

7th Grade Review

Chavín - the first major South American civilization, which flourished in the highlands of what is now Peru from about 900 to 200 BCE

Mongols - nomadic peoples from central Asia who, in the early 1200s, were led by Genghis Khan, one of the most feared warriors of all time; they spread the bubonic plague along trade routes, taking it from China, where it began, to Europe in the 1300s

Hundred Years' War - a conflict in which England and France battled on French soil on and off from 1337 until 1453

public education - education offered to all children by the government and paid for entirely, or partially, by state taxes

citizen - a legally recognized inhabitant of a town, city, state, and/or country

checks and balances - measures designed to prevent any one branch of government from dominating the others

Roman Republic - the period from 507 to 31 BCE, during which Rome was run by the aristocratic Roman Senate

aristocracy - group of the most wealthy and privileged members of society

Mansa Musa - (1312 - 1337 CE) the tenth king of the Malian Empire in Africa; at the time, he was one of the wealthiest rulers in the world; he built cities and a University in his Empire; a devout Muslim, he made a famous pilgrimage to Mecca in 1324, making him well-known across northern Africa and the Middle East

Carthage - a city located in present-day Tunisia; founded by Phoenicians around 800 BCE; it became a major commercial center and naval power in the western Mediterranean until it was defeated by Rome in the third century (200s) BCE

Constantinople - the capital city of the Ottoman Empire, now known as Istanbul

river valley - the fertile land surrounding one or more rivers

maritime trade - trade that is done by sea, shipping goods from a port in one country or city to another; trade associated with the Mongols that thrived during the Yuan Dynasty

mountainous - containing many mountains

defensible - capable of being protected or defended

explorers - a person examining a region that is unknown to him or her

traders - people who buy and sell things as a business

missionaries - people who work to spread their religious beliefs

barbarians - Northern tribes who invaded and sacked Rome; also a general term for foreign invaders of a different religion

migrate - move from one country or region to another and settle there

nobility - people who are of high rank, title, or birth (they have lots of money and lots of power); in medieval Europe they were in charge of maintaining law and order

serfs - rural laborers, or peasants, who were legally tied (not allowed to move away from) to the land on which they worked

parish - a small district that usually has its own church and priest

constrain (past tense: constrained) - (verb) to limit, to restrict, to hold back

parliament - a group of people who make laws for a nation

Magna Carta - a document guaranteeing basic political rights in England, drawn up by nobles and approved by King John "Lackland" in 1215 CE; also called "the Great Charter;" an important step towards the creation of a constitutional government in England

Habeas Corpus Act - a law created in 1679 in England requiring that a prisoner be brought before a court of judge so it can be decided whether his or her imprisonment is legal; an important step towards the creation of a constitutional government in England

Glorious Revolution - the bloodless overthrow of the Catholic English King James II in 1688, and his replacement by his Protestant daughter Mary and her husband William of Orange, a prince from the Netherlands; this led to the creation of a constitutional government in England

monarchy - a government in which power is in the hands of a single person

constitutional monarchy - a monarchy in which the ruler's power is limited by law

absolute monarchy - a monarchy in which the ruler has unlimited power and seeks to control all aspects of society

Pope - the bishop of Rome and the head of the Roman Catholic Church

Holy Roman Empire - an empire established in Europe in the 10th century CE, originally consisting of lands in what is now Germany and Italy

inflation - a general and progressive increase in prices

yellow fever - a disease caused by mosquitoes; its symptoms included high fever and vomiting

cholera - a disease caused by bacteria in food and water; its symptoms include severe diarrhea, vomiting, and dehydration

malaria - a disease caused by mosquitoes implanting parasites in your blood; its symptoms include high fevers, chills, and sweating

bubonic plague - a deadly disease that spread from China, across Asia and Europe in the mid-14th century (mid-1300s), killing millions of people; was spread across trade routes, carried by fleas on rats; oh, did I mention that it spread through Europe in the 1300s, 1300s, 1300s, 1300s

century - a period of one hundred years

direct democracy - a form of government in which citizens rule directly and not through representatives

seafaring - (adjective) traveling by sea

Marco Polo - a Venetian (from Venice, Italy) merchant and traveler; explored Asia in the 13th century and served Kublai Khan (1254-1324); his accounts of his travels to China offered Europeans a firsthand view of Asian lands and stimulated interest in Asian trade

