

AP WORLD HISTORY

FOUNDATION KEY TERMS

1. **hunting and gathering:** means of obtaining subsistence by humans before the mastery of sedentary agriculture; normally typical of band social organization.
2. **civilization:** societies with reliance on sedentary agriculture, ability to produce food surpluses, and existence of nonfarming elites, along with merchant and manufacturing groups.
3. **Paleolithic:** the Old Stone Age ending in 12,000 B.C.E.; typified by use of evolving stone tools and hunting and gathering for subsistence.
4. **Neolithic:** the New Stone Age between 8000 and 5000 B.C.E.; period in which adaptation of sedentary agriculture occurred; domestication of plants and animals accomplished.
5. **nomads:** cattle- and sheep-herding societies normally found on the fringes of civilized societies; commonly referred to as "barbarian" by civilized societies.
6. **"savages":** societies engaged in either hunting and gathering for subsistence or in migratory cultivation; not as stratified or specialized as civilized and nomadic societies.
7. **culture:** combinations of ideas, objects, and patterns of behavior that result from human social interaction.
8. **Homo sapiens:** the species of humanity that emerged as most successful at the end of the Paleolithic.
9. **Neanderthals:** species of genus *homo* that disappeared at the end of the Paleolithic.
10. **band:** a level of social organization normally consisting of between 20 and 30 people; nomadic hunters and gatherers; labor divided on a gender basis.
11. **agrarian revolution:** occurred between 8000 and 5000 B.C.E.; transition from hunting and gathering to sedentary agriculture.
12. **matrilocal:** a culture in which young men upon marriage go to live with the bride's family.
13. **matrilineal:** family descent and inheritance traced through the female line.
14. **pastoralism:** a nomadic agricultural life-style based on herding domesticated animals; tended to produce independent people capable of challenging sedentary agricultural societies.
15. **Huang he or Yellow river basin:** site of the development of sedentary agriculture in China.
16. **Mesoamerica:** Mexico and Central America; along with Peru, site of development of sedentary agriculture in western hemisphere.
17. **Jericho:** early walled urban culture based on sedentary agriculture; located in modern Israel-occupied West Bank near Jordan river.
18. **Çatal Huyuk:** early urban culture based on sedentary agriculture; located in modern southern Turkey; larger in population than Jericho, had greater degree of social stratification.
19. **Bronze Age:** from 4000 to 3000 B.C.E.; increased use of plow, metalworking; development of wheeled vehicles, writing.
20. **Mesopotamia:** literally "between the rivers"; the civilizations that arose in the alluvial plain of the Tigris-Euphrates river valleys.
21. **potter's wheel:** a technological advance in pottery making; invented ca. 6000 B.C.E.; encouraged faster and higher-quality ceramic pottery product.

22. **Sumerians:** people who migrated into Mesopotamia ca. 4000 B.C.E.; created the first civilization within region; organized area into city-states.
23. **cuneiform:** a form of writing developed by the Sumerians using a wedge-shaped stylus and clay tablets.
24. **city-state:** a form of political organization typical of Mesopotamian civilization; consisted of agricultural hinterlands ruled by an urban-based king.
25. **Epic of Gilgamesh:** the first literary epic; written down ca. 2000 B.C.E.; included story of the Great Flood.
26. **ziggurats:** massive towers usually associated with Mesopotamian temple connections.
27. **animism:** a religious outlook that recognizes gods in many aspects of nature and propitiates them to help control and explain nature; typical of Mesopotamian religions.
28. **Sargon I of Akkad:** ruler of city-state of Akkad; established the first empire in Mesopotamian civilization ca. 2400 B.C.E.
29. **Babylonian Empire:** unified all of Mesopotamia ca. 1800 B.C.E.; collapsed due to foreign invasion ca. 1600 B.C.E.
30. **Hammurabi:** the most important Babylonian ruler; responsible for codification of the law.
31. **Akhenaton:** Egyptian pharaoh of the New Kingdom; attempted to establish monotheistic religion replacing the traditional Egyptian pantheon of gods.
32. **pyramids:** monumental architecture typical of Old Kingdom Egypt; used as burial sites for pharaohs.
33. **mummification:** act of preserving the bodies of the dead; practiced in Egypt to preserve the body for enjoyment of the afterlife.
34. **hieroglyphs:** form of writing developed in ancient Egypt; more pictorial than Mesopotamian cuneiform.
35. **patriarchate:** societies in which women defer to men; societies run by men and based upon the assumption that men naturally directed political, economic, and cultural life.
36. **Kush:** African state that developed along the upper reaches of the Nile ca. 1000 B.C.E.; conquered Egypt and ruled it for several centuries.
37. **Yahweh:** the single god of the Hebrews; constructed a covenant with Jews as his chosen people.
38. **monotheism:** the exclusive worship of one god; introduced by Jews into Middle Eastern civilization.
39. **Minoans:** a civilization that developed on Crete ca. 1600 B.C.E.; capital at the palace complex of Knossos.
40. **Mycenae:** the 1st civilization to emerge on the Greek mainland; destroyed ca. 1000 B.C.E.
41. **Phoenicians:** seafaring civilization located on the shores of the eastern Mediterranean; established colonies throughout the Mediterranean.
42. **Hittites:** an Indo-European people who entered Mesopotamia ca. 1750 B.C.E.; destroyed the Babylonian Empire; swept away ca. 1200 B.C.E.
43. **Indus river valley:** river flows from sources in the Himalayas to the Arabian Sea; location of Harappan civilization.
44. **monsoons:** seasonal winds crossing the Indian sub-continent and Southeast Asia; during the summer they bring rain.
45. **Harappan civilization:** first civilization of the Indian subcontinent; emerged in Indus river valley ca. 2500 B.C.E.
46. **Harappan cities:** major urban complexes of Harappan civilization; laid out on planned grid pattern.

