family member people pray to for blessings and good fortune or protection from illness or bad luck**custom** – a traditional way of doing things in a community**deity** – a supernatural being**diviner** – a person who can read signs from the spiritual world**fetish** – a small carved statue that is said to help people communicate directly with the spirit world**mission** – an organized effort to spread Christianity to foreign lands**oral tradition** – a verbal history told through storytelling and songs**polygamy** – the practice of having more than one spouse at the same time**Ramadan** – the ninth month of the Islamic calendar when Muslims fast**shrine** – a place believed to be holy, often marked by a building or structure**Sufism** – a mystic form of Islam that focuses on knowledge through direct personal experience of God**Voodoo** – a religion that blends traditional African religious elements with elements of Christianity and Islam**witch** – a person believed to have magical power, which is often used for negative purposes**witch doctor** – a person who makes medicines and amulets believed to protect people from witchcraft**Yoruba** – one of the largest Indigenous African ethnic groups**Zulu –** one of the largest Indigenous African ethnic groups |
| Unit 6: Dynastic Empires |
| Lesson 2 | **autocratic government** – a government in which the leaders have absolute power**bar chart** – a chart used to compare and contrast numerical data**cavalry** – a group of soldiers who fight on horseback**Golden Horde** – the name given to Ögedei Kahn’s army that conquered much of Eastern Europe from 1237 to 1241 CE**historical inquiry** – the process of locating and analyzing multiple sources to answer questions about history**human geography** – the study of how humans use geographic resources and how human activities can be examined based on their physical location**Jāmiʿ al-tawārīkh** – the first book of world history, written during the Mongol occupation of Iran**line graph** – a graph that uses a line to connect data points**nomadic** – a lifestyle of continual movement to meet survival needs**physical geography** – the study of Earth’s physical features and natural processes**physical map** – a map that illustrates physical features such as mountains, rivers, lakes, etc.**primary source** – a historical record created by a person who experienced something firsthand**secondary source** – a historical record created by a person who did not experience those events firsthand**siege warfare** – a type of warfare in which an army surrounds an area in the hope of breaking its defenses or cutting off supplies to force a surrender**Silk Road** – an ancient network of trade routes that connected China to the Mediterranean Sea and allowed for widespread cultural interaction**steppes** – vast, treeless plains in Central Asia**thematic map** – a map that shows the geographic patterns about a particular topic**Tobchi’an** – the Mongolian name for the book The Secret History of the Mongols**totalitarian government** – a form of government in which the central government has absolute power and existence in the society requires subservience to the state**Uyghurs** – an ethnic minority group from Northwest China**viches** – the name for the Russian town assemblies that were common before the Mongol conquest**Xi Xia Kingdom** – a Chinese kingdom that lasted from 1038 to 1227**yam** – the name of the messenger service used by the Mongols to help connect troops who were separated in battle or at a distance |
| Lesson 3 | **Abbasid Caliphate** – the Islamic Caliphate centered in the city of Baghdad, known as the birthplace of the Islamic golden age**bubonic plague** – a deadly contagion that originated in China and was transmitted to humans by lice and fleas**bureaucracy** – government administrative departments, may make policy**Chagatai Khanate** – the Central Asian khanate of the Mongol Empire**civil service examination** – the imperial system of exams given by various Chinese dynasties to select bureaucrats for governmental service**Golden Horde** – the Russian name for the western khanate, or western part of the Mongol Empire from the mid-1200s to the late 1300s**historical narrative** – the complex story of history**Ilkhanate** – the Persian khanate of the Mongol Empire**khanate** – the four semi-independent Mongol regions in Eurasia ruled by the sons and grandsons of Genghis Khan**Mamluk** – the enslaved soldiers from the Eurasian steppe that came to create their own Sultanate in Egypt**Mandate of Heaven** – the Chinese belief that emperors and dynasties are able to rule as long as they have the blessing of the gods**Ming Dynasty** – the dynastic period (1368–1644 CE) in which the Han ethnic group took back control from the Mongols and is best known for the cultural achievements and trade expansion**Pax Mongolica** – Latin for “Mongol Peace;” this term describes the era of stability in Eurasia controlled by the Mongols during the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries**primary source** – a historical record created by a person who experienced something first hand**Red Turban Rebellion** – a series of Chinese revolts against the Yuan Dynasty**secondary source** – a historical record created by a person who did not experience those events first hand**Silk Road** – an ancient network of trade routes that connected China to the Mediterranean Sea and allowed for widespread cultural interaction**Sufism** – a mystical sect of Islam that emphasizes a direct personal experience with God**Timurid Dynasty** – the ruling dynasty begun by the Turkic-Mongol leader Tamerlane during the fifteenth century**tsar** – the title of Russian rulers from the sixteenth century until the Russian Revolution in 1917**Yersinia pestis** – the flea that carried the bubonic plague**Yuan dynasty** – the Mongol dynasty established in China by Kublai Khan that reunited China after several hundred years of fragmentation |
| Lesson 4 | **autocratic government** – a government in which the leaders have absolute power**Golden Horde** – the name given to Ögedei Kahn’s army that conquered much of Eastern Europe from 1237–1241 CE**historical inquiry** – the process of locating and analyzing multiple sources to answer questions about history**porcelain** – a ceramic material used for making tableware and other decorative art**primary source** – a historical record created by a person who experienced something firsthand**secondary source** – a historical record created by a person who did not experience those events firsthand**totalitarian government** – a form of government in which the central government has absolute power, and existence in this society requires subservience to the state**viches** – the name for the Russian town assemblies that were common before the Mongol conquest**yam** – the name of the messenger service used by the Mongols to help connect troops who were separated in battle or at a distance |
| Lesson 5 | **artisan** – a skilled worker in a trade; a craftsperson who is an expert in a certain trade**British East Asia Company** – the organization formed by British merchants around 1600 to control and expand trade in South Asia**bureaucracy** – government administrative departments, may make policy**Canton System** – a system developed by the Qing Dynasty to control trade with Western nations; focused on only allowing trade based in Guangzhou (Canton) and included a number of regulations to limit Western traders**civil service** – the professional branches of a government’s administration**famine** – a period of time when food is very scarce, usually resulting in starvation and other impacts on affected people**inflation** – the increase in cost of goods due to declining purchasing power of money**inscription** – a carving on a hard surface**Little Ice Age**  – the period of climate change between the fourteenth and nineteenth centuries that saw a decrease in global temperature linked to an increased occurrence of environmental disasters and famine**lucrative** – very beneficial or profitable**Manchu people**  –  the ethnic minority from northern China that established the Qing Dynasty **Manchus** –  the ethnic minority from northern China that established the Qing Dynasty**Mandate of Heaven**  – the Chinese belief that emperors and dynasties are able to rule as long as they have the blessing of the gods**maritime trade** – the trade that happens in a way that involves seas or oceans, such as using boats to transport goods from one location to another**Ming Dynasty** – the dynastic period (1368–1644 CE) in which the Han ethnic group took back control from the Mongols and which is best known for cultural achievements and trade expansion**mosque** – a place of worship for the Islamic faith**opium** – a drug created from a specific type of poppy; known for being an addictive narcotic**Qing Dynasty**  – the Manchu-led dynasty of China (1644–1912 CE) that also marks the last imperial dynasty in Chinese history**replicate** – to make a copy of something**sanction** – to approve; official permission for something**shogun** – a military leader that controlled Japan**stockade** – a structure built for military protection**tribute** – the offering of money or goods, given by one country to another to show that the giver sees the other country as more powerful; giving tributes can also be a way to gain protection from the more powerful country**typhoon** – a type of tropical storm specific to the Indian and Pacific Ocean areas; these storms include cyclones |
