

PART I: GLOBAL HISTORY & GEOGRAPHY I

TOPIC: INTRODUCTION TO GLOBAL HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY

I. Social Scientists

A) The people who study the world in which humans live are known as social scientists. Below is a description of various social scientists and what it is that they study:

- 1) Historians- Study written records of past events.
- 2) Geographers- Study the Earth's surface and its impact on humans. Geographers often examine topography (physical land features), climate (weather), human migrations (movement), and the way in which humans adapt to (learn to live in) different environments. Geographers will often examine two types of maps:
 - a) Political Maps- Show countries, their borders, and capital cities.
 - b) Physical Maps- Show topography (land features such as mountains, rivers, deserts, lakes, etc.).
- 3) Economists- Study how societies use available resources. They often ask and try to answer the following 3 questions about civilizations: What goods and services are produced? How are goods and services produced? How are goods and services distributed?
- 4) Anthropologists- Study past and present human cultures. Archaeologists are a type of anthropologist. They examine the culture of past human societies through analysis of physical remains (artifacts).

II. Historical Sources

A) Historians are concerned with the examination of written records from the past. There are two types of sources that historians study:

- 1) Primary Source- A firsthand record of a historical event created by an eyewitness who actually experienced the event (Examples- Diaries, photographs, artifacts, autobiographies).
- 2) Secondary Source- A secondhand record of a historical event created by a person who did NOT actually experience the event (Examples- Textbooks, encyclopedias, biographies).

TOPIC: THE NEOLITHIC AGE (NEOLITHIC REVOLUTION)

I. Neolithic Age (8000-3000 BC)

A) Also called the "New Stone Age."

B) Key developments of this period:

- 1) Humans first discovered how to perform agriculture (farm) and domesticate (raise) animals for food and drink.
- 2) Humans switched from being nomads (people who wander from place to place hunting and gathering for food) to being settled farmers who lived in permanent villages.
- 3) Farming created a steady food supply (called a food surplus).
- 4) The permanent villages created during the Neolithic Age eventually turned into civilizations (SEE NEXT TOPIC BELOW).
- 5) The development of farming during this period was so important for humans that it is often called the "Neolithic Revolution."

TOPIC: ANCIENT CIVILIZATIONS

I. Civilization

- A) A civilization is a complex and highly organized society that includes a government, social classes, job specialization, a food surplus, writing, and religious beliefs.
- B) Civilizations developed soon after humans discovered farming and settled down in permanent villages during the Neolithic Age.
- C) The first civilizations developed around 3000 B.C. in areas of land known as river valleys (low areas of land next to rivers). The reason civilizations developed in river valleys is because these areas had favorable geography:
 - 1) The flooding of rivers deposited silt on nearby lands that created fertile soil for farming.
 - 2) People irrigated (watered) their crops with water from the nearby rivers.
 - 3) Rivers provided a source of transportation.
- D) Early river valley civilizations developed around the following rivers: The Nile River in Egypt, the Tigris River and Euphrates River in the Middle East, the Indus River in India, and the Yellow River and Yangtze River in China (SEE BELOW FOR MORE INFO ON THESE CIVILIZATIONS).

II. Ancient River Valley Civilizations (c. 3000 – 1000 B.C.)

- A) Egypt
 - 1) Location: Northeastern Africa
 - 2) Major River: Nile River
 - 3) Characteristics and achievements:
 - a) Developed hieroglyphics- Writing using picture symbols.
 - b) Constructed pyramids- Massive structures used to bury Egyptian Pharaohs (kings).
- B) Mesopotamia (Sumer)
 - 1) Location: Middle East
 - 2) Major Rivers: Tigris River and Euphrates River
 - 3) Characteristics and achievements:
 - a) Developed cuneiform- Writing system using wedge-shaped symbols.
 - b) Code of Hammurabi- Oldest written set of laws in the world that is known for its strict (harsh) punishments of crimes (i.e.- "an eye for an eye").
- C) Harappan Civilization
 - 1) Location: India
 - 2) Major River: Indus River
 - 3) Achievements: The urban (city) areas of Harappan civilization were organized and well-planned.
 - 4) **NOTE**: Early societies in India (and areas of Southeast Asia) were very affected by seasonal monsoons- Winds that brought rain needed to farm (but too much rain caused dangerous flooding).
- D) China
 - 1) Major Rivers- Yellow (Huang He) River and Yangtze River
 - 2) Early Chinese societies were very isolated from other civilizations because China is surrounded by natural boundaries (i.e.- mountains and deserts).
- E) Common Features- Many ancient societies had important traits in common:
 - 1) They existed in river valley regions.
 - 2) They were all polytheistic- People believed in many gods associated with nature (i.e.- Sun God, Rain God, Wind God, etc).
 - 3) They often had traditional economic systems with the following characteristics:
 - a) Barter- Trade without using money.
 - b) Subsistence agriculture- Farming in which the crops are used only to feed the farmer and his family. Food is not usually sold for a profit.
 - c) People have the same occupation (job) as their parents (usually related to farming/agriculture).

