

## Chapter 6: People Create Civilizations: The Urban Wave

### Chapter 6. A. Study Questions

#### Chapter 6. Section 1. An Introduction to the Urban Wave

##### Section 1. Terms to Consider

##### **civilization**

Mesopotamia  
commonalities

##### **core**

##### **periphery**

peasant farmers

##### **corvee labor**

##### **external**

hydraulic hypothesis  
population growth theory  
conflict theory  
local and long-distance trade theory  
class conflict theory

##### Section 1. Questions to Consider

##### 1. Introduction

- a. How do civilizations differ from agricultural societies?
- b. Where do civilizations first independently develop?
- c. Locate these civilizations on a map.

##### 2. Civilizations

- a. What is the role of the core in civilization? The periphery?
- b. How are peasant farmers drawn into the web of urban development?
- c. What changed in the lives of peasant farmers? What remained the same?
- d. What were external areas?

##### 3. Change and Continuity

- a. Briefly summarize each of the theories as to why civilizations developed.
- b. Which one seems most plausible to you? Why?
- c. Conduct research to find other theories that explain the transition from agricultural villages to urban societies.
- d. Explain the transition to urban societies using a systems approach.

##### 4. Insights

- a. What does the term civilization mean to you?
- b. How are our human commonalities expressed in the Urban Wave?

## Part I. Currents in the Urban Wave

### Chapter 6. Section 2. Relationship with Nature: Ecosystem Currents

Section 2. Terms to Consider:

deforestation  
erosion  
salinization  
Sumer  
nature a commodity  
cedars of Lebanon

Section 2. Questions to Consider:

#### 1. Environment

- What environmental problems accompanied urbanization in Mesopotamia?
- Why were many urban societies unable to sustain intensive agriculture?
- Why was Western Europe, for example, able to sustain intensive agriculture better and longer than Mesopotamia?
- Did this have an impact on the longevity of European civilization?
- Conduct additional research to find out what environmentally happened to the Mayans. People of Mesopotamia.
- Describe the environment of the area called Mesopotamia today. What impact does the environment have on the people today?
- What does the following statement mean to you: "As evidenced in the Communal and Agricultural Wave, pressing the environmental limits contributes to the collapse of civilizations throughout our human history."

#### 2. Human Populations

- Why did populations increase in urban centers?
- Why did families want more children?
- Make a chart to show population increases in the Urban Wave. Conduct additional research to add more information than is in the book.

#### 3. Humans and Nature Interaction

- What does it mean when said that nature was increasingly regarded as a commodity?
- Was this the case in the Communal and Agricultural Waves?
- At the time, what were the consequences of logging the famed cedars of Lebanon?
- Conduct additional research to find out what has happened to the cedars over time.
- What kind of environmental destruction did the Mayans inflict upon the Earth?

#### 4. Insights

- Do you think the stretching of nature's limits is a reoccurring theme found in our human history? Why or why not?
- Did it intensify with the Urban Wave?

### Chapter 6. Section 3. Ways of Living: Techno-Economic Currents

Section 3. Terms to Consider:

urban commoners  
peasant farmers  
**tribute**

**market economy**

**merchants**

**plow agriculture**

irrigation

monumental architecture

Hittites

iron-smelting

wheel

luxury trade

**money**

“work”

artisan

**guild**

Section 3. Questions to Consider:

1. Daily Life

a. Describe the daily life of urban commoners. Peasants.

2. Economic System

a. What economic systems operated in the Urban Wave?

b. Why was this system suited to urban societies?

c. What was the basic economic philosophy of the elite class?

d. What part did a market economy play in urban societies?

e. Why were elites wary of merchants?

f. Why were merchants often foreigners or traveling merchants?

g. Why did attitudes towards merchants vary in different regions?

h. What areas were more accepting of merchants? What areas more negative?

i. What do you think were the repercussions on the merchants and market economy since they were usually curtailed by the elites? Do you think the effects of this were good or bad (creative or destructive)?

