Children's Illustrated History Atlas
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A map is a drawing that gives an overall view of a place. The maps in this book show parts of the world at different times in history. The countries and territories these maps show often look very different from how these same places appear today.

How to use this book

Outside areas
Around the edges of many of the maps are other land areas. These are shown in a cream color.

Dates
On the map, dates are shown in bold, to help you find your way around the page.

Picture features
Pictures with text highlight special features, including buildings and battles.

Important cities
Capital cities are marked with red outlines. Other cities are outlined in blue.

Snapshots
These images add extra information about historical events, people, and places.

Key
The key gives information about the picture symbols on the map.

Date
Some of the keys have a date to show the time period of the map. If the date includes “c.,” it means “circa,” or “around”—meaning the date isn’t exact.

Compass
The compass always points to north (N) on the map and also shows the direction of south (S), east (E), and west (W).

Picture symbols
You will find picture symbols without text on some of the maps. Look at the key to find out what each symbol means.

Scale
The scale indicates the size of the country and the distances between different points on the map.
The Roman Empire was home to more than 50 million people. In 27 BCE Rome was the capital of the empire.

Between 264 and 146 BCE, the Romans fought the Punic Wars against Carthage, a city-state in what is now Morocco. Carthage was defeated, and its territory became part of the Roman Empire.

The army kept the peace across the empire. Open-air theaters, such as the Colosseum in Rome, were built for entertainment. Amphitheaters were also built for gladiatorial fights and other events.

Many Romans owned slaves. Some slaves had been freed from slavery, while others were brought to the empire as prisoners of war.

Public bathing brought slaves from Africa and Asia to Rome. They were used as laborers in homes and businesses.

Fifteen years after the end of the Punic Wars in 146 BCE, the last Carthaginian leader, Vercingetorix, led an uprising against the Roman Empire. The Romans crushed the rebellion and burned the city of Carthage to the ground.

The empire eventually expanded to include most of Europe, North Africa, and parts of the Middle East.

Shipped to Rome from Africa, Carthage's imports included spices, silks, and other luxury goods. The empire also imported grain from Egypt and other regions to feed its growing population.

The empire was further strengthened when the Roman Empire conquered Egypt in 30 BCE. Cleopatra, the last pharaoh of Egypt, committed suicide rather than be captured by the Romans.

Rome becomes the capital of the empire in 27 BCE. The city of Rome is still in use today.

These mini-maps show you where an area is in the world.

These maps show extra details of interesting areas that would be too small to show on the main maps.

Page numbers: The color of the circle matches the chapter color and tells you which chapter you are in.

Timelines
Each chapter starts with a timeline spread. The timelines show you events in different parts of the world in the order that they happened.

The years after 1 CE go from small to big, so the number of each year is one greater than the year before.

The years leading up to 1 BCE go from big to small.

Centuries
A century is a period of 100 years. Historians often talk about periods of time using centuries, for example, “the 18th century.” The years covered by a century are the 100 leading up to it. So the 18th century covers the years 1700–1799. Here are some examples.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Century</th>
<th>Time covered</th>
<th>Century</th>
<th>Time covered</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>14th</td>
<td>1300–1399 CE</td>
<td>18th</td>
<td>1700–1799 CE</td>
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<tr>
<td>15th</td>
<td>1400–1499 CE</td>
<td>19th</td>
<td>1800–1899 CE</td>
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<td>16th</td>
<td>1500–1599 CE</td>
<td>20th</td>
<td>1900–1999 CE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17th</td>
<td>1600–1699 CE</td>
<td>21st</td>
<td>2000–2099 CE</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

How years are numbered
Each year is given a number to help people keep track of what happened (and happens) when. These numbers are called dates. Here are some things that are useful to know about historical dates.

**CE and BCE**
You will see that some dates have “ce” or “bce” after them. CE means “Common Era” and BCE means “Before the Common Era.” CE is used for dates after the year 1 BCE, and BCE for dates before 1 CE. In this book, if a date doesn’t have CE or BCE after it, it is CE.
World people

The human story began in Africa six million years ago, when apes began to walk upright on two legs. Over time, humanlike apes, called hominins, grew bigger and more intelligent. Our species, *Homo sapiens*, appeared in Africa 200,000 years ago. Around 120,000 years ago, some of them left Africa to spread all over the world.

Fire maker

*Homo erectus* (upright man) was the first hominin to leave Africa, 1.8 million years ago. They were the same height as we are, but their faces were more apelike. They made stone axes and learned to control fire.

Modern humans hunted woolly mammoths, a type of woolly elephant.

Modern humans wore bead and shell jewelry.

Modern humans lived in warm areas of southern Asia.

*Homo erectus* lived

100,000
years ago

100,000
years ago

90,000
years ago

70,000
years ago

65,000
years ago

To reach Australia, people had to travel by boat, but the journey was a shorter one than it is today because sea levels were lower.