| Lesson 6 | **aristocrat** – someone who belongs to the wealthiest or highest class in a society**artillery** – very large weapons, usually gunpowder based, including cannons**boyars** – a title given by the tsar to very high-ranking members of the upper classes in the Russian Empire**Bushido**– the samurai warrior code that stressed loyalty to one’s master, self-discipline, and respectful behavior **Byzantine Empire** – a term used by historians to refer to the Roman Empire in the east that persisted until the 1400s; based around the city of Constantinople (formerly Byzantium)**Cossacks** – people who lived along the Volga River in what is now Russia; known for their military capabilities and often used as soldiers by Russian rulers**daimyō** – the wealthy landowners of Japan**emperor**– the figurehead and religious leader of Japan **feudalism**– a social system in which people would work or fight for nobles/landowners in return for protection and use of the land    **gentry** – upper or ruling class**Golden Horde** – the Russian name for the western khanate, or kingdom, in the western part of the Mongol Empire from the mid-1200s to the late 1300s**hierarchy**– a system of separating people by rank according to their status or authority **Indigenous people** – the original inhabitants of a given area**musketeer** – a type of soldier that carried an early style of gun called a musket**Orthodox Christianity** – a branch of Christianity that developed in the Balkan region, separately from the Roman Catholic Church**patron** – a person of wealth and influence who offers aid to a client**samurai**– a warrior class that protected the daimyō**shogun** – a military leader who controlled Japan**shrine** – a place believed to be holy, often marked by a building or structure**siege** – a battle attacking a specific place, such as a city; the goal is to make the targeted place surrender by cutting off outside access so the people under siege cannot get supplies they need**streltsy** – the Russian army soldiers who carried guns**tsar** (**czar**) – the title given to the ruler of Russia; equivalent to emperor**warlords** – the local military rulers who generally controlled small areas |
| Lesson 7 | **backstrap loom** – a device used by women in Mesoamerica to make cloth; it is held around a person’s back for support**capitalism** – an economic system in which businesses are privately owned and the business owner seeks to make a profit from the business**caravan** – a large group of people who traveled through the deserts of North Africa and the Middle East**caravel** – a relatively light, fast-moving ship designed by the Portuguese in the fifteenth century, which helped make distant global exploration possible**cartaz** – a permit issued by the Portuguese necessary for trade in the Indian Ocean**colony** – a permanent settlement established away from a homeland**favorable balance of trade** – an economic philosophy that values exports over imports**furl** – a sailing term that means rolling sails up, so they are out of the way and unable to catch the wind**inflation** – increase in cost of goods due to declining purchasing power of money**intermediary** – a person that functions as a link between two points**kaolin** – a type of clay used in making porcelain; contains dust and fragments from minerals**latitude** – the imaginary lines running from east to west around the globe; measured from the equator in terms of degrees north or south**mast** – a tall pole that has sails attached to it on a ship**mercantilism** – the idea that the government should control trade to benefit the state**monopoly** – a situation where one entity controls all trade or access to trade in a business sector or region**nation-state** – a self-governing region**revenue** – income or money earned**Silk Road** – an ancient network of trade routes that connected China to the Mediterranean Sea and allowed for widespread cultural interaction**silkworms** – the larvae from the silk moth from which silk thread is gathered**spinning** – the process of making thread by twisting fibers together**trade route** – the land-based or sea-based course of travel used to conduct trade |
| Lesson 8 | **age of exploration** – the period in history between the fifteenth century and the eighteenth century during which European explorers traveled throughout the world using new maritime technologies**armed trade** – a form of trade encouraged and protected by the use of gunpower, such as cannons and firearms**assimilation** – the process of fully taking in information and culture**astrolabe** – a tool that measured the altitudes of celestial bodies and therefore useful in open seas navigation**Batavia** – the Dutch trading port on the island of Java**Battle of Lepanto** – the 1571 defeat of the Ottoman naval forces by the Holy League**British East India Company** – the organization formed by British merchants around 1600 to control and expand trade in South Asia**Canton** – one of the two Chinese trading posts where Europeans were allowed to trade**Cape of Good Hope** – one of the southernmost parts of the African continent; ships traveling from the Atlantic Ocean to the Indian Ocean pass by this point of land**caravel** – a small, fast sailing ship in the fifteenth to seventeenth centuries that featured interchangeable sails**cartography** – the science and practice of representing a geographical area, such as on a two dimensional surface like a map**circumnavigation** – the act of traveling around an entire area**colonization** – the act of large-scale settling and establishing economic and political control over settled land**Columbian Exchange** – the transfer of commodities, resources, plants, populations, animals, and diseases between the New World and Eurasia**Cossacks** – peasants who helped expand Russia during the fifteenth to seventeenth centuries**devshirme system** – a process in which Ottomans took young Christian boys in the Balkans, converted them to Islam, and then trained them through a series of examinations**Dutch East India Company** – the organization formed by the Dutch in the sixteenth century to control and expand trade in South Asia**Dutch Golden Age** – a period of time, beginning in the seventeenth century and continuing into the eighteenth century, in Holland marked by remarkable prosperity and art**El Mina** – the location of one of the most important Portuguese factories in the forested zone of Africa**empire** – empire created by focusing on monopolizing and controlling trade rather than controlling the people themselves**empires** – systems of government where there is one authority (individual or group) who rules over a large territory**factories** – Portuguese compounds with forts, trading posts, and a community of merchants who ran the compound**Ferdinand Magellan** – a Portuguese explorer well known for planning the 1519 circumnavigation of the globe by traveling west**Henry the Navigator** – supporter of the early Portuguese explorations and maritime expansion in the fifteenth century**Holy League** – an allegiance between Spain, Venice, the Holy Roman Empire, England, and the Swiss in the early sixteenth century**Janissaries** – Ottoman infantry divisions made up of forcibly conscripted Christian boys from the Balkans**joint-stock company** – a predecessor to the modern corporation; investors purchased shares in an overseas venture in hope of securing a profit**Macao** – Portuguese colony and port in southern China**maritime empires** – empires that rely on sea routes for economic or military expansion**mercantilism** – the idea that the government should control trade to benefit the state; stressed the importance of exports and limitation of imports**Nzinga Mbemba** – the ruler of the Kongo from 1507 to 1543; converted to Christianity and changed his name to Afonso I**sati** – the historical Hindu practice in which a widow sacrificed herself by sitting on her dead husband’s funeral pyre**trading post empire** – a form of imperial control focused on monopolizing and controlling trade rather than controlling people**Vasco da Gama** – a Portuguese explorer in the late fifteenth century who explored the Indian Ocean |
