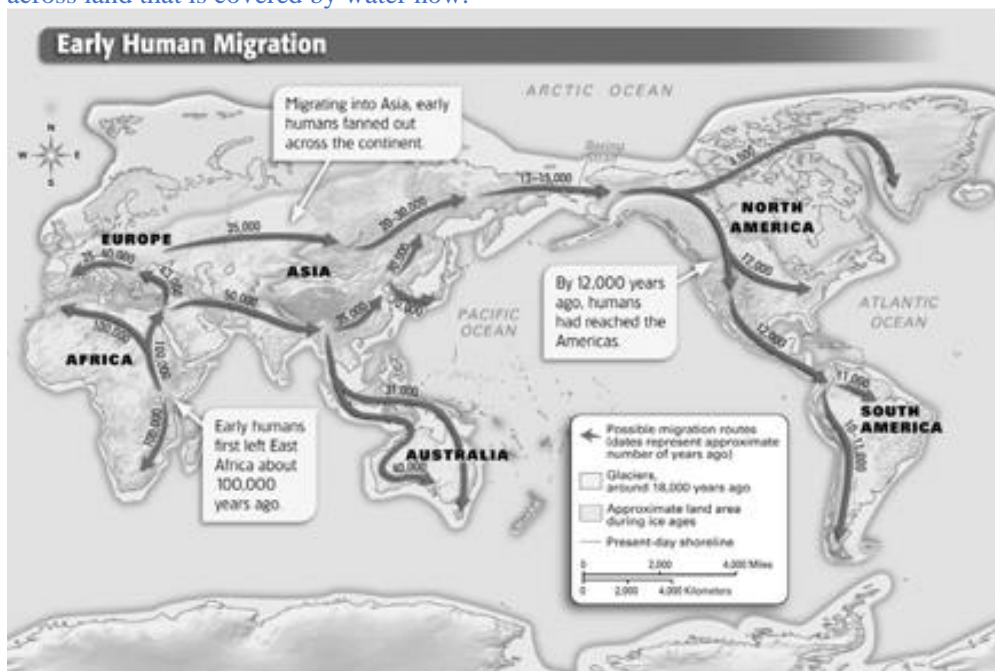


6th Grade Social Studies Study Guide

Use the Chapter Summaries handout to answer these questions to study for the semester test. Also study the vocabulary words for Chapters 1-5. The test will be on Tuesday, December 20 from 8:15am-9:30am.

