

The Ancient Civilizations
Mr. Migonis
Room 13
2008-2009

Welcome to 7th grade! Your core teachers and I are very excited to have you here to begin the new year. We will be looking at a number of very diverse societies in history class this year under the heading of the Ancient Civilizations. Below I have outlined some classroom policies and the major units that we will be studying. As the year progresses, this information may need to be adjusted. Please read through this handout and keep it in a safe place throughout the year.

~Mr. Migonis

Homework:

Homework is given three to four nights a week. Assignments will range from reading, completing worksheets and drawings, to open response questions, observations and even watching the news. If you do not have your homework done on the date it is due, please plan on staying after school to finish it. Late assignments will be accepted up to one week after the due date. Arrangements will be made if you are sick for a period of time. Homework will be worth approximately 1/3 of your quarterly grade in Ancient Civilizations.

Projects:

You will have about one project for each quarter in Ancient Civilizations. Some projects will be individual and some will be group projects. Each project will outline a step by step process for completion. Projects will generally be worth one test grade.

Tests and Quizzes:

Each unit will have one to three tests depending on the length of the unit. I will prepare a review sheet for each test at least three days in advance so you can begin studying early. Quizzes will be given randomly or on a planned basis depending on the material. I usually do not give a review sheet for a quiz. Tests and quizzes will EACH be worth about 1/3 of your quarterly grade in Ancient Civilizations.

Classroom Rules:

Our classroom rules will follow the Middle School Community Guidelines. We will use the "Three Rs" for our class. The Rs are as follows:

Respect Yourself
Respect Others
Respect Our School

We will be discussing how these rules fit into our classroom and the broader Middle School Community in the first few weeks of class.

Discipline:

Students who make the choice to break a classroom rule will be given a verbal warning. If the student chooses to break the rule again during that class period or to break a different classroom rule, an after school Teacher Detention will be assigned and the student will be expected to serve the detention that day. If the discipline problem continues, an Office Detention will be assigned and the student will be expected to serve the detention on the next day office detention is held (Tuesday or Thursday).

Classroom Seating Chart:

A seating chart will be established in each class period. I will be making changes throughout the year as needed. Please see me after class if you have an issue with your assigned seat.

Supplies: You will need to have a section in your 7th grade binder or folder labeled "History" or "Ancient Civilizations." Please bring a pencil or a pen to EVERY class. You will also need a one-subject, spiral notebook to be kept in your binder.

Course Schedule:

Below you will see our schedule for the year. I have listed all the major questions we will seek to answer as we study each civilization. The time and assignments for each unit are a rough estimate and will be changed throughout the year.

I-Introduction: 1 Week

What does it mean to be "Ancient?"

What is a civilization?

What might an ideal civilization look like?

How do we learn about the past?

What types of sources do we have available to us to learn about the past?

II-Early Man: 2-3 Weeks (I Test, 2 quizzes)

Describe what the first humans looked like

Describe the lifestyles of the first humans

Where did the first humans settle and why?

Why is it important for us to study the first humans in history class?

III-Mesopotamia: 2 weeks (1 Test, 2 quizzes, Essay)

Where did the first cities develop and why?

Explain the relationship between the land and the people of Mesopotamia

Describe the advancements and major characteristics of the Mesopotamian societies

IV-Egypt: 2-3 Weeks (1 Test, 2 Quizzes, 1 Essay)

Compare and contrast lower and upper Egyptian societies

Describe Egypt's relationship with the Nile River

Describe a day in the life of an Egyptian man/woman

Identify major Egyptian achievements and assess their impact on people today

V-Israel: 4-5 Weeks (1 Test, 2-3 Quizzes, 1 Project, 1 Essay)

Describe the origins of Judaism and the Torah

Describe the origins of Christianity

Identify Abraham, Moses and the 10 Commandments and explain their significance to the development of Judaism and Christianity

Describe the early relationships between Jews and Christians

Trace foreign influence throughout the history of Israel

What are Israel and Palestine fighting over?

What groups are involved in these struggles?

How can these conflicts be traced to the events of the past?

Why is Israel an important component in the study of history?

VI-Greece: 9-10 Weeks (3 Tests, 5-6 Quizzes, 1 Project, 1 Essay)

What are the major geographic features of Greece?

How did geography influence the development of societies in Greece?

Describe the early Minoan and Mycenaean civilizations

What were the causes of the Trojan War? What were the results?

What forms of government developed in Ancient Greece?

What caused these governments to evolve from a Monarchy to a Democracy?

Describe the relationship between the Athenian and Spartan city-states

Describe a typical day in the life of an ancient Greek man/woman

Describe the role of mythology in Ancient Greek culture

Describe the role of the Olympics in Ancient Greek culture and compare its importance to cultures of today

What advancements in Ancient Greece are still in use today?

Why is Ancient Greece an important component in the study of history?

VII-Rome: 4-5 Weeks (1 Test, 2-3 Quizzes, 1 Project)

- What are the major geographic features of Rome?
- How did geography influence the development of societies in Rome?
- What role does legend play in the history of Rome?
- Describe the social structure of early Roman society
- What are the major events of the Punic Wars?
- How did Rome transition from a Republic to an Empire?
- Describe a typical day in the life of an Ancient Roman woman/man
- What advancements in Ancient Rome are still used today?
- Why is Ancient Rome an important component in the study of history

VIII-India: 5 Weeks (1 Test, 3 Quizzes, 1 Project, 1 Essay)

- What are the major geographic features of India?
- How did the geographic features influence the development of societies in India?
- What was the Mohenjo-Daro civilization and why is it significant?
- What religions developed and flourished in Ancient India?
- What advancements in Ancient India are still in use today?
- Why is Ancient India an important component in the study of history?

IX-China: 5-6 Weeks (2 Tests, 3-4 Quizzes, 1 Essay)

- What are the major geographic features of China?
- How did geographic features influence the development of societies in China?
- What are the different types of government that developed in Ancient China?
- How are these governments connected to the types of governments that formed in later Chinese societies?
- What major dynasties developed in Ancient China?
- How do the major dynasties of Ancient China compare with one another?
- Describe a typical day in the life of an ancient Chinese man/woman/
- What advancements in Ancient China are still in use today?
- Why is Ancient China an important component in the study of history?

X-Conclusion (culminating project TBA)

Your Experiences/Current Events:

We all have different experiences that we can pass along to one another. I believe that these experiences have tremendous value on many levels. I invite you to share items from home, pictures, and stories with the class whenever you have something relevant to our topic. These items play a key part in our study of the world around us. In addition, we will be incorporating a discussion of current events into the class. At different points during the year, you will be required to submit reports on current events that you have gathered. We will talk more about this as class goes on.

Please sign:

Please sign on the line below to show that both you and your parents have read the guidelines for Ancient Civilizations 7.

I have read and understand these guidelines for Ancient Civilizations 7.

your signature

your parent's signature