

Middle School World History, Semester A

Course Overview

In Middle School World History, Semester A, you'll learn about major historical events that took place around the world. In the first unit, you will trace the development of early humans. You will also be introduced to the Neolithic Revolution. In the second unit, you will study the development of early civilizations of the Middle East and North Africa. In the third unit, you will analyze the development and characteristics of early civilizations of India and China. You'll also explore the origins and beliefs of Hinduism and Buddhism. In the last unit, you will learn about the later civilizations of the Mediterranean and the Middle East.

Course Goals

By the end of this course, you will be able to do the following:

- Analyze the development and characteristics of early humans.
- Examine the growth of early civilizations of the Middle East and North Africa.
- Analyze the development and characteristics of early civilizations of India and China.
- Analyze the development and characteristics of later civilizations of the Mediterranean and the Middle East.

General Skills

To participate in this course, you should be able to do the following:

- Complete basic operations with word processing software, such as Microsoft Word or Google Docs.
- Complete basic operations with presentation software, such as Microsoft PowerPoint or Google Docs presentation.
- Perform online research using various search engines and library databases.
- Communicate through email and participate in discussion boards.

For a complete list of general skills that are required for participation in online courses, refer to the Prerequisites section of the Student Orientation document, found at the beginning of this course.

Credit Value

Middle School World History, Semester A, is a 0.5-credit course.

Course Materials

- notebook
- pencil or pen
- computer with Internet connection and speakers or headphones
- Microsoft Word or equivalent
- Microsoft PowerPoint or equivalent

Some course readings may require a visit to your school library or public library.

Course Pacing Guide

This course description and pacing guide is intended to help you stay on schedule with your work. Note that your course instructor may modify the schedule to meet the specific needs of your class.

Unit 1: Early Humans

Summary

This unit focuses on the evolution of early humans. First, you'll evaluate the historical skills used to interpret the past. Next, you will analyze the development of early humans and societies. Then, you will examine the characteristics of the Neolithic Revolution.

Day	Activity/Objective	Type
1 day: 1	Syllabus and Student Orientation <i>Review the Student Orientation and Course Syllabus at the beginning of this course.</i>	Course Orientation
3 days: 2–4	Discovering the Ancient Past <i>Identify the skills that historians use to study the past.</i>	Lesson
4 days: 5–8	Early Humans <i>Trace the development of early humans and human societies.</i>	Lesson
4 days: 9–12	The Neolithic Revolution <i>Identify the characteristics of the Neolithic Revolution.</i>	Lesson
4 days: 13–16	Unit Activity and Discussion—Unit 1	Unit Activity/ Discussion

1 day: 17	Posttest—Unit 1	Assessment
--------------	------------------------	------------

Unit 2: Early Civilizations of the Middle East and North Africa

Summary

This unit focuses on the development of the early civilizations of the Middle East and North Africa. First, you will analyze the development and characteristics of the Sumer and early Mesopotamia civilizations. Next, you'll analyze the development of civilizations of Babylon, the Hittites, and Assyria. Finally, you will trace the development of civilizations in ancient Egypt.

Day	Activity/Objective	Type
4 days: 18–21	Sumer and the Fertile Crescent <i>Explain the development of the world's earliest civilization.</i>	Lesson
4 days: 22–25	The Empires of Mesopotamia <i>Describe the development of the later civilizations of Mesopotamia.</i>	Lesson
5 days: 26–30	Ancient Egypt: Geography and Old Kingdom <i>Trace the development of early civilization in Egypt.</i>	Lesson
5 days: 31–35	Ancient Egypt: Middle Kingdom and New Kingdom <i>Describe ancient Egypt during the Middle Kingdom and New Kingdom periods.</i>	Lesson
5 days: 36–40	Unit Activity and Discussion—Unit 2	Unit Activity/ Discussion
1 day: 41	Posttest—Unit 2	Assessment

Unit 3: Early Civilizations of India and China

Summary

This unit focuses on the growth of the early civilizations of India and China. First, you will analyze the development of early civilizations in the Indus Valley. Next, you will examine the development of civilization in China. Finally, you'll learn about the beliefs and development of Hinduism and Buddhism.

Day	Activity/Objective	Type
4 days: 42–45	Ancient India <i>Trace the development of civilization in the Indus Valley.</i>	Lesson
5 days: 46–50	Ancient China <i>Analyze the development of civilization in China.</i>	Lesson
4 days: 51–54	The Origins of Hinduism <i>Describe the origins and beliefs of Hinduism.</i>	Lesson
4 days: 55–58	The Origins of Buddhism <i>Analyze the development and beliefs of Buddhism.</i>	Lesson
5 days: 59–63	Unit Activity and Discussion—Unit 3	Unit Activity/ Discussion
1 day: 64	Posttest—Unit 3	Assessment

Unit 4: Later Civilizations of the Mediterranean and the Middle East

Summary

This unit focuses on the development of later civilizations of the Mediterranean and the Middle East. First, you will trace the origins and beliefs of ancient Hebrew culture. Next, you will analyze the development of the civilizations that grew in the Mediterranean and Aegean. You'll explain the significance of Athens and Sparta in the development of ancient Greece and trace the growth of the Persian Empire.

Day	Activity/Objective	Type
4 days: 65–68	Ancient Hebrews and Judaism <i>Describe the origins and beliefs of early Hebrew culture.</i>	Lesson
5 days: 69–73	Civilizations of the Mediterranean and the Aegean <i>Explain the lasting impact of civilizations that developed in the Mediterranean and Aegean regions.</i>	Lesson
5 days: 74–78	Athens and Sparta: The City-States of Greece <i>Describe the importance of Athens and Sparta to ancient Greece.</i>	Lesson
4 days 79–82	The Persian Empire <i>Describe the development and expansion of the Persian Empire.</i>	Lesson
5 days: 83–87	Unit Activity and Discussion—Unit 4	Unit Activity/ Discussion
1 day: 88	Posttest—Unit 4	Assessment
1 day 89	Semester Review	
1 day 90	End-of-Semester Test	Assessment