

Period 1
Technological and Environmental Transformations
To c. 600 B.C.E.

Key Concept 1.1. Big Geography and the Peopling of the Earth

I. Archeological evidence indicates that during the Paleolithic era, hunting foraging bands of humans gradually migrated from their origin in East Africa to Eurasia, Australia and the Americas, adapting their technology and cultures to new climate regions.

- A. Humans used fire in new ways: to aid hunting and foraging, to protect against predators and to adapt to cold environments.
- B. Humans developed a wider range of tools specially adapted to different environments from tropics to tundra.
- C. Religion was most likely animistic.
- D. Economic structures focused on small kinship groups of hunting-foraging bands that could make what they needed to survive. However, not all groups were self-sufficient; they exchanged people, ideas and goods.

Key Concept 1.2. The Neolithic Revolution and Early Agricultural Societies

I. Beginning about 10,000 years ago, the Neolithic Revolution led to the development of new and more complex economic and social systems.

- A. Possibly as a response to climatic change, permanent agricultural villages emerged first in the lands of the eastern Mediterranean. Agriculture emerged at different times in Mesopotamia, the Nile River Valley and Sub-Saharan Africa, the Indus River Valley, the Yellow River or Huang He Valley, Papua New Guinea, Mesoamerica and the Andes.
- B. Pastoralism developed at various sites in the grasslands of Afro-Eurasia.
- C. Different crops or animals were domesticated in the various core regions, depending on available local flora and fauna.
- D. Agricultural communities had to work cooperatively to clear land and create the water control systems needed for crop production.
- E. These agricultural practices drastically impacted environmental diversity. Pastoralists also affected the environment by grazing large numbers of animals on fragile grasslands, leading to erosion when overgrazed.

II. Agriculture and pastoralism began to transform human societies.

- A. Pastoralism and agriculture led to more reliable and abundant food supplies, which increased the population.
- B. Surpluses of food and other goods led to specialization of labor, including new classes of artisans and warriors, and the development of elites.
- C. Technological innovations led to improvements in agricultural production, trade and transportation, including pottery, plows, woven textiles, metallurgy, wheels and wheeled vehicles.
- D. In both pastoralist and agrarian societies, elite groups accumulated wealth, creating more hierarchical social structures and promoting patriarchal forms of social organization.

Key Concept 1.3. The Development and Interactions of Early Agricultural, Pastoral and Urban Societies

I. Core and foundational civilizations developed in a variety of geographical and environmental settings where agriculture flourished.

NOTE: Students should be able to identify the location of all of the following.

- A. Mesopotamia in the Tigris and Euphrates River Valleys
- B. Egypt in the Nile River Valley
- C. Mohenjo-Daro and Harappa in the Indus River Valley
- D. Shang in the Yellow River or Huang He Valley
- E. Olmecs in Mesoamerica
- F. Chavín in Andean South America

II. The first states emerged within core civilizations.

- A. States were powerful new systems of rule that mobilized surplus labor and resources over large areas. Early states were often led by a ruler whose source of power was believed to be divine or had divine support, and who was supported by the religious hierarchy and professional warriors.
- B. As states grew and competed for land and resources, the more favorably situated — including the Hittites, who had access to iron — had greater access to resources, produced more surplus food and experienced growing populations. These states were able to undertake territorial expansion and conquer surrounding states.
- C. Early regions of state expansion or empire building were Mesopotamia and Babylonia — Sumerians, Akkadians and Babylonians — and Egypt and Nubia along the Nile Valley.
- D. Pastoralists were often the developers and disseminators of new weapons (such as compound bows or iron weapons) and modes of transportation (such as chariots or horseback riding) that transformed warfare in agrarian civilizations.

III. Culture played a significant role in unifying states through laws, language, literature, religion, myths and monumental art.