Muslims - those who practice the religion of Islam; believe in one God, and the prophet Muhammad whom they believe God spoke through

Renaissance - a period of intense artistic and intellectual activity, said to be a 'rebirth' of Greco-Roman culture; it is usually divided into two separate periods - an Italian one which lasted from the 1350s until the 1450s CE, and a Northern one which lasted from around 1400 to 1600 CE

Kush - an ancient Nubian kingdom whose rulers controlled Egypt from 751 to 671 BCE

Jesus - a teacher and prophet born in Bethlehem and active in Nazareth; his life and sermons form the basis for the Christian religion; Christians believe that he is the son of God

disciples - pupils or followers of any teacher or school of thought

Mona Lisa - a painting by Leonardo da Vinci of a woman with a mysterious smile; it now hangs in the Louvre museum in Paris and is one of the most recognized paintings in the world

Raphael - (1483-1520) Italian Renaissance painter; he painted frescos, his most famous being "The School of Athens"

fresco - a durable method of painting on a wall by using watercolors to paint on the wall when the plaster is wet

Michelangelo - a painter, a sculptor, architect, and poet; from 1508-1512, he painted the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel, "the greatest single masterpiece in the history of painting;" sculptures of David, Moses and Pieta; designed the Dome of St. Peter's Cathedral

Leonardo da Vinci - (1452-1519) an Italian Renaissance painter, sculptor, inventor, and scientist who was deeply interested in how things worked; he painted the Mona Lisa and the famous religious painting, The Last Supper; considered to be a true Renaissance man

Botticelli - An Italian Renaissance painter best known for his painting, Birth of Venus; in Birth of Venus he painted the ideal for female beauty during the Renaissance: slender, pale skin, a high forehead, red-blond hair, and sloping shoulders

Renaissance Men - the ideal individuals who mastered almost every area of study; these individuals were charming, witty, and well-educated, they could dance, sing, play music, write poetry wrestle, sword fight, ride horses, and always maintain a high level of self control; a book called "The Courtier" (1528), taught how to become such a person

Johann Gutenberg - a craftsman from Germany who invented the printing press and then used this invention to print a complete Bible in 1455

Gutenberg Bible - printed by Johan Gutenberg in 1455, it was the first full-size book printed with moveable type

printing press - invented in Germany by Johan Gutenberg in 1440 CE; it had a revolutionary impact on European society making it so that printers (men who created books) could produce hundreds of copies, all exactly the same, of a single book; allowed new ideas to spread more quickly than ever before; helped to spread learning, which led to demands for reform

William Shakespeare - (1564-1616) English dramatist and poet who lived during the Elizabethan Age; considered one of the greatest writers in the English Language; among other things he wrote Hamlet, Romeo and Juliet, Othello, Twelfth Night, and Richard III

Dante Alighieri - (1265-1321) an Italian poet famous for writing the 'Divine Comedy,' an epic poem that describes a journey through hell and purgatory and paradise

purgatory - according to the Roman Catholic religion, this is a place of suffering where the souls of sinners go to pay for their sins before going to heaven

Church of England - also known as the Anglican church, this church was created in England by King Henry VIII when the Pope refused to let Henry divorce his wife; the Church of England allows divorce

Lutheran beliefs - centered around three main ideas: (1) people could win salvation only by having faith in God; (2) all church teaching should be clearly based on the words of the Bible (the pope was a false authority); (3) all people with faith were equal so people don't need priests to interpret the Bible for them

The Elizabethan Age - the period of time during which the Renaissance spread to England; at this time (mid-1500s) Queen Elizabeth I was Queen of England and she did much to support the development of English art and literature during this time of English Renaissance