TOPIC: CLASSICAL CIVILIZATIONS

I. Introduction to Classical Civilizations

- A) Classical civilizations are the societies that were more advanced and more recent than the ancient civilizations discussed in the previous section.
- B) Most classical civilizations had a Golden Age- A period of great achievements in art, literature, math, and science.
- C) Below is a brief outline regarding the classical civilizations that the Regents would like you to know.

II. Classical Civilizations (c. 1000 BC-500 AD)

A) Greece

- 1) Located on a peninsula with an irregular coastline in southeastern Europe.
- 2) Because Greece has a very mountainous geography, it was not one united civilization. Instead, Greece was divided into many independent (separate) city-states. Each city-state (or polis) had its own government and land. The two most famous city-states were Athens and Sparta. They were very different societies.
- 3) Sparta
 - a) A military society where men spent almost all of their lives training for warfare.
 - b) People in Sparta had very little freedom.
- 4) Athens
 - a) Athens is known for having the first democracy in the world. A democracy is a form of government in which people can vote. Athens had a direct democracy, which means that all citizens (adult males born in Athens) were able to vote on laws.
 - b) Unlike Sparta, which focused mainly on war, Athens focused heavily on culture and is known for its philosophers (Socrates, Aristotle, Plato) and writers (such as Homer).
- 5) Religion
 - a) The people of ancient Greece were polytheistic (believed in many nature gods).
 - b) The Olympic Games were held every 4 years in Greece to honor their god, Zeus.
- 6) Alexander the Great
 - a) Famous leader who conquered Greece, Egypt, Persia (Iran), and part of India.
 - b) Hellenistic culture- Alexander spread Greek (Hellenic) culture to all of the areas that he conquered. The word Hellenistic is used to describe the mixture of Greek, Egyptian, Persian, and Indian culture that took place in the areas that Alexander conquered.

B) Rome

- 1) Located on the peninsula of Italy.
- 2) Rome began as a small city-state but eventually created a large empire by conquering the regions that surrounded the Mediterranean Sea (i.e.- Western Europe, coast of Northern Africa, Greece, Anatolia, and Western Asia).
- 3) Key Features and Achievements of the Roman Empire:
 - a) Trade and Transportation Networks- The Romans were able to unite the areas of their empire and grow wealthy from trade because of the roads they built on land and because the Mediterranean Sea connected areas within their empire.
 - b) Twelve Tables of Rome- Written set of laws that stated the rules of behavior for members of Roman society. Although the laws favored the wealthy, these laws created stability (order) since they were displayed in public for all to see.
 - c) Ideas about Law- Romans developed important legal ideas that we still use today (such as “innocent until proven guilty”).
 - d) Pax Romana- Means “Roman Peace.” This was the 200-year Golden Age of Rome in which there was extensive trade and great achievements in art, literature, math, and science.

C) India

- 1) During the classical period, India was ruled by two successful dynasties (families of rulers): The Maurya Dynasty and the Gupta Dynasty.
- 2) Maurya Dynasty
 - a) Asoka- Famous ruler of India who wrote the laws of India on tall rock pillars (columns) that were displayed throughout India. Asoka converted to Buddhism during his reign and is known for his kind treatment of people and animals.
- 3) Gupta Dynasty
 - a) The Gupta Dynasty is considered the Golden Age of India since there were many achievements in art, literature, math, and science. Some of the achievements include the invention of zero in mathematics, the development of Sanskrit writing, and beautiful Buddhist paintings.
- 4) Caste System
 - a) The caste system was the social hierarchy of India in which people were born into a social class (called a caste) and remained in that class for the remainder of their lives. The four main castes were Brahmins (priests), Kshatriyas (warriors), Vaisyas (merchants and artisans), and Sudras (laborers). The lowest group included people who were known as Untouchables (they had the worst jobs).
 - b) Since people could not move up or down in the caste system, it provided order and structure to society.
 - c) The caste system is closely associated with the Hindu religion (DISCUSSED IN THE NEXT SECTION OF THIS PACKET).