- A. Early civilizations developed monumental architecture and urban planning (such as ziggurats, pyramids, temples, defensive walls, streets and roads, or sewage and water systems).
- B. Elites, both political and religious, promoted arts and artisanship (such as sculpture, painting, wall decorations or elaborate weaving).
- C. Systems of record keeping (such as cuneiform, hieroglyphs, pictographs, alphabets or quipu) arose independently in all early civilizations.
- D. Literature was also a reflection of culture (such as the “Epic of Gilgamesh,” *Rig Veda* or *Book of the Dead*).
- E. New religious beliefs developed in this period continued to have strong influences in later periods, including the Vedic religion, Hebrew monotheism and Zoroastrianism.
- F. Trade expanded throughout this period, with civilizations exchanging goods, cultural ideas and technology. Trade expanded from local to regional and transregional, including between Egypt and Nubia and between Mesopotamia and the Indus Valley.
- G. Social and gender hierarchies intensified as states expanded and cities multiplied.

Period 2
Organization and Reorganization of Human Societies
c. 600 B.C.E. to c. 600 C.E.

Key Concept 2.1. The Development and Codification of Religious and Cultural Traditions

I. Codifications and further developments of existing religious traditions provided a bond among the people and an ethical code to live by.

A. The association of monotheism with Judaism was further developed with the codification of the Hebrew Scriptures, which also showed Mesopotamian influences. Around 600 B.C.E. and 70 C.E., the Assyrian and Roman empires, respectively, created Jewish diasporic communities and destroyed the kingdom of Israel as a theocracy.

B. The core beliefs outlined in the Sanskrit scriptures formed the basis of the Vedic religions — often known as Hinduisms — which show some influence of Indo-European traditions in the development of the social and political roles of a caste system and in the importance of multiple manifestations of Brahma to promote teachings about reincarnation.

II. New belief systems and cultural traditions emerged and spread, often asserting universal truths.

A. The core beliefs preached by the historic Buddha and recorded by his followers into sutras and other scriptures were, in part, a reaction to the Vedic beliefs and rituals dominant in South Asia. Buddhism changed over time as it spread throughout Asia — first through the support of the Mauryan Emperor Ashoka, and then through the efforts of missionaries and merchants, and the establishment of educational institutions to promote its core teachings.

B. Confucianism's core beliefs and writings originated in the writings and lessons of Confucius and were elaborated by key disciples who sought to promote social harmony by outlining proper rituals and social relationships for all people in China, including the rulers.

C. In the major Daoist writings (such as the *Daodejing*), the core belief of balance between humans and nature assumed that the Chinese political system would be altered indirectly. Daoism also influenced the development of Chinese culture (such as medical theories and practices, poetry, metallurgy or architecture).

D. The core beliefs preached by Jesus of Nazareth drew on the basic monotheism of Judaism, and initially rejected Roman and Hellenistic influences. Despite initial Roman imperial hostility, Christianity spread through the efforts of missionaries and merchants through many parts of Afro-Eurasia, and eventually gained Roman imperial support by the time of Emperor Constantine.

E. The core ideas in Greco-Roman philosophy and science emphasized logic, empirical observation, and the nature of political power and hierarchy.

III. Belief systems affected gender roles (such as Buddhism's encouragement of a monastic life or Confucianism's emphasis on filial piety).

IV. Other religious and cultural traditions continued parallel to the codified, written belief systems in core civilizations.

A. Shamanism and animism continued to shape the lives of people within and outside of core civilizations because of their daily reliance on the natural world.

B. Ancestor veneration persisted in many regions (such as in Africa, the Mediterranean region, East Asia or the Andean areas).

V. Artistic expressions, including literature and drama, architecture, and sculpture, show distinctive cultural developments.

A. Literature and drama acquired distinctive forms (such as Greek tragedy or Indian epics) that influenced artistic developments in neighboring regions and in later time periods (such as in Athens, Persia or South Asia).

B. Distinctive architectural styles can be seen in Indian, Greek, Mesoamerican and Roman buildings.

C. The convergence of Greco-Roman culture and Buddhist beliefs affected the development of unique sculptural developments, as seen in the Gandhara Buddhas, which exemplify a syncretism in which Hellenistic veneration for the body is combined with Buddhist symbols.

Key Concept 2.2. The Development of States and Empires

I. The number and size of imperial societies grew dramatically by imposing political unity on areas where previously there had been competing states.

NOTE: Students should know the location and names of the key states and empires below.

A. Southwest Asia: Persian Empires (such as Achaemenid, Parthian or Sassanid)

B. East Asia: Qin and Han dynasties

C. South Asia: Maurya and Gupta Empires

D. Mediterranean region: Phoenician and Greek colonization, Hellenistic and Roman Empires

E. Mesoamerica: Teotihuacan, Maya city-states

F. Andean South America: Moche

II. Empires and states developed new techniques of imperial administration based, in part, on the success of earlier political forms.