Spanish Inquisition - a process of religious "purification" in Spain that began under the rule of King Ferdinand & Queen Isabella in 1480 and lasted over 350 years; the goal of this process was to expel from Spain, imprison, or kill anyone who was not Catholic, especially Jews and Muslims; later used in countries ruled by Spain to fight Protestantism

heretic - a person who believes something that goes against his or her religious doctrine

doctrine - a belief or set of beliefs held and taught by a church, political party, or other group

Galileo Galilei - (1564-1642) an Italian physicist, mathematician, astronomer, and philosopher who played a major role in the Scientific Revolution; called "the Father of Modern Science;" the first person to use a telescope to study the stars

Sir Isaac Newton - (1643-1727) an English physicist, mathematician, astronomer, and philosopher; believed to be one of the greatest figures of the Scientific Revolution; in 1687 he published his theory of gravity and the three laws of motion, laying the groundwork for classical mechanics

scientific thought - a way of thinking that involves making observations, using evidence to draw conclusions, being skeptical about ideas, and being open to change when new discoveries are made

traditional - coming from customs handed down through time

systematic - characterized by order and planning

natural laws - rules or laws that govern how people behave and feel

law of gravity - a theory developed by Isaac Newton that states that every object in the universe pulls on every other object

laws of motion - three laws developed by Isaac Newton that describe the motion of matter as the direct result of the forces acting on it

Johannes Kepler - a German astronomer who lived from 1571-1630 and formulated three laws of how the planets revolve around the sun - the laws of planetary motion; a key figure in the 17th century Scientific Revolution

Antonie van Leeuwenhoek - (1632-1723) a Dutch tradesman and scientist who is known as "the Father of Microbiology;" the first person to see bacteria through a microscope; best known for his work on the improvement of the microscope and his work which led to the creation of the field of study called microbiology

Triangle Trade - a transatlantic trade between Europe, Africa, and the Americas; America sent raw materials to England; England sent manufactured products to Africa; Africa sent slaves to America and the West Indies

Columbian Exchange - the exchange of plants, animals, diseases, and technologies between the Americas and the rest of the world following Columbus's voyages

Scientific Revolution - a major change in European thought, starting in the mid-1500s, in which the study of the natural world began to be characterized by careful observation and the questioning of accepted beliefs

human reason - the human ability to think and grow in our understandings of the truth; with this ability, scholars believe humans could achieve knowledge, happiness, and freedom

individuality - qualities that make one person or thing different from others

John Locke - (1632-1704) English philosopher who advocated the idea of a "social contract" in which government powers are derived from the consent of the people it serves; he said that people have natural rights to life, liberty and property

republic - a form of government in which citizens choose their leaders by voting

dictatorship - a form of government in which the ruler is an absolute dictator (not restricted by a constitution, laws, or opposition)

representative democracy - a system of government in which citizens elect representatives, or leaders, to make decisions about the laws for all the people

natural rights - rights that belong to all human beings from birth

separation of powers - the division of power among the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of government

political equity - the idea that every individual has a right to equal protection under the law and equal voting power

English Bill of Rights - a document that created a limited monarchy in England; it was accepted by King William and Queen Mary in 1689; it guaranteed certain rights to English citizens and declared that elections for Parliament would happen frequently

religious freedom - the ability to choose which religion to practice, to change which religion you practice, or to practice no religion at all

theory of divine right - the theory that God gives rulers their right to rule

commoners - people who were not part of the nobility or the church

suffrage - the right to vote

Abbasids - a dynasty that ruled much of the Muslim Empire from 750 CE to 1258 CE

Aborigine - a member of any of the native peoples of Australia

absolute monarch - a king or queen who has unlimited power and seeks to control all aspects of society

Tennis Court Oath - a pledge made by the members of France's National Assembly in 1789, in which they vowed to continue meeting until they had drawn up a new constitution

Taj Mahal - a beautiful tomb in Agra, India, built by the Mughal emperor Shah Jahan for his wife Mumtaz Mahal

Silk Roads - a system of ancient caravan routes across Central Asia, along which traders carried silk and other trade goods

