

SUBAREA I.

HISTORICAL CONCEPTS AND SKILLS

COMPETENCY 1.0 UNDERSTAND IMPORTANT HISTORICAL TERMS, CONCEPTS, AND PERSPECTIVES

Skill 1.1 Demonstrate knowledge of basic historical terms and concepts.

History is the study of the past, especially the aspects of the human past, political and economic events as well as cultural and social conditions. Students study history through textbooks, research, field trips to museums and historical sites, and other methods. Most nations set the requirements in history to study the country's heritage, usually to develop an awareness and feeling of loyalty and patriotism. History is generally divided into the three main divisions: (a) time periods, (b) nations, and (c) specialized topics. Study is accomplished through research, reading, and writing.

History is without doubt an integral part of every other discipline in the social sciences. Knowing historical background on anything and anyone anywhere goes a long way towards explaining that what happened in the past leads up to and explains the present.

Causality: The reason something happens, its cause, is a basic category of human thinking. We want to know the causes of some major event in our lives. Within the study of history, causality is the analysis of the reasons for change. The question we are asking is why and how a particular society or event developed in the particular way it did given the context in which it occurred.

Conflict: Conflict within history is opposition of ideas, principles, values or claims. Conflict may take the form of internal clashes of principles or ideas or claims within a society or group or it may take the form of opposition between groups or societies.

Bias: A prejudice or a predisposition either toward or against something. In the study of history, bias can refer to the persons or groups studied, in terms of a society's bias toward a particular political system, or it can refer to the historian's predisposition to evaluate events in a particular way.

Interdependence: A condition in which two things or groups rely upon one another; as opposed to independence, in which each thing or group relies only upon itself.

Identity: The state or perception of being a particular thing or person. Identity can also refer to the understanding or self-understanding of groups, nations, etc.

Nation-state: A particular type of political entity that provides a sovereign territory for a specific nation in which other factors also unite the citizens (e.g., language, race, ancestry, etc.).

Culture: The civilization, achievements, and customs of the people of a particular time and place.

The system of **feudalism** became a dominant feature of the economic and social system in Europe. It was a system of loyalty and protection. The strong protected the weak who returned the service with farm labor, military service, and loyalty. Life was lived out on a vast estate, owned by a nobleman and his family, called a "manor." It was a complete village supporting a few hundred people, mostly peasants. Improved tools and farming methods made life more bearable although during a peasant's lifetime, very few left the manor or traveled outside of their village.

Feudalism was the organization of people based on the ownership of land by a **Lord** or other **Noble** who allowed individuals known as **peasants** or **serfs** to farm the land, giving the majority of the farmed goods to the manor and kept a smaller portion for themselves. The Lord or Noble, in return for the serfs' loyalty, offered them his protection. In practical effect, the serf was considered owned by his lord with little or no rights at all. The lord's sole obligation to the serfs was to protect them so they could continue to work for him (most, though not all lords were men). This system would last for many centuries. In Russia it would last until the 1860s.

Skill 1.2 Place historical events in chronological order and recognize major historical developments that took place at the same time in different parts of the world

Chronology is the ordering of events through time. Chronologies are often listed along a timeline or in a list by date. Chronologies allow for easy visualization of a wide expanse of history in one place. This allows a student to quickly get an overview of the major events and changes over time. By including important related events, the cause and effect of major developments can be emphasized. By placing chronologies for different societies parallel to one another, comparisons in relative development can be quickly interpreted, providing material for further historical exploration.

Pre-Historic Period

Fully modern humans evolved in Africa between 200,000 and 100,000 years ago. Early humans were primarily hunter-gatherers, able to communicate, organize in groups, and had rudimentary tool-making skills. The end of the Ice Age brought climate change. Population increased due to warmer temperatures, increased rainfall, more abundant and diverse food supplies. Hunters began to form communities, while rituals and symbols of group identity began to emerge.

The Americas: humans crossed the Bering land bridge from Siberia to the Americas 25,000 BCE; hunter-gatherers developed large stone hunting points (Clovis points)

capable of piercing Mammoth hides; 15,000 BCE – Meadowcroft Rock shelter in Pennsylvania; 13,000 BCE – settlement at Bluefish Cave, Yukon; 12,000 BCE – humans reached southern South America; 11,000 BCE – evidence of a village at Monte Verde, Chile; 10,000 BCE – evidence of pottery; 9000 BCE – herds of mammoths were near extinction.