3. Technology

a. What transformational changes accompanied the shift to plow agriculture?

b. What were examples of monumental architecture?

c. What functions in society did these monuments perform?

d. Where did the money come from to construct these monuments?

e. Where did the labor come from to construct these monuments?

f. What technological advances occurred in the Urban Wave?

g. What military innovations were invented?

h. What effect did these military innovations have on society?

i. Conduct additional research to find pictures or diagrams of these technological innovations. Make a display or collage of these for all classmates to see.

j. What impact did the invention of the wheel have on society?

k. What impact did the lack of the wheel have on the Western hemisphere?

l. After a few centuries of rapid and significant innovations, why did the rate of technological innovations slow and a period of technological continuity ensue?

m. After an initial flurry of technological innovation, a period of continuity ensued. Why didn't elites encourage technological innovations? Why didn't peasants invent technological innovations?

#### 4. Exchange and Trade

- In what ways did centralized governmental authority help to organize trade?
- How were luxury goods traded? Why were they traded in this way?
- Describe local trade. What was traded? How was it traded?
- How and why was money used?

#### 5. Labor

- What unskilled and skilled occupations arose with urbanization?
- How did the lives and work load of peasant farmers change with urbanization?
- What were the two types of goods produced?
- What were guilds?
- Who benefited from guilds? Why?
- Who did not benefit from guilds? Why?
- Do you think guilds should be incorporated into our economic system today? What would be the benefits? Drawbacks?

#### 6. Insights

- Who do you think benefited from greater agricultural productivity during the Urban Wave?
- What were the repercussions of greater agricultural productivity during the Urban Wave? Who benefitted? Who did not?
- How does this increase in labor productivity relate to what is going on today in the U.S. and other parts of the world? Explain or do additional research.

### Chapter 6. Section 4. Human Networks: Social Currents

#### Section 4. Terms to Consider:

arranged marriages

**dowry**

sexual double standard

adultery

female infanticide

**patriarchy**

women's "inside" domestic work

men's public, "outside" work

prostitution

veil

pardah

foot binding

social stratification

"high and low" culture

elite class

slavery

#### Section 4. Questions to Consider:

##### 1. Marriage

- How were dowries a financial hardship, especially for the poor?
- Why were dowries used?
- Describe marriage among urban dwellers.

- d. How did marriage customs differ according to class?
- e. When was female infanticide practiced? Why?

### 3. Patriarchy

- a. What does the statement "patriarchy is a historic, not a biological, creation" mean to you?
- b. Why did patriarchy develop in the Urban Wave?
- c. What role does property ownership play in the creation of patriarchy?
- d. Which theory seems most plausible to you? Why?
- d. Conduct additional research into different theories that explain the creation of patriarchy.
- e. Do you think that patriarchy is similar to slavery? Explain.

### 4. Women

- a. Why was it that the higher the social status of a woman the more likely she would be to be sequestered and controlled by force or through social mores and rules?
- b. Why was maintaining a female's virginity such an important family endeavor in the Urban Wave?
- c. In what ways was female sexuality restrained?
- d. Conduct additional research into ways that and why women were suppressed during the Urban Wave.
- e. What occupations were women able to engage in?

### 5. Prestige and Social Status

- a. Why didn't kinship relations form the primary social structure of urban societies?
- b. How did elites extend their power and control into other territories?
- c. Who made up the elite class?
- d. What was life like for the peasants?
- e. What other groups made up urban societies?

### 6. Slavery

- a. How did slavery develop?
- b. Why did slavery develop?
- c. In what ways was slavery institutionalized (continued as a legitimate institution)?
- d. What happened when elites overstepped their authority and repressed the lower classes?

### 7. Socialization and Education

- a. What was formal education in the Urban Wave?
- b. Why were only elite males literate?

### 8. Insights

- a. What is your reaction to the statement "women have always been 'second-class citizens'?"
- b. What is your reaction to the statement "there has always been slavery?"

## Chapter 6. Section 5. Establishing Order: Political Currents

Section 5. Terms to Consider:

**centralized governments**  
**decentralized governments**  
**kingdom**  
**city-states**  
**states**  
**empires**

**republics**

forms of leadership

intermediaries

Code of Hammurabi

**Law of Cultural Dominance**

interaction

professional armies

conscription

property-owning deferments

push-pull tensions

power relationships

Spartacus

Pax Romana

## Section 5. Questions to Consider:

## 1. Political Systems

- a. What is the difference between centralized and decentralized governments?
- b. Describe the different political entities that arose in the Urban Wave.
- c. What difficulties arise with applying specific terminology to political entities?
- d. What solutions can you think of for this problem? Explain.
- e. Do you think the concept "it is the map, not the territory" might relate to this problem?
- f. What are the differences between city-states and states?
- g. How do states stay in power?
- h. How do states become empires?
- i. How do empires retain power and wealth?
- j. Why were there only a few republics in the Urban Wave?