D) China

- 1) During the classical period, China was also ruled by two main dynasties (families of rulers): The Qin Dynasty and the Han Dynasty.
- 2) Qin Dynasty
 - a) Lasted only 15 years.
 - b) Qin rulers based their government on the philosophy of Legalism- Believes that humans are evil and that harsh punishments are needed to keep order in society.
 - c) **NOTE:** Legalism was similar to the Code of Hammurabi in ancient Mesopotamia since both noted that harsh punishments were necessary in society.
- 3) Han Dynasty
 - a) Lasted 400 years.
 - b) Key Features and Achievements:
 - 1) Trade and Transportation Networks- As with the Roman Empire, the Han Dynasty grew wealthy through trade because of the system of roads that was developed throughout the region.
 - 2) Civil Service System- System in which government positions were given only to skilled people who passed difficult exams. The Chinese were the first to use this kind of system.

E) Silk Road

- 1) The Silk Road was a long trade route that extended about 4,000 miles from China in the East to the Mediterranean Sea in the West. The Silk Road connected the different classical civilizations (and later civilizations as well).
- 2) Cultural Diffusion- Cultural diffusion is the exchange of goods and ideas between societies. The Silk Road led the exchange of many products (like Silk) and religious ideas (like Buddhism) between civilizations.

TOPIC: WORLD RELIGIONS AND PHILOSOPHIES

I. The Monotheistic Religions

A) Monotheism

- 1) Monotheistic religions believe in only one God.
- 2) The 3 main monotheistic religions are Judaism, Islam, and Christianity.

B) Codes of Conduct (Behavior)- All 3 monotheistic religions have codes of behavior issued by God that state the religious and moral/ethical obligations (duties) of followers:

Ten Commandments- Code of behavior for Jews and Christians (i.e.- Do not kill, do not steal, do not worship false gods, etc.).

- 1) Five Pillars- Code of behavior for Muslims (i.e.- Make a pilgrimage to Mecca, pray five times daily, etc.).

II. Religions and Philosophies of India

A) Hinduism

- 1) Reincarnation- The idea that after humans die, their souls are reborn into another body. Hindus believe that humans go through many rounds of reincarnation (death and rebirth).
- 2) Karma- Karma refers to all of the good and bad deeds that one does during their lifetime. Those who do good deeds develop good karma and are reborn at a higher level in the next life. Those who do bad deeds develop bad karma and are reborn at a lower level in the next life. Hindus follow the Caste System (SEE PREVIOUS SECTION ON INDIA) and believe that the social class that they are born into in this life is based on the karma they developed in a previous life.
- 3) The goal of Hindus is to achieve Moksha- Ending reincarnation and stopping the cycle of death and rebirth.

B) Buddhism

- 1) Buddhism was founded by Siddhartha Gautama (also called the Buddha).
- 2) Buddhism is very similar to Hinduism. Both religions believe in Reincarnation and Karma.
- 3) The goal of Buddhists is to achieve Nirvana- Ending reincarnation and stopping the cycle of death and rebirth (similar to Hindu concept of Moksha).
- 4) Buddhists believe that Nirvana can be achieved when people accept the Four Noble Truths (the idea that all of life is suffering and that suffering is caused by our selfish desires). People must work to end suffering and desire by following the Eightfold Path (a code of behavior for Buddhists that requires them to resist evil, act in a kind manner, meditate, etc.).

III. Philosophies of China

A) Legalism

- 1) Philosophy based on the idea that humans are evil and that harsh punishments are needed in order to prevent crime and keep order in society.

B) Confucianism

- 1) Major philosophy of China. It's main teachings include:
 - a) The Five Relationships- The idea that every single person has specific roles and obligations that must be followed in order to keep order and stability (calmness) in society. For example, subjects must obey their ruler, wives must obey their husbands, and children must obey their parents.
 - b) Filial Piety- The idea that people must honor and respect the elders of their family (i.e.- children must be loyal and obedient to their parents).

IV. Nature Religions

- A) Nature religions believe that both living and non-living things in nature (i.e.- trees, mountains, rivers, rain, rocks, animals, etc.) have a spirit.
- B) **NOTE:** The two most common nature religions are Shinto (practiced in Japan) and Animism (practiced in Africa). The Regents wants you to know that both religions believe in nature spirits.