Shiva - a Hindu god considered to be the destroyer of the world

Shinto - meaning "way of the gods," it is Japan's earliest religion and was based on respect for the forces of nature and on the worship of ancestors

Amaterasu - according to the Japanese origin myth, people are descended from this sun goddess; the emperors of Japan all trace their descent from this goddess

Kublai Khan - a Mongol leader who became one of China's great emperors, uniting the country for the first time in 300 years; he founded the Yuan dynasty in China, opened China up to greater foreign trade, tolerated Chinese culture, and made few changes to the system of government

samurai - in Japanese it means "one who serves;" loyal warriors in Japan who lived by a code of honor called Bushido that values endurance, cunning, physical strength, courage, and loyalty to their daimyo (the one who employs them); will commit ritual suicide rather than face defeat or dishonor; fight for a daimyo in exchange for an allowance

knight - loyal warriors in Europe who lived by a code of honor called chivalry that values bravery and loyalty to God, their lord (the one who employs them), and a chosen lady; fight for a lord in exchange for land

ghazi - loyal warriors in the Ottoman Empire who lived by a strict Islamic code of honor that valued loyalty to God, his prophet Mohammad, and their emir (the one who employs them); fight for an emir in exchange for an allowance

Allah - the Arabic word for God

Anasazi - an early Native American people who lived in the American Southwest

Angkor Wat - a temple complex built in the Khmer Empire and dedicated to the Hindu god Vishnu

Khmer Empire - a Southeast Asian empire, centered in what is now Cambodia, that reach its peak of power around 1200 CE

Vishnu - a Hindu god considered to be the preserver of the world

Vedas - a collection of sacred writings produced by the Aryans during an early stage of their settlement in India

Aryans - an Indo-European people who, in about 1500 BCE, began to migrate into the Indian subcontinent

aqueduct - a pipeline or channel built to carry water to populated areas

aristocracy - a government in which power is in the hands of a hereditary ruling class or nobility

armistice - an agreement to stop fighting

artifact - a human-made object, such as a tool, a weapon, or a piece of jewelry

baroque - relating to a grand, ornate (detailed) style that characterized European painting, music, and architecture in the 1600s and early 1700s

balance of power - a political situation in which no one nation is powerful enough to pose a threat to others

Bronze Age - a period in human history, beginning around 3000 BCE in some areas, during which people began using bronze, rather than copper or stone, to make tools and weapons

clergy - a group of high Church officials who perform religious services - such as priests, ministers, or rabbis; during the medieval period in Europe, the political power of kings and great nobles was often constrained (limited) by the actions of these high Church officials

civil war - a conflict between two political groups within the same country

The Enlightenment - an 18th century (1700s) European movement in which thinkers attempted to apply the principles of reason and the scientific method to all of society

enlightenment - in Buddhism, a state of perfect wisdom in which one understands basic truths about the universe

Edict of Nantes - a 1598 declaration in which the French king, Henry IV (4th) promised that Protestants could live in peace in France and could set up houses of worship in some French cities

encomienda - a grant of land made by Spain to a settler in the Americas, including the right to use Native Americans as laborers on it

dynasty - a series of rulers from a single family

Daoism - a philosophy based on the ideas of the Chinese thinker, Laozi, who taught that people should be guided by a universal force called the Dao (the way)

daimyo - a Japanese feudal lord who commanded a private army of samurai

Cyrillic alphabet - an alphabet for the writing of Slavic languages, devised in the ninth century CE by Saint Cyril and Saint Methodius

Crusades - holy wars in which medieval Christian warriors sought to recover control of the Holy Land from the Muslims; cloth and spices brought back to Central and Western Europe by the Christian warriors led to a greater European interest in trade with Asia

Martin Luther - (1483-1546) a German monk who, in 1517, took a public stand against the sale of indulgences by nailing his 95 Theses to the door of the castle church in Wittenburg; he believed that people did not need priests to interpret the Bible for them; his actions began the Reformation

scripture - sacred writings of any religion

Reformation - a movement for Religious reform that began in Germany in the 1500s; led to the founding of Christian churches that did not accept the pope's authority

