

World History: Ancient Civilizations: Teacher's Guide

Grade Level: 6-12

Curriculum Focus: Ancient History

Duration: 7 segments; 44 minutes

Program Description

This library of videos contains segments about early civilizations in Greece, Rome, and Peru.

- Ancient Greek Philosophy (5 min.)
 - Greek Mythology (7 min.)
 - Rome: The Early Republic (5 min.)
 - Spartan Warriors (5 min.)
 - Alexander the Great (6 min.)
 - Rise of the Roman Empire (8 min.)
 - Peru's Mummies (8 min.)
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Thematic Units

Help your students evaluate and analyze what they view in the videos with the Essential Questions for each Thematic Unit.

Power

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

- Who were the most notorious leaders of ancient Greece and Rome? How did they establish and preserve power?
- What were the goals of ancient leaders? How do these goals compare to those of modern national leaders?
- What challenges did ancient leaders face in ruling their empires? How do these challenges compare to those faced by contemporary leaders?

SEGMENTS

Spartan Warriors

- *Pre-viewing question*
What is known about ancient Sparta?

- *Post-viewing question*
What measures did Sparta's leaders take to ensure that its military was the strongest on the Greek peninsula? What was missing from this plan for dominance?

Alexander the Great

- *Pre-Viewing Question*
Who was Alexander the Great? What are his accomplishments?
- *Post-Viewing Question*
What character traits and practices helped Alexander the Great succeed in his military pursuits? How did he treat the people his army conquered?

Rise of the Roman Empire

- *Pre-Viewing Question*
What is a republic? Who are well-known rulers of the Roman empire?
- *Post-Viewing Question*
What assets did Rome's rulers Caesar, Augustus, Caligula, and Nero bring to the empire? What were the causes of their downfalls?

Art and Culture

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

- What elements of ancient Greece and Rome have been preserved in modern western societies?
- What are some ways to learn about the cultures of ancient peoples?
- What role did political, military, and societal leaders play in the formation and growth of culture in ancient Greek and Roman societies?

SEGMENTS

Ancient Greek Philosophy

- *Pre-viewing question*
What is meant by an "unexamined life"? What is the role of philosophy today?
- *Post-viewing question*
Who were some of the great ancient Greek philosophers? What function did they believe wisdom and the pursuit of justice served in an ideal society?

Greek Mythology

- *Pre-Viewing Question*
What is mythology? How did it fit into ancient Greek culture?
- *Post-Viewing Question*
Summarize the story of the Odyssey. How does it reflect the struggles and wishes of all humans?



Rome: The Early Republic

- *Pre-Viewing Question*
When did the Roman empire reach the height of its power?
- *Post-Viewing Question*
Which aspects of urban life did people enjoy in ancient Rome? What do those technological and cultural components show about their values?

Alexander the Great

- *Pre-Viewing Question*
When and where did the Hellenistic Age begin?
- *Post-Viewing Question*
What were the greatest cultural achievements of Alexander the Great? Give examples of components he adapted from the civilizations he conquered.

Peru's Mummies

- *Pre-Viewing Question*
Where have mummies been found? Why was mummification important in some cultures?
- *Post-Viewing Question*
What have archaeologists learned about the Chiribaya people by studying their mummies?

Science and Technology**ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS**

- What role does science play in reconstructing history? Why is it important to incorporate scientific findings in making conclusions about historical events and people?
- What were some of the technological advancements made by the ancient peoples of Rome and Peru?
- How does the technology of a society reflect its values and culture?

SEGMENTS**Rome: The Early Republic**

- *Pre-viewing question*
Identify the land on a map that the Roman empire included at its height.
- *Post-viewing question*
What were the technological accomplishments of the early Romans? How did these accomplishments improve life in Rome?

Peru's Mummies

- *Pre-Viewing Question*
What is mummification? Why are historians and scientists interested in studying mummies?



