

Sixth Grade Social Studies Essential Facts

The Stone Ages

1. **Geography** is the study of the surface of the earth, determined by location, shape of the land, continentality, slope, and altitude.
2. The earth's surface consists of **land** and **water**.
3. A **civilization** is a group of people who have well-developed forms of government, religion, learning, and economy.
4. A **natural resource** is something found in nature that is used.
5. **Culture** is the way of life of a group of people, determined by their geography and the resources around them.
6. **History** is the study of the past and includes the story of how a civilization's culture developed.
7. An **artifact** is something that was made by man and left behind.
8. An **archaeologist** is someone who studies the artifacts of the past.
9. An **anthropologist** is someone who studies the cultures of the past.
10. **Carbon-14** is a process used to measure the level of carbon in something that was once alive in order to determine its age.
11. A **primary source** is a firsthand account, someone, or something that was present at the time of an event.
12. A **secondary source** is a secondhand account of an event.
13. The first humans lived during the **Paleolithic Age** or **Old Stone Age**.
14. A **nomad** is someone without a permanent home who wanders in search of food and water.
15. Most nomads hunted **buffalo**.
16. The most important event of the Old Stone Age was the **discovery of fire**.
17. The **Neolithic Age** is called the New Stone Age.
18. **Agriculture** is the cultivation of crops, which began in the New Stone Age.
19. Historians consider the most important event of the New Stone Age to be the **development of agriculture**.
20. The places where the first civilizations developed are called the **Cradles of Civilization**.
21. The first civilizations developed around the valleys of the **Tigris and Euphrates**, **Indus**, **Huang Ho**, and **Nile Rivers**.
22. The development of tools and methods used to help humans perform tasks is called **technology**.

Mesopotamia

23. One of the oldest communities in the world is **Jericho**.
24. The development of different kinds of jobs is called **specialization**.
25. The earliest known civilization developed in **Mesopotamia**.
26. Mesopotamia means "**land between the rivers**."
27. **Irrigation** is the method of bringing water to a field from another place to water crops.
28. A **city-state** is an independent state made up of a city and the land and villages surrounding it.
29. A **ziggurat**, which means "hill of heaven" or "mountain of god," is a Sumerian temple located in the middle of a city.
30. Sumerian schools were called **tablet houses**.
31. **Cuneiform** is the Sumerian system of writing, made of wedge-shaped characters.
32. **Babylon** was the largest, richest city of its time and the center of trade, government, and education.

33. **Hammurabi** was the king of Babylon, famous for writing a code of law.
34. An **empire** is made up of territories that are under the control of another government.
35. **King Nebuchadnezzar** built the Hanging Gardens of Babylon for his wife.

Ancient Egypt

36. The first Egyptians settled along the **Nile River**, which is the world's longest river, about 4,000 miles long.
37. The fertile soil around the Nile River provided a **surplus** (extra amount) of crops. The money gained from the trade of these crops made Egypt a wealthy land, with time and resources to develop an empire.
38. A **delta** is an area of fertile land at the mouth of a river.
39. **Papyrus**, a reed plant that grew along the Nile River, became a valuable resource for the Egyptians.
40. **Hieroglyphics** was the Egyptian writing system.
41. **Narmer** was the ruler of Egypt who united the upper and lower Egyptian governments.
42. A line of rulers from the same family is called a **dynasty**.
43. A diagram of Egyptian social groups is called a **social pyramid**. The largest group, located at the bottom of the pyramid, was made up of slaves and poor farmers. At the top of the pyramid was the pharaoh.
44. Egypt's kings were called **pharaohs**.
45. The Egyptians worshipped many gods or **deities**. The pharaohs were considered gods.
46. **Re** was the sun god, the main god of the Egyptians.
47. A **pyramid** was a burial tomb for Egyptian pharaohs.
48. The **Great Pyramids of Giza** were built for King Khufu.
49. The pyramid of **King Tutankhamen** revealed many treasures. It was discovered by Howard Carter in 1922. Historians and scientists are able to learn much about ancient Egypt from the artifacts left in the tomb.
50. **Ramses II** rebuilt Egypt's empire and ruled for 66 years.