Africa: 42,000 BCE – mining of red ocher from Lion Cave in Southern Africa (body ornamentation); 35,000 BCE – tropical rain forests of Africa colonized by early humans; 30,000 BCE – new tool technology; 24,000 BCE – rock art produced at Apollo 11 Cave in southern Africa; 20,000 BCE – terra-cotta figurines from Algeria and engraved objects from South Africa; 10,000 BCE – more settled lifestyles developing in Nile and Niger valleys.

Europe: 1 million years ago – first hominids traveled to Europe from Africa through the Strait of Gibraltar; 120,000 BCE – Neanderthals present; 35,000 BCE – settled by modern humans; new tool technology; 25,000 BCE – sculptures and engravings on bone and antlers; 10,000 BCE – large animals (woolly rhinoceros, giant deer and mammoth) became extinct; retreat of glaciers provides marine and land resources.

West Asia: 100,000 BCE – earliest known burial in Israel – evidence of complex social organization; 45,000 BCE – flint tools developed in Israel and spread across Southern Europe; 40,000 BCE – Neanderthals still present in Southwest Asia; 17,000 BCE – wild cereal gathering in Israel; 13,000 BCE – people in Israel intensively harvesting, grinding and storing wild grains; 12,000 BCE – first use of grindstones; 11,000 BCE – domestication of dogs in the Middle East.

South and East Asia: seafood becomes important in the diet and settlements develop in coastal areas; 1.7 million years ago – first hominid civilization; 90,000 BCE – first evidence of humans; 60,000 BCE – modern humans throughout the region; 40,000 BCE – first stone tools; 11,000 BCE – earliest portable art in the region; 10,000 BCE – Jomon people of Honshu island, Japan make first known pottery; rock shelter paintings in Central India that include buffalo.

Australasia: 60,000 BCE – first humans arrived in boats from southeast Asia, settling along the coasts and rivers; 45,000 BCE – world's first known rock art; 25,000 BCE – first evidence of human cremation; 20,000 BCE – settlement reaches south coast of Tasmania; 16,000 BCE – extinction of giant marsupials.

Emergence of Human Civilization 10,000 – 5,000 BCE

By 7000 BCE farming was the primary means of subsistence in Western Asia, while hunter-gathering predominated elsewhere. Over the next 5000 years farming became established independently in other areas. This agricultural revolution had monumental impact on the lives of humans: (1) farming could support much larger populations; (2) sizes of settlements became increasingly larger; (3) larger communities generated needs and opportunities that gave rise to new activities; (4) trade in raw materials and finished goods developed between communities; and (5) cooperation became normalized through communal efforts. Some people were able to develop craft skills, to engage in long-distance trade, and to experiment with technology, such as pottery kilns, metallurgy and irrigation. Communities established permanent villages with material goods and equipment, which led to the beginnings of social differentiation. Various regions developed a dependence on different staple crops. Animals were domesticated and selective breeding began to enhance useful traits. Permanent dwellings were produced. Communities created identifying symbols and rituals, including burial. Communal living, however, also exposed people to disease and epidemics.

Between 7000 and 5000 BCE communities in west Asia and southeastern Europe discovered independently that metals can be extracted from rock by heating. The first metals used were copper, gold and lead. But tools made of these soft metals could not compete with flint and stone for tools. Copper became used for decorative items.

Americas: experiments with cultivation of potatoes, squash and beans began to supplement hunting and gathering; 8500 – evidence in the Andes of harvesting grains and vegetables; 8000 – evidence of use of grindstones; 7500 – earliest known cemetery in North America; 5500 – squash avocados and chili's were staples in the Central American diet.

Europe: 7000 – farming reached southeast Europe, spreading west along the Mediterranean and north into central and northwest Europe; new strains of cereals were developed in northern Europe; cattle and pigs replaced goats as the main domestic animals; 5000 – cereal farming villages arose in western Europe; 5400 – farming spreads to central Europe; fishing supplemented hunting-gathering in northern Europe; farming villages in southern Anatolia traded flint, obsidian, timber, shells and copper.

West Asia: earliest farmers settled in a fertile arc of land from the Persian Gulf to the eastern Mediterranean; 9000 – wheat harvested in Mesopotamia; 8000 – large-seeded grains cultivated at Jericho; 7000 – villages of mud-brick houses in Anatolia and central Mesopotamia; goats are main domesticated animal; 6000 – craftsmen smelt copper and lead; painted pottery in northern Mesopotamia; 5500 – farmers of southern Mesopotamia using irrigation.

