

6th Grade Ancient Cultures

Unit I: Beginnings of Human Society

Unit Overview	Beginning of man, the development of civilizations, and the tools used to understand the past.	
Maryland Social Studies Framework 6-8	See Document 0D	
MDCCRS Reading for History	See Document 0E	
MDCCRS Writing for History	See Document 0F	
College, Career, and Civic Life	See Document 0C	
GRRUDL Alignment	See Document 0A	
Compelling Question for Enduring Understanding		
How did humans transition from a nomadic lifestyle to develop civilizations?		
Supporting Question #1	Supporting Question #2	Supporting Question #3
In what ways do archaeologists learn about the past?	How did physical geography affect the growth of ancient civilization?	What are the components of human civilization?
Formative Performance Task	Formative Performance Task	Formative Performance Task
Sources	Sources	Sources
Summative Performance Task		

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Unit II: The Fertile Crescent

Unit Overview	Geography of the Fertile Crescent and social, political, economic, and cultural achievements of various civilizations and groups that have lasting impact on today's world.	
Maryland Social Studies Framework 6-8	See Document 0D	
MDCCRS Reading for History	See Document 0E	
MDCCRS Writing for History	See Document 0F	
College, Career, and Civic Life	See Document 0C	
GRRUDL Alignment	See Document 0A	
Compelling Question for Enduring Understanding		
How did geography, government, economics, and culture shape early societies in the Fertile Crescent?		
Supporting Question #1	Supporting Question #2	Supporting Question #3
How did physical geography affect the growth of ancient Fertile Crescent civilizations?	What historical accomplishments are each of the Fertile Crescent civilizations known?	What were the beliefs and values of the early people in and around the Fertile Crescent?
Formative Performance Task	Formative Performance Task	Formative Performance Task
Sources	Sources	Sources
Summative Performance Task		

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Unit III: Ancient Egypt

Unit Overview	The geographic, human, and societal characteristics of ancient Egypt.	
Maryland Social Studies Framework 6-8	See Document 0D	
MDCCRS Reading for History	See Document 0E	
MDCCRS Writing for History	See Document 0F	
College, Career, and Civic Life	See Document 0C	
GRRUDL Alignment	See Document 0A	
Compelling Question for Enduring Understanding		
What factors made Egypt a powerful and prosperous civilization?		
Supporting Question #1	Supporting Question #2	Supporting Question #3
What geographical features influenced ancient Egypt's development?	What effects do power and social class have on the lives of ancient Egyptians?	How did the innovations of ancient Egypt affect its civilization?
Formative Performance Task	Formative Performance Task	Formative Performance Task
Sources	Sources	Sources
Summative Performance Task		

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Unit IV: Ancient India

Unit Overview	The geography and climate of India, as well as the impacts of religion and government on the society of the ancient Indians.	
Maryland Social Studies Framework 6-8	See Document 0D	
MDCCRS Reading for History	See Document 0E	
MDCCRS Writing for History	See Document 0F	
College, Career, and Civic Life	See Document 0C	
GRRUDL Alignment	See Document 0A	
Compelling Question for Enduring Understanding		
In what ways was ancient Indian civilization impacted by climate, geography, religion, and government?		
Supporting Question #1	Supporting Question #2	Supporting Question #3
How did climate and geography affect ancient Indian civilization?	How did religion influence Indian culture and society?	What impacts did governing powers have on the people of ancient India?
Formative Performance Task	Formative Performance Task	Formative Performance Task
Sources	Sources	Sources
Summative Performance Task		

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Unit V: Ancient China

Unit Overview	The geographic, human, and societal characteristics of ancient China.	
Maryland Social Studies Framework 6-8	See Document 0D	
MDCCRS Reading for History	See Document 0E	
MDCCRS Reading for Writing	See Document 0F	
College, Career, and Civic Life	See Document 0C	
GRRUDL Alignment	See Document 0A	
Compelling Question for Enduring Understanding		
What factors contributed to make China a successful civilization?		
Supporting Question #1	Supporting Question #2	Supporting Question #3
How did physical geography affect the growth of ancient China?	How did Confucianism, Taoism, and Legalism influence society in ancient China?	What historical accomplishments is ancient China known?
Formative Performance Task	Formative Performance Task	Formative Performance Task
Sources	Sources	Sources
Summative Performance Task		