## 2. Leadership

- a. What forms of leadership were needed among urban centers?
- b. Who were the leaders in urban societies?
- c. What functions did they perform?
- d. Conduct research to find different famous leaders in urban societies. What did they do as leaders?

## 3. Rules and Laws

- a. Why was a formal, codified legal system established?
- b. What was the effect of the new formal, codified legal system in the Urban Wave?
- b. This was a change from what kind of system?
- c. What importance did writing play in this legal system?
- d. What changes in land ownership from the Agriculture Wave occurred in the Urban Wave?
- e. What obligations did urban dwellers' have? What benefits did they receive?

## 4. Migration and Interaction

- a. What happens when one society that is economically, militarily, or politically more powerful than another interacts with a less powerful society?
- b. Do you think the Law of Cultural Dominance continues today in your nation? In the world? In what ways?

## 5. Conflict, Cooperation and War

- a. Why did war become increasingly common in the Urban Wave?
- b. What evidence suggests an increase in warfare?

- c. For what offensive purposes did urban societies employ large-scale warfare?
- d. For what defensive purposes did urban societies employ large-scale warfare?
- e. What was the push-pull relationship between pastoral nomads and urban dwellers?
- f. Describe several (conduct additional research) slave rebellions that periodically sprang up.
- g. Why were slave rebellions so violently and quickly suppressed by authorities?
- h. How and why did power coalitions consolidate their power during times of warfare?
- i. Why did men join the military and fight in wars?
- j. What is meant by the statement "warfare was usually cyclic?"
- k. What was the *Pax Romana*?
- l. Do you think that your nation uses the same offensive and defensive purposes/reasons for large-scale warfare as urban societies did?

#### 6. Insights

- a. Who do you think benefited from the formation of empires? Who did not benefit?

### Chapter 6. Section 6: Human Expressions: Cultural Patterns

#### Section 6. Terms to Consider:

individual identity

**state religion**

Mount Olympus

*Enuma Elish*

Marduk

**universal religions**

**Axial Age**

**Zoroastrianism**

**Avestas**

Ahura Mazda

**Yahweh**

Abraham

Moses

**Ten Commandments**

**Judaism**

Torah

prophets

**humanism**

**rationalism**

**Greek philosophers**

**Socrates**

**Plato**

**Aristotle**

**Hinduism**

**Upanishads**

**karma**

**moksha**

**ahimsa**

**Buddhism**

Siddhartha Gautama

Buddha

**Four Noble Truths****Eightfold Path**

nirvana

Theravada

Mahayana

**Jainism****Mahavira****Confucius****Lao Tzu****Daoism*****Dao De Jing****dao*

yin and yang

four jewels of Daoism

Jesus

**Christianity***New Testament* of the Bible**Paul of Tarsus****Muhammad****Islam*****Qur'an, or Koran***

Five Pillars of Islam

*hajj***writing**

Sumer

## Section 6. Questions to Consider

## 1. Beliefs and Ideology

- What transformation of human consciousness or spiritual vision took place from about 800 to 300 BCE?
- Why did a individual identity start to develop in the Urban Wave?
- How was this different than the belief system/ideology of the Communal and Agricultural Waves?

## 2. State Religions

- What were state religions?
- How were state religions promoted?
- Who promoted state religions? Why?
- With state religions, what mutually beneficial ties evolved between priests and the political elite? Why?

## 3. Shift to Universal Religions

- What does this statement mean to you: "goddesses were systematically demoted to a secondary status." Why did this happen?
  - Conduct additional research to find out different examples of the transition of deities from goddesses (female) to gods (male) in religious expressions during the Urban Wave. Why did this occur?
  - How did universal religions form?
  - What happened to indigenous or folk religions?
  - Why were universal religions popular?
  - What is Karl Jaspers' "the Axial Age?"
  - Conduct additional research into the Axial Age and each of the universal religions.



h. In the Urban Wave there was a shift away from the mystic force of female energy symbolized by the importance of goddesses and nature to male gods and a demotion of nature. Why do you think this happened? In your opinion, was this a beneficial change? Explain.

