

Below are driving topics for each unit we study:

Ancient Greece

- Physical geography's impact on Greek civilization
- Mythology as a means to explain the world
- The development of democracy
- Comparing Athens and Sparta
- Women in Greek society
- Impact of the Persian Wars on Greek society
- Causes & effects of the Peloponnesian War
- Greek contributions to Western culture (select 1: Drama, philosophy, math, science, poetry, architecture, etc)
- Analyzing the impact of Alexander the Great's conquests

The Roman Republic and Empire

- Geography's impact on Roman society
- Comparing Greek & Roman mythology
- Interpreting the 12 Tables as a law code
- The rights & responsibilities of citizenship in Rome
- Evaluating a divided society of plebeians and patricians
- The Punic Wars impact on Rome
- Factors leading to the decline of the Roman Republic
- Caesar's role the origin of Imperial Rome
- The Pax Romana's influence on Roman society
- The origins and impact of Christianity
- Evaluating the division of the Roman Empire
- Factors leading to the fall of the Roman Empire
- Roman contributions to Western culture (select 1: Architecture, technology, language, literature, law, medicine, science etc)

Byzantine Society & the Rise of Islam

- The role Constantinople's physical location in its rise
- The impact of Justinian's Code
- Evaluating Theodora's role in history
- The role of icons in Eastern Christianity
- Analyzing the spread of Islam
- Examining Islam's Sunni-Shi'a division
- The scientific contributions of Islamic civilizations
- Trade routes and cultural diffusion

Classical India and Asia

- The caste system's role in Indian society
- Contributions of the Gupta Empire
- Confucianism and social order in China
- Evaluating the Dynastic Cycle and Mandate of Heaven
- The Great Wall as a defense system
- The Silk Road's spread of ideas and innovations
- Shinto as a religion unique to Japan

The Middle Ages

- The Roman Catholic Church's role in medieval society
- The impact of the crowning of Charlemagne
- Comparing the customs of Germanic tribes
- Reasons for the development of feudalism
- Analyzing the development of the Manor System
- Monasteries and valuing learning
- The role of invasions and migrations on the development of Europe
- Investigating the rise of European nation-states
- The Magna Carta & idea of limited power
- Events and Effects of the Crusades
- The Black Death's effect on economic and social institutions
- Southwest Asia's development & Mongol invasions
- The Gold Salt Trade & connecting societies
- Timbuktu as center of trade & learning

The Renaissance & Reformation

- Reasons for a rebirth of art and creativity
- Comparing artistic styles and subjects
- Humanism & celebrating the individual
- Evaluating the role of patrons in the arts
- Comparing the Italian and Northern Renaissance
- The impact of movable type on learning
- Merchant wealth as a challenge to the church
- Assessing the impact Martin Luther & the 95 Theses
- Comparing the beliefs of Protestant branches
- Examining the conflict between Henry VIII and the Catholic Church
- The Counter Reformation as a response to the Reformation