

Rockingham County Public Schools

World History to 1500 A. D. Benchmarks

A Guide for Parent Involvement

1st Nine Weeks

Historical research, geographical analysis; WHI.1

Human Origins & Early Civilizations, Prehistory to 1000 B.C.

Development of humankind from Paleolithic Era to agricultural revolution; WHI.2

- Impact of geographic environment on hunter – gatherer societies
- Characteristics of hunter-gatherer societies, including their use of tools
- Technological & social advancement
 - Rise of stable communities
- How archaeological discoveries change present-day knowledge of early peoples

Ancient river valley civilizations; WHI.3

- Mesopotamia, Egypt, Indus River Valley, China, Hebrews, Phoenicians, & Nubians
 - Location in time and place
 - Social, political, economic patterns
 - Slavery
 - Religious traditions
 - Origins, beliefs, traditions, customs
 - Spread of Judaism
 - Development of language and writing

Classical Civilizations & Rise of Religious Traditions, 1000 B.C. to 500 A.D.

Civilizations of Persia, India, and China in terms of chronology, geography, social structures, government, economy, religion, and contributions to later civilizations; WHI.4

- Persia, development of imperial bureaucracy
- India, Aryan migrations & caste system
- Origins, beliefs, traditions, customs & spread of Hinduism
- Origins, beliefs, traditions, customs & spread of Buddhism
- China, development of an empire & constructions of Great Wall
- Confucianism, Taoism, Buddhism, & Zoroastrianism

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2nd Nine Weeks

Ancient Greece in terms of its impact on Western civilization; WHI.5

- Influence of geography on Greek economic, social, and political development, including the impact of Greek commerce & colonies
- Greek mythology & religion
- Social structure & role of slavery
 - Citizenship & development of democracy, and comparing the city-states of Athens & Sparta
- Significance of Persian and Peloponnesian Wars
- Life in Athens during the Golden Age of Pericles
- Drama, poetry, history, sculpture, architecture, science, mathematics, and philosophy, with emphasis on Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle
- Conquest of Greece by Macedonia & formation & spread of Hellenistic culture by Alexander the Great

Ancient Rome from about 700 B.C. to 500 A.D. in terms of its impact on Western civilization; WHI.6

- influence of geography on Roman economic, social, and political development
- Roman mythology and religion
- Social structure and role of slavery
 - Citizenship, & development of democratic features in the government of the Roman Republic
- Events leading to Roman military domination of the Mediterranean basin and Western Europe and the spread of Roman culture in these areas
- Military conquests of the army, economy, and social structure of Rome
- Roles of Julius and Augustus Caesar in the collapse of the Republic and the rise of imperial monarchs
- Economic, social, and political impact of the Pax Romana
- Origin, beliefs, traditions, customs, and spread of Christianity
- Development and significance of the Church in the late Roman Empire
- Art and architecture, technology and science, medicine, literature and history, language, religious institutions, and law
- decline and fall of the Western Roman Empire

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3rd Nine Weeks

Postclassical Civilizations, 300 to 1000 A.D.

Byzantine Empire and Russia; WHI.7

- Constantinople as capital of Eastern Roman Empire
- Justinian's contributions
 - Codification of Roman law
 - Expansion of Byzantine Empire and economy
- Byzantine art, architecture, & preservation of Greek and Roman traditions
- Split between Roman Catholic Church & Greek Orthodox Church
- Byzantine influence and trade with Russia and Eastern Europe

Islamic civilization from about 600 to 1000 A.D.; WHI.8

- Origin, beliefs, traditions, customs, & spread of Islam
- Influence of geography on Islamic economic, social, and political development, including the impact of conquest and trade
- Turning points that affected the spread and influence of Islamic civilization, with emphasis on the Sunni-Shi'a division and the Battle of Tours
- Cultural and scientific contributions & achievements of Islamic civilization

Western Europe during the Middle Ages from about 500 to 1000 A.D.; WHI.9

- Spread and influence of Christianity and the Catholic Church throughout Europe
- Structure of feudal society and its economic, social, and political effects
- Rise of Frankish kings, Age of Charlemagne, & revival of the idea of the Roman Empire
- Invasions, settlements, and influence of migratory groups, including Angles, Saxons, Magyars, and Vikings

Regional Interactions, 1000 to 1500 A.D.

Empires of the Eastern Hemisphere and their interactions through regional trade patterns; WHI.10

- Location of major trade routes
- Technological advances and transfers, networks of economic interdependence, and cultural interactions
- Japan
 - Impact of Shinto and Buddhist traditions
 - Influence of Chinese culture
- east African kingdoms of Axum and Zimbabwe and west African civilizations of Ghana, Mali, and Songhai in terms of geography, society, economy, and religion

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4th Nine Weeks

Major civilizations of the Western Hemisphere, including the Mayan, Aztec, and Incan; WHI.11

- Geographic relationship, with emphasis on patterns of development in terms of climate and physical features
- Cultural patterns and political and economic structures

Social, economic, and political changes and cultural achievements in the late medieval period; WHI.12

- Conflicts among Eurasian powers, including the Crusades, the Mongol conquests, and the fall of Constantinople
- Patterns of crisis and recovery related to the Black Death (Bubonic Plague)
- Preservation and transfer to Western Europe of Greek, Roman, and Arabic philosophy, medicine, and science

Developments leading to the Renaissance in Europe in terms of its impact on Western civilization; WHI.13

- Economic foundations of the Italian Renaissance
- Rise of Italian city-states and their political development, including Machiavelli's theory of governing as described in *The Prince*
- Artistic, literary, and philosophical creativity, as contrasted with the medieval period, including Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo, and Petrarch
- Italian and the Northern Renaissance, and citing the contributions of writers

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** The numbers throughout the Benchmarks refer to the 2008 Virginia Social Studies Standards of Learning objectives. For example, "WHI.3" refers to the World History to 1500 SOL objective number "3"