

Study Questions to accompany
UNIVERSAL HISTORY OF THE WORLD
Published by Golden Press, 1966
THE EAST IN THE MIDDLE AGES
Volume 5 3000 B.C. - A.D. 1573

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*As you read through this and other volumes, you will need to add important dates and people to a timeline to help you keep historical events in perspective. It would be helpful to list a brief statement of what the person was noted for and what country/empire they are related to. You will find as you study each volume that many of the events overlap. It's a very good idea to look at the other entries you've already made when adding a new entry so you can keep in mind events that were happening at the same time in other parts of the world.

*Reference has been made throughout the study guide to map lessons by Knowledge Quest. While not necessary, they add another dimension to the study guide. More information can be found at www.knowledgequestmaps.com. Permission has been granted by the authors to list their maps/lesson plans in this study guide.

SPECIAL NOTE: Pay close attention to the modern-day counterparts to the Arab Empire because of the role they play in the world today.

I. Arabia, Mother of Religions 3000 B.C. – A.D. 570 (p. 353-355)

- Locate Arabia on the map as described in the book. Look at the modern-day map below and compare the ancient Arabia with the countries of Arabia today. List some of the modern-day countries that are now in this region.



- www.theodora.com/maps, used with permission
- What three major religions began in the Arabian region?
- Who is the legendary founder of the Arab people? Who was Ishmael in the Bible? Do research to see if the two are the same person. What did you find?

II. Mohammed, Prophet of Allah A.D. 571 – 632 (p. 355 – 358)

Timeline: 571-632 – Mohammed, 620 – the Hegira

- Who was Mohammed?
- What messages did he bring to his people?
- What effect did his teachings have on the leaders of the Qurayshite leaders?

- What was the Hegira and why is it important to the Moslems (Muslims)?
- Why did Mohammed try to convert the Jews who were in Medina? Did he succeed?
- For what reason did Mohammad fight the “Battle of Badr?”
- According to the book, this “set a pattern for them.” What pattern did it set?

III. **The Holy Book of Allah A.D. 632 – 732** (p. 359-365)

- What problem arose because of the way the teachings of Mohammed were passed on to others?
- What was done to help stop this?
- What is much of the Koran based on?
- What is the Koran’s interpretation of who Jesus is?
- What does “*La ilaha illa-l-Lah; Muhammadun rasulu-l-Lah*” mean? When/where would you hear this? (You can hear a longer version and interpretation at <http://www.balaams-ass.com/alhaj/calltoprayer.htm>)
- What are the “five pillars of Islam?”
- List some of the rules besides the Five Pillars of Islam that the Muslims are supposed to follow.

- What belief about “Paradise” in the Muslim faith encourages Islamic fighters?
- How does the Koran teach about Islam and the treatment of those who do not believe?
- In today’s news, you will still hear the word “*jihad*” mentioned in relation to the situation in the Middle East. What is *jihad*? How did it increase the size of the Arab Empire?
- Did the Moslems always follow the teachings of the Koran regarding the people in the cities they defeated? (Do some research on some of the militant Islamic groups of today. Are they following the teachings of the Koran? Why, or why not? Give examples.)

IV. Cracks in the Wall of Islam A.D. 656-750 (p. 365 – 367)

- Locate the city of al-Kufah on the map of Iraq. (You will need to look in an encyclopedia to find the city, then mark its approximate location below.)



www.theodora.com/maps, used with permission

- Who were the Kharijites? (One internet source states that their example inspired some of the modern-day extremists, including the *Islamic Jihad*.)
- Who were the *Shiites*? (Watch a news broadcast or do a search on a news station for Shiites. What part are they playing in modern-day Iraq?)
- Who were the *Sunnites*? (The Sunnites also have an influence in the Middle East. You may want to do a search on them also.)

IV. **The Abbasids: Glory and Decay A.D. 750 – 1258** (p. 367 – 369)

Timeline: 754-775 – al-Mansur, 786-809 = Harun al-Raschid. 813-833 – al-Mamun

- Find Baghdad on the map from the last section. What modern-day country is it in?
- Find an article from a current newspaper/news channel online about an event is taking place/has recently taken place in Baghdad. Insert the article behind this page of notes in your notebook.
- Who was considered by the Moslems to be their greatest ruler? Why?
- What were some of his accomplishments?

V. **Rival Caliphs and Amirs in the West A.D. 750 – 1292** (p. 370 – 372)

Timeline: 1492 – mark the two events referred to below

Map work: Do the map lesson for “The Islamic Empires” from Knowledge Quest. Put the map behind this page of your study guide.

- What two important events in history occurred in 1492?

