

**Boston Collegiate Charter School**  
**7th Grade History: Ancient Civilizations**

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**Course Overview**

Fundamentally, this course is about power. Students will examine the content, structure, and exchange of power by learning about the origins of human beings in Africa and the subsequent ancient and classical civilizations that flourished near the Mediterranean Sea. Students will explore the government, economics, culture, geography, innovations, and daily life of these civilizations. Students will also examine the present-day politics and geography of these areas.

**Syllabus**

This course will be divided into the following units:

1. ***Introduction: Geography, History, and Human Origins***  
Students will begin to develop a basic understanding of the skills necessary to become a historian, as well as a basic understanding of world geography and the criteria for the establishment of a civilization. Students will be able to read maps and learn fundamental archaeological concepts.
2. ***Ancient Mesopotamia***  
This unit will cover Mesopotamia and its present day surroundings. Students will study key figures and components of the Fertile Crescent, including societies that emerged in surrounding areas.
3. ***Ancient Egypt***  
Students will begin to focus on the continent of Africa with a special focus on Egypt. This unit will cover the importance of the Nile to Egyptian society and the religious structure of the civilization.
4. ***Ancient Greece***  
Students will be able to recognize a historical and present day map of Greece and its surrounding areas. This unit will also explain how the historical and philosophical development of Greece impacted Western civilization.
5. ***Ancient Rome***  
The geographic makeup and political atmosphere of Rome will be reviewed throughout this unit. Students will examine the evolution of the Roman Republic and the eventual decline of the Roman Empire. Students will also begin to study the origins of Christianity during this period.
6. ***Review for the final***  
Time will be spent reviewing the major concepts from the year.

**Text:**

- **The Ancient World**, Prentice Hall

**Materials**-- Each student must have the following:

- 3-ring binder exclusively for History class.
- 5 tabs for the binder.
- Pencil and pen
- 1 small pack of loose leaf paper (college or wide rule is fine)
- one shoe box

## Grading Policy

### **Homework: 20% of each quarter grade**

- Homework will be given regularly and must be fully completed and turned in on time. If homework is not turned in on time **OR is not completed properly**, you will be required to attend homework club. Homework is also assessed through short quizzes at the beginning of class. Low scores on these quizzes may also result in homework club.

### **Classwork: 20% of each quarter grade**

- Includes binder checks, small assignments, and general class participation.. Students should always be prepared for class, ready to start once they enter the classroom, complete all work with effort, fully participate, and be attentive during all class discussions and activities.

### **Major Assessments: 30% of each quarter grade**

- Tests will be given at the end of each unit and will always be announced in advance.

### **Minor Assessments: 30% of each quarter grade**

- Including quizzes, projects, and Exit Tickets. Outside of class time will be required to complete each project.

### **Final Exam- 10% of the final grade for the year (each quarter grade counts as 22.5% of the final grade)**

- The final exam will take place between June 15<sup>th</sup> and June 26<sup>th</sup>. The exam will be a cumulative exam spanning the entire year.

## Primary Performance Standards

By the end of the 7<sup>th</sup> grade, students will have further developed their abilities in the following areas:

- **Note-taking:** Students will be able to independently record major concepts and supporting details from class lecture and primary and secondary source readings.
- **Public speaking:** Students will participate in planned debates, group discussions, give speeches.
- **Cause/Effect Sequencing:** Students will be able to identify events chronologically and explain cause and effect relationships. They will also identify multiple causes and effects in identifying historical events.
- **Study Skills:** Students will utilize class notes, a prepared binder, and a textbook to prepare study cards and/or a review sheet from a set list of topics in order to prepare for assessments.
- **Geography:** Students will label, read, and analyze political maps, physical maps, distribution maps, and historical/period maps, and demonstrate an understanding of the effect of geography on regional, cultural, and historical events, and the impact of geography on current global issues. Students will also be aware of the present day countries that are located where once flourishing historical civilizations once thrived.
- **Analysis and Synthesis of Data:** Students will read and analyze information from charts, timelines, maps, graphs, political cartoons, and text to identify fact from opinion; distinguish between primary and secondary sources; construct and interpret timelines, and apply knowledge to draw conclusions with teacher support.
- **Writing:** Students will be able to exhibit reading comprehension by responding to a prompt or a passage with essays related to the subject matter. Students will also begin to explore the development of a thesis.
- **Nonfiction Reading Comprehension:** Students will learn and practice reading comprehension strategies specifically targeted at non-fiction texts.
- **Research:** Students will utilize classroom materials, the library, and the Internet to locate primary and secondary sources related to the research topic. Students will research a topic, form an outline, design a fundamental thesis statement, write a draft, complete peer edits, and write a final draft and final bibliography.
- **Content:** Students will describe the ancient civilizations of Mesopotamia, Egypt, Greece, and Rome and give examples of the powerful ideas that arose in each civilization. They will be able to locate each civilization on a historical map as well as locate the countries that currently occupy the region. Students will also look at the present day socio-economic factors associated with countries within those regions.