| Unit 7: Medieval-Renaissance Europe |
| Lesson 2 | **abbey** – similar to a monastery; a building where monks, nuns, or other religious devotees reside**anti-Semitism** – prejudice against Jewish people**bubonic plague** – referred to as the Black Death during the Middle Ages; a deadly pandemic of a bacteria in the 1300s that caused the population of Europe to drop by 30–60 percent**city-state** – an independently ruled city that acts as the political, social, and economic center of the surrounding territory**commendation** – praise or promotion**Crusades** – religious wars during the Middle Ages sanctioned by the Catholic Church to expand Christianity into the Holy Lands**excommunicate** – to exclude from the Church and Church-associated activities**fealty** – in the feudal system, the serfs’ or vassals’ rent or payment due to the lord**feudalism** – a political, military, and social system based on landownership in which workers do agricultural labor for the landowner in exchange for a portion of their crops and the landowner provides military protection**fief** – a piece of property designated by a lord or vassal for a serf to use to support themselves in exchange for service or obligation to the lord or vassal**hierarchy** – a system of ranking in which something or someone is above another**Holy Roman Empire** – an empire that originated in Germany under Charlemagne (800 CE) and extended loosely throughout Western Europe into France, named as a reference to the past power of the Roman Empire and the unifying force of the Catholic Church**homage** – a formal demonstration of devotion and allegiance**knight** – an appointed soldier on horseback who served a lord on a manor during the Middle Ages**knighthood** – a title of honor given by a monarch to a soldier based on loyalty and service to his country**lord** – a feudal superior, especially the proprietor of a manor house**Low Countries** – Belgium, the Netherlands, and Luxembourg in coastal northwestern Europe**manorialism** – a political system in which peasant farmers depended on the land and protection of a lord (manorial system)**medieval** – relating to the Middle Ages in Europe**Middle Ages** – a period from the fifth to fifteenth centuries in Europe, from the fall of the Roman Empire through the Renaissance**monastery** – a building where monks reside, practice, and teach religious doctrine**page** – the lowest rank toward knighthood**polytheism** – a belief system centered on worshipping multiple gods**postclassical** – period of time in Europe after the fall of the Roman Empire, from about 500 CE to 1500 CE**Renaissance** – the fifteenth- and sixteenth-century European era focused on renewed interest in classical Greek and Roman ideals**Roman Empire** – the large centralized government controlled by an emperor in Rome that included the Mediterranean region, northern Africa, and Western Asia**serf** – a peasant farmworker under the feudal system in Europe**squire** – a rank higher than page and working toward knighthood**three-field system** – a crop rotation cycle in which fields are planted with different crops every year for a period of three years, and one of those years is left fallow (without planting)**Truce of God** – a medieval Church declaration of peace on designated days, universally banning warfare among participating European territories**vassal** – an individual who was appointed to serve a lord as a soldier during the Middle Ages**Vikings** – northern European seafaring people who raided, traded, and traveled throughout different parts of Europe from the eighth to the eleventh centuries |
| Lesson 3 | **centralization** – the concentration of power under one major government**centralized** – power concentrated in one main place or individual**confederation** – a group or collection of political units that are loosely aligned**constitutional monarchy** – a system of government that has a monarch who is mainly a figurehead of the state and a legislative body (such as a parliament) that is in charge of the government**decentralized** – power distributed to many places or individuals**duchy** – a medieval political unit ruled by a duke or duchess**feudal monarch** – a powerful landholding lord who governs a fief**feudalism** – a medieval social structure in which powerful lords rented out land to others in exchange for protection and various services**fief** – an estate owned by a lord**fiefdom** – the land granted by a powerful noble or member of the ruling class to a lower member of the nobility in exchange for service and loyalty**Great Schism of 1054** – a split in the Christian church, forming the Western church and the Eastern church; also called the East-West Schism by historians**hierarchical** – arranged in order of rank or status**iconography** – the power of images, visuals, and pictures**illuminated manuscript** – a book created by hand before the invention of the movable type printing press in Europe; the name comes from the practice of illustrating these books in elaborate ways**indigenous** – native to a specific area or territory**legislative** – a branch of government mainly responsible for creating and passing laws**manor** – the home of the lord, surrounding buildings, and lands**manorialism** – an economic system that describes how peasants create and produce products that keep manors self-sufficient**nation-state** – an autonomous, self-governing entity that exerts political power inside and beyond its territorial borders**nationalism** – an intense pride in one’s nation**papacy** – relating to the authority and influence of the head of the Roman Catholic Church, the pope**Papal States** – a series of territories on the Italian peninsula that were under the direct rule of the pope for nearly 1,000 years until they became part of the new nation of Italy in 1870**parliament** – a legislative body of government**peasants** – the lowest class of society in a feudal system**permafrost** – a layer of land that is permanently frozen**precedent** – past court rulings that guide future court proceedings**tithe** – a 10 percent tax paid by peasants to lords**tribute** – a payment to a leader in the form of labor, goods, or money**vassal** – a medieval landowner who swears loyalty in exchange for a fief |