Cave painting

Modern humans in Europe, Asia, and Australia began to make art 35,000 years ago. They painted pictures of the animals they hunted on the walls of caves.

In Europe, Neanderthals lived alongside modern humans, people who looked like us.

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65,000
years ago

Australian people

Neanderthal

Bone hut

*Homo sapiens* used mammoth bones to build huts.

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Cave painting

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Close cousins
Our closest hominin relatives were the Neanderthals. Their brains were as big as ours, and they dressed in fur clothes and buried their dead. When they died out 39,000 years ago, we became the only type of human left in the world.

Early journeys
The first humans traveled mostly on foot.

Later journeys
Much later, humans used boats to travel around the Pacific.

Ocean voyages
By 1300, people had crossed the Pacific Ocean to settle on the ocean’s widely scattered islands, such as Easter Island.
1. What was the world's first big town called?

2. Where were Egyptian pharaohs of the New Kingdom buried?

3. What did Greek soldiers hide inside to invade the city of Troy?

4. Which river ran through ancient Egypt?
Humans began farming in western Asia around 12,000 years ago. They settled in villages around farmlands. Eventually, these villages grew into towns and cities. Over time, cities and lands united under single leaders to form empires, such as Assyria and ancient Rome.
The ancient world

For most of the past, people lived as hunter-gatherers. They moved around, hunted animals, and gathered wild plants. After the last Ice Age—a long period of cold weather—ended about 11,500 years ago, people learned how to farm. Planting crops and raising animals meant people had to settle down in one place. The number of people grew, and villages became towns. Soon states and empires were also created.

35,000 years ago

First art
People in Europe and Asia make the first works of art—cave paintings and carvings of animals and people.

5000 BCE

First metal tools
People in Europe and western Asia begin to make tools, such as axes, from copper instead of stone.

4000 BCE

World’s first city
Villages at Uruk in Sumer (southern Iraq) join together to create the world’s first city.

2613–2503 BCE

Great Pyramids built
Egyptian pharaohs build huge pyramid tombs at Giza.

2500 BCE

Indus cities
The Indus, or Harappan, people build cities in the Indus Valley of northwest India. They also grow cotton for cloth.

2500 BCE

First recorded war
The first recorded war in history is fought, between the Sumerian cities of Lagash and Umma.

c.2300 BCE

First empire
King Sargon of Akkad conquers Mesopotamia and creates the world’s first empire.

221–210 CE

China’s first emperor
China is united under the First Emperor. When he dies, he is buried in a tomb protected by a terra-cotta (clay) army.

117 CE

Roman Empire
The Roman Empire reaches its largest size under Emperor Trajan. It stretches from Spain in the west to Iraq in the east.

Pyramids at Giza

Bronze Age spear

Terra-cotta army
14,000–9,000 years ago

The climate warms

The world gets warmer; sea levels rise; and forests spread. Many big animals, such as mammoths, die out.

13,000 BCE

Pottery invented

The Jomon people of Japan make the world’s oldest known pottery.

12,000 BCE

Jomon pot

6500 BCE

Earliest silk making

Silk begins to be spun in China. Silk is a fine fabric made from the cocoons of the silk moth.

7000 BCE

First cloth woven

People in the Fertile Crescent learn to weave cloth from the fibers of a plant called flax.

10,000 BCE

Farming begins

In the Fertile Crescent, stretching from Egypt to Iraq, people begin to plant wheat and barley and raise animals for meat and milk.

3300 BCE

Writing invented

Egyptians invent the world’s first writing system, hieroglyphs.

3000 BCE

Egypt united

Egypt becomes a single kingdom under the rule of a pharaoh, perhaps called Narmer.

Bronze Age begins

Mesopotamians mix tin and copper to make bronze, a harder metal. Soon after, bronze is also made in China.

South American farming begins

Farming starts in the Andes mountains of South America, where people grow crops including potatoes.

3000 BCE

Egypt united

Egypt becomes a single kingdom under the rule of a pharaoh, perhaps called Narmer.

500 BCE

First American civilizations

The Olmecs of Mesoamerica and the people of Chavin de Huantar in Peru live in the first American civilizations.

334–323 BCE

Alexander the Great

After uniting Greece, Alexander the Great of Macedonia conquers an empire stretching from Egypt to India.

3000 BCE

Egypt united

Egypt becomes a single kingdom under the rule of a pharaoh, perhaps called Narmer.

Ancient Greece

Greek civilization is at its peak. The Greeks create beautiful art and architecture and invent science, philosophy, theater, history writing, and politics.
The Stone Age

The earliest period of our history is called the Stone Age because people used tools made from stone. They hunted wild animals and gathered wild plants. Later, starting around 10,000 BCE, people in East Asia began to plant crops and keep animals. Farming then spread west across Europe.
Farming allowed people to settle down in villages, which later grew into towns. One of the oldest is Jericho, which dates from 9600 BCE. It was defended by a high stone wall.