TOPIC: BYZANTINE EMPIRE

I. Byzantine Empire (c. 500-1453 AD)

- A) After the western area of the Roman Empire was conquered by invading Germanic tribes in the year 476 AD, the eastern portion of the Roman Empire survived and became known as the Byzantine Empire.
- B) Key features and achievements of the Byzantine Empire:
- 1) The people of the Byzantine Empire were mainly Greek in language and culture.
 - 2) Constantinople- The capital city of the Byzantine Empire. It was a great location for trade because it was located along major waterways and it was a crossroads of (link between) Europe and Asia.
 - 3) Eastern Orthodox Religion- This was the branch of Christianity that was practiced by the people of the Byzantine Empire (the Hagia Sophia was a famous church in Constantinople).
 - 4) Justinian Code- Written system of laws created by Emperor Justinian that was later adopted by various European civilizations. It was largely based on laws of the Roman Empire).
 - 5) Preservation of Greek and Roman Culture- The Byzantines preserved (saved) and passed on important texts created by the Greeks and Romans.
- C) Cultural Diffusion- The Byzantine Empire had a major influence on the neighboring civilization of Russia. Through contact with the Byzantine Empire, Russia received:
- 1) The Eastern Orthodox Religion (which is still practiced in Russia today)
 - 2) The Cyrillic Alphabet (writing system still used in Russia today)

TOPIC: LEGAL SYSTEMS OF THE ANCIENT AND CLASSICAL WORLDS

I. Legal Systems

- A) So far, a number of different legal systems have been discussed in this review packet. The 3 main ones include:
- 1) Code of Hammurabi- Written set of laws used in ancient Mesopotamia. It is known for its harsh punishment of crimes (i.e.- “an eye for an eye”).
 - 2) Twelve Tables of Rome- Written set of laws used in Roman Empire. Laws favored the wealthy.
 - 3) Justinian Code- Written set of laws used in the Byzantine Empire. It was based on old Roman laws and was later adopted by many countries in Europe.
- B) **NOTE:** The Regents wants you to know the following about these 3 legal systems:
- 1) They are all standardized (written) sets of laws.
 - 2) They each concern the relationship between the state (government) and the individual.
 - 3) They all helped create stability (a calm and orderly society) since people were able to learn what the laws were.

TOPIC: THE GOLDEN AGE OF ISLAM

I. Islam (ALSO DISCUSSED EARLIER IN PACKET)

- A) Monotheistic religion that believes in one God (called Allah).
- B) Followers of Islam are called Muslims.
- C) Koran (Qu’ran)- The Holy Book of Islam.
- D) Five Pillars- Religious and moral/ethical duties and obligations that are required of all Muslims (i.e.- Make a pilgrimage to Mecca, pray five times daily, etc.).
- E) Muhammad (lived 570-632 AD)
- 1) The founder of Islam who was born in Mecca (the holiest city of Islam).
 - 2) He is believed by Muslims to be the last of God’s prophets (messengers to the people).

II. Golden Age of Islam (c. 700-1200 AD)

- A) After Muhammad- Shortly after the death of Muhammad, Muslim armies swept out of the Arabian peninsula and conquered vast areas of land that included much of the Middle East, the northern coast of Africa, and even southern Spain.
- B) During this period, the Islamic (or Muslim) world experienced a Golden Age- There were amazing achievements in math, science, medicine, philosophy, and art. Some of the key achievements of this period include:
 - 1) The creation of medical encyclopedias.
 - 2) Improvements in math (especially algebra).
 - 3) Artwork that included calligraphy (beautiful writing), woolen carpets, and textiles.

TOPIC: THE MIDDLE AGES

I. Introduction to the Middle Ages (400-1400 AD)

- A) The Middle Ages is the period of time in Europe after the collapse of the Roman Empire and before the Renaissance.
- B) Feudalism
 - 1) Political system of the Middle Ages in which kings throughout Europe gave land away to nobles in return for their loyalty and military service.
 - 2) Nobles that received land from the king had to serve as knights (warriors on horseback) and fight when necessary. Knights had to follow chivalry (a code of behavior that stressed loyalty and bravery).
 - 3) Feudalism is considered to be a decentralized political system because kings gave away much of their power to nobles, who each controlled their own local areas.
 - 4) In the feudal system, land was the basis of wealth and power. Those with more land were considered to be more wealthy and powerful.
 - 5) Feudalism brought social stability, order, and structure to the Middle Ages.
- C) Manorialism
 - 1) During the Middle Ages, most people lived on manors (areas of land owned by a noble).
 - 2) Each manor had homes, farmland, artisans, water, and serfs (peasants that could not leave the land and who performed farm labor for the noble).
 - 3) Since each manor was mostly self-sufficient (provided for its own needs), trade decreased during the Middle Ages.
- D) Religion- During the Middle Ages, the Roman Catholic Church (especially the Pope) was very wealthy and influential in Western Europe.