| Lesson 4 | **Abbasid Caliphate** – a Muslim political organization/kingdom during the Crusades. The Abbasids existed from 750-1258 and then again from 1261-1517.**Abbasid Dynasties** – the successors to the Umayyads, ruling the Islamic Empire from about 750 CE to 1258 CE; only minor territorial gains occurred during their rule**abbess** – a woman who headed a convent of nuns**aristocracy** – government in which political power rests with a group of small, privileged elites**atone** – to make up for something bad or for one’s sins**Benedictine Rule** – a series of rules developed by Benedict to regulate monastic life, including emphasis on obedience, poverty, and chastity and to set clear divisions of the day into periods of worship, work, and study**Byzantine Empire** – a term used by historians to refer to the Roman Empire in the east that persisted until the 1400s; based around the city of Constantinople (formerly Byzantium)**canon law** – a body of laws created by a specific church**chivalry** – informal code of conduct for medieval knights**chronology** – an arrangement of events or items in the order they happened**colonialism** – when a country takes control of another country by sending settlers to the area**convent** – a building or complex of buildings that served as a home, religious center, and workplace for nuns**Crusades** – a series of military and religious movements by European Christians seeking to conquer Muslim lands associated with the life of Jesus, expand Christianity, and suppress heresy in Europe**desolate** – empty and bare**destitute** – not having the basic needs of life**East-West schism** – the split between Western Catholic and Eastern Orthodox Christianity that developed during the early Middle Ages**feudalism** – a social system in which people would work or fight for nobles/landowners in return for protection and use of the land**fief** – an estate owned by a lord**Franks** – a Germanic tribe living in Gaul that conquered part of Roman Empire**friar** – a monastic who traveled across wide areas to convert nonbelievers to Christianity during the Middle Ages rather than remain confined within a monastery**Great Schism of 1054**– a split in the Christian church, forming the Western church and the Eastern church; also called the East-West Schism by historians**heresy** – the beliefs or opinions contrary to conventional doctrine**indulgence** – the Roman Catholic practice of absolving someone of their sin based on something they did while alive; the Roman Catholic Church at times offered indulgences as things that could be purchased or gained through holy acts**interdict** – the practice by the Roman Catholic Church for excommunicating an entire region or kingdom because local leaders refuse to follow Church law**manorialism** – a political system where peasant farmers depended on the land and protection of a lord (manorial system)**monastery** – a building or complex of buildings that served as a home, religious center, and workplace for monks**monastic** – relating to monasteries**monk** – a member of a religious organization of men living a contemplative and restrictive lifestyle**noble** – a member of aristocracy**nun** – a member of a religious organization of women living a contemplative and restrictive lifestyle**papal supremacy** – the claim made by popes during the Middle Ages that they had ultimate authority over all secular rulers because they were “God’s representative on Earth”**pilgrimage** – a journey to a distant area often made by people in searching for greater meaning in their lives**Roman Catholic Church** – the religious institution that dominated Europe beginning approximately in the sixth century; prior to 1517, it was the official religion in most European states**sequencing** – the practice of putting items in order to make meaning of them; historians usually apply sequencing to an order of events**serf** – a farmer bound to work the land of a lord**Shi’ite** – a division of Islam that believes the leader of the faith must be a descendant of the prophet Muhammad**simony** – the selling of church office positions**Sunni** – a division of Islam that believes the leader of the faith should be selected by an elite group of followers and does not have to be a member of the prophet Muhammad’s family**tenet** – principle of a group or organization**tithe** – a tax where the Church required Christians to pay an amount equal to one-tenth of their income**Umayyad Dynasty** – a group that began after the death of Ali, the last of the four “rightly guided caliphs” who ruled after Muhammad’s death. The Umayyads ruled from 661 CE to about 750 CE, and most territorial expansion of the Islamic empire occurred during these years**vassal** – a landowner who swore loyalty to a lord in exchange for a fief |
| Lesson 5 | **anti-Semitism** – a hostility or prejudice held against the Jewish people**aristocracy** – the highest class in a society possessing hereditary power through land, titles, or political offices**Black Death** – the name for multiple European epidemics of bubonic plague that occurred from 1347 to 1400**bubonic plague** – a deadly contagion that originated in China and is transmitted to humans by lice and fleas**Carolingian dynasty** – the descendants of Charles Martel who ruled as kings of the Frankish realm**city-state** – a political system in which the leaders of the city can make all decisions for the people within their territory and are not overruled by a larger centralized government**Classical period** – the two-hundred-year period from 480 BCE to 323 BCE in ancient Greece that saw the rise of Athenian democracy, the Peloponnesian Wars, and significant cultural advancements**clerical celibacy** – the requirement that members of the clergy be unmarried**Crusades** – a series of military and religious movements by Europeans seeking to conquer Muslim lands associated with the life of Jesus, expand Christianity, and suppress heresy in Europe**excommunication** – the formal exclusion of someone from membership in a church or religion**feudalism** – a system of government in which nobles received land from more powerful nobles in exchange for military service and loyalty**Germanic tribes** – the peoples that lived in what is now called Eastern Europe and Scandinavia**guild** – an organization formed by craftsmen in the Middle Ages that regulated the practice of their craft in a town or region**inculturation** – the missionary practice of adapting Christian beliefs and teachings by blending them with local culture**Inquisition** – a Church court whose mission was to investigate, arrest, and prosecute people accused of heresy**investiture** – a ceremony that raises someone to a higher rank**medieval** – a term relating to the Middle Ages in Europe**Merovingian dynasty** – the descendants of Merovech who ruled as kings of the Frankish realm**Middle Ages** – a period in European history that lasted from the fall of the Western Roman Empire in the fifth century to the Renaissance, or the voyages of Christopher Columbus, in the fifteenth century**oral tradition** – the passing down of beliefs, stories, and practices through teaching without the use of writing**papal supremacy** – the claim made by popes during the Middle Ages that they were ”God’s representatives on Earth” and thus had ultimate authority over all secular rulers**paupers** – a term sometimes used to describe poor people or the lower class in medieval society; comes from Latin**potents** – a term sometimes used to describe powerful people or the upper class in medieval society; comes from Latin**Renaissance** – an era in European history from 1340 to 1620 in which people began to show a greater interest in the arts and sciences**Salic Law** – the civil code compiled by the Frankish king Clovis in the fifth century**simony** – the buying and selling of positions in the church |
| Lesson 6 | **apprentice** – a person who learns a trade from a skilled employer**archaic** – old-fashioned and no longer in everyday use**astrolabe** – an instrument used to measure latitudes at sea**baptistry** – a chapel used for baptisms**caravel** – a relatively light, fast-moving ship designed by the Portuguese in the fifteenth century, which helped make distant global exploration possible**classical** – relating to ancient Greek and Roman literature, art, and culture**Council of Trent** – a group of Catholic leaders who met during the mid-1500s in response to Protestant challenges and to direct the future of the Roman Catholic Church**Counter-Reformation** – the Roman Catholic Church’s efforts during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries to reform itself in order to slow the gains made by Protestantism in Europe**Dark Ages** – an outdated term formerly used by historians to refer to the period after the fall of Rome when the arts and sciences saw little growth**engraving** – a method of making prints from metal plates**Flanders** – a region that is now part of northern France, Belgium, and the Netherlands**Flemish** – describing a person or thing from the region of Flanders**Florentine** – describing a person or thing from the Italian city of Florence**folly** – foolishness**form** – an artistic element that gives geometric