

Level 7

Social Studies

2nd Edition

Help Pages

| abacus | a device that uses sliding beads for mathematical computation | | |
|-------------------------------|---|--|--|
| Abraham | the "spiritual father" of the Jews; a prophet of Islam; an ancestor of Jesus | | |
| Abrahamic religions | Judaism, Christianity, Islam | | |
| absolute location | the exact point where a latitude and a longitude line intersect | | |
| acupuncture | a procedure that involves inserting needles into the body to promote healing | | |
| agricultural society | a group of people that grows plants and raises animals for food | | |
| Akhenaten | the first Egyptian pharaoh to promote monotheism; father of King Tut | | |
| algebra | a branch of mathematics | | |
| Allah | the Muslim term for God | | |
| alloy | a mixture of metals combined to create a metal with superior traits | | |
| Alps | a large mountain range in Europe | | |
| amendment | a change to the Constitution | | |
| Antarctica | the southernmost continent; the world's largest and coldest desert | | |
| aqueduct | arched passageways for the transport of water | | |
| archaeology | also archeology; the scientific study of relics, artifacts, and monuments that | | |
| (ahr kee ol uh jee) | remain from human activities | | |
| archaeologist | scientist that studies relics of past cultures | | |
| archipelago | a chain of islands | | |
| artifact | human-made object used to study the lives people and cultures of the past | | |
| Aryan people | a group of people from central Asia that entered India around 1500 BCE; Aryans changed India's culture by bringing a caste system and Brahmanism | | |
| asceticism (ascetic life) | a life of strict self-denial including fasting, prayer, and reading scriptures in order to grow spiritually | | |
| astrolabe | navigational tool that relied upon the position of the planets | | |
| atheist | one who does not believe in a supreme being or god | | |
| Babylonian Captivity | the period during which the Hebrews were under the control of the Babylonian Empire | | |
| balance of trade | the proportion of imports to exports in a country's trade; balance of trade is "favorable" if a country exports more than it imports | | |
| baron | a lesser noble; one who held land under the system of feudalism in Europe | | |
| barter | a system of trading goods and services for other goods and services | | |
| BCE (Before Common Era) | nonreligious common language for dating events that came before the birth of Jesus; on a timeline, BCE numbers increase as they move from right to left | | |
| Bible | means "books"; a collection of holy texts for Christians, including the Hebrew Scriptures and the Christian Scriptures | | |
| Buddha | the primary figure in and founder of Buddhism; born Siddhartha Gautama, a Hindu prince | | |
| Buddhism | a major world religion founded by Buddha; beliefs include karma, reincarnation, the Four Noble Truths, the Middle Way, and the Eightfold Path | | |

| caliph (kay luhf) | the title for the highest leader of Islam | |
|---|--|--|
| capital resource | an item that is purchased and used to produce goods or provide services; some are manufactured; others come from natural resources and are packaged for sale | |
| caste | the social class into which an Indian person is born | |
| CE (Common Era) | nonreligious common language for dating events that came after the birth of Jesus; on a timeline, CE numbers increase as they move from left to right | |
| chivalry | during Medieval times, an honor code that bound a knight to high standards of behavior | |
| Christianity | a major world religion based on the teachings and worship of Jesus | |
| chronological order | sequential order; the order in which events happen | |
| city-state | a region with several farms and villages located around a central urban center and ruled by a king | |
| civil law | legal system based on a written code of laws | |
| civilization | an organized, advanced, complex society | |
| Cleopatra | the last Egyptian pharaoh | |
| clergy bishops and priests and others who are ordained to work in a church organization | | |
| commerce | buying and selling of goods and services | |
| communism a combined political and economic system, often accompanied by a dictional other authoritarian leader; a form of socialism | | |
| competition | one of the main factors that determine the price of a good or service; more than one person or company is selling a good or providing a service | |
| Confucianism (kuhn fyoo shuhn iz uhm) | an ancient Chinese philosophy founded by Confucius, which presumes that humans are naturally good; promotes good behavior, respect, politeness | |
| constitutional monarchy | a government in which the powers of the monarch are limited by a constitution | |
| consumer | one that buys and uses goods and services | |
| cosmopolitan | worldly and multicultural; sophisticated | |
| coup (koo) | a sudden takeover of the government, usually accompanied by illegal acts and violence | |
| cultural diffusion | the spread of ideas, philosophies, and customs from one culture to another | |
| culture | the way a group of people lives, including their customs, beliefs, arts, values, and language | |
| currency | money; the accepted form of payment within a country | |
| czar (zahr) | a title for a monarch, emperor, or person of great authority | |
| daimyo (dahym yo) | a noble during the feudal period in Japan | |
| degree | a unit of measure for latitude and longitude | |
| delta | a landform that develops when a river divides into many channels at its mouth | |