#### 4. The Universal Religions

- Why did most universal religions regularly stamp out indigenous or folk religions?
- Where did universal religions develop?
- Briefly describe each of the major universal religions.
- Conduct additional research on the universal religion you find most interesting or want to know more about.

#### 5. Communication

- What changes in consciousness were ushered in with the development of writing?
- How did the state and religion benefit with the advent of writing?
- What is your reaction to the statement: "The development of writing ushered in a change of consciousness, from a non-rational, non-linear all encompassing spirituality to ways of knowing based on human inquiry, rational thought, and segmented logical analysis." Do you agree or disagree with this statement? In what ways do you think this shift was expressed (or not expressed)?

#### 6. Aesthetic Expression

- What leisure activities and forms of entertainment were found in the cities?
- In the countryside?

#### 7. Cultural Insights: Conclusion

- Why do you think the universal religions have been such durable institutions and continued for thousands of years?

#### 8. Insights: The Urban Wave

- How is the number "one" reflected in the Urban Wave?
- Do you think this is an appropriate way to describe characteristics of the Urban Wave?

## Part II Pastoral Societies

### Chapter 6. Section 7. Pastoral Societies

Section 7. Terms to Consider:

#### **pastoralism**

nomads  
 food procurement strategies  
 animal husbandry  
 Eurasian steppe  
 migration routes  
 camel  
 Silk Road  
 primary kinship group  
**camping group**  
 mutual aid  
 leveling mechanisms  
 nomadic chiefdoms  
 clan  
 Mongols

Genghis Khan  
 raiding  
 horse  
**courage cultures**  
 thunder deities

Section 7. Questions to Consider:

1. Introduction to Pastoralism

- a. What is meant by the statement: "Urban societies do not develop in isolation, but in relationship with pastoral societies?"
- b. When did pastoralism develop?
- c. Why is it included in the Urban Wave?
- d. How does history often treat pastoral nomads? Do you agree with this interpretation?
- e. What is meant by the statement: "Pastoralism is a way of making a living, and a way of life?"

2. Change and Continuity

- a. What mix of change and continuity is woven into pastoral societies?
- b. What is happening to pastoral societies today?
- c. Conduct additional research to find out what remaining pastoral tribes or societies there are today. Where are they located? What do they do for a livelihood?
- d. Why did nomadic pastoral societies develop?
- e. What theory of pastoral societies is presented by anthropologist Anatoly Khazanov?
- f. What does the following statement mean to you: "pastoralism emerged as a result of adaptation to a natural, rather than to a cultural/social environment."

3. Ecosystem Currents

- a. What effect did drier climate conditions around 1500 BCE have on pastoralists?
- b. Why was (and still is) the Eurasian steppe region the largest area of pastoral nomadism?

4. Techno-economic Currents

- a. Pastoralists devised what three ways to deal with scarce resources. Describe each one.
- b. Describe the diet of diets of nomads.
- c. What advantage over agriculturists did pastoralists have in trade?
- d. What trade products were transported by pastoralists? How were these products transported?
- e. Describe the different forms of ownership that pastoralists used.
- f. How did pastoralists exhibit their wealth?
- g. Why didn't pastoralists limit their herd size to preserve the environment? Do you think that people are doing basically the same thing today? Explain.

5. Society

- a. What three social groups were found in nomadic societies?
- b. What function did each social group perform?
- c. Why were pastoral societies patriarchal?
- d. How was patriarchy reflected in pastoral societies?
- e. What were three possible responses to unequal relationships among members in pastoral societies? Describe each one.
- f. Socialization in pastoral societies emphasized what kinds of behaviors? Why?
- g. Why did patriarchy become so ingrained in pastoral societies? Do you have any of these conditions in your nation that would warrant patriarchal attitudes?

## 6. Political Currents

- What responsibilities did nomadic chiefs have?
- How did a nomadic community's subsistence economy foster aggressive behavior among its male members?
- Why and when did pastoralists launch raids?
- What did they steal? From whom?
- What aided nomadic people's raiding ability and military success?
- In what ways did the nomads' recurrent invasions into urban societies profoundly shape world history between 1000 BCE and 1500 CE?
- How were pastoralists able to form such formidable armies?

## 7. Cultural Currents

- In what ways did pastoral societies display a war-like, aggressive, patriarchal worldview?
- What did their worldview reflect?
- Some feminist scholars argue that the Indo European Aryans conquest of eastern Europe instilled patriarchal attitudes onto formerly peace-loving, female-centered societies. This theory is controversial but some feminist scholars strongly support it. What do you think? Do additional research if it interests you.

