

A Digital World History Curriculum Outline for NJ Teachers in Middle School

The resources below are based on the recently adopted 2020 Social Studies Standards and may differ slightly from your current curriculum.

Era 1. The Beginnings of Human Society Hunter/gatherers adapted to their physical environments using resources, the natural world, and technological advancements. The agricultural revolution led to an increase in population, specialization of labor, new forms of social organization, and the beginning of societies. Archaeology provides historical and scientific explanations for how ancient people lived.

Core Idea Performance Expectations

Relationships between humans and environments impact spatial patterns of settlement and movement.

- 6.2.8.GeoPP.1.a: Compare and contrast the social organization, natural resources, and land use of early hunters/gatherers and those who lived in early agrarian societies.

[Introduction to Agrarian Civilizations](#) (Big History Project)

[Neolithic Revolution](#) (Khan Academy)

[Agricultural Revolution and Ancient Societies](#) (Univ. of California paper)

- 6.2.8.GeoPP.1.b: Use maps to examine the impact of the various migratory patterns of hunters/gatherers that moved from Africa to Eurasia, Australia and the Americas.

[Transition from Hunter-Gatherers to Empires](#) (Khan Academy)

[Transition from Hunter Gatherers to Empires](#) (St. Mary's University)

[Hunter Gatherer Societies](#) (Ancient History Encyclopedia)

<https://www.history.com/topics/pre-history/hunter-gatherers> Prehistory to Hunter-Gatherers (History.com)

Historical events and developments are shaped by social, political, cultural, technological, and economic factors.

- 6.2.8.HistoryCC.1.a: Describe the influence of the agricultural revolution (e.g., the impact of food surplus from farming) on population growth and the subsequent development of civilizations.

[Agricultural Revolution](#) (Environmental Science)

[Neolithic Revolution](#) (History.com)

[Neolithic Revolution](#) (National Geographic)

[Neolithic Revolution](#) (Khan Academy)

- 6.2.8.HistoryCC.1.b: Determine the impact of technological advancements on hunter/gatherer and agrarian societies.

[Ancient World Technology](#) (Ancient Civilizations World)

- 6.2.8.HistoryCC.1.c: Describe how the development of both written and unwritten languages impacted human understanding, development of culture, and social structure.

[Development of Writing](#) (Ancient Civilizations World)

[Development of Writing](#) (Ancient History Encyclopedia)

[Egyptian Hieroglyphics](#) (Ancient History Encyclopedia)

[Egyptian Hieroglyphics](#) (National Geographic Kids)

[Egyptian Hieroglyphics](#) (Kid Zone)

[Egyptian hieroglyphics](#) (Discovering Egypt)

Chronological sequencing helps us track events over time as well as events that took place at the same time.

- 6.2.8.HistoryCC.1.d: Demonstrate an understanding of pre-agricultural and post-agricultural periods in terms of relative length of time.

[Historical Timeline](#) (Ancient History Encyclopedia)

Examining historical sources may answer questions, but it may also lead to questions in a spiraling process of inquiry.

- 6.2.8.HistorySE.1.a: Explain how archaeological discoveries are used to develop and enhance understanding of life prior to written records.

[Archaeology](#) (Khan Academy)

[Historical Timeline](#) (History.com)

[Mesopotamia](#) (NY Metropolitan Museum)

[Mesopotamia](#) (Univ. of Cambridge)

[Archaeology](#) (National Geographic)

Era 2. Early Civilizations and the Emergence of Pastoral Peoples: Early River Valley Civilizations Early river valley civilizations (e.g., Mesopotamia, Egypt, Indus River [modern Pakistan and northwestern India], and, later, Yellow River Valley in China) developed due to favorable geographic conditions. They created centralized systems of government and advanced societies.

Political and civil institutions impact all aspects of people's lives.

- 6.2.8.CivicsPI.2.a: Explain how/why different early river valley civilizations developed similar forms of government and legal structures.

[Similarities River Valley Civilizations](#) (Baltimore Polytechnic Institute)

[River Valley Civilizations](#) (Lumen Learning)

[Nile River Valley Civilizations](#)

[Early Civilizations](#)

Human rights can be protected or abused in various societies.

- 6.2.8.CivicsHR.2.a: Determine the role of slavery in the economic and social structures of early river valley civilizations.