II. Crusades (1100-1300)

- A) The Crusades were the religious wars of the Middle Ages in which Christians from Europe fought to regain control of the Holy Land from Muslims. The Holy Land is a sacred area of the Middle East that includes the city of Jerusalem.
- B) Causes of (reasons for) the Crusades:
 - 1) European Christians believed they would be forgiven for their sins if they fought for God.
 - 2) European Christians believed the Holy Land should not be controlled by Muslims.
 - 3) Many poor Europeans wanted to escape from feudalism.
 - 4) Many Europeans hoped to gain wealth from the Middle East.
- C) Effects (results) of the Crusades:
 - 1) After years of fighting, trade between Europe and the Middle East increased (Italian cities such as Venice gained control over much of this trade since they had a central location in the Mediterranean Sea).
 - 2) Europeans learned about the many achievements that Muslims had made during their Golden Age (i.e.- achievements in math, science, medicine, philosophy, and art).
 - 3) Feudalism in Europe began to decline as many nobles had been killed and many serfs had escaped.

TOPIC: GOLDEN AGE OF CHINA (THE TANG AND SONG DYNASTIES)

I. Golden Age of China: The Tang and Song Dynasties (600s-1200s)

- A) The Golden Age of China took place during the Tang and Song Dynasties. Like all Golden Ages, this was a period of tremendous achievements in the arts, science, math, and literature.
- B) Key achievements of the Tang and Song Dynasties:
- 1) The Chinese invented gunpowder (which was later adopted by civilizations in Europe and the Middle East).
 - 2) The Chinese invented the compass (which improved sailing/navigation by sea).
 - 3) The Chinese invented block printing (a method of printing in which ink is placed on carved wooden blocks that are pressed onto paper).
 - 4) The Chinese created works of art using porcelain (beautiful clay).
- C) Other key facts about the Tang and Song Dynasties:
- 1) The Chinese conducted long distance trade with other civilizations on land (using the Silk Road) and by sea (from their coastal port city of Canton).
 - 2) Cultural Diffusion- Buddhism became popular in China during this period as the ideas of this religion entered China due to trade using the Silk Road.
 - 3) The Chinese continued to use civil service exams to select highly qualified people to work in their government.

TOPIC: EARLY JAPANESE HISTORY

I. Geography

- A) Japan is located in East Asia and is considered to be an archipelago- A country that consists of a group of islands (Japan is made up of 4 main islands)
- B) Japan has a long and irregular (unsmooth/rough) coastline
- C) Japan is made up mostly of mountains, which has made farming difficult.
- 1) Terrace Farming- In order to farm in the mountains, the Japanese had to dig and carve flat areas (called terraces) into the sides of mountains. **NOTE:** The Inca of Peru (in South America) used the same technique.

II. Religion

- A) Shinto is the religion of Japan. It is a religion (similar to Animism in Africa) that believes all living and non-living things in nature (such as trees, mountains, rivers, animals, etc.) have a spirit.
- B) Later in Japan's history, Buddhism became popular as well. Today, most Japanese practice both Shinto and Buddhism.

III. Influence of China on Japan

- A) Cultural Diffusion- Early Japan was GREATLY influenced by contact with the neighboring Asian civilization of China. Through contact with China, Japan received many important things:
- 1) Writing- Japan's first form of writing was influenced by Chinese writing.
 - 2) Buddhism- The Japanese learned about the Buddhist religion from the Chinese.
 - 3) Tea- The Japanese first learned how to cultivate (grow) tea from the Chinese.

IV. Japanese Feudalism

- A) Similar to Europe during the Middle Ages, Japan developed a system of feudalism early in its history. The feudal system worked like this:
- 1) Emperor and Shogun (military general)- They were the rulers of Japan.
 - 2) Daimyo- They were the wealthy nobles who were given land by the emperor and Shogun in return for loyalty and military service.
 - 3) Samurai- They were the warriors of Japanese society. They pledged loyalty to the Daimyo and had to fight when necessary. The samurai had a code of behavior called Bushido (which required the samurai to be loyal to the Daimyo and to fight bravely in battle).