Edict of Worms - an imperial order issued by Holy Roman Emperor Charles V that declared Martin Luther an outlaw and a heretic; said no one was to give Luther food or shelter and all of his books were to be burned

Lutherans - the followers of Martin Luther

indulgence - a pardon, that one could buy or be given by a church official, releasing a person from punishments for a sin; Martin Luther was inspired to write his 95 Theses when he learned that many friars were telling people that by buying indulgences, they were buying their way into heaven

limited monarchy - a monarchy in which the ruler shares his or her power with Parliament and the people

Protestant - a member of any Western Christian church that is separate from the Roman Catholic Church and follows the principles of the Reformation

Peace of Augsburg - a treaty, signed in 1555, between Holy Roman Emperor Charles V and the German Protestant princes, that granted legal recognition of Lutheranism in Germany and said that the religion of each German state was to be decided by its ruler

The Spanish Armada - a Spanish fleet of ships sent to attack England in 1588; one of the largest military fleets in the history of warfare; however, the smaller English fleet was able to defeat this Spanish fleet, thereby ending Spain's domination of the Atlantic Ocean

Elizabeth I - (1533-1603) the Queen of England from 1558-1603, she was the daughter of Henry VIII and Anne Boelyn; known as the Virgin queen; she made England a Protestant nation, defeated the Spanish Armada, and brought great wealth and power to her nation; the time of her rule came to be called the "Golden Age" of England

John Calvin - (1509-1564) Swiss theologian (born in France); wrote 'Institutes of the Christian Religion' in 1536; believed that men and women are sinful by nature and that people can not earn salvation - God chooses a few "elect" who he will save

predestination - a doctrine defined by John Calvin that says that God has known since the beginning of time who will go to heaven and who won't and you have absolutely no control over whether or not you were one of the "elect" chosen to be saved

Calvinism - a Protestant religion based on the teachings of John Calvin; based on a belief in predestination (the idea that God decided whether or not a person would be saved as soon as they were born); members of this religion supported the idea of a constitutional representative government and the separation of church and state

Mayan Empire - a Mesoamerican empire that stretched from southern Mexico into Central America; made up of independent city-states linked by trade; created a calendar, the most advanced writing system in the ancient Americas, and produced a series of highly skilled astronomers and mathematicians; economy was based in agriculture; famous for cities featuring giant pyramids, temples, palaces, and elaborate stone carvings; its peoples believed in many gods

Chichen Itza - a Mayan city, located on the Yucatan Peninsula in Mexico, filled with huge buildings to honor rulers, warriors, and gods

glyphs - the name of the 800 symbols that made up the Mayan system of writing - the most advanced writing system in the ancient Americas

Popol Vuh - the most famous Mayan book which tells the Mayan story of the beginning of the world; the book begins, "Before the world was created, Calm and Silence were the great kings that ruled. Nothing existed. There was nothing."

Aztec Empire - the greatest empire in Mesoamerica; located in central Mexico; religion was the center of life and cities like Tenochtitlan were full of hundreds of temples and religious structures dedicated to the gods

Teotihuacan - an city-state that was located just outside of present-day Mexico city, and became the first major civilization in central Mexico; in the center of the city was the 200-foot tall Pyramid of the Sun; its most valuable trade item was obsidian

obsidian - a hard, glassy green or black rock found in the Valley of Mexico and used to make razor sharp weapons; it was the most valuable trade item for the city of Teotihuacan

Quetzalcoatl - the "Feathered Serpent God;" a Mesoamerican god who was believed to be part snake and part quetzal bird; the story of this god started in Teotihuacan where he represented earth and rain; later the Aztecs saw him as the god of learning and a symbol of death and rebirth

Montezuma II - an Aztec emperor who ruled during a period of unrest and rebellion in the Aztec Empire; he saw the Spanish conquistadors invade and overthrow his Empire, wiping out the Aztecs by sword and by smallpox