Decorated objects
Stone Age people invented pots to cook and store food. In different parts of Europe, people decorated pots in different ways, making patterns with cords (strings), shells, or combs. They also made art out of materials such as amber.

When farming people entered Europe from Asia around 6000 BCE, they brought herds of cattle with them.

The first farmers in Europe lived in small villages, which would usually have five to eight wooden longhouses.

At Göbekli Tepe, people built a stone circle for ceremonies around 9000 BCE. They used massive carved stones.

Catalhöyük, founded around 7500 BCE, is the world’s oldest large town. It was five-times bigger than Jericho.

Women harvesting wheat
Farmers harvested wheat with curved tools called sickles, which had blades made of stone.

Bull
When farming people entered Europe from Asia around 6000 BCE, they brought herds of cattle with them.

In Russia, people decorated their pots by dragging combs across them.

This horse was carved from amber, which is fossilized tree resin. Amber from the coast of the Baltic Sea was traded across Europe.

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Comb pottery
In Russia, people decorated their pots by dragging combs across them.

Amber sculpture of a horse
This horse was carved from amber, which is fossilized tree resin. Amber from the coast of the Baltic Sea was traded across Europe.

Wheat
Farmers harvested wheat with curved tools called sickles, which had blades made of stone.

KEY
- **Fertile Crescent**: An area with rich soil for growing plants.
- **Monoliths**: Stone structures called monoliths were built across Europe.

JERICO
Farming allowed people to settle down in villages, which later grew into towns. One of the oldest is Jericho, which dates from 9600 BCE. It was defended by a high stone wall.
Mesopotamia

Mesopotamia means “the land between the two rivers.” It existed around the rivers Tigris and Euphrates in the Middle East. It was here, around 3300 BCE, that the world’s first cities were built. Mesopotamian cities were ruled by kings, who waged war with each other using trained armies. The Mesopotamians invented bronze making and writing.

Code of laws
King Hammurabi of Babylon had a set of his laws carved into stone. The king is shown worshipping the god of justice at the top of the stone.

Writing
Mesopotamians invented one of the first writing systems. It is called cuneiform, which means “wedge shaped.” It was written by pushing a sharp reed into a soft clay tablet. Cuneiform was used for 3,200 years across western Asia.

Between rivers
Mesopotamia stretched along a fertile area between the Tigris and Euphrates, which made it a good place to farm.
Indus Valley

The land around the Indus River was the birthplace of another of the first civilizations. Beginning around 2600 BCE, people here built carefully planned cities. This was the largest early civilization, bigger than Egypt and Mesopotamia put together. There is no evidence left of how the people of the Indus Valley were ruled.

Ruins of Mohenjo-Daro
The biggest Indus city was Mohenjo-Daro. Every house had its own water supply, toilet, and bath.

Indus seal
The people of the Indus Valley invented a type of writing with around 300 picture signs, which we still cannot understand. It was used on carved stone seals, where the signs appeared above pictures of animals.

KEY (2600 BCE)
Goods coming into the Indus area
Silver
This metal was used to make jewelry.
Copper
This metal was used to make pots and knives.
Lapis lazuli
This blue stone from Afghanistan was used to make jewelry.
Tin
This metal was mixed with copper to make bronze.
Cotton growing
Cotton fibers were woven into cloth.

River network
The Indus civilization grew up around small rivers that flowed into the large Indus River, which ended at the Arabian Sea.

Indus boat
Indus traders traveled by boat, taking goods along the rivers.

Carnelian
A red stone called carnelian was used to make beads for jewelry.

Elephants were hunted for their ivory tusks.

Coastal people collected oysters to get the pearls sometimes found inside.

Lothal
Dholavira
Mohenjo-Daro

Pears

Harappa
Ancient Egypt

Around 3000 BCE, the people who lived along the Nile River created one of the world’s earliest civilizations, ancient Egypt. Kings known as pharaohs ruled Egypt for over 3,000 years. It was the most stable and longest-lasting civilization in the ancient world.

Hieroglyphs

The Egyptians invented hieroglyphs, the world’s first writing system. Hieroglyphs were pictures that stood for things and ideas. They were carved in stone or written on a type of paper called papyrus.

Fertile Nile

Egypt lies along the Nile River, which flows through the desert of northeast Africa into the Mediterranean Sea.

Pyramids of Giza

From 2650 to 1800 BCE, pharaohs were buried in huge stone tombs called pyramids. The Great Pyramid is the only survivor of the seven wonders of the ancient world.

KEY (3000 – 1000 BCE)

- Egyptian border: The dotted line shows the edge of Egypt.
- Wheat: This was the main crop grown along the Nile.
- Mud houses: People lived in houses made of mud bricks.