| demand | an economics term that describes how much of an item consumers want to buy and how much they are willing to pay for it | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| democracy | a government in which a country's citizens choose their leaders and settle issues by voting in elections | | |
| Diaspora (dahy as pur uh) | the displacement, or scattering, of Jews from their lands | | |
| dictatorship | a government in which a leader or small group wields absolute power | | |
| direct democracy | a government in which citizens vote on every issue | | |
| domestic good | a good produced in-country | | |
| duchy (duh chee) | small subdivision of a kingdom | | |
| dynasty | a country with a single ruling family; the period of time during which that family reigns | | |
| economics | study of how people allocate limited resources and use them to satisfy their needs and wants | | |
| edict | a royal proclamation | | |
| Eightfold Path | a set of actions meant to end suffering and help one achieve Nirvana (happiness); Buddhist teaching | | |
| embalm | a process that treats a dead body with chemicals to prevent decomposition | | |
| emissary | a representative that travels from one country to another with a specific mission | | |
| emperor | a male leader of an empire | | |
| empire | a group of different lands under the control of a single ruler | | |
| empress | a female leader of an empire | | |
| enlightenment | a deep knowledge of life's truths; a central goal of Buddhists | | |
| entrepreneur | a person who launches a new type of business and is responsible for managing the business and all the risks that come with it | | |
| epic poem | a lengthy story of a hero's adventures told in verse | | |
| Equator | the latitude line at 0°; divides the globe into the Northern and Southern Hemispheres | | |
| equestrian | a horseman and leader in the army of the Roman Empire | | |
| ethnic group | a group of people who have the same heritage (cultural connection) | | |
| excommunication | church sanction that cuts a person off from the church and all its services | | |
| export | a good or service that is sold to another country | | |
| federal republic | a government in which power is shared and leaders are elected | | |
| Fertile Crescent | an area of land stretching from the mouth of the Nile to the northwest tip of the Persian Gulf | | |
| feudalism (fyoo duhl iz uhm) | a system in which land is granted in exchange for loyalty and military service | | |
| fief (feef) | a sizeable plot of land granted to a vassal in exchange for loyalty and military service during the time of feudalism in Europe | | |
| figurehead | a leader in name only | | |
| Five Pillars of Islam | five acts considered crucial to the Muslim faith | | |

| foreign good | a good imported from another country | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| foreign policy | guidelines regarding how a country will interact with other countries | | |
| Four Noble Truths | Buddha's philosophy on the nature of suffering and how to end it | | |
| free market system | an economic system in which buyers and sellers can choose what they want to buy and sell | | |
| geography | study of the Earth's surface and the relationships among people, animals, plants, rivers, mountains, deserts, and other landforms and resources | | |
| golden age | a civilization's time of peace, prosperity, and achievement | | |
| guild | an organization of tradesmen and artisans (skilled workers) that practiced the same trade or craft, such as carpentry or weaving; created standards for acceptable work and laws | | |
| Han Dynasty | the Chinese dynasty that followed the Qin and expanded the Chinese Empire; less emphasis on Legalism and more emphasis on Confucianism | | |
| Harappan (huh rap in) civilization | also Harappa; India's oldest civilization; developed along the Indus River in west India around 2500 BCE | | |
| Hatshepsut (hat shehp sut) | a female pharaoh; one of history's first powerful female monarchs | | |
| Hebrews | the Jews; also called the Israelites | | |
| hemisphere | half of the globe; Equator and Prime Meridian divide the Earth into hemispheres | | |
| hieroglyphics (hahy roh glif iks) | the ancient Egyptian writing system | | |
| Himalayas | the world's tallest mountain range; located in Asia; border India to the northeast | | |
| Hindu-Arabic numerals | the numerals upon which modern numbers are based | | |
| Hinduism | a major world religion; one of the world's oldest belief systems; polytheistic; developed from Brahmanism; beliefs include karma, reincarnation, and reunion with God | | |
| history | the study of events of the past | | |
| human resource | a person who makes a good or provides a service | | |
| humanism | an interest in classical studies and religious concerns blended with the actions of human beings; a significant philosophy that arose during the Renaissance | | |
| hunter-gatherers | people who get food by hunting animals and foraging for plants | | |
| import | a product a country buys from another country | | |
| indulgence | a pardon from the Catholic Church for wrongdoing | | |
| inoculation | injecting a body with a small amount of disease to cause the body to build defenses against the disease | | |
| input | something that goes into making goods and providing services | | |
| interdict | closing the fief church; punishment by the Catholic Church | | |
| intermediate good | a manufactured item that goes into the making of another product | | |
| international trade | commerce between two or more countries; imports and exports | | |
| irrigation | diverting water from rivers in order to water crops | | |

| Islam | a major world religion; based upon the teachings of Muhammad | | |
|--------------------------------|---|--|--|
| isolationism | a foreign policy that greatly restricts a country's interactions with other | | |
| | countries | | |
| Israelite (iz ree uhl ahyt) | also Hebrew; a descendant of Abraham's grandson, Jacob | | |
| Jesus | also Jesus Christ; a Jewish rabbi believed by Christians to be the son of God | | |
| Jews | also Hebrews; practitioners of Judaism | | |
| Judaism | a major world religion; one of the first monotheistic religions; scriptures focus on justice, kindness, and obedience to the law | | |
| judicial branch | the branch of government that interprets laws; judiciary | | |
| kami | in the Shinto religion, sacred spirits that live in all natural things such as planets, rocks, animals, and trees | | |
| karma | a Sanskrit term that means "to determine one's form" (in the next life); a person's behavior in this life affects the form that a soul takes when it is reborn | | |
| kingdom | country ruled by a king or queen | | |
| kingdom (Egyptology) | one of the three main eras of ancient Egypt | | |
| knight | a trained military horseman who fights in exchange for land in a feudal system | | |
| latitude lines | imaginary lines drawn on a map to show distance above or below the Equator; also called parallels | | |
| law of supply and demand | the principle that states that as the price of a good increases, consumers buy less, and as the price of a good decreases, consumers will buy more | | |
| Legalism | an ancient Chinese belief system that presumes that humans are naturally evil and that only the law can restore order and maintain harmony | | |
| legislative branch | the branch of government that proposes and passes laws; legislature | | |
| longitude lines | imaginary lines drawn on a map to show distance from 0° longitude, which is the Prime Meridian; also called meridians | | |
| Mandate of Heaven | the belief that the gods decide who should be in power; this belief prevailed in ancient China | | |
| manor | a large agricultural estate managed by lords and vassals; usually included a manor house as well as farm buildings, a peasant village, a church, and a grain mill | | |
| manorialism | estate-centered social and economic system that accompanied feudalism | | |
| map key | shows the meaning of map symbols | | |
| map scale | shows how much real distance is represented on a map | | |
| maritime | relating to, near, or on the sea | | |
| market | anywhere that buyers and sellers meet | | |
| martyr | a person who sacrifices his or her life for the sake of his or her principles | | |
| mercantilism | an economic system in which colonies are controlled and used by a mother | | |
| (mur kuhn teel iz uhm) | | | |
| meridian | a longitude line | | |