Ancient Greece

51. The **Minoan** civilization, an early Greek civilization, developed on the island of Crete. The Minoans earned their living by building ships and trading.
52. The **Mycenaean** people came from central Asia and settled on the Greek mainland; they built the first Greek kingdoms.
53. The mainland of Greece was located on a **peninsula**, a body of land surrounded by water on three sides, and all parts of ancient Greece were near water.
54. The mountains and sea kept the early Greek communities **isolated**, or separated from each other; therefore, they became independent of each other.
55. The **Dark Ages** of ancient Greece (1100 B.C. to 750 B.C.) were a time of poverty due to war and earthquakes.
56. The **Dorians** moved from the mountains of Greece to the Peloponnesus and brought with them iron weapons that improved farm tools and weapons.
57. A **colony** is a settlement in a new territory that keeps close ties to the homeland.
58. A **polis** is a Greek city-state made up of a city and the surrounding countryside; it functions like an independent country.
59. The main gathering place in a polis was usually an **acropolis**, a fortified hill.

60. An **agora** was an open area below the acropolis that served as a marketplace and a meeting place.
61. The Greeks were the first people to develop the idea of citizenship. A **citizen** is a member of a political community who is treated as an equal and who has rights and responsibilities to the community.
62. A **hoplite** was an ordinary citizen-soldier of the Greek army.
63. A **tyrant** is someone who takes power by force and rules with total authority.
64. An **oligarchy** is a government in which a few people hold the power to govern.
65. A **democracy** is a government in which all citizens have an opportunity to share in the running of the government.
66. **Sparta** was a militaristic city-state founded by the Dorians.
67. The Spartans captured and enslaved workers called **helots**.
68. **Ephors** enforced laws and managed tax collections.
69. **Athens** was a city-state in ancient Greece that became a democracy.
70. **Solon** was a noble who ruled Athens wisely. He cleared farmers' debts and freed slaves.
71. **Cleisthenes** was the leader credited with making Athens a democracy.
72. The Persians were united into an empire by **Cyrus the Great**.
73. As the Greeks became more powerful, they clashed with the Persians in the **Persian Wars** for control of the Mediterranean Sea.
74. **Darius** and **Xerxes** were famous Persian rulers who were defeated by the Greeks.
75. The Greeks defeated the Persians in the **Battle of Marathon**.
76. The **Battle of Plateau** ended the wars with Persia.
77. The Greek city-states (except Sparta) formed the **Delian League** to defend themselves against the Persians.
78. Athens became a **direct democracy**, a form of government where masses of citizens gather to decide on government matters.
79. **Pericles** was a general who became ruler of Athens and made it stronger and more democratic at home.
80. The **Age of Pericles** was a period of great creativity and learning in ancient Athens.
81. The people of Athens and Sparta fought over control of Greece in the **Peloponnesian Wars**.
82. The Greeks were **polytheistic**; they worshipped many gods and goddesses.
83. The 12 main gods and goddesses lived on **Mount Olympus**.
84. **Zeus** was the main god, and his wife was **Hera**.
85. **Athena** was the goddess of wisdom.
86. **Myths** are stories about gods and goddesses.
87. **Homer** was a blind poet who wrote the first epic poems.
88. **The Iliad** and **The Odyssey** are Homer's poems that tell the history of the Trojan War and taught the values of the Greeks.
89. A **fable** is a short tale that teaches a lesson and usually involves animals.
90. **Aesop** was a former slave who wrote the most famous fable, "The Tortoise and the Hare."
91. The first **Olympic Games** were held in ancient Greece on Mount Olympus in 776 B.C.
92. The Greeks enjoyed **drama**, stories that are told by actors who pretend to be the characters in the stories.
93. A **tragedy** is a play that tells a sad story in which people fail to overcome their difficulties.
94. A **comedy** is a story that has a happy ending.
95. Greek architecture expressed ideas of beauty and harmony and included three types of **columns**: Doric, Ionic, and Corinthian.
96. The **Parthenon**, the most famous example of Greek architecture, is a temple built to Athena.
97. An **amphora** is a Greek urn used for many purposes.