VI. **Christian Knights and Mongol Horsemen A.D 1099-1404** (p. 373 – 376)

Timeline: 1206-1227 – rule of Genghis Khan, 1336-1404 – Timur (Tamerlane)

- The text states that in the end, there was no real change in the balance of power between the Moslems and Christians because of the Crusades. What were some of the negative effects that had?
- What were some of the positive effects of the Crusades?
- What is Genghis Khan noted for? Where was he from?
- Who was Tamerlane (Timur)? What was his goal?

VII. **Seljuks and Mamelukes A.D. 950-1517** (p. 376-379)

- What talent were the Turks known for?
- What was unusual about the people who rose to leadership in the Mameluke dynasty?

VIII. The Ottomans, the Last Great Islamic Power A.D. 1299-1922 (p. 379-382)

**notice the end date on this section, A.D. 1922

Timeline: 1520-1566 – Suleiman the Magnificent

Map work: Do the map lesson on the Ottoman Empire from Knowledge Quest's Middle Ages packet. Insert pages behind this on in your study guide.

- Who was the original leader of the Ottoman Turks?
- Who was considered the greatest leader of the Ottomans?
- What were some of his accomplishments?
- What marked the death of the Ottoman Empire?

X. Islam the Civilizer A.D. 622-1406 (p. 382 – 384)

- Why do you think the authors of the book state, “From the eighth to the thirteenth centuries, the Arabs and the other Islamic peoples were the main carriers of western civilization?”
- List some of the achievements of the Moslems scholars in the fields of science, architecture, literature, and art.

XI. India: A Thousand Years of History A.D. 1-710 (p. 384 – 387)

Timeline: 320 – Chandragupta proclaims self *Maharadhiraja*, 380-415 – reign of Chandragupta II

- Using the map below, locate the following landmarks in India: Ganges River, Himalaya Mountains, Indian Ocean, Indus River, Khyber Pass, Bolan Pass, Vindhya Mountains, the Deccan, The Ghats

**you may need to refer to another map in an encyclopedia to be able to locate some of the landmarks on this map



www.theodora.com/maps, used with permission

- How did the geography of India influence its history (particularly between North and South India)?
- List some of the differences between the people, the life, and the culture of North and South India.

- The first empire of the Christian era was the Kushan Empire. What were the major civilizations and religions that came together during the Kushan Empire.
- Who was the first king in the Gupta Era?
- Who was the greatest of the Guptas? What were some of the accomplishments achieved during his reign?
- List the two other notable kings in India and list a few of their accomplishments.
- Describe the original caste system. How did it become more complicated during the years after the death of Harsha in 647?
- Why did the strictness of the caste system block the exchange of ideas? Why would this cause a problem?

XII. The Coming of Islam A.D. 711-1526 (p. 388-389)

- What caused the great hatred that the Islamic invaders had for the people of India when Mahmud and his Turks invaded in 998?
- What was a *jauhur*?

- What type of damage did the Afghan invader, Mohammed Ghori, inflict on the people of India when he raided and occupied it?
- What was the Delhi Sultanate?
- What fierce conqueror, that has already been studied, invaded India in 1398?

XII. The Moguls Take Over A.D. 1504-1605 (p. 390-392)

Timeline: 1504 – Babur captures Kabul, 1595 – Akbar conquers all of North India

- The name “Mogul Empire” was derived from what Arabic word?
- Who was the founder of the Mogul dynasty?
- Although Babur’s son was not a good ruler, his son, Akbar, was said to be the strongest and the greatest of the Mogul rulers. List some of his accomplishments and reasons why he was considered the greatest.

XIV. The Height of Mogul Power A.D. 1605 – 1707 (p. 393 – 394)

- Give the name of the great monument built during the Mogul Empire.
- Who built this monument and why was it built?

- Name some of the things that Shah Jahan did that were in opposition or undid the work that his ancestor, Akbar, did.
- List some of the goals of Aurungzeb, son of Shah Jahan, when he made himself emperor.

XV. The Coming of the Europeans A.D. 1498 – 1707 (p. 394 – 395)

Timeline: 1498 – Vasco da Gama lands at Calicut, India

- List the two reasons Vasco da Gama gave for coming to India when he landed at Calicut.
- Why was it so important to Vasco da Gama and other Europeans to establish a system of trade with the people of India?

XVI. China Under the Han 206 B.C. – A.D. 221 (p. 396 – 398)

Timeline: 214 B.C. – the Ch'in emperors begin work on the Great Wall of China

- Name the first two dynasties established in the country of China.
- Using the map below and an encyclopedia or other resources, mark the location of the Great Wall of China.



www.theodora.com/maps, used with permission

- Using another resource, find out why the Great Wall of China was built and how long it took to complete. Record that information below.
- Under the Later Han dynasty, what types of improvements/advancements/inventions were made in China?
- How did money and tax problems contribute to the two peasant rebellions of 184?