shapes a three-dimensional appearance through the use of shading**fresco** – a painting done in watercolor on wet plaster on a wall or ceiling**geocentric theory** – a theory that placed the Earth at the center of the universe**heliocentric theory** – a theory that placed the sun at the center of the universe**High Renaissance (Roman Renaissance)** – the time period from approximately 1490 to 1530 that resulted in the production of the most exceptional and best-known works of art, sculpture, and architecture in Rome and other Italian cities**humanism** – an intellectual movement during the Renaissance that focused on education and the classics**humanities** – an academic area that studies grammar, history, poetry, and literature**individualism** – a social principle emphasizing independence and self-reliance**Inquisition** – a Church court whose mission was to investigate, arrest, and prosecute people accused of heresy**Machiavellian** – describing the use of deceitful and unscrupulous practices in politics**Madonna** – a portrait of the Virgin Mary**Medici family** – a Florentine family who used their wealth acquired from banking and trading to become powerful in Italian politics and culture during the Renaissance**Middle Ages** – a period in European history that lasted from the fall of the Western Roman Empire in the fifth century to the Renaissance, or the voyages of Christopher Columbus, in the fifteenth century**middleman** – a person who buys goods from a producer and sells them at higher prices to consumers**movable type** – a single small metal block that represented each letter of the alphabet; these could be arranged and rearranged within a frame to print pages in a book**Naturalism** – a concept that depicts objects as they appear realistically in nature**Papal States** – a series of territories on the Italian peninsula that were under the direct rule of the pope for nearly 1,000 years until they became part of the new nation of Italy in 1870**paragone** – the Renaissance debate that asked whether painting or sculpture was the superior form of art**patron** – a person of wealth and influence who offers aids to an artist or writer**patronage** – financial support and encouragement given by an organization or individual**perspective** – an artistic element that gives objects a three-dimensional appearance through the use of length, width, and height**piety** – religious devotion and spirituality**printing press** – a machine invented by Johannes Gutenberg in 1450 that was used to print pages set in movable type**Protestant Reformation** – the sixteenth-century religious reform movement in Europe challenging the authority and doctrine of the Catholic Church**proto-Renaissance** – the time period in Italy during the late thirteenth and early fourteenth centuries that first saw the reemergence of classical art styles**Punic Wars** – a series of wars fought between Rome and Carthage during the third century BCE**Realism** – the artistic movement that depicts the subject matter truthfully without added embellishments**Renaissance** – an era in European history from 1340 to 1620 in which people began to show a greater interest in the arts and sciences**rhetoric** – public speaking**scholasticism** – a school of thought in medieval Europe that used logic and reason to support Christian beliefs**secular** – describing something that has no religious or spiritual basis**sfumato** – a painting technique in which an artist softens the lines and blends different paints to create blurred areas in a painting**stanza** – a group of lines within a poem**utopian** – describing something that is idealistic or perfect**Vatican** – the Italian city-state under the direct control of the pope**venerate** – to honor a religious figure with dedication and praye**vernacular** – the language or dialect spoken by the people who live in a specific country or region |
| Lesson 7 | **95 Theses** – a document in which Martin Luther challenged the Catholic Church’s role as mediator between the people and God**Anabaptist** – a person who believed that the sacrament of baptism should take place in adulthood rather than in infancy**Anglican Church** – the established church in Britain, founded by Henry VIII, that incorporates both Catholic and Protestant traditions**bubonic plague** – a deadly contagion that originated in China and was transmitted to humans by lice and fleas**Calvinism** – a branch of Protestantism that emphasized God’s sovereignty and the doctrine of predestination**censor** – the act of limiting or prohibiting information from being shared**clergy** – the individuals who are ordained, or authorized, by a church to perform particular functions**Council of** **Trent** – a group of Catholic leaders who met during the middle 1500s in response to Protestant challenges and to direct the future of the Roman Catholic Church**Counter-Reformation** – the Roman Catholic Church’s efforts during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries to reform itself in order to slow the gains made by Protestantism in Europe**doctrine** – a set of beliefs taught by a specific church or religion**Edict of Worms** – the royal order issued by Holy Roman Emperor Charles V in 1521 that declared Martin Luther a heretic and outlaw**Enlightenment** – an intellectual movement that took place from 1600 to 1800 that focused on the individual rather than on tradition**Eucharist** – the Christian rite of consuming blessed bread and wine that are believed to be Christ’s body and blood**excommunicate** – to formally exclude someone from participation in a church or religion**excommunication** – the complete exclusion from the Roman Catholic Church and the denial of sacraments for refusing to obey Church law**heresy** – a set of beliefs or opinions contrary to conventional doctrine**heretic** – a person who holds beliefs contrary to the conventional doctrine of the culture's dominant religion**Holy Roman Empire** – a collection of medieval principalities, mostly in present-day Germany and Italy, loosely organized in an attempt to succeed the Western Roman Empire**humanist** – an individual who studies the humanities**illuminated manuscript** – a book created by hand before the invention of the movable type printing press in Europe; the name comes from the practice of illustrating these books in elaborate ways**Index of Forbidden Books** – a list of books produced by the Catholic Church that Catholics were forbidden from reading**indulgence** – the Roman Catholic practice of giving money to the Church in return for the absolving of sin**Jesuits** – a religious order founded by Saint Ignatius of Loyola opposed to Reformation**literacy** – the ability to read**Mass** – a Catholic religious service involving the celebration of Holy Communion**medieval** – relating to the Middle Ages in Europe**Middle Ages** – a period in European history roughly lasting from the fall of the Western Roman Empire to the Renaissance or the voyages of Christopher Columbus, depending on interpretation. This time period is characterized by a lack of strong secular governments able to promote stability or economic growth**monastery** – a building or complex of buildings that served as a home, religious center, and workplace for monks**papacy** – relating to the authority and influence of the head of the Roman Catholic Church, the pope**papal supremacy** – the claim made by popes during the Middle Ages that they had ultimate authority over all secular rulers because they were “God’s representative on Earth”**pope** – the head of the Roman Catholic Church who also serves as bishop of Rome**predestination** – the Calvinist belief that God alone determined who would gain salvation**priest** – a Catholic religious leader**primary source** – a source that was developed by someone who experienced a first-hand event**print culture** – the printed items, based primarily in text but also with images, that help a group of people communicate and share ideas**printing press** – a machine invented by Johannes Gutenberg in 1450 that was used to print pages set in movable type**Protestant Reformation** – the sixteenth century religious reform movement in Europe challenging the authority and doctrine of the Catholic Church**purgatory** – in the Catholic religion, a place of suffering that purified the soul before it could enter heaven**sacraments** – the Christian rites recognized for their importance, including baptism, confession, communion, confirmation, marriage, holy orders, and anointing of the sick**Scientific Revolution** – the period of time in European early modern history that saw major developments in chemistry, astronomy, mathematics, physics, and biology (1400 CE to 1690 CE)**secular** – describing something that has no religious or spiritual basis**simony** – the Roman Catholic practice of selling religious services and occasionally appointments to office**theocracy** – a country ruled by religious leaders**tithe** – a tax where the Church required Christians to pay an amount equal to one-tenth of their income**transubstantiation** – the change by which the bread and wine of the Eucharist become the body and blood of Christ in Catholic religious practice**vernacular** – the language or dialect spoken by the people who live in a specific country or region |