98. **Philosophy**, the study of nature and the meaning of life, comes from the Greek word meaning “love of wisdom.”
99. Many of the Greek **philosophers** were teachers who developed ideas that are still in use today.
100. **Socrates** was the most famous Greek philosopher; he believed that knowledge would lead to truth.
101. **Plato** was a student of Socrates who founded The Academy and wrote *The Republic*.
102. **Aristotle** was a student of Plato who taught that a person should do nothing in excess.
103. **Herodotus** is known as the Father of History because he was the first to try to separate fact from legend in his writings.
104. **Pythagoras** was a philosopher who taught that everything in the universe could be explained in numbers.
105. **Philip II of Macedonia** united the Greek city-states when he conquered them.
106. **Alexander the Great** was the son of Philip II; he spread the Greek culture as he conquered lands throughout Asia and Africa.
107. **Alexandria, Egypt** was a city built by Alexander that became the center of trade and culture.
108. **Hippocrates**, the “Father of Medicine,” wrote a code of behavior for doctors.

Ancient Rome

109. The city of Rome was built on seven hills near the **Tiber River**.
110. One legend of the founding of Rome is in the story of **Romulus and Remus**.
111. **Virgil**, a blind poet, wrote *The Aeneid*, another story about the founding of Rome.
112. The **Etruscans**, **Latins**, and **Tarquins** were the first groups to settle in Rome.
113. A **republic** is a form of government in which the leader is elected by the citizens.
114. Roman soldiers were called **legionaries** who defended the city from attack.
115. The Roman soldiers were divided into groups of 6,000 people or **legions**.
116. **Centuries** were small groups of 90 soldiers from the legions who could cut through enemy lines.
117. Rome fought the Phoenicians for control of the Mediterranean Sea in the **Punic Wars**.
118. **Hannibal** was the strongest Carthaginian general.
119. **Scipio** was the Roman general who defeated the Carthaginians at the Battle of Zama.
120. Rome’s wealthy landowners were called **patricians**.
121. Rome’s ordinary citizens were called **plebeians**.
122. Roman laws were written on bronze tablets called the **Twelve Tables**, which are the basis for many laws today.
123. **Latifundias** were huge farming estates, bought by the wealthy when the farmers could no longer afford the land.
124. The **Gracchus Brothers** were Roman officials who tried to keep the republic out of the control of the wealthy.
125. **Julius Caesar** was a military hero who seized power in Rome and made reforms.
126. A **triumvirate** is a government ruled by three people.
127. Caesar gained power on his own after he crossed the **Rubicon River** and defeated Pompey.
128. Caesar declared himself **dictator**, one who rules with complete authority, in 44 B.C.
129. Julius Caesar was assassinated on the **Ides of March**, March 15, 44 B.C.
130. Octavian was a nephew of Julius Caesar who changed his name to **Caesar Augustus** after he became ruler of Rome.
131. **Pax Romana** (Roman peace) was a period of peace and prosperity after the reforms of Caesar Augustus.

132. **Hadrian** was a Roman emperor who built Hadrian's Wall in Britain and made laws easier to understand.
133. The Romans copied much of **Greek culture** and changed it to meet their own needs.
134. The arch was developed to build bridges and **aqueducts**, channels built to carry water for long distances along the famous Roman roads.
135. A **vault** is a curved ceiling made of arches built against one another.
136. The Romans developed **concrete**, a mixture of volcanic ash, lime, and water, which made buildings stronger.
137. **Horace** was an author who wrote satires and odes that reflected Roman life.
138. **Galen** was the most famous Roman doctor who emphasized the importance of studying organs and anatomy.
139. **Ptolemy** studied the stars and planets and explained their movements.
140. A **forum** was an open space that served as a market and meeting place.
141. The **Colosseum** was an arena that supported itself, not built on a hillside.
142. The **paterfamilias**, "father of the family," was the head of the Roman household.
143. A Roman home was called a **domus**.
144. Romans used **slaves**, people captured from wars, to do much of their work.
145. **Spartacus** led an unsuccessful slave revolt.
146. **Latin** was the language of ancient Rome.
147. The Romans borrowed many gods from the Greeks, with **Jupiter** as their main god.
148. The favorite sport of the Romans was **gladiator** games held in the Colosseum.
149. Chariot races were held in the **Circus Maximus**.
150. **Constantine** was a Roman emperor who moved the capital to Constantinople to try to save the empire.
151. The three main causes of the **fall of the Roman Empire** were poor leadership, a declining economy, and invasions by Germanic tribes.
152. **Romulus Augustulus** was the last emperor of Rome.
153. **Odoacer** was a Germanic general who overthrew the last Roman emperor.
154. The eruption of Mt. Vesuvius buried the city of **Pompeii** in the year 79. The discovery of the ruins of the town in the 1500's gave us information about ancient Rome.
155. **Pliny the Elder** and **Pliny the Younger** were historians who wrote of the burial of Pompeii.

