World History: Prehistory: Teacher’s Guide

Program Description
This library of videos contains segments covering the Renaissance through the 19th century around the world.

- The Earliest Human Migration (5 min.)
- The Ice Man Discovered (5 min.)
- Ancient Egyptians (5 min.)
- China’s Great Wall (6 min.)
- Ancient Trade on the Silk Road (7 min.)
- China’s First Dynasty (5 min.)
- Petra: Ancient City of Trade (4 min.)
- Ancient Warriors in India (7 min.)

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

- Where were some of the earliest civilizations located? How were they organized and ruled? What were the causes of their demise?

- How did early rulers of Egypt, China, and India defend their territories? Compare and contrast the successes of each of these early civilizations in expanding and preserving their nations.

- What physical evidence exists today that allows researchers to reconstruct the military histories of the ancient civilizations of Egypt, China, and India?
SEGMENTS

Ancient Egyptians

• Pre-viewing question
  How long is the Nile, and where does it flow?

• Post-viewing question
  Why was the Nile important to the Egyptian pharaohs? How was it significant in the rise of ancient Egypt’s civilization?

China’s Great Wall

• Pre-Viewing Question
  Use a map to find the location of the Great Wall of China. How long is the wall?

• Post-Viewing Question
  Why did Shi Huangdi build the Great Wall of China? Was it effective? Would it be effective for the same purposes today?

Ancient Trade on the Silk Road

• Pre-Viewing Question
  When did the Han dynasty rule China? What did this dynasty accomplish?

• Post-Viewing Question
  How did the Han expand their territory and increase trade? How did they protect themselves from their enemies?

China’s First Dynasty

• Pre-viewing question
  When did civilization begin in China? What was the first historical dynasty?

• Post-viewing question
  How was the Shang dynasty discovered? What has archaeology revealed about this ancient civilization?

Ancient Warriors in India

• Pre-Viewing Question
  Why were elephants a military weapon in third-century B.C. in India? How did soldiers and commanders use them?

• Post-Viewing Question
  How did Emperor Asoka’s approach to dominating his kingdom change? What effect did the war have on him?
Art and Culture

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

- How were cultural ideas exchanged in prehistoric times? Cite specific examples from ancient civilizations in Asia and the Middle East.
- How were ancient communities similar to modern-day communities? How were they different?
- What artifacts from ancient civilizations in Asia and the Middle East tell stories about the cultures of those civilizations?

SEGMENTS

Ancient Egyptians

- Pre-viewing question
  When did ancient Egyptian civilization reach its height? What aspects of Egyptian culture arose during that time?

- Post-viewing question
  What is papyrus? What role did it play in advancing Egyptian civilization?

China’s Great Wall

- Pre-Viewing Question
  Why would the leader of a country decide to build a wall on the border of a neighboring country?

- Post-Viewing Question
  How is the Great Wall a defining symbol of China?

Ancient Trade on the Silk Road

- Pre-viewing question
  Where did the Silk Road run? Why was it given this name?

- Post-viewing question
  How did the Silk Road serve as a conduit of cultural exchange?

China’s First Dynasty

- Pre-Viewing Question
  Why are legends and stories significant in a civilization’s history?

- Post-Viewing Question
  What have archaeologists learned about the Shang dynasty? What conclusions have they drawn about ancient Chinese culture?
Petra, Ancient City of Trade

- **Pre-viewing question**
  Locate the Dead Sea and the Red Sea on a map. What is the physical geography of the land lying between the seas?

- **Post-viewing question**
  How could the Nabataeans develop Petra as a thriving metropolis? How were Petra’s services and cultural resources like those of a modern-day city?

Ancient Warriors in India

- **Pre-Viewing Question**
  What are the predominant religions in India today? What do these religions teach about the treatment of others?

- **Post-Viewing Question**
  Why did emperor Asoka embrace Buddhism? What role did he play in bringing religion to the East?

Science and Technology

**ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS**

- What are examples of technological advancements from early civilizations in Asia and the Middle East? How did they improve life for people?

