

Study Guide: Social Studies 7

Quarter 1: Geography skills, civilizations of Egypt, India, and China

Describe the impact of early civilizations after 1000 B.C. including government, achievements, spread of religion, economics, and geography.

- a. (Geography skills): lines of longitude and latitude, continents, major bodies of water, biomes, and human environmental interaction.
- b. Egypt's geography included the Nile River, Mediterranean Sea, Red Sea, and Sahara Desert. This resulted in the geographic isolation and longevity of Egypt.
- c. Egypt's decline began with Ramses II, who was the last strong ruler. The decline was a result of foreign invasion and weak pharaohs.
- d. Egypt's major achievements included pyramid building, mummification, and hieroglyphics (writing using picture symbols).
- e. Ancient Egyptians used caravans (groups of traders traveling together for safety) to transport goods across harsh climates with Western Asia.
- f. India's geography included the Indus River, Arabian Sea, Himalayas, and Thar Desert. Impact of climate included monsoons, which marked the seasons in India, making settlement difficult.
- g. India's caste system was a system of social organization that had four distinct levels (varnas).
- h. Hinduism (reincarnation) and Buddhism (desire leads to suffering) spread along major trade routes from central India to Burma, Siam, through China, and to Japan.
- i. Ancient Indian cultural achievements included concepts of zero and infinity, algebra, identified planets, understood rotation of the earth, and developed inoculation (practice of infecting the person with a mild form of a disease).
- j. China's geography included the Huang River, Yellow Sea, East China Sea, and Gobi Desert. Impact of loess (fertile yellow soil) and the solution of building dikes. The major impact of China's geography led to its isolation. Very little cultural diffusion took place during this time period.
- k. Different dynasties (Zhou, Qin, and Han) and their government organization such as bureaucracy (different levels of government), civil service system (system of examinations to qualify government officials) and autocracy (total power).
- l. Ancient Chinese achievements included the Great Wall of China, 5 Classics (literature used for education), seismograph, paper, sundial, water clock, acupuncture, and astronomy.

Explain how the Silk Road trade affected the cultures of the people involved.

- a. The Silk Road stretched from Asia to the Mediterranean Sea (Greeks/Romans) and was a trade route that not only shared products from each of the regions (jade, silk, gold, silver, paper, spices, etc.) but shared cultural ideas (religion, technology)

Quarter 2: Greece and Rome

Describe the impact of early civilizations after 1000 B.C. including government, achievements, spread of religion, economics, and geography.

- a. Greece's geography included short mountain ranges that prevented Greece from developing a sense of unity and short fast-moving rivers isolated city-states and did not encourage trade between them.
- b. Greece's government began with city-states (city and land surrounding it). Each city-state had an acropolis (fort built on a hill) and an agora (marketplace).
- c. Greece's achievements include literature (Iliad and Odyssey), architecture, which represented a city-state's wealth such as the Parthenon (white marble temple built in honor of the God Athena), and philosophy, which included Socrates (students think for themselves instead of memorization) and Aristotle (knowledge had to be studied logically, collect facts and organize them into systems).
- d. Greece's religion explained nature, explain emotions, and could bring about benefits such as long life, good crops, etc.
- e. Due to their geographic location, Greeks were sea traders and fisherman.
- f. Rome's geography included the Alps mountains range, the Mediterranean and Adriatic Sea.
- g. Rome's geographic location allowed them to control trade and travel but the Alps in the north also separated Rome from the rest of Europe and Rome's long coastline made it easy to attack from the sea.
- h. Romans main occupation was farming, where they traded products such as wine, oil, cloth, and grain.
- i. Romans developed a road system that allowed for trade, travel, and movement of armies.
- j. Christianity spread in the Roman Empire due to its belief that everyone was accepted and it promised hope and freedom from the penalties of death and sin.

Describe the cultural and scientific legacies of Greek civilizations.

- a. Alexander the Great's conquests throughout the Mediterranean region spread Greek language and culture.

Compare direct and representative democracy using examples of Ancient Athens, the Roman republic, and the United States today.

- a. Direct democracy is a form of democracy in which all citizens participate directly in making decisions.
- b. Representative democracy is a form of government in which citizens elect representatives to run the government for them, rather than each citizen serving directly in the government.
- c. Republic is a form of government in which voters elect officials to run the state.
- d. Monarchy is a form of government in which there is one ruler.

Quarter 3: Africa, Mongolia, Feudalism, Crusades

Describe the importance of the West African empires of Ghana, Mali, and Songhay including trade routes and products.

- a. Africa's trade was based on the salt for gold exchange. (Gold was mined south of the Sahara and salt was mined from the Sahara Desert).

Describe the conditions that gave rise to feudalism, as well as political, economic, and social characteristics of feudalism, in Asia and Europe.

- a. Feudalism is where a powerful noble granted land to lesser nobles in return for loyalty, military service, and other services (crops).
- b. Manorialism is an economic system that revolved around self-sufficient farming estates where lords and peasants shared the land.
- c. The cause of feudalism was that most Europeans were governed by powerful local lords after the death of Charlemagne (Frankish king who controlled most of Europe during 768-814 A.D.)

Explain the lasting effects of military conquests during the Middle Ages including Muslim conquests, the Crusades, and Mongol invasions.

- a. Muslim conquests during the Middle Ages resulted in the spread of the Islamic religion.
- b. The military effects of the crusades include new methods of waging war, new ideas and culture, Italian cities became centers of trade, and European kings became more powerful.
- c. Mongols conquered largest territory due to massive fire power and rapid troop movement.
- d. Mongols spread culture and trade throughout Asia and Europe.

Explain how the Crusades affected the cultures of the people involved.

- a. The Crusades resulted in a cultural exchange between the Middle East and Europe and Italian cities became major financial trading centers.

Describe the rights found in the Magna Carta and show connections to rights Americans have today.

- a. The Magna Carta was a document that protected the liberties of the nobles and outlines the rights of England's ordinary people. It resulted in making the law the supreme power in England).

Quarter 4: Renaissance, Reformation, Imperialism, Colonialism, Mercantilism (Brief)

Describe the impact of new ideas and institutions on European life including the significance of printing with movable type, major achievements in art, architecture and literature during the Renaissance and Reformation.

- a. The effects of the printing press included mass production of books and an increase in average citizens' ability to obtain written information.
- b. Major achievements in art, architecture, and literature included works from Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo, Machiavelli, Gutenberg, Thomas More, and Shakespeare.
- c. The Renaissance is a "rebirth" or philosophical and artistic movement that had a renewed interest in ancient Greek and Roman literature and life.
- d. The Reformation was a religious revolution that split the Christian church in Western Europe (causes included income vs. saving souls).
- e. Indulgences (bought pardons from punishment from sin) and how they outraged people of Northern Italy.

Describe the causes and effects of European exploration after 1400 including imperialism, colonialism, and mercantilism, and the impact on the peoples of sub-Saharan Africa, Asia, and the Americas.

- a. Imperialism is the ambition of a powerful nation to dominate the political, economic, and cultural affairs of another nation or region.
- b. Colonialism is the control or governing influence of a nation over a dependent country, territory, or people.
- c. Mercantilism is the economic theory stating that there is a fixed amount of wealth in the world and that in order to receive a larger share; one country has to take some wealth away from another country.
- d. The impact of exploration resulted in an exchange of products, plants, animals, and diseases between Europe and Africa, Asia, and the Americas. Slave trade was a result in Africa, Portugal conquered Asia and Spain conquered the Americas.