[Slavery in Ancient World](#) (Digital History)

Geospatial technologies and representations help us to make sense of the distribution of people, places and environments, and spatial patterns across Earth's surface.

- 6.2.8.GeoSV.2.a: Compare and contrast physical and political maps of early river valley civilizations and their modern counterparts and determine the geopolitical impact of these civilizations, then and now (i.e., Mesopotamia and Iraq; Ancient Egypt and Modern Egypt; Indus River Valley and Modern Pakistan/India; Ancient China and Modern China).

[Early River Valley Civilizations](#) (Ancient River Valley Civilizations)

[Map of the Ancient World](#) (Ancient History Encyclopedia)

[Map of Indus Valley Civilization](#) (Maps of India)

[Maps of Ancient Egypt](#) (Ancient Egypt Online)

[Maps of the Ancient World](#) (Ancient World Mapping Center)

The physical and human characteristics of places and regions are connected to human identities and cultures.

- 6.2.8.GeoHE.2.a: Determine the extent to which geography influenced settlement, the development of trade networks, technological innovations, and the sustainability of early river valley civilizations.

[Ancient Civilizations](#) (Virginia Geographic Society)

[Nile River Valley](#) (Canadian Museum of History)

Economic interdependence is impacted by increased specialization and trade.

- 6.2.8.GeoGE.2.a: Explain how technological advancements led to greater economic specialization, improved weaponry, trade, and the development of a class system in early river valley civilizations.

[Indus River Valley Civilizations](#) (Khan Academy)

Chronological sequencing helps us track events over time as well as events that took place at the same time.

- 6.2.8.HistoryCC.2.a: Evaluate the importance and enduring legacy of the major achievements of the early river valley civilizations over time.

[The Pyramids of Egypt](#) (Smithsonian)

[Ancient Egyptian Life and Pyramids](#) (British Museum)

[Pyramids at Giza](#) (National Geographic)

Historical events and developments are shaped by social, political, cultural, technological, and economic factors.

- 6.2.8.HistoryCC.2.b: Analyze the impact of religion on daily life, government, and culture in various early river valley civilizations.

[River Valley and Religions](#) (Blog)

[Religion in Ancient China](#) (Ancient History Encyclopedia)

[Religion in Ancient Egypt](#) (Canadian History Museum)

[Religion in Ancient India](#) (Khan Academy)

[Religion in Ancient Mesopotamia](#) (History on the Net)

- 6.2.8.HistoryCC.2.c: Explain how the development of written language transformed all aspects of life in early river valley civilizations.

[Origins of Writing](#) (History of the Ancient World)

[Egyptian Hieroglyphics](#) (Ancient History Encyclopedia)

[Cuneiform](#) (National Endowment for Humanities, EDSITEment)

Historians develop arguments using evidence from multiple relevant historical sources.

- 6.2.8.HistoryCA.2.a: Analyze the factors that led to the rise and fall of various early river valley civilizations and determine whether there was a common pattern of growth and decline.

[History of Egypt](#) (Egyptian Eye)

[The Fall of the Old Kingdom in Egypt](#) (BBC)

[Shang Dynasty in China](#) (History.com)

[Harappa in Ancient India](#) (Ancient Origins)

Era 3. The Classical Civilizations of the Mediterranean World, India, and China (1000 BCE-600 CE)
Classical civilizations (i.e., Greece, Rome, India and China) developed and expanded into empires of unprecedented size and diversity by creating centralized governments and promoting commerce, a common culture, and social values. Cultural exchange and diffusion dramatically increased, and enduring world religions emerged, during the era of classical civilizations. Classical civilizations declined as a result of internal weaknesses and external invasions, but they left lasting legacies for future civilizations.

Governments have different structures which impact development (expansion) and civic participation.

- 6.2.8.CivicsPI.3.a: Compare and contrast the methods (i.e., autocratic rule, philosophies, and bureaucratic structures) used by the rulers of Rome, China, and India to control and unify their expanding empires.

[Qin & Han Dynasties of China](#) (Asia for Educators)

[Han Dynasty of China](#) (History.com)

[Rome's Transition from Republic to Empire](#) (National Geographic Society)

[The Rise of Rome](#) (Penn State University)

[The History of Ancient India](#) (Ancient History Encyclopedia)

The principles of the United States government are based on political philosophies, ideas, and experiences of earlier governments.