XVII. The Six Dynasties: Turmoil and Change A.D. 220 – 589 (p. 398 – 400)

- What made it easy for the barbarians to invade China during the Six Dynasties era?
- List some of the different groups who invaded China during 220 – 589 A.D.
- What caused the shift from Confucianism and Taoism to Buddhism in China?

XVIII. The Sui and T'ang Restore the Empire A.D. 589-979 (p. 401-404)

- What were the Ch'in and Sui dynasties noted for? How was that in contrast to the Han and T'ang dynasties?
- Who was the greatest T'ang emperor?
- What event closed the “land bridge” between India and China? How did it affect China?
- List some of the positive contributions of the Chinese people up unto this time.
- What were two of the greatest inventions?
- How long did the period of “Five Dynasties and Ten Kingdoms” last?

XIX. The Sung Dynasty: Barbarians Threaten the Empire A.D. 960 – 1279 (p. 405 – 406)

- How did the rulers of the Sung (Song) Dynasty insure there would be no revolts?
- What art forms underwent a great change during the Sung Dynasty? Describe these changes. (Go to www.historyforkids.org under “China,” “Art,” then “Sung Dynasty” for examples of art from this period. You may also want to look at some of the art from the other dynasties/periods in China.)

XX. The Coming of the Mongols A.D. 1135 – 1368 (p. 407 – 411)

Timeline: 1279-1294 – Kublai Khan rules China, 1275 – Marco Polo arrives in China

Map work: Do the map lesson for the Mongol Expansion from Knowledge Quest’s Middle Ages packet. Insert the map after this page in your notes. PLEASE NOTE: you will need to refer to this map later in the histories of China and Japan.

- What foreign invader invaded and eventually took over China around 1259 – 1294? What did he call his new dynasty?
- Why were the foreigners so distasteful to the Chinese people?
- Write a brief paragraph about Marco Polo, who he was, where he was from, and what he was noted for.

XXI. The Ming Dynasty Restores the Old Order A.D. 1368-1644 (p. 411-415)

- After the fall of the Yuan dynasty because of the weakness of Kublai Khan’s successors, who became the leader of the next new dynasty? What was his dynasty called?
- What characteristic about the way that Hung-wu directed his government was imitated by his successors?

- Who was the next most well-known emperor of the Ming Dynasty and what was he noted for?
- What art form is the Ming dynasty most noted for? Use the website listed in a previous section (www.historyforkids.org) to look at pictures of Ming Dynasty art work.

XXII. Japan, the Source of the Sun 3000 B.C. – A.D. 400 (p. 416 – 418)

- What is the Japanese name for their country? Where did it come from?
- Where did the name “Japan” come from?
- Refer to the map below when studying the section on Japan.



<http://www.theodora.com/maps>, used with permission

- What was the Tomb Culture and why was it so named?

XXIII. Becoming a Nation 660 B.C. – A.D. 587 (p. 418-421)

- *Nihon Shoki* is considered to be the most important book in Japanese history. What is it, and what makes it so important?
- After reading some of the accounts from *Nihon Shoki* about the gods and goddesses of Japan, how does it contrast with the *Bible*?
- What three symbols derived from the *Nihon Shoki* are still symbols of imperial authority in Japan?
- How did the emperors use the Japanese people's love of nature to their advantage?
- What religion resulted?

XXIV. Borrowing from China A.D. 587-838 (p. 422-425)

- List some of the things that Prince Shotoku borrowed from China in addition to becoming a Buddhist.
- How did Heian (Kyoto) become Japan's capital until 1867?
- Japan borrowed many ideas and practices from Buddhists. Some of these led to the development of some purely Japanese works of art, etc. Name some of the contributions of the Japanese in art, writing, handling of criminals, etc.

XXV. Change and Slow Growth A.D. 838 – 1150 (p. 425 – 427)

- What caused the weakening of the Japanese government?
- How did the Fujiwara family keep a hand in the control of the Japanese government?
- How did the Japanese form of Buddhism differ from that of the traditional Buddhism it had been founded on?

XXVI. The Warriors Take Over A.D. 1150 – 1336 (p. 428 – 432)

- What caused the formation of “lesser nobles” and “greater nobles?”
- List the two virtues mentioned as being most honored in rural Japan.
- What is a “shogun” and how did the “shogun” come into existence?
- Name the famous leader who has already been discussed in relation to other regions who attempted twice to invade Japan.

XXVII. Two and a Half Centuries of Unrest A.D. 1336 – 1573 (p. 432 – 437)

- Write the definition of “samurai.”
- How did the ordinary people of Japan start to get a say in how the country was run?

- List the three sects of Buddhism mentioned. Describe Zen Buddhism.
- Describe the *No* drama.
- How did Christianity come to Japan?
- How did the jealousy of the Buddhist leaders help to cause the isolation of Japan from the rest of the world for 200 years?