| "the anointed one"; a figure, foretold in Jewish scripture, who will restore t | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| Jewish people to greatness | | | |
| metallurgist | scientist who works with metals | | |
| Middle Way, the | a lifestyle of moderation promoted by Buddhism | | |
| migrate | to move to a new place; human migration has often been caused by lack of food, discrimination, war, or new job opportunities | | |
| missionary | one who travels in hopes of spreading a religious message | | |
| monarch | a ruler; a member of royalty who has inherited power; a king or queen who typically rules for life (also called czar or sultan) | | |
| monarchy | government ruled by royalty, such as a king or queen | | |
| monasticism (muh nas ti siz uhm) | living "alone in community" for spiritual growth | | |
| monopoly | an economic situation in which a single company controls an important product, necessary good, or service; beneficial to the seller | | |
| monotheism (mon oh thee iz uhm) | the belief in and worship of one god | | |
| monsoon | a seasonal change in wind direction that may bring heavy rains | | |
| mosque | Islamic house of worship | | |
| Muhammad | the last and greatest prophet, according to Islam | | |
| mummification | the process by which the dead are dried and their bodies preserved | | |
| Muslim | practitioner of Islam | | |
| myth | cultural story used to explain the mystery in life; it explores important aspects of life, nature, human origins and behavior, and complexities of culture | | |
| mythology | a collection of myths; a branch of study that explores cultural myths | | |
| nationalism | pride on one's country | | |
| natural resource | material provided by nature with no intervention by humans | | |
| New Testament | Christian Scriptures that tell the life and teachings of Jesus as well as the early Christian Church | | |
| Nile River | the world's longest river; located in Africa | | |
| nirvana (nur von uh) | concept common to many Indian religious traditions; a state of pure happiness | | |
| obelisk | a tall, four-sided pillar with a pyramid-shaped top | | |
| oligarchy (ol i gahr kee) | a government ruled by a small, elite group of people | | |
| opportunity cost | the best option given up when a choice is made between two desirable things | | |
| oracle bones | ancient Chinese divination tools; etched with the first Chinese writing | | |
| pantheon | a Greek term that means "of the gods" or "for the gods" | | |
| papyrus (puh pahy ruhs) | paper made from the flax plant; invented by the ancient Egyptians | | |
| parallel | a latitude line | | |
| parliament | a legislative body | | |

| patrician | Roman aristocrat | | |
|---|--|--|--|
| patron | one who supports the arts with money | | |
| peace treaty | an official agreement to end a war | | |
| peasant | works a fief for protection and subsistence but is not the property of the vassal | | |
| pharaoh (far oh) | a king of Egypt; considered to be descended from the gods | | |
| pharmacy | a place where medicines are made and/or sold | | |
| philosopher | "a lover of wisdom"; one who thinks critically, questions life, and seeks learning or enlightenment | | |
| physical map | shows the geological features (mountains, valleys, deserts, lakes, etc.) of an area | | |
| pie chart | a graph that shows the parts of a whole; also called a circle graph | | |
| plebeian (pli bee yin) | a working class person or commoner in ancient Roman society | | |
| polis | a small independent political unit; ancient Greek city-state | | |
| political map | shows boundaries determined by humans; counties, cities, and towns, landmarks, etc. | | |
| polymath | a person knowledgeable in several areas of thought or study | | |
| polytheism (pol ee thee iz uhm) | belief in many gods or deities | | |
| pope | leader of the Catholic Church; the bishop of Rome | | |
| popular sovereignty | rule by the people | | |
| porcelain | hard, white ceramic ware often used for dishes and ornamental pieces of art | | |
| primary source | an account of an event written or told by someone who witnessed the event | | |
| Prime Meridian | the longitude line at 0°; divides the globe into the Eastern and Western Hemispheres | | |
| producers | the workers who make goods and provide services | | |
| profit | money left over after the expenses of producing a product or providing a service are paid | | |
| pyramids | large structures with a wide base and a pointed top; found in Egypt, Kush, and the Americas | | |
| Qin Dynasty (chin) | the Chinese dynasty that unified the Chinese Empire; Legalistic rule; responsible for the Great Wall of China | | |
| Qur'an (kuh ran) | the Islamic scriptures; believed to be the exact words of Allah spoken to Muhammad; also spelled Koran | | |
| rabbi (ra bahy) | a Jewish teacher; knowledgeable in The Law (Torah) | | |
| Ramses (the Great) | an Egyptian pharaoh famous for taking part in the first known peace treaty | | |
| regents | Japanese rulers who had gained the right to rule in the emperor's name | | |
| reincarnation | the belief that the immortal soul moves from one incarnation, or body, to another and therefore experiences many lives on Earth; a belief held by Hindus and Buddhists | | |
| relative location | a location described by using neighboring objects or locations | | |