East Asia: 7000 – agriculture in northern China; grain kept in storage pits, pigs and dogs domesticated; 6000 – rice cultivated in lowlands of Yangtze delta; 5000 – jade imported into northern Manchuria from Central Asia or Siberia.

South and Southeast Asia: 7000 – drainage and cultivation practiced in New Guinea; 6000 – pottery in grave goods indicates trade with central Asia; first pottery production in southeast Asia; 5000 – cultivation of wheat and barley in northern India; cultivation of rice south of Ganges Valley; 2000 – farming established in the region.

Africa: 9000 – hunter-gatherers moved into the Sahara as ice age ended; 8000 – Saharan rock art; 7000 – wavy-line pottery produced; 6500 – cattle domesticated in northern Africa; 6000 – Sahara becomes arid again and people move out; wheat and barley cultivation spreads to the Nile valley from the Middle East.

Development of cultures and cities 5000 – 500 BCE

The first great urban civilization developed in the fertile river valleys of the Nile, Tigris, Euphrates, Indus and Yellow Rivers. Despite the fact that they developed independently, they shared several characteristics:

- Hierarchical societies
- Complex division of labor
- Administered by an elite class
- Divine monarchy emerged in some
- Monuments began to symbolize the powers of the ruling elite
- Farming communities came together to create ritual centers and burial sites
- High degree of social organization

By 2500 cities were established in 2 major centers: Nile Valley, Mesopotamia, and the Indus Valley, with a scattering of other cities. In each case, lack of important natural resources, such as timber, metal and stone, forced these civilizations to establish trade networks. Where trade contacts led, cultural exchange followed. Cities soon developed in Anatolia and the Iranian Plateau. By 3500 BCE wheeled vehicles were in use in southwest Asia and by 3000 BCE their use had spread to Europe and India. The primary mode of transportation for trade was by ship, but wheeled carts pulled by recently-domesticated beasts of burden were also used for overland trade. Mesopotamia first used sails in 4500 BCE, and began to use the plow in 4000 BCE.

Writing evolved primarily to record trade transactions, but its use quickly spread to other functions. First written texts found in Mesopotamia are receipts dating to about 4000 BCE. There is also evidence of writing in the royal tombs at Abydos in Upper Egypt at about the same time. By 3100 Mesopotamia had developed a cuneiform script.

South America: 4750 – first agriculture in the Americas was corn grown in Central America's Tehuacan valley; 4000 – first pottery in the Amazon basin; 3500 – cotton cultivated in Central America for fishing nets and textiles; 2600 – regional ritual centers appear; 2500 – agriculture is supporting larger communities, permanent settlements appear, and there is evidence of long-distance trade along the Andean coast.

Africa: 3400 – first walled towns appear; 3100 – King Narmer unifies Pharaonic Egypt into a state; belief in life after death is documented and elaborate well-appointed tombs are built for the afterlife; 3000 – first evidence of hieroglyphic writing; 2650 – pyramids (royal tombs) built near capital city of Memphis (this investment of labor and resources demonstrates the ruler's control over the people); 2530 – construction of the Great Pyramid at Giza.

Europe: increasing social organization is demonstrated by elaborate burials; 4500 – large cemeteries along the coast of the Black Sea contain gold jewelry; 3800 – ditched enclosures around settlements in central Europe; 3500 – metallurgy practiced in eastern Europe; 3000 – small farming communities gather to build defensive enclosures and to create regional centers for social, economic and ritual life; 2900 – burials with corded-ware pottery; 2500 – Stonehenge built.

East Asia: 4000 – planned villages in China with distinct residential, labor and burial areas; 3000 – potters wheel invented; distinction appears in burial of rich and poor; walled settlements; evidence of farming in Korea; 2750 – Chinese bronze artifacts; 2700 – cultivation of silkworms and weaving silk; 2500 – Banshan culture produces boldly painted burial urns.

South Asia: 5000 – use of pottery in Indus Valley; 4000 – irrigation practiced in Indus Valley; 3500 – walled towns appear in Indus Valley; 2500 – true cities emerge and reach their height with a population of 40,000, a network of residential streets, houses built of standardized bricks, a sophisticated drainage and sewer system, and merchandise traded as far as Mesopotamia.

West Asia: 3500 – Uruk, first city-state of Mesopotamia; cities built around raised mud-brick temple complex and administered by priestly elite; 3250 – pictographic writing; 3100 – City of Byblos on Levantine coast; 2500 – City of Ur in southern Mesopotamia; Ebla in western Mesopotamia trades with Mediterranean peoples; city-states arise throughout Mesopotamia and the Levant with extensive trade links.