- B) **NOTE:** Japanese feudalism was very similar to European feudalism:
- 1) Japanese samurai and European knights both followed a code of behavior. Bushido was the code of the Samurai and Chivalry was the code of the knights. Both codes emphasized loyalty and bravery.
 - 2) Japanese and European feudalism were both decentralized, which means that power was given to many different local leaders instead of being concentrated in the hands of a single ruler.
 - 3) Because people in each society had a clear role to follow, feudalism brought structure, order, and stability (calmness) to society.

TOPIC: AFRICAN CIVILIZATIONS

I. Introduction to Africa

A) Geography

- 1) Africa has a very diverse (varied) geography that includes deserts (i.e.- the Sahara Desert), savanna (grasslands), and rainforests.
- 2) Due to its many geographic features, Africa is a very diverse continent with many different cultures. No two societies are alike.
- 3) **NOTE:** Africa is currently having problems with desertification (the spreading of desert lands). The Sahara continues to grow, which reduces the amount of available farmland.

B) Religion

- 1) Animism is the traditional religion that is native to (began in) Africa. It is a religion (similar to Shinto in Japan) that believes all living and non-living things in nature (such as trees, mountains, rivers, animals, etc.) have a spirit.

C) Bantu Migrations (500 BC- 1500 AD)

- 1) This is one of the largest migrations (movements) of people in history.
- 2) Due to a shortage of land, the Bantu People scattered throughout southern Africa over the course of 2,000 years.
- 3) Major effects (results) of the migration- As the Bantu people moved, they spread 3 things:
 - a) The Bantu language
 - b) Iron technology
 - c) Agricultural (farming) techniques

II. West African Civilizations (300-1400s)

A) Three of Africa's greatest civilizations all developed in West Africa. They are:

- 1) Ghana
- 2) Mali
- 3) Songhai

B) Mansa Musa- He was the most famous ruler of Mali. He is important for several reasons:

- 1) He was a devoted Muslim who helped spread Islam in West Africa.
- 2) He made a pilgrimage to Mecca in Saudi Arabia.
- 3) He turned the city of Timbuktu into a center of trade and Islamic learning.

C) **NOTE:** Ghana, Mali, and Songhai all grew very wealthy for the same reason: They were located along the Trans-Saharan trade routes and participated in the Gold-Salt trade (i.e.- they traded their gold for the salt that they needed to survive).

TOPIC: THE MONGOLS

I. The Mongols (1100s-1400s)

A) Introduction

- 1) The Mongol people originated on the steppes (grassy plains) of Central Asia.
- 2) The Mongols lived in a harsh physical environment and survived as nomadic pastoralists- They raised animals and migrated frequently in search of grazing lands for their animals.

- B) Empire
- 1) Under the skilled military leadership of Genghis Khan, the Mongols conquered so much land that they established the LARGEST EMPIRE in all of history.
 - 2) At its height, the Mongol empire included China, Central Asia, Russia, and much of the Middle East
- C) Marco Polo
- 1) Marco Polo was an Italian merchant who visited the Mongols in China and remained there for almost 20 years.
 - 2) After returning to Italy, Marco wrote down extensive information about his experiences in China with the Mongols.
 - 3) **NOTE:** The writings of Marco Polo are important for several reasons:
 - a) They are valuable primary sources that teach us about China during this period.
 - b) They increased the desire of Europeans to trade with China to obtain valuable goods.
- D) The Mongols are important for several reasons:
- 1) Trade and travel between Europe and Asia increased TREMENDOUSLY during Mongol rule since the Mongols kept peace and prevented violence along trade routes (like the Silk Road).
 - 2) Influence on Russia
 - a) After they conquered Russia, the Mongols kept Russia isolated (removed) from developments that were taking place in Western Europe.
 - b) The Mongols taught the Russians how to have a centralized government- A strong government with one ruler in firm control.
 - 3) The Mongols were the first foreign group to completely conquer China.
 - 4) The Mongols developed a tribute system- Areas taken over by the Mongols were required to give the Mongols money each year.

THE TRANSFORMATION OF WESTERN EUROPE

I. The Black Death (1347-1351)

- A) The Black Death refers to the major disease (called bubonic plague) that killed 25 million people in Europe (almost 1/3 of the population) during the late Middle Ages.
- C) The disease started in East Asia (maybe China) and spread to Europe over trade routes such as the Silk Road. The interaction of different groups of people helped spread the disease.
- C) Major effects (results) of the Black Death:
- 1) Depopulation- The population of Europe decreased from 85 million to 60 million.
 - 2) Feudalism continued to decline as serfs fled from manors for better opportunities.
 - 3) Trade temporarily decreased.