- 6.2.8.CivicsDP.3.a: Compare and contrast the American legal system with the legal systems of classical civilizations and determine the extent to which these early systems influenced our current legal system.

[The Lessons of the Roman Empire for America Today](#) (The Heritage Foundation)

[Ancient Roman Culture & Its Influence on Modern Life](#) (Study.com)

[Lessons in the Decline of Democracy from the Ruined Roman Republic](#) (Smithsonian)

- 6.2.8.CivicsDP.3.b: Use evidence to describe the impact of Athenian democracy and the Roman Republic on the development of the United State Constitution.

[Roman Republic, Athenian Democracy, and the United States](#) (Law Aspect.com)

[Comparing Ancient Athenian Democracy to American Democracy](#) (Democracy in Athens)

- 6.2.8.CivicsDP.3.c: Cite evidence of the influence of medieval English legal and constitutional practices (i.e., the Magna Carta, parliament, the development of habeas corpus, and an independent judiciary) on modern democratic thought and institutions.

[How did the Magna Carta Influence the U.S. Constitution](#) (History.com)

[Magna Carta](#) (Library of Congress)

[Magna Carta](#) (Lords & Ladies Magazine)

Human rights can be protected or abused in various societies.

- 6.2.8.CivicsHR.3.a: Compare and contrast the rights and responsibilities of free men, women, slaves, and foreigners in the political, economic, and social structures of classical civilizations.

[Women & Slaves in the Roman Republic](#) (Chariot Journal)

[The Life of Women in the Ancient Civilizations](#) (About History)

[Roles & Responsibilities in Ancient Egypt](#) (Ancient Egypt)

Relationships between humans and environments impact spatial patterns of settlement and movement.

- 6.2.8.GeoPP.3.a: Use geographic models to describe how the availability of natural resources influenced the development of the political, economic, and cultural systems of each of the classical civilizations and provided motivation for expansion.

[Key Components of Ancient Civilizations](#) (National Geographic Society)

[Mesopotamia Resources](#) (Michigan State University)

[Geography, Environment, and Archaeology in Ancient Greece](#) (Ohio State University)

- 6.2.8.GeoPP.3.b: Explain how geography and the availability of natural resources led to both the development of Greek city-states and to their decline.

[Decline of Ancient Greece & Ancient Rome](#)

[Trade in Ancient Greece](#) (Ancient History Encyclopedia)

[Greek City-States](#) (National Geographic Society)

[The Decline and Fall of Rome](#) (The History Guide)

People voluntarily exchange goods and services when all parties expect to gain as a result of the trade.

- 6.2.8.EconEM.3.a: Analyze the impact of expanding land and sea trade routes as well as a uniform system of exchange in the Mediterranean World and Asia.

[Ancient Roman Economy](#) (United Nations of Roma Victrix)

[Ancient Greek Colonization and Trade and their Influence on Greek Art](#) (Metropolitan Museum of Art)

[The Economy of Ancient Greece](#) (Economic History Association)

Economic interdependence is impacted by increased specialization and trade.

- 6.2.8.EconGE.3.a: Explain how classical civilizations used technology and innovation to enhance agricultural/ manufacturing output and commerce, to expand military capabilities, to improve life in urban areas, and to allow for greater division of labor.

[Ten Innovations that Built Ancient Rome](#) (History.com)

[Technology & Control in Ancient Rome](#) (National Geographic Society)

[Ancient Greek Inventions](#) (Ancient History Encyclopedia)

[Roman Engineering](#) (Ancient History Encyclopedia)

Historical events and developments are shaped by social, political, cultural, technological, and economic factors.

- 6.2.8.HistoryCC.3.a: Determine the extent to which religion, economic issues, and conflict shaped the values and decisions of the classical civilizations.

[The Roman Values the Family & Religion](#) (Erenow Online Library)

[What was Ancient Rome's Influence on Government & Democracy Today](#) (Ancient Facts)

[Ancient Greek Democracy](#) (History.com)

[The Lives and Social Culture of Ancient Greece](#) (Maryville University)

An individual's perspective is impacted by their background and experiences.

- 6.2.8.HistoryUP.3.a: Compare and contrast social hierarchies in classical civilizations as they relate to power, wealth, and equality.