Help Pages

| relic | something left behind by an extinct civilization; may be considered sacred | | |
|---|---|--|--|
| religious tolerance | allowing a person or group of people to maintain and practice their chosen religion | | |
| representative democracy | a government in which citizens elect leaders to listen to their concerns, vote on issues and represent them in government | | |
| republic | citizens elect government leaders; power is shared | | |
| resurrection | the Christian belief that Jesus rose from the dead; the pivotal belief of Christians | | |
| Rosetta Stone | the artifact by which Egyptian hieroglyphics were translated | | |
| sacrifice | killing a plant, animal, or person as an offering to a god | | |
| Sahara Desert | one of the world's largest deserts; located in Africa | | |
| samurai (sa mur ahy) | intensely trained Japanese soldiers | | |
| Sanskrit | an ancient Indian language; language of the Vedas | | |
| scarcity | an economic concept that states that resources that are used to make goods and provide services are limited; because of this, people cannot have everything they need and want, and they have to make choices | | |
| secondary source | an account of an event written or told by someone who did not witness the event; often obtained from a primary source | | |
| sect | a subdivision of a religion | | |
| secular | non-religious | | |
| seismograph (sayz muh graf) | machine that measures the strength of earthquakes; a contribution of ancient China | | |
| separation of power | distributing the powers of government across different branches so that no one branch or person can become too powerful; a sharing of authority | | |
| serf | a slave forced into service for a vassal in exchange for protection, food, and a place to live; the lowest group in the feudal hierarchy | | |
| Shang Dynasty | the first Chinese dynasty historians know anything about | | |
| shogun | a Japanese dictator-like chief military officer | | |
| Silk Road | a system of east-west trade routes with side roads branching off to different cities; it covered about 6,000 miles | | |
| silt | a rich soil deposited to farmlands by the flooding of rivers | | |
| social class | the rank one holds in society; a group of people with the same rank | | |
| social hierarchy | how social classes fit together; organized according to rank or status | | |
| an economic philosophy that can influence a country's government; social countries often have authoritarian leaders | | | |
| spartan | simple, self disciplined; without frills or non-essential elements | | |
| subcontinent | an enormous land mass, but smaller than a continent; India is a subcontinent | | |
| sultan | a monarch or emperor during the Ottoman Empire | | |
| supply | how much of something is available for sale | | |

| supply and demand | a market force that influences how much of a good will be produced; the price of a good is directly related to how much of it is available and how many people want it | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| surplus | more of a good than one needs | | |
| Talmud | a Jewish text filled with discussions written by Jewish scholars about Jewish law, customs, history, etc. | | |
| Taoism | an ancient Chinese belief system focused on an inner peace and harmony with the way things are; Taoists follow "The Way," a philosophy of simplicity, harmony with nature, virtuous living, and development of the self | | |
| tariff | a tax on imports and exports | | |
| tenure system | a system in which land is granted in exchange for service and protection | | |
| thematic map | displays a particular theme or feature for a region; annual rainfall, population density, language, or crop production are examples | | |
| theocracy (thee o kruh see) | a system in which people are ruled by divine guidance through a leader who is recognized as spokesperson and interpreter of god's will; theocracies govern citizens whose daily lives are interwoven with their religious lives | | |
| timeline | a graphic which shows events in chronological order, or the order in which they happened | | |
| tolerance (policy of) | allowing people to maintain their cultural and religious beliefs | | |
| Torah | the first and most important section of the Hebrew Scriptures | | |
| trigonometry | the mathematical study of triangles | | |
| tropics | hot and humid zone between the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn | | |
| typhoon | fierce sea storm; occurs in the Pacific Ocean | | |
| untouchable | a person on the lowest rung of the social ladder in India; perform the least desirable jobs with no way to improve this life | | |
| Varna | the four main social classes of Brahmanism | | |
| vassal | a person willing to pledge loyalty and military service in exchange for a fief | | |
| Vedas | the holy texts of Hinduism | | |
| Warring States, The | a 200-year civil war in ancient China | | |
| Yangtze (yang tsee) River | the longest river in Asia | | |
| yin and yang | refers to the opposites that exist in nature such as light and dark, male and female, good and bad; reflects Taoist thinking | | |
| Zhou (jo) Dynasty | the Chinese dynasty that followed the Shang Dynasty and which embraced the Mandate of Heaven | | |

Help Pages Major Government Terms

It is important to note that the government terms below are <u>not mutually exclusive</u>. This means that a government can be <u>both</u> a dynasty and an empire, such as in ancient Egypt. A country can be governed by a monarchy, a dynasty, and a theocracy all at the same time. Some combinations can't work, however. A republic cannot also be a dictatorship, for example, because dictators are never elected.

| republic | Citizens elect government leaders. | | |
|--------------|--|--|--|
| dictatorship | Ruler gains power by force and intimidation. | | |
| dynasty | Rule is passed down in a single ruling family. | | |
| empire | Many lands are ruled by a single government. | | |
| monarchy | The country is ruled by a king or queen. | | |
| theocracy | The political leaders are also the religious leaders. | | |
| socialism | An economic philosophy influences government. | | |
| communism | A dictator usually rules, and the government has complete control of the | | |
| Communism | economy. | | |

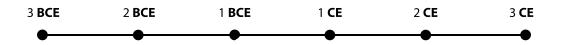
Timelines: BCE and CE

A timeline is a type of visual or graphic organizer that lets you see events in history at a glance.

The Gregorian calendar is the most widely used calendar, and it was developed to measure time in years before and after the birth of Jesus of Nazareth. Although modern scholars are clear that Jesus was not born in the year 1 AD, the Gregorian calendar is measured as if this were the case. Originally, the abbreviations AD (which stands for "Anno Domini,") and BC (which stands for "before Christ") were used. Now, the abbreviations CE (for "Common Era") and BCE (for "Before Common Era") are used. The numbering system is the same—only the labels have changed.

In the Common Era, years increase from left to right on the timeline. Before Common Era years, however, increase from right to left. Note that there is no year zero—the year before 1 CE was 1 BCE.

A person's lifespan is measured in years from birth to death. For example, if a person lived from 1937 CE until 2011 CE, the person lived for 74 years. Alternatively, a person who was born in the year 100 BCE and died in 26 BCE also lived for 74 years.