## 8. Insights: Pastoral Societies

- How does the relationship with pastoralists benefit urban societies?
- How does the relationship with urban societies benefit pastoralists?
- How is the relationship with urban societies detrimental to pastoralists?
- How is the relationship with pastoralists detrimental to urban societies?
- Do you think there is an appropriate comparison between pastoral societies of the past and today's terrorist groups? Explain.

## Part III: History of Civilizations

### Part III. Terms to Consider:

ancient civilizations  
 classical civilizations  
 post-classical civilizations

### Part III. Questions to Consider:

#### 1. Introduction

- What does it mean to you when I state that this section deviates from the human development periodization and instead uses a traditional, chronological, historical approach?
- Civilizations are here divided into what three chronological and historical eras?
- Does this division make sense to you? Can you think of a better division? Explain. Can you think of better terms to describe these 3 historical eras?

## Chapter 6. Section 8. Ancient Civilizations

### Section 8. Terms to Consider:

Bronze Age  
**Mesopotamia**  
 "cradle of civilizations"  
 Sumer

Babylonia  
 Akkadian dynasty  
 Sargon  
 Egypt  
 Nile River

**Osiris and Isis**

pyramids  
 pharaoh

Harappa  
 Mohenjo Daro

**Indus River**

Aryans  
 Dravidians  
 Yellow (Huang Ho) River  
 Yangtze River valley

dynasty

**oracle bones**

Shang dynasty  
 farming village  
 Chinese family

**Olmec**

Section 8. Questions to Consider:

1. Ancient Civilizations

- a. Why were ancient civilizations the core areas of development?
- b. Why was this period of ancient civilization often called the Bronze Age?
- c. What are five notable ancient civilizations that developed during this historical era?
- d. What were several commonalities these ancient civilizations shared?
- e. Conduct additional research on the five ancient civilizations.
- f. What other ancient civilizations would you include in this category? Why?

2. Mesopotamia

- a. How did the environmental conditions of ancient Mesopotamia contribute to their worldview?
- b. What were the accomplishments of the Mesopotamians?

3. Egypt

- a. What effect did the Nile River have on Egyptian civilization?
- b. What effect did Egypt's geographic location have on its civilization?

5. India

- a. What does the archaeological evidence show about India's civilization?
- b. How did nomadic invasions alter its civilization?

6. China

- a. What do the oracle bones tell us about ancient Chinese civilization?
- b. What was the importance of a strong centralized government in Chinese history?
- c. What role did (does) the Chinese family have in its history?

## 7. Olmec

a. In what ways was the Olmec civilization different from Eastern hemisphere civilizations? Commonalities?

## 8. Insights

a. What do you think, should we trace Western culture's roots to Mesopotamia? If so, why? If not, why not?

**Chapter 6. Section 9. Classical Civilization**

Section 9. Terms to Consider:

Iron Age

caravans

Ganges River valley

**caste system**

Mauryan Empire

**King Asoka**

Gupta Empire

Zhou dynasty

Han dynasty

**well-field system**

filial piety

Confucian pragmatic philosophy

**five relationships**

Great Wall of China

**Homer**

*Iliad* and *Odyssey*

**Hellenistic civilization**

Alexander of Macedonia

republic

**Augustus Caesar**

**Roman Empire**

Persia (Iran)

**Cyrus**

Cambyses

Darius I

*satrap*

**Persepolis**

Royal Road

Xerxes

Zoroastrianism

Mithra

**Maya**

Mayan calendar

Mayan mathematics

Mayan language

glyphs

Section 9. Questions to Consider:

1. Classical Civilizations

- a. Where did classical civilizations develop?
- b. What signaled a beginning and end to classical civilizations?
- c. What five themes are characteristic of classical civilizations?
- d. What are six key classical civilizations?

2. India

- a. How did the caste system apparently originate in India?
- b. What were the divisions in the caste system?
- c. What effect did the caste system have on India?
- d. What major empires developed in classical India?
- e. What unifying factors unite(d) India in the face of political fragmentation and decentralization?

