

Essential Questions: Know these to do well on the state test!

Early River Civs:

- **How does geography/topography affect the development of a civilization and how did ancient civilizations affect geography?** *Geography and topography affected ancient peoples by dictating where they gathered to build their homes and live. Water, fertile soil, ample wildlife (also drawn to the area by the presence of dependable water) for food, and natural topography that afforded some sort of protection from the elements and human enemies, made some places more attractive for human settlement than others. It was at these places, usually along some great river, that humanity first put down roots.*
- **What role did religion play in early civilizations, was there any commonalities between religions?** *Religion was a significant factor in early civilizations in that early humans often attributed natural forces that influenced the environment and their lives to supernatural deities. A good harvest was attributed to earning the favor of the local gods. A bad harvest was a result of incurring the gods' wrath. Most early religions had similarities despite belonging to widely divergent groups of humans. Gods were assigned areas of responsibility (a god of war, a god of wine, a god of sexuality and reproduction, etc.) in virtually all early civilizations even though they may have gone by different names depending on which society worshipped them.*
- **How did technology affect early civilizations?** *Technology impacted early civilizations by making work easier and by facilitating occupational diversity that enhanced the ability of humans to build settlements and cities with varied cultures. Technology meant that not everyone in a settlement was needed for things like food production, so people could branch out into other occupations like metal work, carpentry, stone carving, science, etc. These varied fields of endeavor allowed humans to build societies and long-term habitats that gave rise to great civilizations at places like Mesopotamia and along the Nile in Egypt.*
- **What were the internal versus external forces of the rise and decline in early civilizations?** *Internal forces that impacted the rise and decline of early civilizations might include the need to provide for the people (food, shelter, defense, etc.), creating a social hierarchy that establishes order within the society, and then defending it against internal threats that might serve to destabilize it. These might include a population that does not conform to the rules of a society, abuses of the social contract by rulers and upper classes who take too much from the lower classes without adequate return, etc. External forces might take the form of invasion by competing/rival civilizations, natural disasters that threaten society by upsetting the status quo, and a failure to adjust to a changing world in terms of things like technology, science, politics, environment, etc.*
- **How did economies affect society and politics?** *It is true that in many ways, money is the grease that keeps the wheels of civilization turning. Money allows those who have it to enjoy a better lifestyle than those who do not. People with money had longer life expectancies, could buy finer/healthier foods, lived in better homes, had access to medicines, and the leisure time to contemplate abstract ideas like religion, philosophy, and arts. Societies with economies that did not produce wealth were bound to lives that focused more on simple survival than wealthier neighbors. With wealth came the ability to provide better lives for the people, and earn their approval for the political entity providing that wealth. In poorer societies, the "have-nots" often posed serious threats to the continued survival of the political system that was unable to furnish them with a chance at something better.*

Early Civilizations:

- How did leaders of classical empires expand and maintain their power?
- What are the results of the Pax Romana and the Silk Roads?

- How did internal and external factors impact the decline of empires? What resulted from the collapse?
- How did religion and philosophy impact the government, culture, and society?
- How did technology impact each empire?
- How did geography & environment impact the development of each empire?
- What are the legacies of the Classical Empires?
- How did politics, economics, and society impact the development of and the collapse of each empire?

Middle Eastern Empires:

- How did geography impact the development of the Byzantine Empire?
- What were the differences and similarities between Western Europe and the Byzantine Empire?
- How does geography and cultural diffusion impact African kingdoms?
- How was Islam founded and how did it expand?
- What are the core beliefs and practices of Islam?
- How did Muslim societies compare with their European neighbors?

Medieval Era:

- What were some of the political, social, and economic consequences of the fall of Rome?
- What were the economic and political systems in Europe during the middle ages?
- What were some challenges to European advancement during the middle ages?
- How did the church change during the middle ages?
- What role did diffusion play in Asia?
- What religious and economic issues shaped Asian governments and culture?
- What were the relationships between Asia and the rest of the world?