| Lesson 8 | **95 Theses** – a document in which Martin Luther challenged the Catholic Church’s role as mediator between the people and God**abdicate** – to relinquish monarchical authority**Act of Supremacy** – the 1534 order that named the English monarch as head of the Church of England**Anabaptist** – a person who believed that the sacrament of baptism should take place in adulthood rather than in infancy**annul** – to declare that a marriage has no legal existence**anti-Semitic** – characterizing actions of hatred and prejudice toward Jews**Archbishop of Canterbury** – the religious leader of the Church of England**armada** – a fleet of warships**blasphemy** – disrespectful, sacrilegious speech or actions against God or the Church**Book of Common Prayer** – the official service book used by the Church of England**Calvinism** – a branch of Protestantism that emphasized God’s sovereignty and the doctrine of predestination**canonize** – the Catholic Church’s action of formally recognizing a person as a saint**cardinal** – a senior member of the Catholic clergy**Catholic League** – the military alliance between the Catholic Habsburg dynasties in Austria and Spain that fought against Protestants in Central Europe during the Thirty Years’ War**Catholic Reformation (Counter-Reformation)** – the Roman Catholic Church’s efforts during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries to reform itself in order to slow the gains made by Protestantism in Europe**Church of England (Anglican Church)** – the established church in Britain founded by Henry VIII that incorporates both Catholic and Protestant traditions**Council of Trent** – a group of Catholic leaders who met during the mid-1500s in response to Protestant challenges and to direct the future of the Roman Catholic Church**Counter-Reformation (Catholic Reformation)** – the Roman Catholic Church’s efforts during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries to reform itself in order to slow the gains made by Protestantism in Europe**defenestration** – the act of throwing someone out of a window**Diet of Worms** – the German assembly where Martin Luther defended his challenges to the Catholic Church**dissenter** – a person who challenges the teachings of an established Church**doctrine** – a set of beliefs taught by a specific Church or religion**Edict of Worms** – the royal order issued by Holy Roman Emperor Charles V in 1521 that declared Martin Luther a heretic and outlaw**Elizabethan settlement** – the policy of religious compromise adopted by Elizabeth I in order to enforce reforms that were acceptable to both English Protestants and Catholics**English Reformation** – a multistage religious and political movement during the sixteenth century that led to a complete break from the Catholic Church and established Protestantism as the official religion in England**Eucharist** – the Christian rite of consuming blessed bread and wine that are believed to be Christ’s body and blood**excommunicate** – to formally exclude someone from participation in a church or religion**ghetto** – a separate section of a city where a minority group was historically forced to live**Habsburg dynasty** – royal dynasty that controlled most of Central Europe, Italy, and Spain during the sixteenth century**heresy** – beliefs or opinions contrary to conventional doctrine**heretic** – a person accused of beliefs or opinions contrary to conventional Church doctrine**Holy Roman Empire** – an assortment of Central European states loosely united by their recognition of one emperor as their ruling monarch**Huguenot** – a French follower of Calvinism**Index of Forbidden Books** – an ongoing list of written works that Catholics were forbidden from reading without special permission from Church leaders**indulgence** – a certificate or pardon for sins sold by the Catholic Church**Inquisition** – a Church court whose mission was to investigate, arrest, and prosecute people accused of heresy**Jesuit** – a member of the Society of Jesus, who were part of a worldwide crusade to defend and spread Catholicism during the Catholic Reformation**King James Bible** – an updated version of the Bible that was translated into English and published in 1611**laypeople** – the members of a church who are not ordained as religious priests or ministers**Lutheranism** – one of the largest branches of Protestantism that identifies with the teachings of Jesus Christ and was founded by Martin Luther**Malleus Maleficarum** – a 1486 pamphlet that addressed issues associated with witchcraft**Marian Reformation** – the time between 1553 and 1558 in England when Mary I tried to restore Catholicism as the official state religion**Mass** – a Catholic religious service involving the celebration of Holy Communion**missionary** – a person from a particular religious group sent to foreign areas to promote a specific religion or to provide various services**order** – a religious community of men or women who take special religious vows and often live in some way set apart from the rest of society**papal bull** – a public decree issued by the head of the Roman Catholic Church**Peace of Augsburg** – the 1555 compromise in which the Holy Roman Emperor allowed German princes to choose whether their states would be Lutheran or remain Catholic**Peace of Westphalia** – the 1648 peace treaty that ended the Thirty Years’ War**Peasants’ Revolt** – an unsuccessful 1524 to 1525 revolt by German peasant farmers based on economic and religious matters**predestination** – the Calvinist belief that God alone determined who would gain salvation**Protestant Reformation** – sixteenth-century religious reform movement in Europe challenging the authority and doctrine of the Catholic Church**Protestant Union** – a military alliance between Lutheran and Calvinist forces who fought against the Catholic Habsburg dynasties during the Thirty Years’ War**Protestant work ethic** – a concept emphasizing hard work, frugality, and prosperity as a way to demonstrate salvation in the Christian faith**purgatory** – in the Catholic religion, a place of suffering that purified the soul before it could enter heaven**Puritan** – an English follower of Calvinism**recant** – to publicly deny a belief or opinion**regent** – a person appointed to rule in place of a monarch**scapegoat** – a person blamed for the suffering of others**Second Vatican Council (Vatican II)** – a Catholic Church council that met from 1962 to 1965 in order to update and reform Church doctrine so that it was more aligned to twentieth-century society**sect** – a religious, political, or cultural subgroup**secular** – describing something that has no religious or spiritual basis**seminary** – in the Catholic Church, a college funded to train new priests in scholastic and religious education**Stuart dynasty** – the royal dynasty that ruled England and Scotland from 1603 to 1714**temporal** – relating to worldly rather than spiritual matters**theocracy** – a form of government controlled by religious officials**theologian** – an expert in the study of religion**Thirty Years’ War** – the armed conflict between Protestant and Catholic forces in Central Europe that lasted from 1618 to 1648**treatise** – a written work formally dealing with a specific subject**Tudor dynasty** – royal dynasty that ruled England from 1485 to 1603**vernacular** – the language or dialect spoken by the people who live in a specific country or region |