3. China

- a. What durable institutions were formed in China during its classical civilization?
- b. How did the well-field system influence Chinese society?
- c. What impact did Confucius have on the development of Chinese society?
- d. What were the five-relationships?
- e. How did the five-relationships reflect the order of Chinese society?
- f. What impact did Daoism have on Chinese society?
- g. What was the impact of the collapse of the Han Dynasty on Chinese history?
- h. Why did Chinese history go through dynastic cycles instead of having to reinvent itself after every political collapse?

4. Greece

- a. What contributions did Greece make to Western civilization?
- b. What values were exalted in Homer's epic poems?
- c. Have these Homeric values been part of Western culture? Give examples.
- d. Why do you think I have not called Alexander of Macedonia "Alexander the Great?" Do you agree with this decision? Why or why not?
- e. What contributions did Alexander make to Western civilization? Do you think these contributions were detrimental or beneficial?

5. Rome

- a. Why did the Romans extend citizenship to the people that they conquered?
- b. What was the significance of Augustus Caesar?
- c. Why did the Roman Empire collapse in 476 CE?
- d. What was the impact of the collapse of the Roman Empire?
- e. What were the Roman contributions to Western civilization?

6. Persia

- a. How was Persia formed into an empire?
- b. What role did Zoroastrianism play in the Persian Empire?

7. Maya

- a. Why is Maya considered a classical civilization?
- b. What cultural achievements did Maya attain?
- c. Why did the Mayan city-states wage war with each other?

- d. What were the effects of a large population on Mayan society?  
 e. Why did Maya decline as a civilization?

8. Insights

- a. What do you consider the 3 most important long-lasting achievement of the classical era? Why?

**Section 10. Post-Classical Civilizations**

Section 10. Terms to Consider:

Muhammad

Abu Bakr

Ali

Muawiyah

**Sunni**

**Shiite**

Umayyad dynasty

Damascus

Abbasid family

Harun al-Rashid

**Golden Age of Islam**

calligraphy

Avicenna

Ibn Khaldun

*Rubaiyat* by Omar Khayyam

*A Thousand and One Arabian Nights*

Arab Empire

**Bantu**

Bantu languages

**Ghana**

Almoravids

Mali

Mansa Musa

Songhay

Gao

Mombassa, Kilwa, Malindi, Sofala, and Mogadishu

**Swahili**

Great Zimbabwe

**Aztecs**

Mexica

Tenochtitlan

Machu Picchu

Huitzilopochtli

**Incas**

Cuzco

Francisco Pizarro

Sui dynasty

Chang'an

Grand Canal

Tang dynasty

Song dynasty  
 Yuan dynasty  
**Golden Age** (of China)  
 civil service exams  
 Silk Road  
 scholar gentry  
 block printing  
 Li Bo  
 landscape painting  
 Japan  
 Nara and Heian Period  
 feudalism  
**samurai**  
 “way of the warrior”  
**shogun**  
 Kamakura Shogunate  
*daimyo*  
**Shinto**  
 Zen sect of Buddhism  
*Tale of Genji*  
 Delhi Sultanate  
**sultans**  
**sharia**  
 Timur (Tamerlane)  
 Mughals  
 Korea  
 Vietnam  
 Angkor  
 Khmer Empire  
 Thailand  
 Burmese  
 Malay  
 Mongol Empire  
 Genghis Khan  
 Karakorum  
 Kublai Khan  
 Pax Mongolia  
**Byzantine Empire**  
 Emperor Constantine  
 Constantinople  
 Emperor Justinian  
**Body of Civil Law**  
 Hagia Sophia  
 Eastern Orthodox Church  
 Fourth Crusade  
**Slavic people**  
 Russia  
 Kiev  
 Prince Vladimir  
 Moscow



Ivan III  
 Czar  
 Middle Ages  
 Germanic people  
**Roman Catholic Church**  
 Christianity  
 “dark age”  
**feudalism**  
 serfs  
 knights  
**manorialism**  
 city guilds  
 Black Death

Section 10. Questions to Consider:

1. Introduction

- a. What events ushered in the post-classical civilizations?
- b. Why are civilizations in the period 500 to 1500 CE called the post-classical civilizations?
- c. Can you think of a better term than post-classical?
- d. What four themes characterize post-classical civilizations?
- e. What are the 7 geographical groupings of post-classical civilizations?