Renaissance/Reformation:

- What factors led to the Renaissance?
- How did the geographic location of the Italian city-states play a role in Italy becoming the center of the Renaissance?
- What were the political, economic, and social impacts of the Renaissance?
- What factors led to the Reformation?
- What were the impacts of the Reformation?
- How was religion both unifying and divisive force in Europe?
- How did the invention of the printing press serve as a catalyst for the Reformation?

Exploration/Scientific Revolution:

- Why did the Europeans go exploring?
- What were the economic and geopolitical causes that led groups and nations to seek expansion?
- What were the positive and negative results of exploring?
- What political, economic, and social factors impacted European success in exploration?
- What is the economic system of mercantilism and how did it affect decisions involving exploration and expansion?
- Who were key figures and discoveries in the Scientific Revolution?
- What resistance was there to the new science?
- How did the Scientific Revolution cause people to reevaluate how they viewed themselves and how they viewed their physical and spiritual worlds?

Absolutism and Enlightenment:

- What changes in Europe allowed for the rise of Absolute Monarchs?

- How did absolutism impact society and economies?
- How did the Magna Carta and the English Bill of Rights impact the power of kings?
- How does an absolute monarchy contrast with a democracy?
- How did Absolutism in Europe lead to the Enlightenment?
- How did the Enlightenment theories initiate questioning of existing government practices and prompt the desire for self-rule?
- How did political, economic, and social conditions impact Enlightenment thinkers?

Age of Revolutions:

- What is a revolution?
- How do political, economic, and social factors inspire revolution?
- What are common characteristics for most revolutions?
- What made the Glorious Revolution distinct from revolutions in America and France?

19th Century “Isms”:

- What were the societal/economic impacts of the Industrial Revolution?
- What was Europe’s reaction to the French Revolution?
- What new art styles emerged in the nineteenth century?
- What new technologies emerged in the nineteenth century?
- What enabled the Europeans to conquer so many natives?
- What were the reactions to imperialism?
- What were major political events in Europe during the nineteenth century?

World War I and the Russian Revolution:

- What were the long term and immediate causes of World War I?
- What was the impact of the Total War approach in WWI?
- What was the impact of the US involvement in WWI?
- What are the terms of the end of WWI and their impact?
- What were the long term and immediate causes of the Russian Revolution?
- What were the long term and immediate results of the Russian Revolution?
- How was Communism and the Russian Revolution a response to Capitalism and the Industrial Revolution?

Interwar Years and World War II:

- What were key components to 1920s society?
- What were results of the Stock Market Crash?
- What were some major political changes between WWI and WWII?
- What factors allowed Hitler to come to power?
- What were the major events of The Second World War?
- What were major technological advancements of The Second World War?

Cold War:

- How did political, economic, and social ideologies escalate tensions between the United States and the Soviet Union following WWII?
- How did the Cold War influence policies in the U.S. and in the Soviet Union?
- How did the Cold War impact other countries?
- How did the proliferation of nuclear weapons impact Cold War relations?
- What was China’s impact on Cold War tensions?
- How did Mikhail Gorbachev’s policies of Glasnost and Perestroika help lead to the collapse of the Soviet Union?

- How did geography affect the Cold War (ie, Division of Korea, Vietnam, Germany, Europe, dismantling the Soviet Union) and the environment (ie., nuclear testing, Agent Orange, Chernobyl, Three-Mile Island)?

Global Challenges:

- What were the economic, political, geographic, and social causes and impacts of various conflicts such as war, terrorism, and genocides (ie., Iranian Revolution, Hungarian Revolt, Al-Queda, the Holocaust, the Armenian Genocide, etc.)?
- What is the role of the US as a world power and what have been the effects?
- How has globalization impacted the political balance of power, economies, and cultures.
- What is the impact of rapidly changing technology?
- What is the impact of population growth, rapid global industrialization, and technology on the environment?
- How has competition for resources and land led to conflict and movement of peoples which can alter the physical environment?
- What were the advances and challenges in Human Rights and social movements?
- What threat does terrorism pose to the world and what are some of the [ossible implications of the “war on terror”?