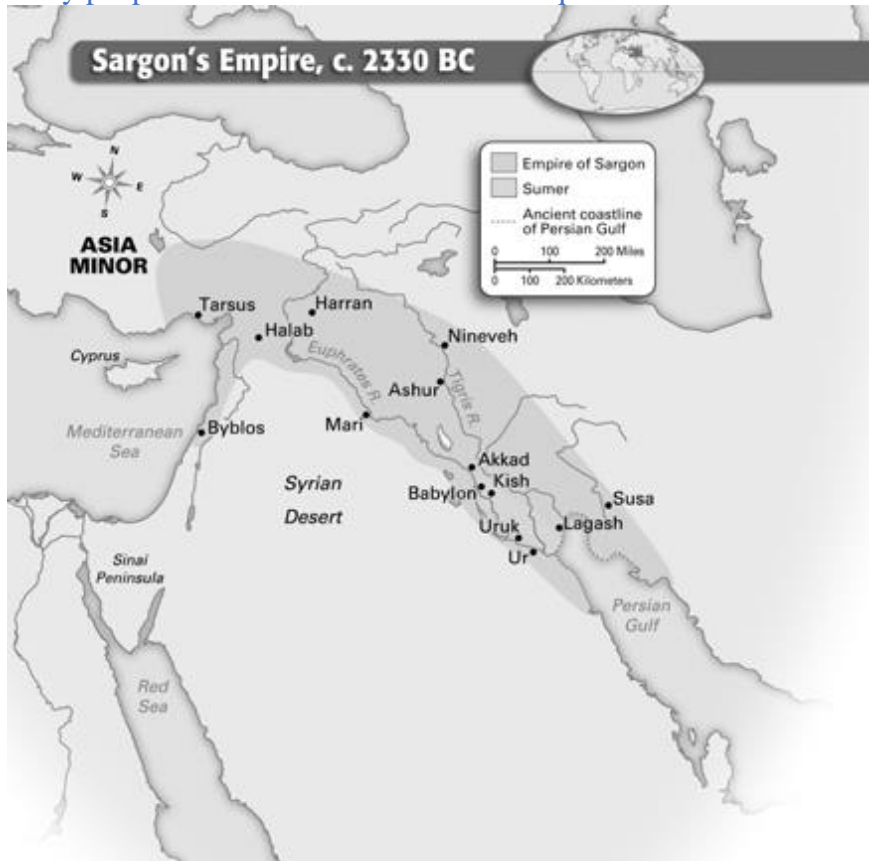
Chapters 1-2

1. Describe the main concerns and interests of historians. Historians are mainly concerned with human activity in the past. They want to know how people lived and why they did what they did.
2. What are three things you can learn by studying history? myself, others, and the world.
3. What sources of information do people use to learn history? People use fossils, artifacts, and primary and secondary sources.
4. What are some of the effects of climate? plant life as well as landforms
5. How are geography and history related? Geography affects resources and cultures and influences history.
6. Give three examples of how prehistoric people learned to adapt to their environment. They made simple tools to process food, used fire to cook their food, and developed a language to make it easier to communicate.
7. How did land bridges help people migrate around the world during the ice ages? Land bridges connected continents, allowing people to leave the freezing weather and move to warmer, drier continents.
8. How did migration cause people to adapt to new areas during the Mesolithic Era? People now lived all around the world and had to learn to use animal skins for clothing, to invent tools to fish and bow and arrows to hunt, and to make canoes for travel.
9. How did the development of agriculture bring change to human society? 10. How did farming change societies? Farming allowed people to begin controlling their food production. As a result, small communities grew into towns in which people worked together to raise crops and animals. They also gathered for religious functions.
11. Explain how early humans reached North America. Early humans reached North America from Asia by walking across land that is covered by water now.



Chapters 3-4

1. Why was Mesopotamia an ideal place for a civilization to develop? Mesopotamia was in the Fertile Crescent, an area of rich farmland. With a surplus of food, the population grew. People built cities and developed governments and cultures.
2. Describe the social hierarchy of ancient Sumer. At the top was the king, followed by priests and nobles. Craftspeople and merchants were the middle class. Farmers were in the working class, and slaves were at the bottom.
3. Name one Sumerian technical advance and tell how it made people's lives easier. Sumerians invented the wheel. It could be used to make carts and wagons, so transporting people and goods was easier. The Sumerians also used a potter's wheel to shape clay.
4. What does the location of temples in Sumerian cities tell you about Sumerian culture? They were located in the center of the city so it was probably important to them to be the center of their lives.
5. Do you think Hammurabi was a good ruler? Why or why not? Hammurabi was a good ruler because he worked to improve Babylon. He oversaw many building and irrigation projects and developed a written code of laws.
6. What were some geographical features that protected Egypt from invasion? Cataracts (steep rapids) and the desert
7. Why did pharaohs have absolute power? Egyptians believed that the pharaohs were gods who had come to take care of Egypt.
8. What were some things that Queen Hatshepsut accomplished? Queen Hatshepsut sent Egyptian traders to trade with people outside of Egypt. She used the wealth gained from trade to support the arts. She built monuments during her reign, like her temple near the city of Thebes.
9. Why did Egyptians build temples? They wanted to make the gods happy
10. What was the relationship like between Egypt and Kush? They sometimes were at war. Egypt invaded Kush, and the Kushites later revolted and gained their independence. Still, the Kushites kept many of the Egyptian ways they had adopted. Kush and Egypt were also trading partners.
11. Explain how the Syrian Desert may have limited the growth of Sargon's empire to the south. There weren't many people that lived in the desert to conquer.



12. What was the northernmost city of the New Kingdom? Ugarit

13. What goods would have been traded between Byblos and Punt? [Timber and gold](#)



Chapter 5

- 1. In what ways did the geography of India influence the development of civilizations?** The flooding of the Indus River Valley created fertile areas where farmers could settle. The Himalayas protected early civilizations from most invaders.
- 2. What did Hinduism teach about karma and the caste system?** According to Hinduism, a person who lives a good life builds up good karma and can be reborn into a higher caste.
- 3. What did the Buddha teach about material goods?** The Buddha believed that suffering came from people desiring material goods that they did not have, and that they should learn to overcome this desire.
- 4. How did Asoka work to spread Buddhism?** Asoka sent missionaries around Asia to teach people about Buddhism, and he had columns built that were carved with Buddhist teachings.
- 5. What were some of the major accomplishments of the Gupta period?** During the Gupta period, architecture became more complex, great paintings and sculptures were created, and new ideas in math and medicine were developed.