47. **Aryans:** Indo-European nomadic, warlike, pastoralists who replaced Harappan civilization.
48. **Vedas:** Aryan hymns originally transmitted orally; written down in sacred books from the 6th century B.C.E.
49. **India:** chief deity of the Aryans; depicted as a hard-drinking warrior.
50. **daises:** Aryan name for indigenous people of the Indus river valley region; regarded as societally inferior to Aryans.
51. **caste system:** rigid system of social classification introduced by Aryans.
52. **varnas:** clusters of caste groups; four social castes: brahmans (priests), warriors, merchants, peasants; beneath them were the untouchables.
53. **polygamy:** marriage practice in which one husband had several wives; present in Aryan society.
54. **polyandry:** marriage practice in which one woman had several husbands; recounted in Aryan epics.
55. **patrilineal:** social system in which descent and inheritance is passed through the male line; typical of Aryan society.
56. **Huanghe river:** river flowing from the Tibetan plateau to the China Sea; its valley was site of early Chinese sedentary agricultural communities.
57. **Ordos bulge:** located on Huanghe river; region of fertile soil; site of Yangshao and Longshan cultures.
58. **loess:** fine-grained soil deposited in Ordos bulge; created fertile lands for sedentary agricultural communities.
59. **Yu:** a possibly mythical ruler revered for construction of a system of flood control along the Huanghe river valley; founder of Xia kingdom.
60. **Xia:** China's first, possibly mythical, kingdom; ruled by Yu; no archaeological sites yet discovered.
61. **Shang:** 1st Chinese dynasty; capital in Ordos bulge.
62. **vassal retainers:** members of former ruling families granted control over peasant and artisan populations of areas throughout Shang kingdom; indirectly exploited wealth of their territories.
63. **extended families:** consisted of several generations, including sons and grandsons of family patriarch and their families; typical of Shang China elites.
64. **nuclear households:** husband, wife, and their children, and perhaps a few other relatives; typical of Chinese peasantry.
65. **oracles:** shamans or priests in Chinese society who foretold the future through interpreting animal bones cracked by heat; inscriptions on bones led to Chinese writing.
66. **ideographic writing:** pictograph characters grouped together to create new concepts; typical of Chinese writing.
67. **Zhou:** originally a vassal family of the Shang; possibly Turkic in origin; overthrew Shang and established 2nd Chinese dynasty.
68. **Xian and Loyang:** capitals of the Zhou dynasty.
69. **feudalism:** social organization created by exchanging grants of land (fiefs) in return for formal oaths of allegiance and promises of loyal service; typical of Zhou dynasty.
70. **Mandate of Heaven:** the divine source of political legitimacy in China; established under Zhou to justify overthrow of Shang.