Incan Empire - a Mesoamerican civilization in the Andes Mountains in South America that by the end of the 1400s was the largest empire in the Americas including much of what is now Peru, Ecuador, Bolivia, and Chile; conquered by Pizarro

Pachacuti - an Incan leader whose name means "World Transformer;" he greatly expanded the Incan empire, making it the largest empire in the Americas

Akbar - (1542-1605) the Muslim ruler of India from 1556 until 1605; his name means "Great One;" he defended the right to religious freedom and abolished the tax on Hindu pilgrims and the hated jizya, a tax on non-Muslims; he could not read but hired people to read to him; under his rule art, architecture, literature, and education flourished

Urdu - a language that developed during the Golden Age of Akbar, it is a blend of Arabic, Persian, and Hindi; today it is the official language of Pakistan

Hagia Sophia - means "Holy Wisdom" in Greek; a cathedral built in the city of Constantinople (today called Istanbul) by Emperor Justinian in 360 CE; for almost one thousand years, it was the largest cathedral in the world; it is the most famous example of Byzantine architecture in the world

Charlemagne - he was crowned king of the Franks in 771 CE and went on to build an empire greater than any known since ancient Rome; he spread Christianity, reunited western Europe for the first time since the Roman Empire, and was crowned emperor by Pope Leo III in 800 CE; he stressed the value of education and opened many schools

Franks - a West Germanic people living in the Roman province of Gaul (present-day France); famous rulers of these peoples include Clovis and Charlemagne

Justinian Code - the body of Roman civil law collected and organized by order of the Byzantine emperor Justinian around 534 CE

kabuki - a type of Japanese drama in which music, dance, and mime are used to present stories

Koryu Dynasty - a dynasty that ruled Korea for 935 CE - 1392 CE

karma - in Hinduism AND Buddhism it is the totality of the good and bad deeds performed by a person, which is believed to determine his or her fate after rebirth

Iroquois - a group of Native American peoples who spoke related languages, lived in the Great Lakes region of North America, and formed an alliance in the late 1500s

Maghrib - a region of western North Africa, consisting of the Mediterranean coastlands of what is now Morocco, Tunisia, and Algeria

mamelukes - Turkish slaves who served as soldiers and bodyguards in the Abbasid Empire

Mesoamerica - an area extending from central Mexico to Honduras, where several of the ancient complex societies of the Americas developed

Maori - a member of a Polynesian people who settled in New Zealand around 800 CE

Mandate of Heaven - in Chinese history, the divine approval thought to be the basis of royal authority

mercenary - a soldier who is paid to fight for a foreign army

Middle Ages - the era in European history that followed the fall of the Roman Empire, lasting from about 500 to 1500 CE; also called the medieval period

476 CE - The year that the Roman Empire fell

Ferdinand Magellan - Portuguese navigator who led the Spanish expedition (1519-1522 CE) that was the first to circumnavigate (sail all the way around) the world

caravan routes - set trade routes established by the Mongols to improve trade contacts with other civilizations

caravan - a group of people, especially traders or pilgrims, traveling together across a desert in Asia or North Africa

paper - material made from the pulp of wood and mainly used for writing, drawing, or printing on; invented by the Chinese in the 2nd century CE who introduced it to the Arabs, who introduced it to medieval Europeans

Cai Lun - a Han court in China who invented paper and the wood-pulp paper making process in China in the early 2nd century CE (100s CE)

Han Dynasty (206 BCE - 220 CE) - the second imperial dynasty in China

Ghana Empire (830-1235 CE) - a northwest African empire whose cities were located along major trade routes, allowing the empire to prosper economically (make them rich); this empire grew in power as trans-Saharan trade increased

Mali Empire (1230-1600 CE) - a northwest African empire founded by Sundiata Keita and famous for the wealth of its rulers, especially Mansa Musa; its cities were located along major trade routes, allowing the empire to prosper economically (make them rich)

Trans-Saharan trade - trade, mostly of gold and salt, between Mediterranean countries and sub-Saharan Africa, that was conducted across the Sahara desert and into West Africa