A. In order to organize their subjects, the rulers created administrative institutions, including centralized governments, elaborate legal systems and bureaucracies (such as in China, Persia, Rome or South Asia).

B. Imperial governments projected military power over larger areas using a variety of techniques, including diplomacy; developing supply lines; building fortifications, defensive walls and roads; and drawing new groups of military officers and soldiers from the local populations or conquered peoples.

C. Much of the success of the empires rested on their promotion of trade and economic integration by building and maintaining roads and issuing currencies.

III. Imperial societies displayed unique social and economic dimensions.

A. Cities served as centers of trade, public performance of religious rituals, and as political administration for states and empires (such as Persepolis, Chang'an, Pataliputra, Athens, Carthage, Rome, Alexandria, Constantinople or Teotihuacan).

B. The social structures of all empires displayed hierarchies that included cultivators, laborers, slaves, artisans, merchants, elites and caste groups.

C. Imperial societies relied on a range of labor systems to maintain the production of food and provide rewards for the loyalty of the elites, including corvée, slavery, rents and tributes, peasant communities, and family and household production.

D. Patriarchy continued to shape gender and family relations in all imperial societies of this period.

IV. The Roman, Han, Maurya and Gupta empires created political, cultural and administrative difficulties that they could not manage, which eventually led to their decline, collapse and transformation into successor empires or states.

A. Through excessive mobilization of resources, imperial governments caused environmental damage (such as deforestation, desertification, soil erosion or silted rivers) and generated social tensions and economic difficulties by concentrating too much wealth in the hands of elites.

B. External problems resulted from security issues along their frontiers, including the threat of invasions (such as between Northern China and Xiongnu; between Gupta and the White Huns; or among Romans, Parthians, Sassanids and Kushan).

Key Concept 2.3. Emergence of Transregional Networks of Communication and Exchange

I. Land and water routes created transregional trade, communication and exchange networks in the Eastern Hemisphere, while separate networks connected the peoples and societies of the Americas somewhat later.

NOTE: Students should know how factors, including the climate and location of the routes, the typical trade goods, and the ethnicity of people involved, shaped the distinctive features of the following trade routes.

A. Eurasian Silk Roads

B. Trans-Saharan caravan routes

C. Indian Ocean sea lanes

D. One of the following: Mediterranean sea lanes; American trade routes; or the north-south Eurasian trade routes linking the Baltic region, Constantinople and Central Asia

II. New technologies facilitated long-distance communication and exchange.

A. New technologies (such as yokes, saddles or stirrups) permitted the use of domesticated pack animals (such as horses, oxen, llamas or camels) to transport goods across longer routes.

B. Innovations in maritime technologies (such as the lateen sail or dhow ships), as well as advanced knowledge of the monsoon winds, stimulated exchanges along maritime routes from East Africa to East Asia.

III. Alongside the trade in goods, the exchange of people, technology, religious and cultural beliefs, food crops, domesticated animals, and disease pathogens developed across far-flung networks of communication and exchange.

A. The spread of crops, including sugar, rice and cotton from South Asia to the Middle East, encouraged changes in farming and irrigation techniques (such as the development of the qanat system).

B. The spread of disease pathogens diminished urban populations and contributed to the decline of some empires (such as Rome or China).

C. Religious and cultural traditions, including Chinese culture, Christianity, Hinduism and Buddhism, were transformed as they spread.

Unit I Mashup

8000 B.C.E. to 600 B.C.E.

Unit topics

1. From Paleolithic to Neolithic
2. Migrations and Nomads
3. The Rise of Civilizations and the Interactions among them

From Paleolithic to Neolithic

Earliest human migrations and societies

Out of Africa (1.1.I.)

Fire and tools (1.1.I.A and B.)

First human societies (1.1.I.C.)

Climate change and the discovery of agriculture (1.2.I.A.)

Population increases (1.2.II.A.)

New levels of cooperation (1.2.I.D.)

Surpluses lead to specialization of labor, military and social elites (1.2.II.B.)

Improvements in crafts, tools, and transportation (1.2.II.C.)