2. The Middle East

- a. What impact did the spread of Islam have on the Middle East?
- b. How was succession to Muhammad determined?
- c. What problems ensued over succession?
- d. What impact did the Umayyad dynasty have on world history?
- e. What were the achievements of the Abbasid dynasty?
- f. What was the Golden Age of Islamic culture?
- g. What does it mean that the Arab Empire had expansionist aspirations?

3. Africa

- a. What impact did the Bantu have on Africa?
- b. What influence did Ghana have on the region at the time?
- c. What influence did Mali have on the region at the time?
- d. Why is Mansa Musa considered a legendary ruler?
- e. What impact did Songhay have on the region at the time?
- f. Why did the African coastal city-states—Mombassa, Kilwa, Malindi, Sofala, and Mogadishu—achieve importance in the region at the time?
- g. What is significant about Swahili at the time and today?

4. Western hemisphere

- a. How did the Aztecs gain control over the region of present day Mexico?
- b. Describe the religion of the Aztecs. Why was human sacrifice a major part of their religion?
- c. How did the Spanish, despite their small numbers, conquer the Aztecs?
- d. What were the accomplishments of the Incas?

5. China

- a. What happened after the collapse of the Han dynasty in 200 CE?

- b. At the time, what were the accomplishments of the Sui dynasty in China?
- c. What were the accomplishments of the Tang dynasty?
- d. What were the accomplishments of the Song dynasty?
- e. How did the Song dynasty meet its end?
- f. What was China's Golden Age? What were its accomplishments?
- g. Who were the scholar-gentry? Why were they important?

#### 6. Asia

- a. What impact does Japan's feudalism have on its society?
- b. What happened when the Mongols tried to invade Japan?
- c. Why is rice so important to Japanese society?
- d. How is the Shinto religion reflective of Japanese society?
- e. What influence did Islam have on India during this era?
- f. What was the Indo-Muslim fusion?
- g. What was the relationship between Vietnam and China in this era?
- h. Who are the Khmer people of Cambodia?
- i. Who are the Thai people?
- j. How did the Mongols establish themselves as an empire?
- k. What does it mean that the Mongols were "natural warriors?"
- l. What were the effects of their conquests?
- m. What was the Pax Mongolia? What were its benefits?

#### 7. Byzantine Empire and Russia

- a. What two zones was the Roman Empire divided into after its collapse in 476?
- b. What was the foundational heritage of the Byzantine Empire?
- c. What was the Body of Civil Law? What contribution did it make to the Western heritage?
- d. What was the schism in Christianity?
- e. Who were the Slavic people?
- f. How did Russia get its name?
- g. How did Christianity come to Russia?
- h. What role did the Mongols play in Russian and the city of Kiev's history?

#### 8. Europe

- a. What happened to Europe after the collapse of the Roman Empire?
- b. What role did the Roman Catholic Church play in Europe during the post-classical era?
- c. What was feudalism? Why did it develop in Europe? What was its impact on European society?
- d. What role did serfs play in Europe's feudalistic society? Knights? Manorialism?
- e. Describe the social structure in European society.
- f. Why were manual laborers in Europe able to achieve a higher status than their counterparts in Asian imperial societies?

#### 9. Insights

- a. How did the post-classical era end?
- b. Why was a historical, regional approach used in section 3 of this world history?
- c. Which approach do you like the best: historical, regional (chronological) or development? Why?

#### 10. The Urban Wave: Concluding Insights

- a. Do you think the creative (constructive) aspects of the Urban Wave outweigh the destructive aspects or vice versa? Why?

**Chapter 6. Section 11. Concluding Insights**

1. The term "civilization" is often labeled as "overdetermined." This means it has multiple and often confusing meanings associated with its usage. Conduct additional research to find the different meanings and use of the term civilization. What definition do you think is most appropriate for this holistic world history?
2. a. What are the constructive aspects of the Urban Wave? Destructive?  
b. In your estimation, did the benefits or creative aspects of the Urban Wave outweigh the destructive aspects or drawbacks?
3. a. Of all the universal world religions/worldviews which one appeals to you most? Why?  
(there is no right or wrong answer here and if you prefer not to share with others or the teacher I would suggest that a student have their right of privacy)  
b. Select a particular place of worship that you would like to visit and go there as an observer or worshipper if you choose. (I suggest they may pair up for this activity.) Take notes of the rituals, beliefs, etc. and report back to class.
4. How did civilizations fall, decline, or collapse? Select several civilizations to find out how they have collapsed. Are there any common themes in their collapse?