II. The Renaissance (1400-1600)

- A) The Renaissance was the Golden Age of Western Europe. The Renaissance had the following characteristics:
- 1) Like all Golden Ages, there were amazing achievements in the arts, literature, and science.
 - 2) Renaissance scholars studied art and books from ancient Greece and Rome.
 - 3) Humanism- There was a focus on humans and life on earth instead of on God and Heaven.
- B) The Renaissance began in Italy because:
- 1) The Italian city-states (like Venice and Florence) had great economies. These areas controlled Mediterranean trade and grew very wealthy. Much of this wealth was used to support artists.
- C) Famous artists of the Renaissance include Donatello, Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo, and Raphael
- D) Niccolo Machiavelli- Famous author of the Renaissance who wrote a book called "The Prince," which is a guide for government leaders. Key ideas of this book include:

- 1) Rulers must have absolute power and do whatever is necessary to stay in power (even if that means dishonest and cruel behavior).
- 2) “The end justifies the means”- Leaders must do whatever is necessary to help their nation.

III. The Protestant Reformation (1500s)

- A) The Protestant Reformation was the religious revolution that challenged the Catholic Church and led to the further division of Christianity.
- B) Causes of (reasons for) the Protestant Reformation:
 - 1) Europeans were angry that the Catholic Church was too concerned with worldly issues (i.e.- money and power).
 - 2) Europeans were angry about indulgences- Reductions in punishment that were sold by the Catholic Church.
- C) Key leaders of the Protestant Reformation:
 - 1) Martin Luther- German monk who created the 95 Thesis, which were 95 arguments against the sale of indulgences.
 - 2) Henry VIII- King of England who separated from the Catholic Church because he wanted a divorce from his wife and the Catholic Church would not allow it.
 - 3) John Calvin- Swiss reformer who believed in predestination, which is the idea that God already knows who will be punished and who will be saved (i.e.- sent to Heaven).
- D) Effects (results) of the Protestant Reformation:
 - 1) The power of the Catholic Church (and the Pope) decreased.
 - 2) The power of monarchs (kings) increased since they gained power over religion.
 - 3) Religious unity in Europe came to an end- Before the Protestant Reformation, almost everyone in Western Europe was Catholic. Now there were large numbers of Protestants too.

IV. The Printing Press

- A) Invented by Johannes Gutenberg.
- B) The printing press was important for several reasons:
 - 1) It helped spread new ideas quickly.
 - 2) It helped spread the Protestant Reformation since people like Martin Luther were able to print copies of their writings for others to read.
 - 3) It increased literacy (the ability of people to read and write) since books were now easier and cheaper to obtain.

TOPIC: PRE-COLUMBIAN CIVILIZATIONS OF THE AMERICAS

I. Pre-Columbian Civilizations (c. 300-1500s AD)

- A) Introduction
 - 1) The pre-Columbian civilizations are the societies that developed in the Americas before the arrival of the Europeans.
 - 2) The 3 main pre-Columbian societies were the Maya, the Aztec, and the Inca. They were all very organized, developed, and advanced civilizations.
- B) The Maya
 - 1) They lived in the lowland region of Mesoamerica (Mexico and Central America).
 - 2) Achievements:
 - a) They developed a calendar and a form of writing.
 - b) Math- They invented the use of zero in math (like the Gupta of India).
- C) The Aztec
 - 1) They lived in Mesoamerica (Mexico) and established a large empire.
 - 2) Tenochtitlan- Capital city of the Aztec Empire.
 - 3) Achievements:
 - a) They used a calendar and a form of writing.

b) Chinampas- These were “floating gardens” that the Aztecs built in lakes in order to farm since there was a shortage of fertile land.

D) The Inca

1) They lived in the Andes Mountains of Peru (in South America) and established a large empire.

2) Machu Picchu- Most famous site of the Inca.

3) Achievements:

a) **NOTE:** In order to improve trade and transportation, the Inca developed a vast large network of roads (like the Romans) and footbridges in the Andes Mountains.

b) Terrace Farming- Since the Inca lived in the mountains, they learned to farm by cutting flat areas (called terraces) into the sides of mountains. **NOTE:** The Japanese used a similar technique in order to farm.

E) **NOTE:** The Regents wants you to know that both the Aztecs and the Inca used creative agricultural techniques (chinampas and terrace farming) in order to adapt to their geographic environments.