Judaism

156. The **Israelites** set up their kingdom in Canaan around 1000 B.C. They believed that this land was promised to them by God.
157. **Monotheism** is the belief in one god.
158. The Israelites recorded their history in the **Hebrew Bible**.
159. The faith of the Israelites became known as **Judaism**.
160. The Israelites believed that they were descended from **Abraham**.
161. **Jacob** was the grandson of Abraham. He was also called Israel, which means "struggle with God." This name was later given to Jacob's descendants.
162. The families of the 12 sons of Jacob divided into **12 Tribes of Israel**.
163. Because of a **drought** in Canaan, the Israelites moved to Egypt where they were slaves.
164. To put down a rebellion, the pharaoh ordered all baby boys who were born to Israelites to be killed. The mother of **Moses** hid him in the river. He was discovered by the pharaoh's daughter who raised him.

165. Moses grew up to lead the Israelites from Egypt to Canaan. This escape was known as the **Exodus**.
166. Moses went to the top of Mt. Sinai where he received laws from God, which were called the **Torah** by the Israelite people.
167. In the *Torah* was a **covenant** or agreement with God.
168. The most important part of the Torah was the **Ten Commandments** or the most important laws. These commandments helped shape the basic moral laws of many nations.
169. After the Israelites settled in Canaan, they were ruled by judges. One judge, **Deborah**, helped win a battle against the Canaanites.
170. The **Philistines** were a powerful group of people living in Canaan who made weapons of iron. They were feared by the Israelites.
171. The Israelites were led against the Philistines first by **Saul**.
172. King **David** built the Israelite empire and made Jerusalem the capital city.
173. David's son, **Solomon**, built a temple in Jerusalem.
174. Eventually the Israelites were conquered by Nebuchadnezzar but continued to practice their religion in **exile**, or time living in a foreign land, while unable to live their own land.
175. The Jews living outside of Judah were known as the **Diaspora**. They learned Greek ways and helped to spread Judaism.
176. **Judas Maccabeus** led the Jews to drive the Greeks out of Judah.

Christianity

177. **Christianity** is the religion of those who follow the teachings of Jesus Christ.
178. Jesus was born in **Bethlehem**.
179. Jesus claimed to be the **messiah** or savior of all people.
180. Jesus taught in **parables**, stories that use everyday events to teach spiritual ideas.
181. Jesus gathered a group of 12 followers, called **disciples**, to help him teach.
182. Because Jesus threatened the power of the Romans and Jews who controlled Judea, he was arrested by the Romans and **crucified**, hung on a cross to die.
183. Jesus' followers claimed that he had been **resurrected** or raised from the dead.
184. The most famous **Apostles**, followers who spread the religion after Jesus' death, were Peter and Paul.
185. Constantine was the first Christian emperor of Rome; he ordered that the **persecution**, or mistreatment, of Christians end.
186. **Theodosius** made Christianity the official religion of Rome.
187. The church was organized in a **hierarchy**, an organization with levels of authority, based on the government of Rome.
188. Decisions reached by the patriarchs became the **doctrine**, official teachings of the church.
189. The **Bible** is a combination of the Old Testament Jewish writings and the teachings and life of Jesus, written by four followers who knew him, in the New Testament.
190. The **pope** was the bishop of the Roman church who became leader of all of the Christian churches.
191. The Eastern Byzantine Christians did not accept the power of the pope and formed their own church, the **Eastern Orthodox Church**.