As cities expanded and others arose, states developed, populations grew, and economic pressures intensified. Rivalry for territory and power emerged. States became militaristic which made warfare, weapons development and diplomacy critical. Early societies become increasingly stratified and distinct classes emerged. Scattered agricultural communities in Europe were becoming more sophisticated, developing metallurgy and trade and beginning to compete for land and resources. At this time symbolic representations of the sun were found in almost all cultures.

The Americas: precursors of urban civilizations began to emerge in Central and South America; 2000 BCE – ceramics and large-scale cultivation of corn in Peru; 1800 – construction of La Florida ceremonial center in Peru; Olmec center of San Lorenzo developing on the Gulf Coast of Central America; in eastern North America agriculture was being practiced; 1500 – small settled communities in river valleys of Mississippi system; metalworking in Peru.

Africa: Egyptian civilization reached its height during the New Kingdom, 1560 – 1085 BCE. In 1633 much of Egypt was ruled by an Adriatic people, the Hyksos; 1417 – the New Kingdom reached the high point of power, wealth and prestige under Amenophis III; 1350, Pharaoh Akhenaton introduced sun worship in Egypt; Egypt's wealth was based on gold in Nubia and its domination of Palestine and southern Syria; the New Kingdom fell as a result of corruption and decline of royal power, unrest in Palestine and foreign attacks, particularly by the Hittites.

Europe: new types of bronze weapons indicated the emergence of a warrior elite as increased need for land created conflict between cities. 2250 – Minoan civilization built the palace of Knossos on Crete, the first Mediterranean state; several small cities of Mycenaean Greece grew wealthy on trade, but all were destroyed or abandoned by the 12th Century BCE. 2000 – fortified settlements in Central and Eastern Europe; 1650 – Linear A script appears on Crete; 1550 – Myceneans became the dominant power of the Greek mainland.

West Asia: northern Mesopotamia was dominated by several city-states – Ashur and Mari – centered on palaces and religious complexes. In central Anatolia, Hittites ruled a powerful kingdom and their efforts to control trading cities of the Levant caused conflict with Egypt. 2300 – city states of southern Mesopotamia were temporarily united against Sargon of Agade; 1760 – Babylon gains temporary control of the region; 1650 – emergence of the Hittite kingdom; 1600 – Phoenicians start to use Canaanite script (first alphabetic script); 1250 – battle of Kadesh between Egypt and the Hittites.

East Asia: 1900 BCE – first Chinese city at Erlitou on the Yellow River; 1800 – urban civilization of Shang in China in which the Shang dynasty exercised absolute power based on labor of farmers; elsewhere the transition to agriculture was slow. However agricultural villages in Thailand produced bronze objects with techniques similar to those used in China; 1400 – first written inscriptions.

Oceania: 2500 – dingo introduced to Australia from Southeast Asia; 1500 – one of the great population movements of history, when the Lapita people, originally settlers from

the East Indies began to explore and colonize the Pacific islands. They spread culture quickly, reaching Tonga and Samoa by 1000 BCE.

Cities evolved in several ways, depending upon the culture from which they emerged, the nature of outside pressures, and the interests of the rulers. This was a period of increasing social stratification throughout the world, and all cities were structured in ways that reflected the gulf between ruler and ruled, sacred and secular. A quest for new territory and greater wealth also began to emerge.

The Assyrians formed the world's first large empire. It was ruled with great efficiency. The Assyrians used cavalry and iron technology to make more powerful weapons and armor. Iron revolutionized tools and weapons in Europe and Asia. More efficient farming produced higher crop yields and supported larger populations. Long-distance trade networks disseminated political and cultural influences.

By 750 civilizations covered a belt from the Mediterranean to China. Trade and cultural exchange were well established across this belt of cities, and iron working spread from the Middle East to China. By the 6th Century BCE, Chinese silk began to appear in Europe. But tribes of nomads were spreading across Central Asia, eastern Europe and Siberia, attacking the cities. By 500, the Classical Age was beginning in Greece – a high point in the history of western civilization.

The Americas: Between 750 and 500 BCE the Olmec civilization flourished in Mexico, and other cultures emerged in Central America. The Zapotec civilization produced hieroglyphics and calendar calculations that reflect the earliest known writing in the Americas. The Adena burials in the eastern woodlands of North America were furnished with grave goods. These people produced gigantic earthworks – such as the Great Serpent Mound – which indicate a stratified and politically organized society. Permanent villages of people practicing horticulture arose in southeastern and southwestern North America. By 600 BCE jade artifacts were being traded in Central America, and by 500 the Paracas culture was emerging in South America.