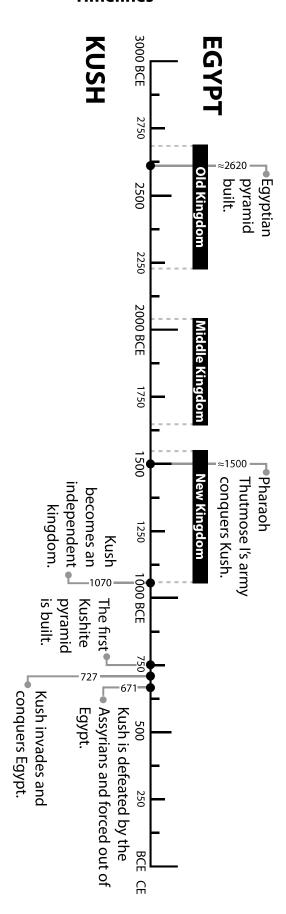
Approximate Timespans of Selected Eras

Help Pages Timelines

Ottoman Empire (expansion period) 1600 Renaissance 1200 **Byzantine Empire** Medieval Europe 1000 800 009 400

Egypt and Kush

Help Pages Timelines



Help Pages Timelines

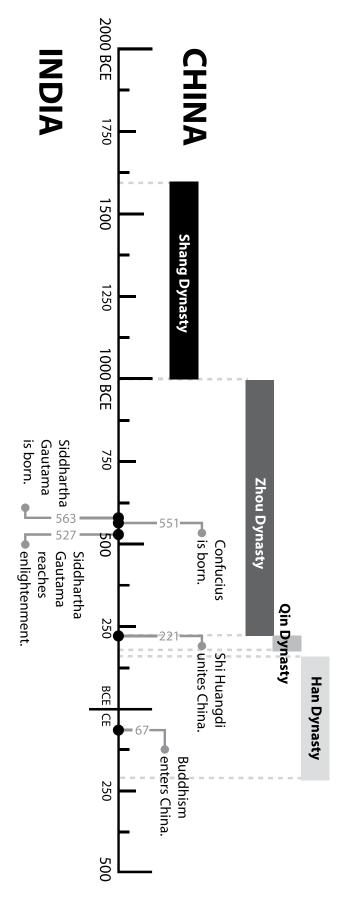
500

Gupta Empire 250 becomes the Buddha. Siddhartha Gautama Mauryan Empire Babylonia (Chaldea) Persia 200 The first Aryans begin to enter India from the Caspian Sea Hinduism begins to develop from Brahmanism. 1000 BCE region. Babylonia 1500 **Ancient Egypt** Harappan Civilization 2000 BCE 3000 BCE WORLD 3250 INDIA 3500 BCE