Islam

192. The **Islam** religion was founded by Muhammad.

193. The followers of Islam flocked to **Makkah**, or **Mecca**, their sacred city, where Muhammad was born.
194. The **Kaaba** was a low, square building that housed statues of gods and goddesses.
195. **Allah** is the Arabic word for God.
196. Muhammad moved to the city of **Yathrib**, which was renamed **Madinah**.
197. The holy book of Islam is called the **Quran**.
198. The **Five Pillars of Islam** are acts of worship that Muslims are expected to fulfill.
199. A **caliph** is an important Muslim religious leader.
200. The Islam people split into two groups after Muhammad died: the **Sunnis** and the **Shiite**.
201. A **mosque** is a Muslim house of worship.
202. A **bazaar** is a Muslim marketplace.
203. **Mamun** was an Arabic scholar who established the House of Wisdom.
204. A **minaret** is a tower atop a mosque from which a crier calls people to prayer five times a day.

Ancient India

205. A **subcontinent** is a large landmass that is part of a continent but separate from it.
206. The **Himalayan Mountains** are the highest in the world.
207. The earliest civilization in ancient India developed around the **Indus River**.
208. A **monsoon** is a wind that blows one direction in summer and the opposite direction in winter.
209. **Harappa** and **Mohenjo-Daro** were the two major cities of ancient India.
210. The **Aryans** conquered the Harappans and ruled India.
211. **Sanskrit** was the written language of India.
212. A **raja** is a prince who ruled the Aryan tribes in India.
213. A **caste** is a social group into which a person is born and cannot change.
214. A **guru** is an Indian teacher.
215. **Hinduism** is one of the religions of India.
216. **Brahman** is the universal spirit of Hinduism.
217. **Karma** is the good or bad energy a Hindu builds as he or she lives.
218. **Dharma** is the divine law of Hinduism.
219. The idea of passing through many lives is called **reincarnation**.
220. **Buddhism** was an Indian religion founded by Siddhartha Gautama.
221. Siddhartha Gautama became known as **Buddha**, the “enlightened one.”
222. The main teachings of Buddha are contained in the **Four Noble Truths**.
223. The **Eightfold Path** is Buddha’s steps to eliminate suffering.
224. **Chandragupta Maurya** founded India’s first empire.
225. **Stupas** are Buddhist shrines.
226. **Asoka** was the world’s first Buddhist king.
227. The **Gupta** dynasty formed around the Ganges River.
228. **Vedas** are Indian prayers and hymns.
229. **Aryabhata** was the leading mathematician of India.

Ancient China

230. China’s earliest civilizations grew around the **Huang Ho**, or **Yellow River**, and the **Yangtze River**.
231. The **Shang** were the first rulers of China.
232. The Shang used **oracle bones** to determine their future.

233. Chinese writing used **pictographs**, characters that stand for objects.
234. **Wu Wang** led a revolt against the wealthy of the Shang dynasty.
235. The **Zhou** dynasty ruled longer than any other in China.
236. The Zhou claimed to have a **mandate from Heaven**; they believed they ruled because the heavens ordered it.
237. **Dao** is the proper way to reach heaven according to Zhou rulers.
238. **Filial piety** is children's respect for parents and older relatives.
239. **Ancestors**, relatives that come before us, were worshipped by the ancient Chinese, who believed power came from them.
240. **Confucius** was ancient China's first great teacher and thinker.
241. **Confucianism** was the philosophy which taught that people should have a sense of responsibility to their family and community.
242. **Legalism** was the philosophy which taught that people were basically evil.
243. **Hanfeizi** developed legalism.
244. The **Great Wall** was built across northern China to protect it from invaders.
245. The **Silk Road** was a network of trade routes from western China to southwest Asia.