[The Lives & Social Culture of Ancient Greece](#) (Maryville University)

Perspectives change over time.

- 6.2.8.HistoryUP.3.b: Compare the status of groups in the Ancient World to those of people today and evaluate how individuals perceived the principles of liberty and equality then and now (i.e., political, economic, and social). Historical contexts and events shaped and continue to shape people's perspectives.

[Athens, for all its flaws, was a beacon of personal liberty in the ancient world](#) (Cato Institute)

[Liberty & Equality: Ancient & Modern Perspectives](#) (Duke University)

[Democracy, Justice, and Equality in Ancient Greece: Historical and Philosophical Perspectives](#) (Notre Dame)

[Legal Status of Women in the Ancient World](#) (Women in the Ancient World)

[Democracy and War in Ancient Athens and Today](#) (Cambridge University Press)

- 6.2.8.HistoryUP.3.c: Compare and contrast the tenets of various world religions that developed in or around this time period (i.e., Buddhism, Christianity, Confucianism, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism, Sikhism, and Taoism), their patterns of expansion, and their responses to the current challenges of globalization.

[Thailand: An Introduction to Buddhism](#) (PBS)

[The History of Christianity](#) (History.com)

[The Core Tenets of Hinduism](#) (PBS)

[Basic Tenets of the Islamic Faith](#) (PBS)

[The History of Judaism](#) (History.com)

[Confucianism](#) (Asia Society)

[Taoism](#) (BBC)

[Sikhism](#) (BBC)

Historians analyze claims within sources for perspective and validity.

- 6.2.8.HistoryCA.3.a: Evaluate the importance and enduring legacy of the major achievements of Greece, Rome, India, and China over time.

[Ancient Greece and Rome and Their Influence on Modern Western Civilization](#) (Cengage Publishers)

[The Story of Mother India](#) (The Guardian)

- D6.2.8.HistoryCA.3.b: Determine common factors that contributed to the decline and fall of the Roman Empire, Gupta India, and Han China.

[Comparing the Rise & Fall of Empires](#) (Khan Academy)

Era 4. Expanding Exchanges and Encounters (500 CE-1450 CE) The emergence of empires (i.e., Asia, Africa, Europe and the Americas) resulted from the promotion of interregional trade, cultural exchanges, new technologies, urbanization, and centralized political organization. The rise and spread of new belief systems unified societies, but they also became a major source of tension and conflict. While commercial and agricultural improvements created new wealth and opportunities for the empires, most people’s daily lives remained unchanged.

Political and civil institutions impact all aspects of people’s lives.

- 6.2.8.CivicsPI.4.a: Analyze the role of religion and other means rulers used to unify and centrally govern expanding territories with diverse populations.

[Religion in Ancient China](#) (Ancient History Encyclopedia)

[Religious Developments in Ancient India](#) (Ancient History Encyclopedia)

[Christianity in the Roman Empire](#)

The principles of the United States government are based on political philosophies, ideas, and experiences of earlier governments.

- 6.2.8.CivicsDP.4.a: Cite evidence of the influence of medieval English legal and constitutional practices on modern democratic thought and institutions (i.e., the Magna Carta, parliament, the development of habeas corpus, and an independent judiciary).

[How did the Magna Carta: Influence the U.S. Constitution?](#) (History.com)

[Magna Carta: Cornerstone of the U.S. Constitution](#) (National Endowment for the Humanities EDSITEment)

[Habeas Corpus Rights](#) (Library of Congress)

Cultural patterns and economic decisions influence environments and the daily lives of people in both nearby and distant places.

- 6.2.8.GeoHE.4.a: Explain how geography influenced the development of the political, economic, and cultural centers of each empire as well as the empires’ relationships with other parts of the world.

[Islamic World in the Middle Ages](#) (BBC)

[Human Geography of Europe](#) (National Geographic Society)

The diffusion of ideas and cultural practices are impacted by the movement of people and advancements in transportation, communication, and technology.

- 6.2.8.GeoHE.4.b: Explain why the Arabian Peninsula's physical features and location made it the epicenter of Afro-Eurasian trade and fostered the spread of Islam into Africa, Europe, and Asia.

