

4.7 Global History Calendar: Human Origins through European Enlightenment

This is a chronological calendar with nine units and 105 lesson aims so it has room for two-day lessons, skill-based activities, and extended in-depth thematic exploration of selected topics such as the role of religion in history, golden ages in China and the Islamic world, and the impact of the Columbian Exchange and trans-Atlantic slave trade. The lesson sequence is based on a calendar originally developed by Michael Mullervy for ninth grade students at Uniondale (NY) High School.

Unit I: Introduction to Global History

1. How are we all connected?
2. Are current conflicts rooted in the past?
3. What questions do we want to study?
4. Why do historians study history?
5. What do we learn from the social sciences?
6. What are the criteria for accepting evidence?
7. What does the physical world look like?
8. Why did human beings emerge in East Africa?
9. How did human beings populate the planet?
10. What is culture?
11. Why are people and cultures both similar and different?
12. How does geography shape culture and history?
13. How do we learn about ancient societies?

Unit II: The Growth of Ancient Civilizations

14. How did the geography of river valleys lead to the growth of the ancient civilizations?
15. How did the development of agriculture change life in the ancient world?
16. Why did river valley societies develop the “civilization package”?
17. What was daily life like in river valley civilizations?
18. What were the early contributions of Tigris-Euphrates and Fertile Crescent civilizations?
19. What were the main contributions of Indus and Yellow River Valley civilizations to world history?
20. How did geographical conditions help and hinder the growth of Native American societies?
21. How did the Mayans develop a river valley civilization without a river?

Unit III: Emergence of the Mediterranean World

22. Was ancient Egypt an “African” or “Mediterranean” civilization?
23. What were government and religion like in Egypt under the pharaohs?
24. What were the main contributions of ancient Egypt to world history?
25. How did geography affect life in ancient Greece?
26. Why did Greek cities develop different forms of government?
27. Was Alexander of Macedonia really “great”?
28. What was the impact of the Hellenic age on the Mediterranean world?
29. What were Greece’s contributions to western thought?
30. What was life like for women in the ancient Mediterranean world?
31. Why did Rome emerge as the dominant power in the Mediterranean world?
32. How did the growth of the Roman Empire change the Mediterranean world?

33. What is the legacy of Rome?
34. Why do empires collapse?
35. Did the achievements of ancient civilizations justify the way they treated ordinary people?

Unit IV: Comparative Religions

36. Why do people develop religious beliefs and practices?
37. How has religion influenced world history?
38. How do Hinduism and Buddhism try to answer life's great questions?
39. Does Chinese philosophy teach people how to live simple lives?
40. How did Judaism develop and survive?
41. What was the appeal of early Christian teachings?
42. How did Christianity spread throughout the Mediterranean world?
43. How did Islam build on earlier universal religions?
44. Are all religions different ways of expressing the same things?

Unit V: Expanding Zones of Exchange and Encounter (500-1200)

45. Why was central Asia the birthplace of armies and empires?
46. What happens when waves of new peoples enter an empire?
47. What was life like in the Byzantine Empire of the eastern Mediterranean?
48. How does Byzantine art help us understand Byzantine society?
49. Why did feudalism develop in Western Europe and Japan?
50. What was the feudal arrangement in Western Europe?
51. What was like life for ordinary people in feudal Europe?
52. Why did Europeans build cathedrals?
53. What was life like in feudal Japan?
54. What was the code of the Bushido?
55. How did feudalism differ in Asia and Europe?
56. How did Islam develop in the Arabian Peninsula?
57. How did Islam spread to Africa and in Asia?
58. What were Islamic contributions to world culture?
59. The Crusades: What happens when world's collide?
60. What forces led to the end of feudal society in Europe?
61. How did trade networks help to transform a regional world?

Unit VI: Global Interactions

62. How did the Gupta Empire shape Indian society?
63. Did Islam reshape India?
64. What was life in India during the Mogul empire?
65. Was the Tang Empire of China a model for other Asian people?
66. Could the Mongols change China?
67. How did Japan emerge as a nation?
68. What is the philosophy of Zen?
69. How did travel and trade bridge geographic divides?
70. Why did the Emperor of China order his fleet to turn back?
71. What was life like in West Africa before contact with Europeans?
72. What were major achievements of West Africans civilizations?
73. How did West Africa join the Islamic world?

74. How did the Ottomans and Safavid empires integrate southwest Asia?

Unit VII: The Emergence of Western Europe as a World Power

75. How did internal strife and commerce lead to reorganization in Europe?

76. Why was there a European Renaissance?

77. Why did East Asia and Europe take different paths?

78. How did technology change the European world?

79. Why did Europe turn outward?

80. Why did European countries explore the Americas?

81. How did the Columbian Exchange transform the world?

82. Why did the Christian world divide?

83. What did Martin Luther and John Calvin teach?

84. Why did the Protestant Reformation win support?

85. How did the Roman Catholic Church respond to the Protestant Reformation?

86. What were the outcomes of the European religious wars?

Unit VIII: The Age of Exploration and the Slave Trade Reshape the World

87. What were the achievements of the Aztec and Incan Empires?

88. How did Western Europe conquer the Americas?

89. What was the impact of the Columbian Exchange on the indigenous people of America?

90. Why did the Columbian Exchange lead to war in Europe?

91. How did the Columbian Exchange lead to the trans-Atlantic slave trade?

92. What was the impact of the slave trade on life in West Africa?

93. How did the trans-Atlantic slave trade transform the world?

94. Why did European nations build colonial empires?

95. How did European nations govern their colonial empires?

96. How did Africans resist enslavement?

97. How did the resources of the Americas and the labor of Africans contribute to the industrial revolution?

Unit IX: Absolute Monarchy and the European Enlightenment

98. How did empire and religious war lead to nation building and absolute monarchy?

99. Why was absolute monarchy so strong in France and Russia?

100. How did the British battle over monarchy?

101. Why did a scientific revolution change the way European philosophers understood the world?

102. What were the origins and ideals of the European Enlightenment?

103. How did British philosophers apply Enlightenment ideas?

104. Why did French philosophers argue for human rights?

105. How did European Enlightenment ideas affect the people of Europe and the world?