

Mexico Middle School
Ancient Civilizations – Essential Skills

Geography and Map Skills Unit

- Locate coordinates (latitude and longitude)
- Understand the concept of Location (absolute and relative)
- Understand and apply the 5 Themes of Geography (place, movement, location, human/environment interaction, and region)
- Understand how humans relate to the physical geography of an area

Mesopotamia and the Fertile Crescent Unit

- Understand the importance of controlled flooding, irrigation, and increased crop production
- Understand how advances in agriculture led to a division of labor and an advanced social order
- Evaluate the importance of the first achievements of the Sumerians and be able to describe their affect on the world today
- Comprehend how written law creates order in a society and how it created the framework for civilization in the United States

Egypt Unit

- Understand the importance of Egyptian cultural achievements, how those achievements changed history, and how they affect us today
- Compare Egypt to Mesopotamia and the present United States and be able to describe similarities and differences in agricultural practices
- Analyze developments in technology between Egyptians and Mesopotamians
- Recognize similarities in governmental systems between ancient Mesopotamia and the United States today
- Discuss and comprehend importance of religious institutions in Egypt as compared to Mesopotamia
- Understand the impact of Egyptian architecture on the world today
- Compare social structure of Egypt and Mesopotamia and understand the importance of scribes in both civilizations

Kush Unit

- Understand the similarities and differences of the two Nile River Valley civilizations (Egypt and Kush)
- Describe and explain why the Kush adopted and used the concept of pyramid-building

India Unit

- Analyze and compare the three main religions that developed in India
- Examine the caste system and understand how the development of that system led to a rigid social structure
- Understand the impact of Indian achievements in math and science and how those achievements affect the world today

China Unit

- Understand the origins of Chinese civilization along the Yellow River Valley
- Compare and Contrast China's three main philosophies
- Examine the structure of China prior to its unification
- Analyze the spread of ideas between Chinese civilization and the outside world
- Understand the importance of Chinese technological advances and how they impact our world today

Greece Unit

- Explain how geography helped shape early Greek civilization
- Understand the importance of the city-state for protection and security
- Examine the Athenian's creation of the first democracy
- Understand how Greek literature continues to impact the world today
- Examine the Peloponnesian War as a result of Athenian territorial gains and Sparta's effort halt them
- Analyze the development of Hellenistic kingdoms as a result of Alexander's expanding empire

Rome Unit

- Explain how Rome's location and system of government allowed it to become a major power of the ancient world
- Understand how Rome's three branch system of government, written laws, checks and balances, and veto power influence the framers of the United States Constitution
- Analyze Julius Caesar's and Augustus' leadership and understand how they lead the transition between republic and empire
- Understand the spread of Christianity around the Mediterranean as a result of Rome's acceptance of many different religious practices
- Explain how the Byzantine Empire continue to prosper for hundreds of years after the fall of the Western Empire

Mesoamerica Unit

- Examine and compare the Mayan, Aztec and Incan cultures
- Examine physical characteristics
- Compare regions and predict how developing civilization in one region would affect development in another region
- Analyze cultural contributions