The Early Americas

246. Farming began in **Mesoamerica**, which means "middle America," about 10,000 years ago.
247. The **Maya** built an empire in what is now southern Mexico.
248. The Mayans settled in **Petén**, meaning "flat region," which had swamps and sinkholes that gave a source for many wells.
249. Mayan city-states were ruled by **god-kings**.
250. **Chocolate**, which came from the cacao trees, was popular with the Maya.
251. The **calendar** of the Mayans had 365 days.
252. The **Aztecs** built an empire in what is now central Mexico.
253. **Quetzalcoatl** was the Aztec sun god.
254. **Tenochtitlan** was the Aztec capital city.
255. The Aztecs were ruled by **god-kings**.
256. There were four **social classes** in Aztec society.
257. **Montezuma** was the emperor who was defeated by **Hernán Cortés**.
258. The **Inca** built an empire in what is now Peru.
259. **Pachacamac** was the main Incan god.
260. **Pachacuti**, which means "earth shaker," was the Incan leader who built Inca into an empire.
261. **Cuzco** was the Incan capital.
262. **Itzi** was the Incan sun god who protected the city.
263. **Machu Pichu** was a retreat for Incan kings.
264. A **quipu** is a rope with knotted cords of different lengths and colors used by the Incas to measure and keep records.
265. **Atahualpa** was the Incan emperor defeated by **Francisco Pizarro**.

The Middle Ages

266. The **Middle Ages** were a time period between ancient civilizations and modern times.
267. Great historical, cultural, economic, and technological events of the Middle Ages shaped the **modern** world.

Medieval China

268. A **warlord** is a military ruler who runs a government.
269. Warlords ruled until the Middle Ages when the **Sui and Tang dynasties** reunited China.
270. **Wendi** was a military ruler who united China and founded the Sui dynasty.
271. The **Grand Canal** united the rivers of China and improved trade.
272. With improved farming methods, the Chinese were able to develop more efficient methods of growing **rice** and **tea**.
273. During the Tang dynasty, government officials had to take a **civil service exam**, which was a test to prove they were qualified to do the work.
274. The **Diamond Sutra** is the earliest known printed book.
275. The rule of the **Song dynasty** is known as the Golden Age of Art and Literature in China.
276. **Buddhism** spread to China as the Chinese traded with India.
277. **Confucianism** was made the official religion of China during the Song dynasty.
278. **Porcelain** is made of fine clay and baked at high temperatures; it was a very popular trade item.
279. The **Mongols** lived in an area north of China.
280. The **Gobi Desert** covers part of Mongolia and China.
281. **Genghis Khan** developed an empire in Mongolia and invaded China.
282. **Kublai Khan** moved the capital of China to Khanbaliq, which is now Beijing.
283. The Mongols encouraged trade and sent **Marco Polo** on many fact-finding trips.
284. During the **Ming dynasty**, the Chinese experienced peace and prosperity.
285. **Zheng He** was a famous Chinese navigator who was the first to sail to India and Africa.

Medieval Africa

286. Most of the vast continent of Africa rests on a **plateau** or area of high, flat land.
287. **Caravans**, groups of traveling traders and merchants, traveled across the Sahara Desert to and from West Africa.
288. The **Berbers** were the first known people to settle in North Africa.
289. African empires became wealthy from **trade** during the Middle Ages.
290. **Ghana** was a West African empire known as “the crossroads of trade.”
291. The people of Ghana taxed those who transported salt, gold, and iron down the **Niger River**.
292. The kingdom of **Mali** was built on the trade of salt and gold.
293. **Griots** are African storytellers.
294. **Sundiata Keita** was the Mali leader who expanded the empire to trade with Timbuktu.
295. The **Songhai Empire** rose to power by driving the Berbers out of Timbuktu.
296. **Sunni Ali** was the leader of the Songhai who seized control of the river with a fleet of canoes.
297. **Axum** was a city-state in East Africa located near the Red Sea.
298. **Ezana** was a king of Axum who brought Christianity to the empire.
299. **Zimbabwe** was a trading center that traded gold, copper, and ivory.
300. Kings ruled organized African governments that were divided into smaller family groups called **clans**.
301. People of medieval Africa lived in **extended families** or families made up of several generations.
302. Many African villages were **matrilineal**, tracing their family descent from their mother rather than their father.
303. African storytellers educated children through **oral history**, stories passed down from generation to generation.
304. **Bantu** chiefs raided other African villages for captives for labor.