Ancient India

Ancient China and Ancient India

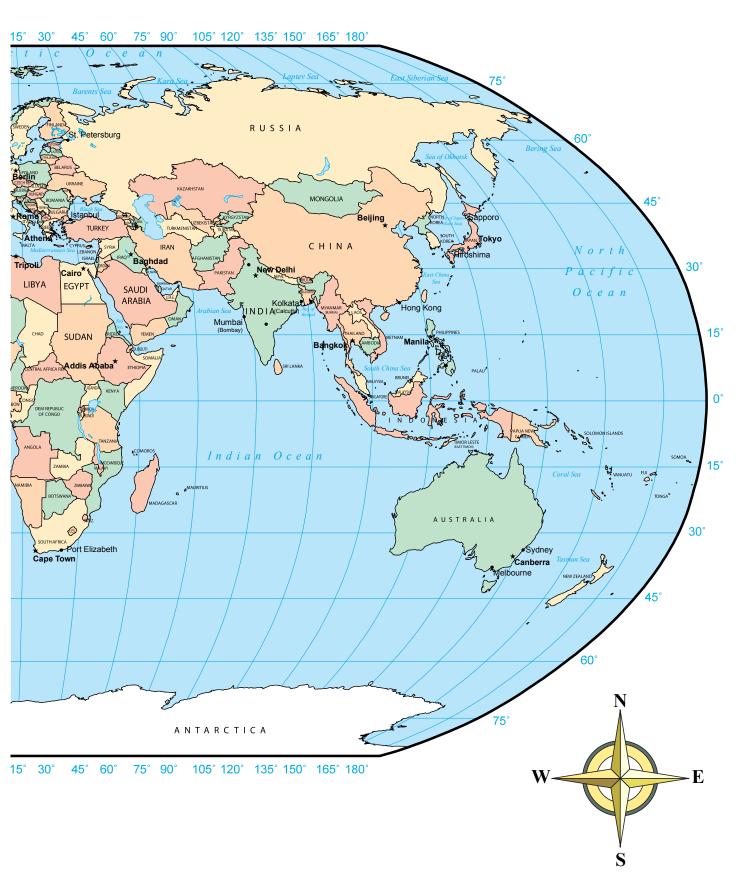
Help Pages Timelines



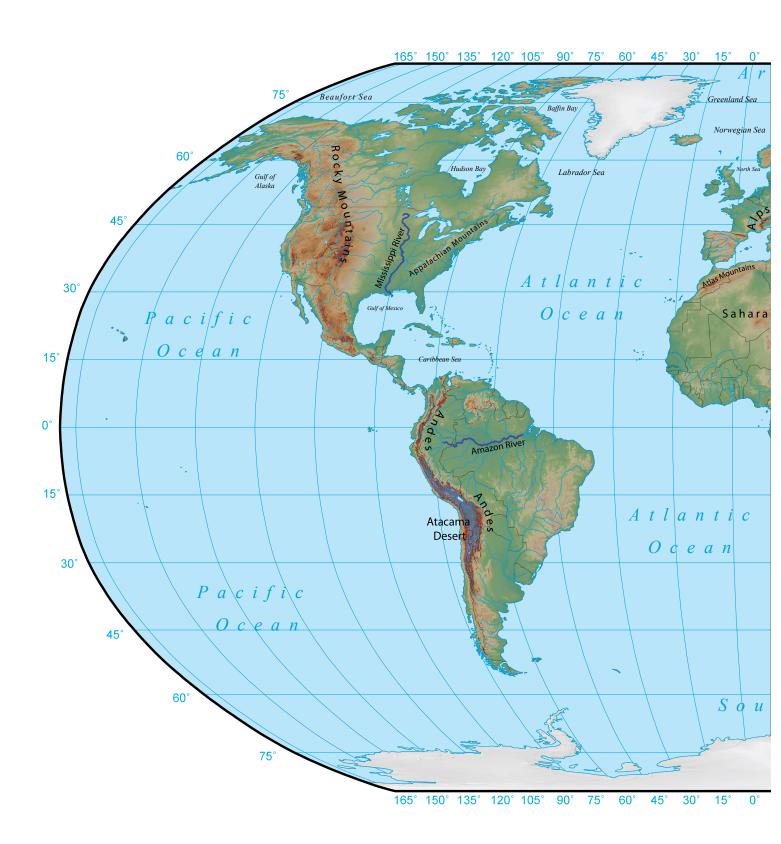
Help Pages Political World Map



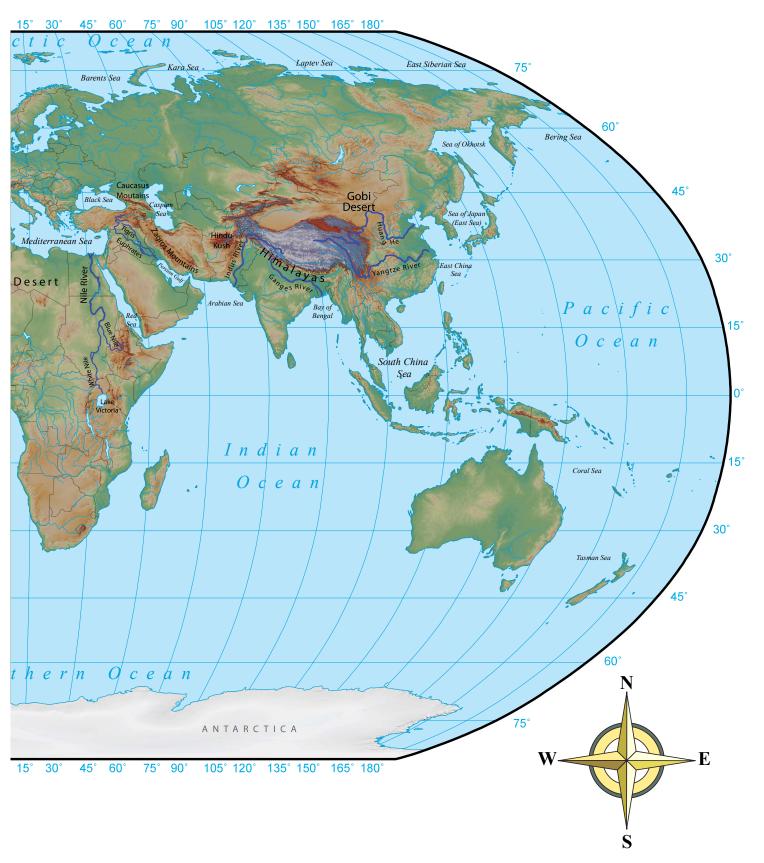
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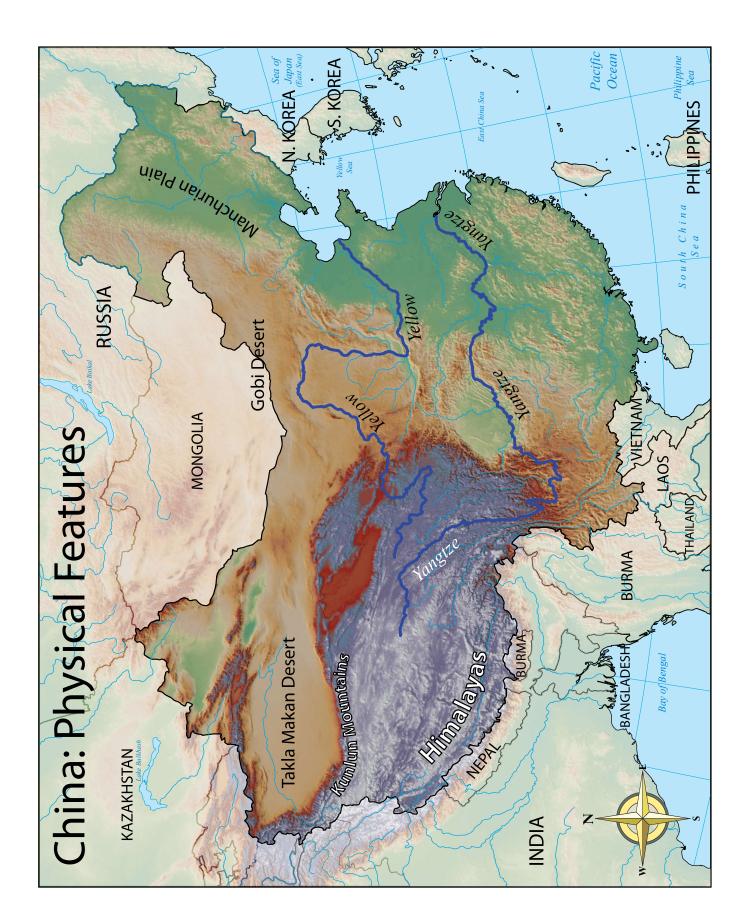
Help Pages Physical World Map



Help Pages Physical World Map



Help Pages



Help Pages Economics

Price and Competition

Several things affect the price of a good. Below is a chart that shows the factors that generally make a price go up and the factors that generally make a price go down.

| Raises Price | Lowers Price |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| low supply | high supply |
| high demand | low demand |
| low competition | high competition |
| high price of inputs | low price of inputs |

Supply and demand work together to affect price. Below is a chart showing how supply and demand generally affect price.