- How do archaeologists conduct their work, make inferences, and draw conclusions about past cultures?

- How did ancient peoples adapt to climatic changes? What tools and behaviors did they adapt to survive?

SEGMENTS

The Earliest Human Migration

- **Pre-viewing question**
  On what continent do scientists believe human life began? Why do you think humans migrated from continent to continent?

- **Post-viewing question**
  How did climate influence early human migration? What role does archaeology play in revealing the patterns of human migration?

The Ice Man Discovered

- **Pre-Viewing Question**
  What is archaeology? Why are archaeologists interested in mummies?

- **Post-Viewing Question**
  Who is Ötzi? How did researchers determine that he was not a shepherd?
Ancient Egyptians

- **Pre-viewing question**
  What is irrigation? Why is it important for people who live near rivers?

- **Post-viewing question**
  What advancements in managing the Nile floodplain did ancient Egyptians develop? How did these inventions aid in the growth of Egyptian civilization?

China’s Great Wall

- **Pre-viewing question**
  How long would it take to build a wall four thousand miles long without heavy machinery? How many people would need to work on it in that amount of time?

- **Post-viewing question**
  When was the Great Wall of China built? What materials were used to make it? How many laborers worked on it?

China’s First Dynasty

- **Pre-viewing question**
  What types of artifacts do archaeologists look for to learn about the past?

- **Post-viewing question**
  What evidence did archaeologists find in China to reveal the true history of the Shang dynasty?

### 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](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](http://www.socialstudies.org)
This lesson plan addresses the following thematic standards:

- Culture
- Time, Continuity, and Change
- Power, Authority, and Governance
- Production, Distribution, and Consumption
- Science, Technology, and Society
- Global Connections
- Civic Ideals and Practices

Support Materials

Related Lesson Plans

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

- **Ancient Egypt** (grades 6-8)
- **Archaeology** (grades 6-8)
- **Hidden History of Egypt** (grades 6-8)
- **Mummy Tales** (grades 6-8)
- **Neanderthals** (grades 6-8)
- **Toward Civilization** (grades 9-12)

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](http://school.discovery.com/teachingtools/teachingtools.html)
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 eight 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. The Earliest Human Migration (5 min.)

Climatic changes were catalysts for the first human migration. Archaeological evidence reveals the patterns and causes for movement from Africa to the Middle East and Europe, then to Asia, and finally to the Americas.

II. The Ice Man Discovered (5 min.)

Hikers discovered a 5,000-year-old naturally preserved mummy in 1991 while hiking in the Alps. Archaeological studies and re-creations have revealed details about this man’s life and death.

III. Ancient Egyptians (5 min.)

The Nile was ancient Egypt’s most precious resource. Pharaohs used it to unite and rule all of Egypt, and the Egyptians mastered its many resources to advance their civilization.
IV. China’s Great Wall (6 min.)
The Great Wall of China is actually a series of walls built and rebuilt by rulers over a period spanning two thousand years. Hundreds of thousands of people constructed this barrier between China and their “barbarian” neighbors.

V. Ancient Trade on the Silk Road (7 min.)
Named the Silk Road after China’s monopoly on the precious fabric, this ancient route hosted caravans of traders and travelers from the East and the West seeking to exchange goods, services, and culture.

VI. China’s First Dynasty (5 min.)
Until the 19th century the oldest Chinese civilization existed only in the legends of the Chinese people. Thanks to a discovery in 1899, archaeologists continue to learn more about the real Shang Dynasty.

VII. Petra: Ancient City of Trade (4 min.)
Ancient Arabs known as Nabataeans once populated the thriving city of Petra, located between the Dead Sea and Aqaba, a port on the Red Sea. Petra’s location made it ideal for a spice trade to thrive from the Arabian Peninsula to Mediterranean seaports.

VIII. Ancient Warriors in India (7 min.)
In the 3rd century B.C. the emperor Asoka brought most of India under a single ruler for the first time. He relied on a keen military strategy that included a large well-organized army supported by 9,000 elephants.