Better tools increased the surpluses: bronze (1.2.II.C.)

Development of hierarchies (1.2.II.D.)

Effect of Neolithic revolution on the environment (1.2.I.E.)

Migrations and Nomads

Indo-European migration: Aryans and Vedic religion (1.3.III.E.)

Pastoral nomadism (1.2.I.B.)

Pastoral societies and population (1.2.II.A.)

Pastoral lifestyle and the environment (1.2.I.E.)

Role of Pastoral nomads in the dissemination of new technologies and techniques (1.3.II.D.)

Jews and monotheism (1.3.II.E.)

The Rise of Civilizations and the Interactions among them

Rise of Civilization: preconditions, definitions, and locations (1.3.I.)

Indus River Valley Civilization

Urban planning: Mohenjo Daro and Harappa sewage and water systems, roads (1.3.III.A)

Trade with Mesopotamia (1.3.III.F.)

Literary traditions: Rig Veda (1.3.III.E.)

Mesopotamia

Urban planning: Ziggurats (1.3.III.A.)

Systems of record keeping: Cuneiform (1.3.III.C.)

Literary traditions: Epic of Gilgamesh (1.3.III.H.)

Religion to support authority of king (3.1.II.A.)

Early empire building: Babylon (1.3.II.C.)

States developed legal codes: Code of Hammurabi (1.3.III.D.)

Gender hierarchies and social stratification (1.3.III.G.)

Hittite Empire and iron (1.3.II.A.)

Egypt

Early empire building: Egypt (1.3.II.C.)

Urban planning: Pyramids (1.3.III.A.)

Systems of record keeping: Hieroglyphics (1.3.III.C.)

Literary traditions: Myth of Osiris (1.3.III.H.)

Gender hierarchies and social stratification (1.3.III.G.)
Religion to support authority of king: king was a diety (3.1.II.A.)
New modes of transportation: chariots (1.3.II.D.)
Trade and interaction with Nubia (1.3.III.F.)

Hittite Empire and iron (1.3.II.A.)

Rise of Zoroastrianism (1.3.III.E.)

Unit II Mashup

600 B.C.E. to 600 C.E.

Unit topics

1. Classical Civilizations of South Asia
2. Classical Civilizations of East Asia
3. Classical Civilizations of the Mediterranean
4. The Americas
5. Trans-Regional Trade and Connections
6. The Decline of Classical Civilizations

Classical Civilizations of South Asia

Codification of Hinduism (2.1.I.B.)

Social structures and hierarchies: castes, jati (2.2.III.B.)

Patriarchy: Laws of Manu, sati (2.2.III.D.)

Creation and Spread of new belief systems: Buddhism (2.1.II.A.)

Belief systems and gender roles (2.1.III.)

Rise of key states: Mauryan and Gupta (2.2.I.)

Administrative institutions: Mauryan bureaucracy, centralized government (2.2.II.A.)

Trade and the Golden Age of the Gupta (2.2.II.C.)

Literature and Drama: Bhagavad Gita (2.1.V.A.)

Architectural styles (2.1.V.B.)

Classical Civilizations of East Asia

Rise of key states: Zhou to Qin (2.2.I.)

Techniques in projecting military power: defensive walls (2.2.II.B.)

New belief systems: Period of Warring states, Confucianism, Legalism and Daoism (2.1.II.B. and C.)

Belief systems, gender, filial piety (2.1.III. and 2.2.III.D.)

Influence of Daoism on traditional Chinese medicine (2.1.II.C.)

Rise of Key states: Han and the Confucian synthesis (2.2.I.)

New techniques of imperial administration: centralized states and bureaucracies (2.2.II.A.)

Han promotion of trade: silk (2.2.II.C.)

Role of cities: Chang'an and Silk Roads (2.2.III.A.)

Han social hierarchy (2.2.III.B.)

The Han military drawn from civilians (2.2.II.B.)

Non-codified belief systems continued: ancestor veneration (2.1.IV.B.)

Classical Civilizations of the Mediterranean

Rise of Key states: Greek and Phoenician city-states (2.2.I.)

Methods to maintain production of food: Greek slavery (2.2.III.C.)

Growth of trade: Greeks and Phoenicians in Aegean, Mediterranean (2.2.II.C.)

Role of cities: Athens, Persepolis, Carthage (2.2.III.A.)