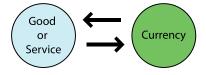
| | Low Supply | High Supply |
|-------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| High Demand | High Price | Moderate Price |
| Low Demand | Moderate Price | Low Price |

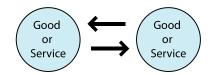
Money System vs. Barter System

Most societies exchange currency (money) for a good or service. Before the creation of money, people bartered. This means they traded one good or service for another.

Money System

Barter System

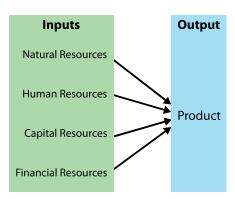




Inputs and Outputs

Inputs are what is needed to make a good, or product. They include the costs of natural, human, capital, and financial resources.

Outputs are the products themselves. One person's output might be another person's input later.



Help Pages Ancient Empires

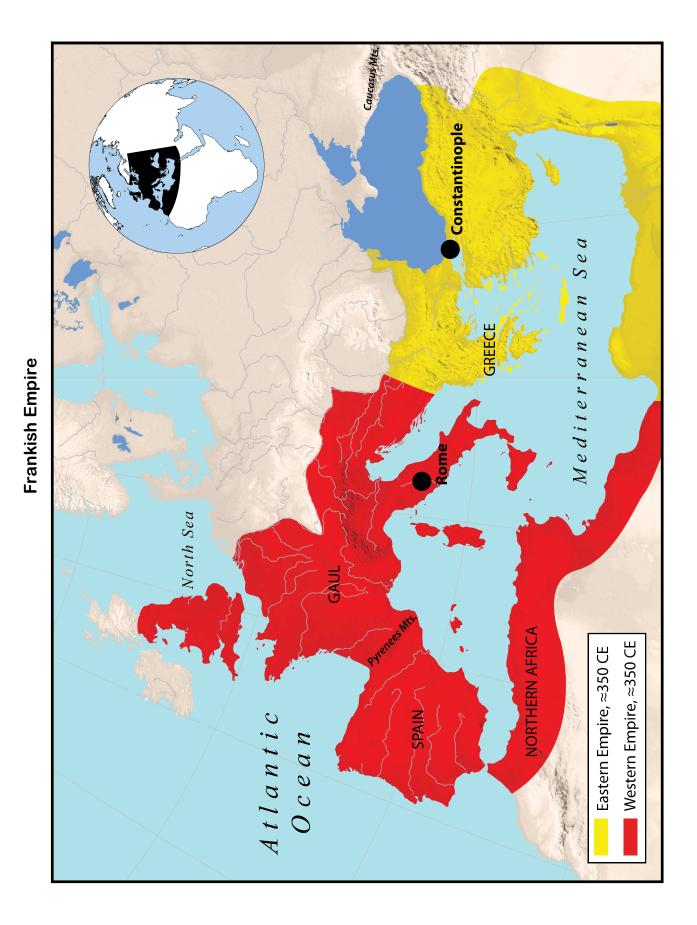
Darius's Expansion (522 – 486 BCE) INDIA Cyrus's Empire (559 – 530 BCE) Original Persian Territory MESOPOTAMIA MACEDONIA