[The Islamic World in the Middle Ages](#) (BBC)

[Trade and Geography in the Origins and Spread of Islam](#) (National Bureau of Economic Research)

[Reasons Islam Spread Quickly from the Arabian Peninsula](#) (Profolus)

[Geography and History of the Arabian Peninsula, and Overview of Islam](#) (The Islamic Project)

[The Rise of Islamic Empires & States](#) (Khan Academy)

- 6.2.8.GeoHE.4.c: Assess how maritime and overland trade routes impacted urbanization, transportation, communication, and the development of international trade centers (i.e., the African caravan and Silk Road).

[Caravanserais: Cross-roads of commerce and culture along the Silk Roads](#) (United Nations)

[The Spread of Islam Along the Silk Route](#) (Washington University)

[Islam in Asia: Diversity in Past and Present: The Silk Road & Islam Spread](#) (Cornell University)

[The Trans-Siberian Caravan Trade, Religion, and Culture](#) (Study.com)

[Belief Systems Along the Silk Road](#) (Asia Society)

[The Silk Road: Crossroads and Encounters of Faith](#) (Smithsonian)

[Islamic world: Encounters with Trade and Commerce](#) (Ducksters)

[The Spread of Islam in Ancient Africa](#) (Ancient History Encyclopedia)

[Trade and the Spread of Islam in Africa](#) (Metropolitan Museum of Art)

- 6.2.8.GeoHE.4.d: Use maps to show how the interaction between the Islamic world and medieval Europe increased trade, enhanced technology innovation and impacted science, thought and the arts.

[Map of Trade and Spread of Islam in Africa](#) (Google Maps)

[Map of the Spread of Islam in the Mediterranean](#)

The physical and human characteristics of places and regions are connected to human identities and cultures.

- 6.2.8.GeoHE.4.c: Use geographic models to determine the impact of environmental modifications made by earlier civilizations on the current day environmental challenges.

[Timeline of Environmental History of Middle Ages 5th- 15th Centuries](#) (Environmental History)

[Medieval Warm Period](#) (Britannica)

[Pandemics That Changed History](#) (History.com)

- 6.2.8.GeoHE.4.d: Explain how the geographies and climates of Asia, Africa, Europe, and the Americas influenced their economic development and interaction or isolation with other societies.

[Asia: Resources in the Spread of Trade](#) (National Geographic Society)

[Europe: Resources in the Spread of Trade](#) (National Geographic Society)

The environmental characteristics of places and production of goods influences the spatial patterns of world trade.

- 6.2.8.GeoGI.4.a: Determine how Africa’s physical geography and natural resources presented challenges and opportunities for trade, development, and the spread of religion.

[Geography and Economic Development](#) (National Bureau Economic Research)

[Factors Influencing Development](#) (BBC)

[Geography, Demography, and Economic Growth in Africa](#) (Brookings Institute)

Economic interdependence is impacted by increased specialization and trade.

- 6.2.8.GeoSV.4.a: Analyze the immediate and long-term impact on China and Europe of the open exchange between Europe and the Yuan (Mongol) Dynasty.

[Mongol Trade: Linking East to West](#) (History on the Net)

[Silk Road to China](#) (History.com)

[The Mongols Mark on Global History](#) (Columbia University)

The production and consumption of goods and services influence economic growth, well-being and quality of life.

- 6.2.8.EconNE.4.a: Compare and contrast the Japanese and European systems of feudalism and the effectiveness of each in promoting social, economic, and political order.

[What are Some Similarities Between Japanese and European Feudalism?](#) (Reference.com)

[Feudalism in Medieval Japan](#) (Ancient History Encyclopedia)

[Feudalism in Europe](#) (Medieval Chronicles)

[Feudalism](#) (Ancient History Encyclopedia)

[Feudalism in the Early Middle Ages](#)

Historical events may have single, multiple, direct and indirect causes and effects.

- 6.2.8.HistoryCC.4.a: Determine which events led to the rise and eventual decline of European feudalism.

[Feudalism and Crusades](#) (AP World History 101)

[The Rise of Feudalism, 850-1,000 A.D.](#) (Lectures in Medieval History)

[The Decline of Feudalism](#) (Lords and Ladies Magazine)

- 6.2.8.HistoryCC.4.f: Explain how and why the interrelationships among improved agricultural production, population growth, urbanization, and commercialization led to the rise of powerful states and kingdoms (i.e., Europe, Asia, Americas).