71. **shi**: probably originally priests; transformed into corps of professional bureaucrats because of knowledge of writing during Zhou dynasty.
72. **Aryans**: Indo-European invaders of the Indus valley civilization.
73. **Hittites**: Indo-European invaders of Mesopotamia, at the close of the 2d millennium B.C.E
74. **niche ecological adaptation**: human adaptation to an environment in a way that results in minimal impact on the ecology; normally typical of hunting and gathering groups.
75. **holding ecological adaptation**: human adaptation to an environment in a way that transforms drastically the original environment and replaces it with a new, human-oriented ecology; typical of sedentary agricultural communities.
76. **shifting cultivation**: an intermediate form of ecological adaptation in which temporary forms of cultivation are carried out with limited impact on the natural ecology.
77. **slash-and-burn farming**: a system of cultivation typical of shifting cultivators; vegetation cleared by fire and land planted.
78. **pastoral nomads**: an intermediate form of ecological adaptation dependent on domesticated animal herds that feed on natural environment; supports larger population than shifting cultivation.
79. **Hsiung-nu**: also known as Huns; horse nomads responsible for disruption of Chinese, Gupta, and Roman civilizations.
80. **llamas and alpacas**: domesticated animals of southern Americas; basis for the only form of nomadic pastoralism in New World before the introduction of animals by Europeans in the 15th century C.E.
81. **vendettas**: bloodfeuds between families and clans of nomadic pastoralists; a major barrier to interclan and tribal cooperation.
82. **totem**: most commonly an animal utilized by nomadic peoples as a representation of a mythic group ancestor; venerated as a progenitor and protector.
83. **shamans**: religious experts among the nomads.
84. **silk route**: the most famous of the trading routes established by pastoral nomads connecting European, Indian, and Chinese civilizations; transmitted goods and ideas.
85. **Qin**: dynasty (221-207 B.C.E.) founded at the end of the Warring States period.
86. **Shi Huangdi**: first emperor of China; founder of Qin dynasty.
87. **Warring States period**: time of warfare between regional lords following the decline of the Zhou dynasty in the 8th century B.C.E.
88. **Confucius**: major Chinese philosopher born in 6th century B.C.E.; sayings collected in *Analects*; philosophy based on the need for restoration of social order through the role of superior men.
89. **Mencius**: major follower of Confucius; stressed that humans were essentially good and that governments required the consent of their subjects.
90. **Xunzi**: follower of Confucius; stressed that humans were inherently lazy and evil and required an authoritarian government.
91. **Laozi**: Chinese Daoist philosopher; taught that governments were of secondary importance and recommended retreat from society into nature.

92. **Daoism:** philosophy associated with Laozi; individual should seek alignment with Dao or cosmic force.
93. **Legalists:** Chinese school of political philosophy; stressed the need for the absolute power of the emperor enforced through strict application of laws.
94. **Great Wall:** Chinese defensive fortification built to keep out northern nomadic invaders; began during the reign of Shi Huangdi.
95. **Sunzi:** author of *The Art of War*; argued that war was an extension of statecraft and should be fought according to scientific principles.
96. **Liu Bang:** founder of the Han dynasty in 202 B.C.E.
97. **Han:** dynasty succeeding the Qin ruled from 202 B.C.E. to 220 C.E.
98. **scholar-gentry:** Chinese class created by the marital linkage of the local landholding aristocracy with the office-holding shi.
99. **secret societies:** Chinese peasant organizations; provided members financial support during hard times and physical protection during disputes with local aristocracy.
100. **forbidden city:** imperial precinct within Chinese capital cities; only imperial family, advisors, and household were permitted to enter.
101. **Wang Mang:** member of a powerful family related to the Han emperors through marriage; temporarily overthrew the Han between 9 and 23 C.E.
102. **eunuchs:** castrated males used within households of Chinese emperors, usually to guard his concubines; became a political counterbalance to powerful marital relatives during later Han rule.
103. **Cyrus the Great:** founded Persian Empire by 550 B.C.E.; successor state to Mesopotamian empires.
104. **Zoroastrianism:** Persian religion that saw material existence as a battle between the forces of good and evil; stressed the importance of moral choice; a last judgment decided the eternal fate of each person.
105. **Hellenism:** culture derived from the Greek civilization that flourished between 800 and 400 B.C.E.
106. **Hellenistic culture:** culture associated with the spread of Greek influence and intermixture with other cultures as a result of Macedonian conquests.
107. **Iliad and Odyssey:** Greek epic poems attributed to Homer; defined relations of gods and humans that shaped Greek mythology.
108. **polis:** city-state form of government typical of Greek political organization from 800 to 400 B.C.E.
109. **Solon:** Athenian reformer of the 6th century; established laws that eased the debt burden of farmers; forbade enslavement for debt.
110. **Socrates:** Athenian philosopher of late 5th century B.C.E.; tutor of Plato; urged rational reflection of moral decisions; condemned to death for "corrupting" minds of Athenian young.
111. **direct democracy:** literally rule of the people, in Athens meaning free male citizens; all decisions emanated from the popular assembly without intermediation of elected representatives.
112. **Pericles:** Athenian political leader during 5th century B.C.E.; guided development of Athenian empire.
113. **Olympic games:** one of the pan-Hellenic rituals observed by all Greek city-states; involved athletic competitions and ritual celebrations.
114. **Oracle of Delphi:** person representing the god Apollo; received cryptic messages from the god that had predictive value if the seeker could correctly interpret the communication.