F) The Aztecs and the Inca were both conquered by the Spanish when they arrived in the 1500s:

1) The Aztecs- Conquered by Hernan Cortez in 1521.

2) The Inca- Conquered by Francisco Pizarro in 1532.

TOPIC: THE AGE OF EXPLORATION AND ENCOUNTER

I. Introduction

A) The Age of Exploration and Encounter was the period in history when the Europeans began sea voyages of exploration. During this period, Europeans reached the Americas and began to colonize (take over) areas in the Americas, Africa, and Asia.

B) The two European countries that first began voyages of exploration were Spain and Portugal.

II. The Age of Exploration and Discovery (1400s-1600s)

A) Causes of (reasons for) the Age of Exploration:

1) Europeans wanted greater access to the spices and other products of Asia.

2) Europeans wanted to find sea routes to Asia since land routes were controlled by Muslims.

3) Improvements in navigational (sailing) technology made long sea voyages possible. These improvements include the compass and astrolabe, cartography (the science of making maps), and the lateen sail for ships.

B) Key Explorers include:

1) Bartholomeu Dias- First explorer to round the Cape of Good Hope (southern tip of Africa).

2) Vasco da Gama- First explorer to reach India by going around Cape of Good Hope.

3) Christopher Columbus- First explorer to reach the Americas.

4) Ferdinand Magellan- First explorer to circumnavigate (sail around) the globe.

C) Effects (results) of the Age of Exploration:

1) The Americas

a) The Spanish and Portuguese colonized (took over) land in the Americas. Lands controlled by the Spanish and Portuguese were called colonies.

b) Encomienda System- A labor system in which the Native Americans were forced to work on Spanish farming plantations (growing sugar) and in Spanish mines (getting gold and silver). Spanish landowners had total control over the Native Americans.

c) Millions of Native Americans died due to the diseases (such as smallpox) brought over by the Europeans.

2) Africa

a) Europeans took slaves from Africa to the Americas to work on farming plantations.

b) The voyage of slaves from Africa to the Americas was called the Middle Passage.

3) Mercantilism

a) Mercantilism is the idea that colonies exist only to make the Mother Country (i.e.- Spain and Portugal) wealthy.

b) Spain and Portugal tightly controlled trade with their colonies in the Americas in order to make money. Europeans would take raw materials (like cotton) from their American colonies and sell finished products (like clothing) back to the colonies.

4) Triangular Trade- This was the trade route taken by Europeans in the Atlantic Ocean. Europeans traveled to Africa to get slaves, brought the slaves to their colonies in the Americas, and then returned to Europe with goods from the Americas.

5) Columbian Exchange- This is the term used to describe the exchange of people, plants, animals, ideas and technology between the “Old World” (Europe) and the “New World” (North and South America) that took place as a result of exploration and colonization.

a) Items sent from Europe to the Americas include: Wheat, sugar, bananas, horses, chickens and diseases (like smallpox and measles).

b) Items sent from the Americas to Europe include: Maize (corn), potatoes, beans, squash, chili peppers, cocoa, and tobacco.

c) The Columbian Exchange is the ultimate example of cultural diffusion (the exchange of goods and ideas between civilizations).

III. Commercial Revolution (1500s-1600s)

A) The term Commercial Revolution refers to the new forms of business that were introduced during the Age of Exploration. These new forms of business included:

- 1) Joint-stock companies- Investors would combine money to help pay for trading projects.
- 2) The expansion (growth) of banking.
- 3) Capitalism- Form of business in which profits from one project are reinvested in other projects in order to make more money.

TOPIC: THE TRAVELERS OF GLOBAL I

I. The Travelers of Global I

A) The Regents likes to ask questions about 3 men who each traveled thousands of miles. They are:

- 1) Marco Polo- Italian merchant who traveled to China (over the Silk Road) when it was ruled by the Mongols.
- 2) Ibn Battuta- Arab/Muslim explorer who traveled a total of 75,000 miles and visited lands in Africa, Asia, and Europe.
- 3) Zheng He- Chinese explorer of the Ming Dynasty who sailed the Indian and Pacific Oceans to lands that included Southeast Asia, India, the western coast of Africa.

B) **NOTE:** These three individuals are important for several reasons:

- 1) They wrote extensively about their travels. These writings are valuable primary sources that teach us about lands that they visited.
- 2) The contacts they made with other lands helped stimulate (increase) trade between different regions of the world.