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Unit VI: Ancient Greece

Unit Overview	The geographic, human, and societal characteristics of ancient Greece.	
Maryland Social Studies Framework 6-8	See Document 0D	
MDCCRS Reading for History	See Document 0E	
MDCCRS Reading for Writing	See Document 0F	
College, Career, and Civic Life	See Document 0C	
GRRUDL Alignment	See Document 0A	
Compelling Question for Enduring Understanding		
In what ways did geography, culture, and historical accomplishments contribute to ancient Greek civilization?		
Supporting Question #1	Supporting Question #2	Supporting Question #3
How did physical geography affect the growth of ancient Greek civilization?	What were the beliefs and values of the ancient Greeks?	What historical accomplishments are ancient Greece known?
Formative Performance Task	Formative Performance Task	Formative Performance Task
Sources	Sources	Sources
Summative Performance Task		

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Unit VII: Ancient Rome

Unit Overview	The impact of geography on the development and growth of Rome. Analysis of the defining characteristics of the Roman republic and empire. The human and religious characteristics of Roman culture, as well as an investigation of the circumstances that led to the fall of Rome.	
Maryland Social Studies Framework 6-8	See Document 0D	
MDCCRS for Reading for History	See Document 0E	
MDCCRS for Writing for History	See Document 0F	
College, Career, and Civic Life	See Document 0C	
GRRUDL Alignment	See Document 0A	
Compelling Question for Enduring Understanding		
Why did the Roman Empire rise to power and fall to ruin?		
Supporting Question #1	Supporting Question #2	Supporting Question #3
What are the defining characteristics of the ancient Roman republic and empire?	How did Roman culture influence life throughout the empire?	What were the primary reasons for the fall of the Roman Empire?
Formative Performance Task	Formative Performance Task	Formative Performance Task
Sources	Sources	Sources
Summative Performance Task		

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Unit VIII: Byzantine and Muslim Empires

Unit Overview	The development of Byzantium following the fall of Rome. The development, spread, and influence of Islam, as well as Islam's Golden Age.	
Maryland Social Studies Framework 6-8	See Document 0D	
MDCCRS Reading for History	See Document 0E	
MDCCRS Writing for History	See Document 0F	
College, Career, and Civic Life	See Document 0C	
GRRUDL Alignment	See Document 0A	
Compelling Question for Enduring Understanding		
How did trade, religion, and culture affect life in Byzantine and Muslim Empires?		
Supporting Question #1	Supporting Question #2	Supporting Question #3
How was the economy of Byzantine affected by trade and their geographical location?	How did Islam and Christianity influence the Byzantine empire and its inhabitants?	How did the government evolve in the Byzantine Empire?
Formative Performance Task	Formative Performance Task	Formative Performance Task
Sources	Sources	Sources
Summative Performance Task		

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Unit IX: Middle Ages

Unit Overview	The the rise of cities in Europe and the development of the feudal system. The social, political, and economic impact of the Black Death. The growing power and influence of the Christian church in Europe.	
Maryland Social Studies Framework 6-8	See Document 0D	
MDCCRS Reading for History	See Document 0E	
MDCCRS Writing for History	See Document 0F	
College, Career, and Civic Life	See Document 0C	
GRRUDL Alignment	See Document 0A	
Compelling Question for Enduring Understanding		
What factors shaped daily life and continent-wide trends in Medieval Europe?		
	Supporting Question #2	Supporting Question #3
How did Feudalism develop and what factors led to its decline?	How did religion affect society in Medieval Europe?	How did the rise of cities contribute to challenges in society and major changes in European culture?
Formative Performance Task	Formative Performance Task	Formative Performance Task
Sources	Sources	Sources
Summative Performance Task		

GRRUDL LESSON PLAN TEMPLATE

SUBJECT: Click or tap here to enter text.

Unit: Click or tap here to enter text.

Learning Module: Click or tap here to enter text.

Maryland Social Studies Standards & Framework			
MDCCRS Reading for History			
MDCCRS Writing for History			
Compelling Statement/Enduring Understanding			
I will be able to...			
Content Purpose		Language Purpose	
I will...		I will...	
GRRUDL – GRR Components Do Not Need to be Linear			
Focused Instruction Activity-1	Guided Instruction Activity-2	Collaborative Learning Activity-3	Independent Learning Activity-4
Teacher/Facilitator will model...	Scholars will...	Scholars will...	Scholars will independently...
Teacher will present Content, Language, and Social Purposes to scholars.			
UDL Alignment:	UDL Alignment:	UDL Alignment:	UDL Alignment:
Needed Resource(s)	Needed Resource(s)	Needed Resource(s)	Needed Resource(s)

Grade 6 – Ancient Cultures

Mini-Document Based Questions (DBQs)

- First Nine Weeks – Hammurabi’s Code
- Second Nine Weeks - Great Wall of China
- Third Nine Weeks - Alexander the Great or Education of Sparta
- Fourth Nine Weeks - Fall of Rome

Video

[What Students Say About the DBQ Project](#)