305. **Enslaved** or forced laborers became part of the African trade with Europe.

Medieval Japan

- 306. Japan is an **archipelago** with four main islands.
- 307. The first people to develop a culture in Japan were the **Jomon**.
- 308. The **Yayoi** were the people who introduced farming to Japan.
- 309. The **Yamato** were the first to establish an empire in Japan.
- 310. **Jimmu** was the ruler who declared himself “emperor of heaven.”
- 311. **Prince Shotoku** created Japan’s first constitution.
- 312. **Samurai** were Japanese warriors who pledged loyalty to nobles in return for land.
- 313. A **shogun** is a military leader who commands the emperor’s army.
- 314. **Minamoto Yoritomo** was the first shogun.
- 315. **Daimyo** were rulers over small territories and farms.
- 316. **Kamikaze** are “divine winds” that kept Mongol invaders out of Japan.
- 317. **Rice** was the main crop grown by Japanese farmers.
- 318. **Buddhism** and **Shinto** were the main religions of Japan and shaped the culture.
- 319. **Murasaki Shikibu** wrote the world’s first novel.
- 320. **Tanka** is Japanese poetry that does not rhyme and has five lines.
- 321. **Calligraphy** was handwriting used by the Japanese.
- 322. **Martial arts** are sports such as karate and judo that involve combat and self defense.
- 323. **Meditation** is the practice of quiet reflection that clears the mind and brings inner peace.

Medieval Europe

- 324. After the Roman Empire fell, the **Germanic Kingdoms** began to rebuild their societies and defended themselves against the Muslims, Magyars, and Vikings.
- 325. **Rivers, seas, and mountain ranges** determined where the people of Europe settled after they were no longer united by the Roman Empire.
- 326. The Middle Ages in Europe were also called the **Dark Ages** and the **Age of Faith**.
- 327. The **Franks** were a Germanic people who settled in what is now France.
- 328. King **Clovis** of France became the first Catholic king.
- 329. At the **Battle of Tours**, the Franks defeated the Muslims and Christianity became the main religion of Europe.
- 330. The **pope** was the head of the Catholic Church and supported the Christian kings.
- 331. **Charlemagne** increased the Frankish empire and was crowned emperor.
- 332. Otto I was crowned emperor of the **Holy Roman Empire**.
- 333. **Pope Gregory the Great** was the first to send missionaries throughout Europe.
- 334. The **Concordat of Worms** was an agreement that assigned power to the pope and ruler of a government.
- 335. **Feudalism** is a political system based on loyalty between lords and vassals.
- 336. **Knights** were warriors on horseback who fought for nobles in exchange for land.
- 337. A **code of chivalry** was a set of rules that were followed by knights after years of training.
- 338. The lands and fields of the Middle Ages were called **manors**.
- 339. A **serf** was a peasant laborer bound by law to the noble’s land.
- 340. The rise of towns created a new **middle class** of people who did not own land but did have freedoms.
- 341. **Guilds** were medieval business groups formed by craftsmen and merchants.