Africa: 1168 BCE – death of Rameses III; 1085 marks the end of the 20th Dynasty in Egypt and the end of stable rule. Rival kings rule from different cities with brief periods of stability amid long civil wars; 900 – foundation of the Nubian kingdom of Cush; 814 – Carthage founded by Phoenicians (Semitic people from the east Mediterranean) along with other trading centers along the north African coast; knowledge of iron working carried along the trans-Siberian trade routes to agricultural communities to the south; mid 8th century – Nubian Cushites control all of Egypt and extend power north by 750; 671 – Assyrians attack Egypt, sack Memphis and Thebes; Cushites retreat and build new capital at Meroe, burying kings in pyramid-shaped tombs and worshipping Egyptian gods; 663 – Egypt regains independence under Saite dynasty until conquered by the Persians in 525; by 500 – iron working technology takes hold in sub-Saharan region; Darius I of Persia completes construction of a canal linking the Nile and the Red Sea.

Europe: Independent city-states arose throughout Greece and western Asia Minor. Trade with Italy and the Levant brings wealth and population. Colonists build trading cities along the Mediterranean. In Italy, the Etruscans build fortified hilltop cities and establish extensive trade with Africa and Europe. 1200 BCE – New Urnfield culture in Danube area; 1150 – Collapse of Mycenaean Greece; 1000 – colonists from mainland Greece settle coastal areas of Asia Minor and the islands of the Aegean; 900 – end of the dark ages in Greece; 850 – earliest village on Rome’s Palatine Hill; 800 – Rise of Etruscan city-states in central Italy; first phase of Celtic Iron Age; 776 – first Pan-Hellenic athletic games at Olympia’s sanctuary of Zeus. As city-states of Greece became more wealthy, civic pride was demonstrated through construction of magnificent buildings. Greek colonies reached from the Black Sea to the Iberian Peninsula. The expanding population of Europe moved into more marginal areas, using iron tools. Northern Europe was occupied by Celtic and Germanic peoples. 750 – first evidence of use of the Greek alphabet; 700 – Scythians from Central Asia begin to settle in eastern Europe and the Black Sea region; 600 – trade between the Greeks and the Celts; defensive hilltop fortresses are built throughout southern Germany and eastern France; 510 – Romans expel Etruscan overlords and establish a Republic; 505 – democracy established in Athens.

West Asia: The Babylonians systematically studied the skies and developed the ability to plot the path of the sun and planets and to predict lunar eclipses by 1000 BCE. Power struggles between established states of west Asia allowed barbarian tribes to enter the region (Medes, Chaldeans, Philistines, Hebrews, and Phrygians). Hebrews briefly created a kingdom, but it collapsed by 926. From the 9th century the dominant power in east Asia is Assyria. By the 8th century, the Assyrian empire reached from the Levant to the Persian Gulf. Subject peoples were ruled by provincial governors, who ruthlessly suppressed resistance. The only kingdom in the region that was outside Assyrian control was the Armenian kingdom of Urartu. Assyria's enemies united to overthrow the empire in 612. Babylon briefly dominated Mesopotamia until the arrival of the Medes and Persians. In 550 Cyrus, a Persian king, defeated the Medes and established the Achaemenid Empire, which became the largest state the world had seen, reaching from the Nile to the Indus. Darius I, a later Persian ruler consolidated imperial rule, dividing subject peoples into provinces, levying taxes, and building the Royal Road from Sardis to Susa for communication. 1200 BCE – Collapse of Hittite empire; Jewish exodus from Egypt and settlement in Palestine; 1100 – Syria and Palestine settled by nomadic tribes; 1000 – Phoenicians dominated trade of Levant and developed an alphabetic script; King David unites Israel and Judea, with a capital at Jerusalem; 950 – foundation of the Assyrian Empire; 900 – Urartu resists Assyrian aggression; 700 – Scythians establish settlements; 663 – Assyrian Empire reaches its greatest extent with the sack of Thebes in Egypt; 612 – Babylonians and Medes sack Nineveh and Nimrud, ending the Assyrian empire; 604 – Nebuchadnezzar II rebuilds Babylon and captures Jerusalem; 550 – Cyrus the Great of Persia defeats the Medes and forms the Achaemenid Empire; 539 – Cyrus takes Babylon and its empire without bloodshed; 521 – Persian Empire reaches its greatest extent under Darius I.