

A World Journey: Linking Past and Present

Unit 2 - Ancient Civilizations

Unit Description

In this unit, students will explore the rich histories of ancient civilizations from Africa, Latin America, and the Middle East. They will examine how geography influenced the development of societies, the role of government and religion, advancements in technology and trade, and the lasting legacies of these civilizations. Through engaging discussions, hands-on activities, and primary source analysis, students will gain a deeper understanding of how these ancient cultures shaped the world today.

Unit Essential Questions

1. How did geography shape the development of ancient civilizations in Africa, Latin America, and the Middle East?
2. How did governments and belief systems influence the daily lives of people in these regions?
3. What were the major achievements of these civilizations in areas such as science, technology, writing, and the arts?
4. How did trade and cultural exchange impact the growth of ancient societies?
5. What legacies from these civilizations can still be seen in the modern world?

Main Content Standards Covered in Unit

CCSS HIST 6–8.1

Use questions about historically significant people or events to explain the impact on a region.

CCSS CIV 6–7.1

Explain specific roles played by citizens (such as voters, jurors, taxpayers, members of the armed forces, petitioners, protesters, and officeholders).

CCSS CIV 6–7.3

Compare historical and contemporary means of changing societies and promoting the common good.

CCSS ECO 6–7.6

Explain barriers to trade and how those barriers influence trade among nations.

Books, Articles or Other Resources

Geography & Environment: Major rivers (Nile, Tigris-Euphrates, Amazon), deserts, mountains, and their impact on settlement and agriculture.

Government & Society: Pharaohs, city-states, empires, social hierarchies, and laws (e.g., Hammurabi's Code).

Religion & Mythology: Polytheism, temples, religious texts, afterlife beliefs (e.g., Egyptian pyramids, Mesoamerican rituals).

Achievements & Innovations: Writing systems (hieroglyphics, cuneiform, Mayan glyphs), architecture (ziggurats, pyramids, Machu Picchu), mathematics, and medicine.

Trade & Economy: Role of merchants, major trade routes, and goods exchanged (gold, salt, spices, textiles).

Cultural Diffusion & Legacy: Influence on modern languages, legal systems, and religious traditions.

Unit Assessments

<i>Assessment Name</i>	<i>Assessment Type</i>
Innovation/Achievement Tier List	Written response

Additional formative assessments may be used in this unit to provide practice opportunities and track progress. Formative assessments may include quizzes and learning activities. They may be graded towards the academic grade or may be counted towards the PRIDE (effort grade).

Unit PRIDE Score

PERSISTENCE:

- I push myself to evaluate and revise critical thinking questions to deepen my understanding of concepts.
- I take advantage of retake opportunities when applicable.

RESPECT:

- I actively listen to teachers and peers in whole class and group conversations.
- I contribute to a learning environment that encourages risk taking and valuable feedback to my peers.

INDEPENDENCE:

- I demonstrate established routines by having materials and being prepared when class begins.
- I take measures to make up missed work when I am going to be out or when I miss a class.

DISCIPLINE:

- I manage my time effectively in and outside of class to meet deadlines including homework and project due dates.
- I ensure that my Chromebook is charged and functional for each class day.

ENGAGEMENT:

- I am focused on tasks during independent and group work.
- I contribute ideas and work cooperatively with peers.