| Lesson 11 | **Aristotelianism** – based on the works of Aristotle, this philosophical movement emphasized reason and logic in the study of the natural world**clergy** – the leaders of the church**geocentrism** – the astronomical model of the universe where the Earth is at the center of the universe**heliocentrism** – the astronomical model of the universe where the celestial bodies, such as Earth, move around the sun**humanism** – a devotion to the study of the disciplines of the humanities**scientific method** – the process of inquiry where a hypothesis is developed based on observable data, tested, and later refined based on those results**Scientific Revolution** – the period of time in European early modern history that saw major developments in chemistry, astronomy, mathematics, physics, and biology (1400 CE to 1690 CE)**secular** – describing something that has no religious or spiritual basis**The Enlightenment** – an intellectual movement that took place from 1600 to 1800 that focused on the individual rather than on tradition |
| Lesson 12 | **ancient Greek Empire** – an empire that ruled over Greece from the twelfth to ninth centuries BCE**ancient Roman Empire** – an empire that ruled over areas in Europe from 27 BCE to 476 CE**Byzantine** – related to or influenced by the Byzantine Empire**CE** – shortening of “Common Era”; anything after the year 0 is deemed to be in the Common Era**Christian** – relating to the religion of Christianity**classical** – related to ancient Greek or Roman culture**commission** – to authorize and pay for something, such as a piece of art**dissection** – cutting open a body after death to view its internal organs**domestic** – related to the home or household**ethical** – acting in a way that is consistent with one’s values and morals**ethics** – ideas that guide a person’s or a community’s way of living**gilding** – the process of applying gold paint or thin strips of gold to a piece of art**grammar schools** – schools in England that focused on subjects in the humanities; began during the Renaissance**humanism** – a type of ethical thought that focused on humans as being the center of the universe**humanities** – the study of language, literature, art, history, and philosophy**Islamic** – related to or influenced by the religion of Islam**Italian Renaissance** – a period of Italian history in the fourteenth, fifteenth, and sixteenth centuries when a lot of change happened in society**medieval** – a period of time in Europe that lasted from approximately the fifth to the late fifteenth centuries CE, with some overlap with the Renaissance period at the end of that time frame**Middle Ages** – a period in European history roughly lasting from the fall of the Western Roman Empire to the Renaissance or the voyages of Christopher Columbus, depending on interpretation; characterized by a lack of strong secular governments able to promote stability or economic growth**naturalism** – a philosophical theory that combines the scientific method and philosophy, explaining that all things and events in the universe are naturally-occurring**Northern Renaissance** – a period of northern European history in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries between the Middle Ages and the Modern Era, during which many changes occurred in culture, science, art, and philosophy**oral communication** – communication using spoken words, not printed words**patronage** – support, usually money, given from one person or organization to another**perspective** – a way of showing objects as three-dimensional when drawn or painted on a flat surface**philosopher** – someone who studies and thinks about the human experience**politics** – the activities related to governing or ruling over a place**primary source** – a source that was developed by someone who experienced an event firsthand**printing press** – a machine that prints words and pictures onto paper**realism** – representing something in a lifelike manner**Renaissance** – an era in European history when people began to show a greater interest in the arts and sciences**reputable source** – information that is written without errors or biases by an organization or a person who is an expert in their field**social mobility** – the ability of people to move from one social class to another**statistics** – a field of study that looks at numbers in large quantities in order to understand the world**three-dimensional** – having length and depth, or appearing to have length and depth**vernacular language** – a language that people in a country or region use in everyday communication**Western European** – related to or influenced by culture and ways of being in Western Europe |
| Unit 8: Americas to 1500 |
| Lesson 2 | **agrarian** – referring to farming or cultivating land**aquifer** – a layer of rock that holds water underground**artifact** – a human-made object of cultural significance**avion** – a birdlike object; something that flies basalt – a dark, fine-grained volcanic rock**Aztec** – a Mesoamerican civilization that existed between 1300 and 1521 CE and became one of the largest and most powerful empires in Mesoamerica**basalt** – a dark, fine-grained volcanic rock**Chavin** – a culture in the Andes Mountains that existed between 900 and 200 BCE**chinampa** – a field reclaimed from shallow, freshwater lake areas using an agricultural technique**climate** – long- term weather conditions**cosmo-magical** – a belief system that incorporates mythical creatures with the study of the movements of the sun, stars, and planets**deity** – a supernatural being**floodplain** – a gentle, flat area along a waterway, frequently covered with overflow water**geography** – the study of the features of the earth and the interactions of humans with the earth**Inca** – a South American civilization that existed between 1400 and 1533 CE in the fertile Valley of Cuzco**jade** – a hard green stone used for ornaments or jewelry**Maya** – an advanced Mesoamerican civilization that existed as early as 2000 BCE and peaked from 250 to 900 CE in the northwestern isthmus of Central America**Mesoamerica** – a historic and cultural region that extends from central Mexico into Central America**naturalistic** – of the natural world or real life**obsidian** – a dark natural glass formed by the cooling of molten lava**Olmec** – the earliest Mesoamerican civilization between 1200 and 400 BCE that influenced many successive cultures**polytheistic** – relating to polytheism: a belief system involving more than one god or goddess**seismic** – relating to a vibration in the earth caused by earthquakes**silt** – the sediment and nutrients that fertilize crops**slash-and-burn agriculture** – an agricultural practice of burning and clearing land**terraced farming** – a method of farming that involves building flat platforms into the side of a mountain for cultivation**topography** – the different features that make up the surface of the earth**Zapotec** – an early Mesoamerican civilization that existed between 500 BCE and 900 CE in the Valley of Oaxaca**zoomorphic** – relating to a deity figure having animal-like features |
| Lesson 3 | **city-state** – a political system in which the leaders of the city can make all decisions for the people within their territory and are not overruled by a larger centralized government**climate change** – the slow shifts in overall temperature and weather patterns over long periods of time**Dresden Codex** – a Mayan document from the eleventh century that describes local history and astronomy through hieroglyphs and images**environmental degradation** – the deterioration of elements of the environment, such as soil or wildlife, leading to negative consequencesl**ong-distance trade** – the exchange of goods across extended trade networks**Mayan calendar** – the ancient Mayan calendar system that included both a 260- and 365-day year**Mayan classical period** – the height of Mayan civilization from 250 CE to 900 CE**Mesoamerica** – the region of Central America that included the pre-Columbian civilizations of the Olmec, Zapotec, Maya, and Aztec**overpopulation** – when the population of an area becomes greater than the resources in that environment can support**slash and burn agriculture** – burning and clearing existing vegetation in preparation for planting**step terrace** – a form of agriculture popular in Mesoamerica in which steps are cut into the earth to farm in mountainous regions**Yucatán** – a peninsular region of southern Mexico where Mayan civilization originated |