- *Post-Viewing Question*
What technology do archaeologists use to study mummies? How does carbon-14 dating reveal the age of artifacts?
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Academic Standards

Mid-continent Research for Education and Learning (McREL)

McREL's Content Knowledge: A Compendium of Standards and Benchmarks for K-12 Education addresses 14 content areas. To view the standards and benchmarks, visit link:

<http://www.mcrel.org/compendium/browse.asp>

This lesson plan addresses the following national standards:

- Geography – Human Systems: Understands the patterns of human settlement and their causes; Environment and Society: Understands how geography is used to interpret the past
- History – Historical Understanding: Understands and knows how to analyze chronological relationships and patterns, Understands the historical perspective
- Language Arts – Viewing: Uses viewing skills and strategies to understand and interpret visual media

The National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS)

NCSS has developed national guidelines for teaching social studies. To become a member of NCSS, or to view the standards online, go to <http://www.socialstudies.org>

This lesson plan addresses the following thematic standards:

- Culture
 - Time, Continuity, and Change
 - People, Places, and Environments
 - Power, Authority, and Governance
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Support Materials

Related Lesson Plans

You can find hundreds of lesson plans online at <http://www.discoveryschool.com>. The following lesson plans work well with the video segments in this library collection.

- **Alexander the Great** (grades 6-8)
<http://school.discovery.com/lessonplans/programs/alexander/>



- **The Hidden History of the Roman Empire** (grades 6-8)
<http://school.discovery.com/lessonplans/programs/hiddenrome/>
- **Making Mummies** (grades 6-8)
<http://school.discovery.com/lessonplans/programs/makingmummies/>
- **Rome's Rise to Power: The Republic** (grades 6-8)
<http://school.discovery.com/lessonplans/programs/risetopower/>
- **Gladiators: Rome's Violent Past** (grades 8-12)
<http://school.discovery.com/lessonplans/programs/gladiators/>

Other Resources

Develop custom worksheets, educational puzzles, online quizzes, and more with the free teaching tools offered on the Discoveryschool.com Web site. Create and print support materials, or save them to a Custom Classroom account for future use. To learn more, visit

- <http://school.discovery.com/teachingtools/teachingtools.html>
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DVD Content

This program is available in an interactive DVD format. The following information and activities are specific to the DVD version.

How To Use the DVD

The DVD starting screen has the following options:

Play Video – This plays the video from start to finish. There are no programmed stops, except by using a remote control. With a computer, depending on the particular software player, a pause button is included with the other video controls.

Video Index – Here the video is divided into seven parts (see below), indicated by video thumbnail icons. Watching all parts in sequence is similar to watching the video from start to finish. Brief descriptions and total running times are noted for each part. To play a particular segment, press Enter on the remote for TV playback; on a computer, click once to highlight a thumbnail and read the accompanying text description and click again to start the video.

Thematic Units – This option groups segments by curricular units. Videos that fall under the themes of Power, Art and Culture, and Science and Technology are regrouped as such. Click on a picture to select a unit; onscreen pre- and post-viewing questions also appear below in this guide.

Standards Link – Selecting this option displays a single screen that lists the national academic standards the video addresses.



Teacher Resources – This screen gives the technical support number and Web site address.

Video Index

I. Ancient Greek Philosophy (5 min.)

Seeking wisdom was the pursuit of ancient Greek philosophers. From Socrates came the questions about how to live a just life, which were passed to Plato and then Aristotle. Those who study philosophy today continue to ask the questions.

II. Greek Mythology (7 min.)

Mythology played a pivotal role in storytelling for the ancient Greeks. They explained human behavior and the forces of nature with the stories of Homer's *Odyssey*.

III. Rome: The Early Republic (5 min.)

The capital city of Italy, Rome has a long and rich history. Its golden age as the thriving cultural center of the Roman empire began more than 2,000 years ago.

IV. Spartan Warriors (5 min.)

Spartan warriors were the ruling class of their city-state. They earned this status by their singular ambition and devotion to becoming the strongest military force in Greece.

V. Alexander the Great (6 min.)

At the age of 20, Alexander the Third of Macedonia created the most vast and powerful empire the world had ever seen. Known now as Alexander the Great, this military leader extended his empire and Greek culture well beyond the limits of the Persian empire.

VI. Rise of the Roman Empire (8 min.)

Despite the abuses of power of its early emperors, the Roman empire prospered for 200 years. But rampant greed and corruption disabled the Romans from establishing their empire as a true republic.

VII. Peru's Mummies (8 min.)

Scientists studying the Chiribaya mummies have learned much about the culture and religion of this historic Peruvian people. The desert's salt and chemicals have naturally preserved the mummies for hundreds of years.