115. **Persian Wars:** 5th century B.C.E wars between the Persian empire and Greek city-states; Greek victories allowed Greek civilization to define identity.
116. **Delian League:** alliance formed by Athens with other city-states after Persian wars; later taken over by Athens and became Athenian empire.
117. **Peloponnesian War:** war from 431 to 404 B.C.E. between Athens and Sparta for domination in Greece; the Spartans won but failed to achieve political unification in Greece.
118. **Macedon:** kingdom of northern Greece; originally loosely organized under kings; became centralized under Philip II; conquered Greek city-states.
119. **Philip II:** ruled Macedon from 359 to 336 B.C.E.; founder of centralized kingdom; conquered Greece.
120. **Alexander the Great:** son and successor of Philip II; conquered Persian empire and advanced to borders of India; attempted to combine Greek and Persian culture.
121. **Ptolemies:** a regional dynasty after the death of Alexander; ruled in Egypt.
122. **Seleucids:** a regional dynasty after the death of Alexander; ruled in Persia.
123. **Antigonids:** a regional dynasty after the death of Alexander; ruled in Macedon and Greece.
124. **Aristotle:** Greek philosopher; teacher of Alexander; taught that knowledge was based upon observation of phenomena in material world.
125. **Stoics:** Hellenistic philosophers; they emphasized inner moral independence cultivated by strict discipline of the body and personal bravery.
126. **Plato:** Greek philosopher; knowledge based upon consideration of ideal forms outside the material world; proposed ideal form of government based on abstract principles in which philosophy ruled.
127. **Sophocles:** Greek writer of tragedies; author of *Oedipus Rex*.
128. **Aristophanes:** Greek writer of comedies: author of the *Frogs*.
129. **Doric, Ionic, Corinthian:** three distinct styles of Hellenic architecture; listed in order of increasing ornate quality.
130. **Alexandria:** great city founded in Egypt by Alexander; site of Mediterranean world's greatest library; great intellectual center.
131. **helots:** conquered indigenous population of Sparta; provided agricultural labor for Spartan landowners; only semi-free; largest part of the population.
132. **Etruscans:** culture that ruled Rome prior to the republic; ruled through powerful kings and well organized armies; Romans won independence ca. 510 B.C.E.
133. **plebians:** ordinary citizens; originally Roman families that could not trace relationships to one of the major Roman clans.
134. **consuls:** two chief executives of the Roman republic; elected annually by the assembly dominated by the aristocracy.
135. **clientage:** the social relationship whereby wealthy Roman landholders offered protection and financial aid to lesser citizens in return for political and labor support.
136. **legions:** the basic infantry unit of the Roman military; developed during the republic.

137. **Carthage:** founded by the Phoenicians in Tunisia; became a major empire in the western Mediterranean; fought the three Punic wars with Rome for Mediterranean dominance; defeated and destroyed by the Romans.
138. **Hannibal:** Carthaginian general during the 2nd Punic War; invaded Italy but failed to conquer Rome; finally defeated in Africa at battle of Zama.
139. **republic:** the balanced political system of Rome from ca. 510 to 47 B.C.E.; featured an aristocratic senate, a panel of magistrates, and popular assemblies.
140. **tribunes:** plebeian officials elected annually during the Roman republic.
141. **Tiberius and Galus Gracchus:** tribunes who attempted to introduce land and citizenship reform under the late Roman republic; both killed by order of the Senate.
142. **Marius:** Roman general during the last century B.C.E.; introduced the use of paid volunteers in the army rather than citizen conscripts; became a military force with personal loyalty to its commander.
143. **Sulla:** conservative military commander during the last century B.C.E.; attempted to reinforce powers of the Senate and to counter the influence of Marius.
144. **Julius Caesar:** general responsible for the conquest of Gaul; brought army back to Rome and overthrew republic; assassinated in 44 B.C.E. by conservative senators.
145. **Octavian:** later took name of Augustus; Julius Caesar's grandnephew and adopted son; defeated conservative senators after Caesar's assassination; became first Roman emperor.
146. **Cicero:** conservative senator and Stoic philosopher; one of the great orators of his day.
147. **Virgil:** a great Roman epic poet during the Golden Age of Latin literature; author of the Aeneid.
148. **Horace:** poet who adapted Greek poetic meters to Latin; author of lyrical poetry laudatory of the empire.
149. **Ovid:** poet exiled by Augustus for sensual poetry considered out of touch with imperial policies stressing family virtues.
150. **Livy:** historian who linked the Roman empire to the traditions of the republican past; stressed the virtues thought to be popular during the early empire.
151. **natural law:** general principles of law applicable to all societies; became a fundamental concept of the Roman empire's legal system; related to Stoic ethical theory.
152. **Trajan:** emperor (101-106 B.C.E.); instituted a more aggressive imperial foreign policy resulting in expansion of the empire to its greatest limits.
153. **Jesus of Nazareth:** Jewish teacher and prophet; believed by his followers to be the Messiah; executed by the Romans ca. 30 C.E.
154. **bishops:** heads of regional Christian churches.
155. **Paul:** early Christian leader; moved away from the insistence that adherents of the new religion follow Jewish law; used Greek as the language of the church.