Imperial methods to ensure food production: Spartan helots (2.2.II.C.)

Persian Empire (2.2.I.)

Persian administrative system (2.2.II.A.)

Philosophy and science of Greeks (2.1.II.E.)

Literature and Drama: Greek drama (2.1.V.A.)

Architectural styles (2.1.V.B.)

Techniques in projecting military power: Alexander the Great and organization of supply lines

(2.2.II.B.)

Roman Phase

Rise of Key states: Rome from Etruscan to monarchy to Republic to Empire (2.2.I.)

Roman administrative systems (2.2.II.A.)

Techniques in projecting military power: organization of Roman army (2.2.II.B.)

Promotion of trade: roads and currency (2.2.II.C.)

Role of cities: Rome (2.2.III.A.)

Methods to maintain production of food: Roman slavery (2.2.III.C.)

From Judaism to Christianity (2.1.I.A. and 2.1.II.D.)

Architectural styles: Roman pragmatism over Greek proportions (2.1.V.B.)

The Americas

Rise of Key states: Aztecs and Mayan city-states (2.2.I.)

Moche in South America (2.2.I.)

Architectural styles: Mayan temples (2.1.V.B.)

Role of cities: Teotihuacan (2.2.III.A.)

Methods to maintain production of food: Covée system (2.2.III.C.)

Mayan military (2.2.II.B.)

Trans-Regional Trade and Connections

Silk Roads

Role of climate and location (2.3.I.A.)

new technologies: saddles, stirrups (2.3.II.A.)

Use of pack animals (2.3.II.A.)

Spread and transformation of Buddhism , Nestorian Christianity(2.3.II.C.)

Spread of qanat system of agriculture (2.3.III.A.)

Spread of disease and pathogens (2.3.II.B.)

Trans-Saharan

Role of climate and location (2.3.I.A.)

new technologies: camel saddles, stirrups (2.3.II.A.)

Use of pack animals: camels (2.3.II.A.)

Indian Ocean

Role of climate and location: monsoons (2.3.I.A.)

New technologies: lateen sail, Dhows (2.3.II.B.)

Spread of crops: cotton, rice (2.3.III.A.)

Spread of religion: Hinduism and Buddhism to southeast Asia (2.3.III.C.)

Mediterranean Trade

Role of climate and location (2.3.I.A.)

new technologies: saddles, stirrups (2.3.II.A.)

Spread of Phoenician alphabet, Hellenism, Christianity(2.3.II.C.)

Spread of disease and pathogens (2.3.II.A.)

The Decline of Classical Civilizations

Spread of disease (2.3.III.B.)

Environmental damage (2.2.IV.A.)

Imbalanced distribution of wealth (2.2.IV.A.)

Problems of managing empires (2.2.IV.)

External problems: foes and migrations (2.2.IV.B.)

AP World History Essay Topics by Period

Essays on Periods 1 and 2 (600 BCE to 600 CE)

DBQ

2004: Based on the following documents, analyze the responses to the spread of Buddhism in China. What additional kind of documents would you need to evaluate the extent of Buddhism appeal in China?

2007: Using the documents, analyze Han and Roman attitudes towards technology. Identify one additional type of document and explain briefly how it would help your analysis.

CC

2010: Analyze similarities and differences in methods of political control in TWO of the following empires in the Classical period.

Han China (206 BCE-220 CE)

Mauryan/Gupta India (320 BCE-550 CE)

Imperial Rome (31 BCE - 476 CE)

2014: Analyze similarities and difference in how TWO of the following empires used religion to govern before 1450.

Byzantine Empire

Islamic Caliphates

Mauryan/Gupta Empires

CCOT

2006: Analyze the cultural and political changes and continuities in one of the following civilizations during the last centuries of the classical era.

Chinese, 100 CE to 600 CE

Roman, 100 CE to 600 CE

Indian, 300 CE to 600 CE

2009: Analyze continuities and changes in patterns of interactions along the Silk Roads from 200 BCE to 1450 CE.

2012: Analyze continuities and changes in trade networks between Africa and Eurasia from circa 300 CE to 1450 CE.

2013: Analyze how political transformations contributed to continuities and changes in the cultures of the Mediterranean region during the period circa 200 CE to 1000 CE.