Persian Empire

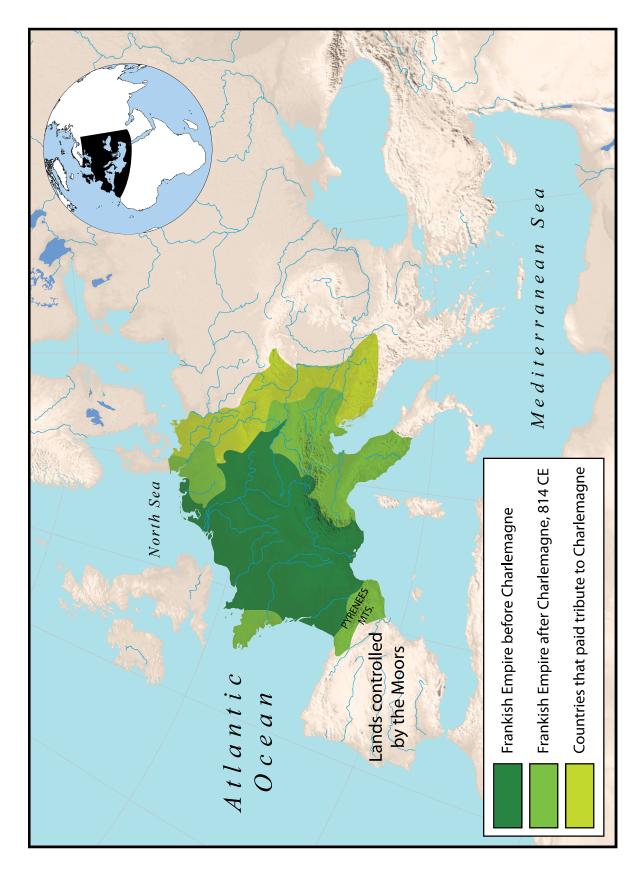
Help Pages Ancient Empires

INDIA Sea Red Sea Black Sea **Alexandria** Mediterranean Sea 323 BCE

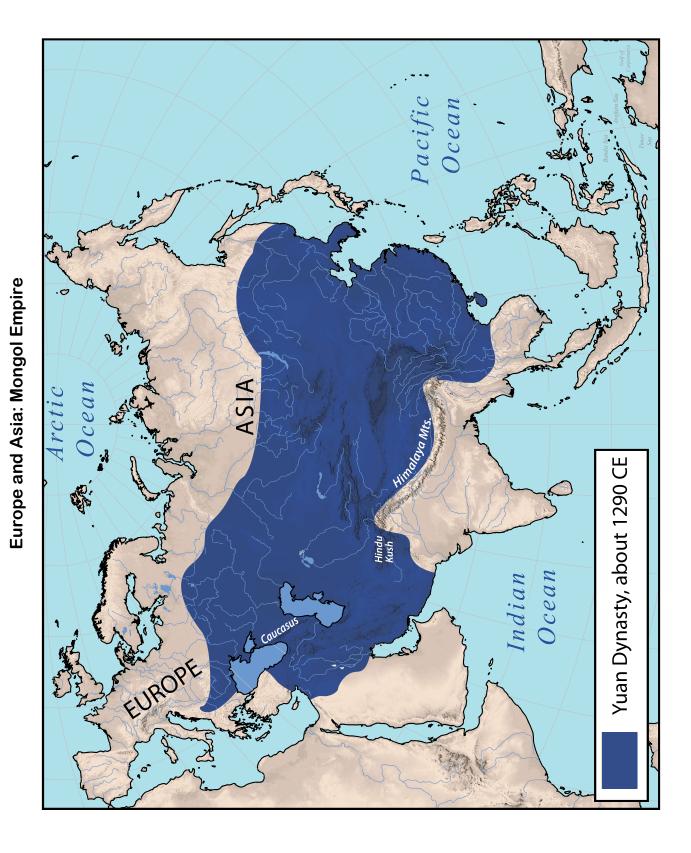
Macedonia: Alexander's Empire



Roman Empire: Eastern and Western



Help Pages Ancient Empires



Help Pages Ancient Empires

Black Sea Mediterranean Sea Vienna Under Suleyman I, 1520–1566 CE Under Mehmed II, 1451–1481 CE 1300, ruled by Osman 0

Ottoman Empire: Expansions

Help Pages Five Major Religions

| | Hinduism | Buddhism | Judaism | Christianity | Islam |
|---|---|---|--|--|---|
| Spiritual Ancestor, Inspirational Leader, Founder | Ancient Seers no specific founder oldest living religion known | Siddhartha Gautama b. 563 BCE | Abraham, Isaac, Jacob (Israel) Moses | Jesus early followers of Jesus | Muhammad b. 570 CE |
| Date of Origin | 3000 BCE | 528 BCE | 1800 BCE | first century CE | 622 CE |
| Place of Origin | India | India | Middle East | Middle East | Middle East |
| Focus of Belief Deity | Brahman (all gods are manifestations of Brahman) elements of monotheism and polytheism | no personal god; there are enlightened beings, or Buddhas (those who are awake) | Yahweh; oldest living monotheistic faith | one God in three persons (Creator, Son [Jesus], and Spirit) monotheistic | one God, Allah monotheistic |
| Holy Writings | Vedas: creation stories, prayers Upanishads: mystical texts, beliefs Bhagavad Gita: epic poem, ways to reach salvation | teachings of the Buddha: Tripitaka, Sutras, writings of Tibetan monks | Hebrew Scriptures (24 books; includes the Torah: first five books, called the Law) Talmud (commentary on the Torah) | Hebrew Scriptures and Christian Scriptures (27 books): referred to as the Bible (sometimes called the Old Testament and the New Testament) | Qur'an (Koran) (114 chapters, or surahs) |
| Beliefs | Humans have a Universal Self within, which is Brahman— duty is to recognize this, seek truth, open the mind; reincarnation of the immortal soul (cyclical nature of life, death, rebirth); one's actions affect one's future life (karma) | Four Noble Truths: Ife is suffering; desire causes suffering; desire can be overcome; follow Eightfold Path to be free from desire Eightfold Path There's an end to reincarnation: nirvana impermanence of all things | one God: Creator, personified, transcends nature; in covenant relationship with people; respect your holy life by following God's laws | The teachings of Jesus, based on Jewish teachings; Jesus is Messiah Love God, self, and others; be of service | Only one God, Allah and Muhammad is his prophet Follow the Five Pillars: • say the creed • do prayer and worship • be charitable • observe Ramadan • take pilgrimage to Mecca |

Help Pages Five Major Religions

| | Hinduism | Buddhism | Judaism | Christianity | Islam |
|----------------------|---|--|---|---|---|
| Branches/Divisions | No clearly defined divisions; somewhat individualistic Swaminarayan faith Devotion to particular manifestations of Brahman, or gods | Theravada and Mahayana ("yana"= raft; the small and great rafts—the way across the river to enlightenment) | Orthodox, Conservative, Reform (from most traditional to least) | Eastern Orthodox Roman Catholic Multiple divisions of Protestantism | Sunnis Shiites (Shia) |
| Practices/Rituals | Meditation Yoga Individual rituals at home shrine Doing one's duty responsibly | Meditation Cultivation of mindfulness, loving kindness, knowing oneself, compassion, doing no harm The individual finds own way to enlightenment | Weekly community ritual on the Sabbath (sundown Friday to sundown Saturday—God's day of rest after creating world); family rituals and meals; | Weekly community ritual on Sunday (day of Jesus' Resurrection) Individual prayer Service to others | Individual ritual prayer five times daily Weekly community ritual on Friday (to distinguish from Judaism and Christianity's days of worship) |
| Numbers Worldwide | 900 million | 360 million | 14 million | 2 billion | 1 billion |
| Symbols | om The eternal sound; a mantra for God's name | lotus blossom eight-spoked wheel (Eightfold Path, cycle of life, always moving) | Star of David Scroll of Torah Menorah | Fish (early symbol of Christianity) Cross (some branches show the body of Jesus on the cross) Icons (religious art): Eastern Orthodox | Crescent moon and star (ancient symbol that predates Islam; some Muslims don't claim it) Arabic word for "Allah" |

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