

# **SOCIAL STUDIES**

## **FINAL EXAM REVIEW**

### **EARLY HUMANS**

- **Archeologists** are scientists who study very old pieces of pottery, tools, weapons and bones. They also study **fossils** which are remains of an animal or plant found in earth or rock.
- **Prehistory (before written records)**, scientists learned about how **prehistoric** people lived by studying bones and artifacts. They also viewed cave paintings which tell us that animals were very important to prehistoric people.
- Early humans (prehistoric people) **moved from place to place to find food**. They were called **hunter-gatherers** and lived off wild game, plants, nuts, plants, and seeds that they could find.
- **Agriculture** began when people began to grow their own food and were able to settle in one place. Agriculture required a fresh water supply and fertile soil, so people settled near river valleys.
- The **process of early human development** is as follows:  
hunters-gatherers → people learn to grow food → people domesticate animals  
→ civilizations begin

### **FIRST CIVILIZATIONS**

- The site of the **first civilization** was known as the **Fertile Crescent**. The Fertile Crescent is formed by the **Tigris and Euphrates Rivers**. The fertile soil near these rivers was called **silt** and was good for planting crops. This silt was made up of decaying plants and animals.
- Growing crops near the river banks was made easy by a process known as **irrigation**, which directed water to farming fields through a system of ditches.
- **Domestication** is the process of growing crops, and the raising and taming of animals. This process helped create a **surplus** of food.
- In **ancient India**, people relied on **monsoons** to carry seasonal rains to irrigate their crops. The **Indus and the Ganges Rivers** were very important to their early civilizations.
- **City-states** developed among early civilizations forming independent political units.

## **FIRST WRITINGS**

- As ancient people began to form a writing system they used a material called **papyrus**. They used a form of writing called **cuneiform**.
- The first **written laws** were called **Hammurabi's Code**. These laws were written so that everyone knew the rules and the punishments.

## **GEOGRAPHY IMPACT (study attached map)**

- **Geography** is the study of earth and its people.
- The world is divided into **hemispheres**→ **continents**→ **countries**→ **states**
- The **Silk Road** in China helped bring about trade because it connected China to the West.
- The **Great Wall of China** could act as a barrier **to protect** them from invasions from other civilizations.
- **Ancient Greece's** geographical features created a **barrier** to other civilizations and also within their own city-states because it was a peninsula with a **very rugged and mountainous terrain**.
- The **ability to trade** could be affected by geography. Civilizations near sea routes and **without** rugged terrain could trade easier with other civilizations.
- **Traders** from different areas of the country **spread new ideas, tools and technology** with each other.

## **ACHIEVEMENTS/STRUCTURES**

- Civilizations that experienced **great achievements** in art, science, math and philosophy were called **Golden Ages**.
- **Ancient Romans** are well known for their **structural achievements**. **Such as...**
  - **Aqueducts** were structures to bring fresh water to different locations.
  - **Coliseums** were used for gladiator games and other entertainment.
  - Extensive **road** system that led to the city of Rome.
  - **Castles** were built for kings and protected by knights to fight invasions.

## ANCIENT RELIGIOUS BELIEFS)

- Ancient people were **polytheistic** a belief in **many gods** and they used **ziggurats** that had stairways to heaven to worship their gods.
- Over time, Judaism formed and people began to worship only **one god** called **monotheism**.
- **Ancient Egyptians** believed in **life after death** and **preserved** the bodies of their dead.
- **Ancient Chinese** people followed **Confucianism** which main idea was to show loyalty and respect within the family.
- **Ancient Romans** believed in **gods and goddesses** that influenced all aspects of their daily life.
- Throughout history **different religions** were spread and practiced across regions. See attached map for description.
- The **Crusades** were religious wars between Christians and Muslims.

<b>Religions</b>	<b>Monotheism or Polytheism</b>	<b>Founders</b>	<b>Holy Book (s)</b>	<b>Where do they worship?</b>	<b>Guiding Principles Goals/Practices/Beliefs</b>
<b>Judaism</b>	Monotheism	Prophet Abraham	Torah	Temple	All people are equal before God, live good and decent lives, waiting for Messiah.
<b>Hinduism</b>	Polytheistic	No single founder	Vedas, Upanshads	Hindu Temple	Reincarnation, action in this life will determine rebirth in next life.
<b>Buddhism</b>	No God, belief in Middle Path	Siddartha Gautama	Tipitaka	Shrine or temple	Middle path- controlling your mind and spirit, rebirth, selfish desires causes suffering.
<b>Christianity</b>	Monotheism	Jesus, God's son	Bible	Churches	Forgive people, live an unselfish life, be sorry for your sins, ten commandments.
<b>Islam</b>	Monotheism	Muhammad	Koran/Quran	Mosque	One God (Allah), five pillars - prayer 5 times daily, fast, pilgrimage to Mecca, give to poor (alms)

## **FORMS OF GOVERNMENT**

- **Feudalism** was a system of government during the **Middle Ages** based on land and service in exchange for protection. **Peasants/serfs** worked the land on the manor in exchange for food and protection from the king's knights.
- **Democracy** is a form of **government** where **people participate**.
- **Monarchy** is a form of government **headed by a king or queen**. This form of government was popular during the Renaissance. Kings and queens often fought for control of the people with the head of the Catholic Church.

## **RENAISSANCE**

- The **Renaissance** began in the country of **Italy**. This was a time where great **achievements in art, literature and learning** were made. Famous Renaissance writers were inspired by the Greeks and Romans.
- The **Catholic Church** was very powerful during the Renaissance. People who did not follow the teachings and practices of the Catholic Church were **excommunicated** by the church.
- **Protestants** were a group of Christians who spoke out against the teachings and practices of the Catholic Church.

## **REFORMATION**

- Ideas to **change** the Catholic Church were called the **Reformation**.
- **Martin Luther** was the leader of the **Reformation**. Martin Luther questioned the Church's practice of selling **indulgences** (forgiveness for sins).
- **Historical events** in chronological order are.....  
Golden Age of Greece → Roman Empire → Crusades → Renaissance