342. **William of Normandy** invaded England and brought European customs to England and the Anglo-Saxons.
343. The **Domesday Book** was a census taken by William the Conqueror.
344. **Henry II** set up two kinds of juries in England: the grand jury and the trial jury.
345. The **Crusades** were a series of wars between Christians and Muslims over control of the Holy Land. There were 10 crusades over a period of about 200 years.
346. **Pope Urban II** called for the Christians of Europe to fight in the Crusades.
347. The **First Crusade** was the only victory for the Christians.
348. The Third Crusade was led by **Richard the Lionhearted** and ended in a truce with Saladin, the Muslim ruler.
349. King John signed the **Magna Carta**, which took power from the king and gave some rights to the people of England.
350. Edward I organized England's first **Parliament**, a group of officials to help him rule.
351. The Middle Ages were also called the **Age of Faith** because the Catholic Church had power in the government, education, and daily life.
352. Education took place in **monasteries** and **convents**, where monks and nuns lived in religious orders.
353. A belief that differs from the teachings of the Church is called **heresy**.
354. The **Inquisition** was a court established by the Catholic Church.
355. **Anti-Semitism**, the hatred of Jews, was practiced in Europe during the Middle Ages.
356. **Cathedrals**, or large churches, were examples of medieval architecture and were built in Romanesque or Gothic style.
357. **University** comes from the Latin word for guild.
358. **Oxford University** is one of Europe's oldest universities.
359. **Theology** is the study of religion and God.
360. **St. Thomas Aquinas** combined theology with reason to write *Summa Theologica*.
361. Much literature in the Middle Ages began to be written in the **vernacular**, or everyday language, instead of Latin.
362. A **plague** is a disease that spreads very quickly and kills many people.
363. The **Black Death** was a plague that spread through Europe and killed about one out of every two people in Europe between 1347 and 1351.
364. The French and English fought for control of Normandy in the **Hundred Years War**.
365. **Joan of Arc** was a French peasant girl who led soldiers into battle; she was captured and burned at the stake.
366. **Isabella and Ferdinand** united Spain and tried to drive out the Muslims.

The Renaissance

367. **Renaissance**, which means "rebirth," was the name given to the period in history from about 1350 to 1550 because there was a rebirth in art and learning.
368. During the Renaissance, people became more **secular**, more interested in worldly than religious matters.
369. **Florence** and **Venice** became important cities of culture and learning during the Renaissance.
370. The **de Medici** families ruled Florence and were patrons of the arts.
371. **Niccolo Machiavelli** wrote *The Prince*, a book which said that rulers had to be strong, not good, to be effective.
372. **Humanism** is a philosophy based on the idea that the individual and society are important.

- 373. **Johann Gutenberg** invented the printing press with moveable type, which helped spread ideas throughout Europe.
- 374. **Leonardo da Vinci** was a Renaissance scientist, inventor, and artist.
- 375. **Michelangelo Buonarroti** was a famous Renaissance sculptor and artist.
- 376. **William Shakespeare** was the most famous author of the Renaissance.

The Reformation

- 377. The **Reformation** was a movement in the early 1500's to change the Catholic Church.
- 378. **Martin Luther** was a young monk who challenged the ideas of the Catholic Church in a document called the *Ninety-Five Theses*.
- 379. Many other religious leaders followed Martin Luther and formed other **denominations**, or branches, of Christianity.
- 380. A Christian who was not a Catholic was called a **protestant**.
- 381. The **Council of Trent**, a church council that held meetings to make Catholic beliefs clear, was called by Pope Paul III.
- 382. The **Counter-Reformation** was the effort of the Catholic Church to defeat Protestantism and to return to the Catholic Church.
- 383. The **Thirty Years War** was fought between Bohemia and the Holy Roman Empire. Other European countries became involved.
- 384. **Henry VIII** of England changed the religion of England to Anglican so that he could divorce his wife.
- 385. **Bloody Mary**, a daughter of Henry VIII, ruled England and tried to change it back to Catholic.
- 386. **Elizabeth I**, a daughter of Henry VIII, ruled England for 45 years and was one of England's most popular rulers.

The Age of Exploration

- 387. The social, political, and economic changes in Europe led to a period of exploration and worldwide trade called the **Age of Exploration**.
- 388. **Henry the Navigator** set up a sailing research center in Portugal.
- 389. **Bartolomeu Dias** and **Vasco da Gama** sailed the coast of Africa.
- 390. **Christopher Columbus** reached the Americas as he tried to sail to India.
- 391. **Ferdinand Magellan** circumnavigated the world.
- 392. **Sir Walter Raleigh** helped Elizabeth I to defeat the Spanish Armada.
- 393. **Jacques Cartier** explored the St. Lawrence River.
- 394. **Nicolaus Copernicus** was a Polish mathematician who developed the heliocentric theory, stating that the sun was the center of the universe.
- 395. **Galileo Galilei** proved the heliocentric theory using a telescope.