| Lesson 4 | **aqueduct** – a man made system for moving water**astronomical bodies** – objects in outer space**Aztlan** – according to Aztec tradition, the original homeland of the Mexica peoples**causeways** – the raised roads that allow a dry path above a body of water**chinampas** – an agricultural technique that involves reclaiming land from shallow, freshwater lake areas**city-state** – an independently ruled city that acts as the political, social, and economic center of the surrounding territory**flower wars** – the small, somewhat prearranged conflicts between the Aztecs and their allies, designed to show the Aztec Empire’s strength**horticulturalist** – a person that is an expert at knowing how and why different plants and seeds grow**Huitzilopochtli** – initially a Mexica god, who guided the Mexica in their travels toward a promised land; usually associated with war and sun**irrigation** – a human made system of channeling water from a natural source like a river to crops**Mesoamerica** – the region of central America that included the pre-Columbian civilizations of the Olmec, Zapotec, Maya, and Aztec**migrants** – the individuals who move from their home country to another country of residence permanently or for a long period of time**reclaimed land** – the land that is created by filling in areas that had previously been covered with water or wetlands**terrace** – a flat area carved into a slope to make the slope easier to farm on**tribute** – a payment to a leader in the form of labor, goods, or money**Valley of Mexico** – an area in modern central Mexico, located around Lake Texcoco and surrounded by mountains |
| Lesson 5 | **ayllu** – a small community in the Inca Empire that was a common administrative unit**bureaucracy** – a government administration managed by departments staffed with non-elected officials**chasquis** – the messengers of the Inca Empire**conquistador** – a Spanish soldier who came to the western hemisphere with the Spanish Empire to conquer territory and gain profit**huaca** – the astronomical and religious shrines in the Inca Empire**Inca Empire** – a fifteenth-century civilization located in the Andes Mountains**mit'a** – the mandatory public labor for able-bodied men in the Inca Empire**mitma** – the Inca policy of forced resettlement of ethnic groups**Quechua** – the official language used in the Inca Empire**quipu** – an Inca accounting system using colored threads and knots**Sapa Inca** – the unique name given to the king of the Inca Empire**suyu** – the four administrative districts created by the Inca as a way to govern the vast empire**terrace farming** – the flat planes of land that look like steps and are built into the sides of mountains for farming**Tiwanaku** – a Pre-Columbian civilization in the Andes Mountains known for its megalithic structures**vertical archipelago** – an agricultural and economic system used by the Inca Empire |
| Lesson 6 | **aqueduct** – a system for moving water made by humans**ashlar** – a finely cut stone**ayllu** – a family clan that also served as a government administrative unit in the Inca**bloodletting** – a practice of withdrawing blood from a person’s veins**calpullis** – a district within an Aztec city zone**campan** – a zone within an Aztec city**chasqui** – the messengers of the Inca Empire**chicha** – a fermented maize beer drunk in pre-Columbian Peru**chinampas** – an agricultural technique that involved raised beds above the water; translates to “floating gardens”**city-state** – a city that retains sovereignty and autonomy generally reserved for nation-states**continuities** – a connection over time of similar aspects of society that stay the same**copacochas** – a child offered for tribute and sacrifice**dike** – a barrier to hold back water**hieroglyphics** – a system of writing using images to represent sounds**Inti** – an Incan sun god**Machu Picchu** – a World Heritage Site from the Incan Empire**mamakuna** – a young woman who provided religious work and service to the Incan state**Mesoamerica** – a region of Central America that included the pre-Columbian civilizations of the Olmec, Zapotec, Maya, and Aztec**mit’a** – the public labor for able-bodied people in the Incan Empire**Nahuatl** – a name for Aztec language**Pikillaqta** – an archeological site for the Wari and their capital**pochteca** – a state-sponsored merchant who spied and traded goods for Aztec royalty**pre-Columbian** – a time period prior to the arrival of Columbus in the Americas**Quechua** – an official language used in the Incan empire**quipu** – an Incan accounting system using colored threads and knots**slash and burn agriculture** – the practice of burning and clearing existing vegetation in preparation for planting**tampus** – a building constructed for travelers on Inca roads**terrace farming** – a farming method with flat planes of land that look like steps built into the sides of mountains for farming**tlachtli** – an ancient ball game played in Mesoamerica prior to European arrival**tribute** – a payment to a leader in the form of labor, goods, or money**Triple Alliance** – a political unit that led the Aztec Empire**Viracocha** – a god that created the world in Incan origin story**yamacuna** – a young man who provided religious work and service to the Incan state |
| Lesson 7 | **Atahuallpa** – the ruler of the Inca Empire at the time of Spanish conquest**bubonic plague** – a deadly contagion that originated in China and was transmitted to humans by lice and fleas**chinampa** – a “floating island” created by the Aztec as an irrigation solution; cane frames filled with aquatic weeds, mud, and earth**codices** – traditional native books, or manuscripts, that recorded the history of and information about the Aztec Empire**Columbian Exchange**  – the exchange of plants, animals, and diseases between the Americas and Eurasia after the arrival of Christopher Columbus**encomendero** – the holder, or owner, of an encomienda**encomienda** – land granted by the Spanish crown; included the right to extract labor from Indigenous populations residing on the land**encomienda system** – a system in which a Spanish soldier was given the rights to the labor of a certain number of Indigenous people who lived in the area**Francisco Pizarro** – a Spanish conquistador who conquered the Inca Empire**Great Dying** – the period of the seventeenth century in which Indigenous populations were reduced by as much as 90 percent by Eurasian diseases**hacienda system** – a Spanish colonial land-grant system in which colonists were given land, and the people on it, to make productive, often in an agricultural manner**Hernán Cortés** – a Spanish conquistador who conquered the Aztec Empire**Hispaniola** – an island in the West Indies**immunity** – the ability to resist a disease or illness**Kiowa** – a tribe of Indigenous Americans in the Great Plains in the modern-day United States**mita system** – a tribute system used by the Incan Empire that required labor**monotheistic** – worshipping only one god**polytheism** – a belief system centered on worshipping multiple gods**seasoning** – a period of time in which newcomers to an unfamiliar land acclimated to the new surroundings**smallpox** – a contagious virus, eradicated by 1980, that led to flu-like symptoms, a rash, and often death**wampum** – beads used as currency among Indigenous peoples of the Americas |
| Lesson 8 | **empire** – a system of government where there is one authority (individual or group) who rules over a large territory**Indigenous peoples** – the original inhabitants of a given area**Iron Age** – a period of history characterized by the use of iron tools**macuahuitl** – a weapon used by the Aztec that resembled a paddle with several obsidian blades**New World** – the Americas**panaqa** – elite nobility of the Inca Empire, connected by blood to the king**smallpox** – a disease similar to the flu that can result in death; vaccines today prevent it from occurring |