[Farming in the Middle Ages](#) (The Finer Times)

[High Middle Ages Agricultural Revolution](#) (World History Education Resources)

[European Farming During Middle Ages to 1800's](#) (History Link 101)

[How Europe's Population in the Middle Ages Doubled](#) (The Great Courses Daily)

[Urbanization in the European Middle Ages](#) (Excerpt from *Living in the Cities. Urban Institutions in the Low Countries 1200-2010*)

[China in 1,000 C.E. The Most Advanced Society in the World](#) (East Asia Society, Columbia Univ.)

[Construction in the forbidden City](#) (Landmarks of the World)

[Forbidden City Architecture](#) (China Highlights)

[The Forbidden City](#) (Smart History)

[The World Before 1492](#) (Digital History)

[Timbuktu](#) (United Nations)

[Mali: The Importance of Timbuktu to African Heritage](#) (This is Africa)

[Ancient Manuscripts from the Desert Libraries of Timbuktu](#) (Library of Congress)

[The History of London in the Middle Ages](#)

[Role and Importance of Children in the Middle Ages](#) (Thought Co.)

[Major Cities in the Middle Ages](#) (The Finer Times)

Historical events and developments are shaped by social, political, cultural, technological, and economic factors.

- 6.2.8.HistoryCC.4.a: Assess the demographic, economic, and religious impact of the plague on Europe.

[How did the Black Plague start?](#) (History.com)

[Black Death: 10 Major Effects of the Deadliest Pandemic](#)

[Bubonic Plague](#) (Khan Academy)

[The Silk Road: Trade & Black Death in Europe](#) (Ancient Standard)

[The Black Death](#) (Jewish History)

- 6.2.8.HistoryCC.4.b: Analyze the causes and outcomes of the Crusades from different perspectives, including the perspectives of European political and religious leaders, the crusaders, Jews, Muslims, and traders.

[The Crusades: Consequences & Effects](#) (Ancient History Encyclopedia)

[Nine Factors that caused the First Crusade](#) (War History Online)

[The Crusades: Motivations, Administration, and Cultural Influence](#) (Newberry Library)

- 6.2.8.HistoryCC.4.c: Determine the extent to which the Byzantine Empire influenced the Islamic world and western Europe.

[Byzantine Religion and Influence](#) (History Doctor)

[Byzantine Empire](#) (History.com)

[Byzantine Empire](#) (Ancient History Encyclopedia)

- 6.2.8.HistoryCC.4.d: Analyze the role of religion and economics in shaping each empire's social hierarchy and evaluate the impact these hierarchical structures had on the lives of various groups of people.

[Religion in the Middle Ages](#) (Ancient History Encyclopedia)

[Medieval Religion](#) (Medieval Life and Times)

[Middle Ages](#) (History.com)

[Religion in the Medieval World](#) (The History Cat)

[Chinese Religions and Philosophies](#) (Asia Society)

[History of the Chinese Religion](#) (Religion Facts)

[The Spread of Islam in Ancient Africa](#) (Ancient History Encyclopedia)

[Trade and the Spread of Islam in Africa](#) (Metropolitan Museum)

[The Spread of Islam in West Africa: Ghana](#) (Religion of Islam)

[Medieval India: Society, Culture, and Religion](#) (University of Calicut)

[History of India: Ancient, Medieval and Modern History of India](#) (Important India)

[India: The Medieval Era](#) (Timemaps)

[Ancient India Civilizations](#) (Ancient Civilizations World)

[The Rise of Commerce and Towns](#) (Virtual Library)

[Trade in Medieval Europe](#) (Ancient History Encyclopedia)

How Medieval Towns Paved the Way for Capitalism (Foundation for Economic Education)

<https://fee.org/articles/how-medieval-towns-paved-the-way-for-capitalism/>

- 6.2.8.HistoryCC.4.g: Evaluate the importance and enduring legacy of the major achievements of the people living Asia, Africa (Islam), Europe and the Americas over time.

[The Legacy of the Middle Ages in the Renaissance and Beyond](#) (Newberry Library)

[The Enduring Legacy of the Magna Carta](#) (The Heritage Foundation)

[Middle Ages](#) (BBC)

[The Slow but Steady Medieval March to an Enduring Legacy](#) (Brewminate)