SCALE

0 250 kilometers
0 250 miles

The Sphinx, a statue of a lion with a human head, guards the pyramids.

Egyptian boats sailed south using the wind, which usually blows from north to south. The current carried them north again.

Farmers grew wheat and other crops next to the river.

Mud houses

People lived in houses made of mud bricks.

Wheat

This was the main crop grown along the Nile.

Egyptian border

The dotted line shows the edge of Egypt.

The Sphinx, a statue of a lion with a human head, guards the pyramids.

Hieroglyphs carved in stone

Hieroglyphs

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Sailing south

Plowing

Farmers grew wheat and other crops next to the river.

Egyptian boats sailed south using the wind, which usually blows from north to south. The current carried them north again.

Mud houses

People lived in houses made of mud bricks.

Wheat

This was the main crop grown along the Nile.

Egyptian border

The dotted line shows the edge of Egypt.
Tutankhamun
During the period called the New Kingdom, between 1550 and 1069 BCE, pharaohs were buried in underground tombs in the Valley of the Kings. The pharaoh Tutankhamun’s tomb is the only one that has been found with all its treasure still inside.

Egyptian gods
The Egyptians worshipped hundreds of gods, who were shown as different animals. This statue is of Sekhmet, the lion-headed goddess of war.
Ancient Greece

The ancient Greeks were some of the most creative people in history. They invented theater, sports, politics, science, and the writing of history. Their beautiful art and architecture is still copied today. Ancient Greek civilization was at its height between 500 and 300 BCE.

Far and wide
The Greeks founded settlements all around the Mediterranean and the Black Sea. The best surviving Greek temples are not in Greece but in Italy. This one is in Sicily.

Temple of Segesta, built c.420 BCE

Many cities
Ancient Greece was a collection of city-states. The Greeks traveled and founded cities all over the Mediterranean.

Syracuse

The Olympic Games
The Greeks invented athletic competitions. The most famous was held at Olympia during a festival in honor of Zeus, king of the gods. Athletes came from all over the Greek world.

Wrestling in the Greek Olympics
Theater at Epidaurus
Plays were staged in open-air theaters in ancient Greece. The theater at Epidaurus seated 14,000 spectators.

The Persians tried and failed to conquer Greece in the 400s BCE.

According to legend, the city of Troy was captured and destroyed by Greeks hiding inside a wooden horse.

The Spartans were the most feared warriors in Greece.

Crete was a base for pirates, who attacked and robbed merchant ships.

The agora was the marketplace where pottery and other goods were sold.

Athens was protected by a strong wall with many gates.

The Parthenon is a marble temple dedicated to Athena, the goddess of wisdom and crafts. It is still standing today.

The assembly was where Athenian citizens met to make big decisions about the city. People voted using clay discs.

The Persians tried and failed to conquer Greece in the 400s BCE.
Ancient China

Beginning in 475 BCE, China was divided into several kingdoms, which were always at war with each other. This era, called the Warring States period, ended in 221 BCE, when the king of Qin conquered all his rivals. He ruled as China’s First Emperor. Qin, pronounced “Chin,” gave its name to all of China.

First Emperor of China
Ying Zheng, known as the First Emperor, ruled China harshly from 221–210 BCE. He forced everybody in the country to work for him. People had to build roads, canals, a great wall, and a huge tomb for him.

Terra-cotta army
In 210 BCE, the First Emperor was buried beneath a human-made mountain. Nearby, an army of more than 7,000 life-size terra-cotta (clay) warriors was also buried.

Kingdoms at war
The many warring states each battled to become the most powerful. They were eventually united into the huge empire of China.
The Great Wall of China
The warring states had built walls to protect themselves from each other. The First Emperor had these walls knocked down and built a continuous one in the north. This was the Great Wall of China.

Coins
The First Emperor introduced new standard coins. They were round with a hole in the middle, so they could be strung together. The hole stood for the earth, thought to be square, beneath the circle of the sky.
Ancient Rome

More than 2,000 years ago, ancient Rome was one of the most powerful nations in the world. At first, Rome was ruled by kings. It became a republic in 509 BCE, which meant that it was ruled by members of Roman society. In 27 BCE Rome became an empire, led by a ruler called an emperor. At its largest, in 117 CE, the Roman Empire was home to more than 65 million people.

Punic Wars
Between 264 and 146 BCE, Rome fought three wars against the city of Carthage, in modern-day Tunisia. Rome wanted control of the Mediterranean Sea. The wars, known as the Punic Wars, ended in total Roman victory.

KEY (c.117 CE)
- **Empire border**: The edge of the Roman Empire.
- **Grain**: Shipped to Rome from North Africa and Sicily.
- **Grapevines**: Vines were planted across the empire to grow grapes to make into wine.
- **Timber**: Forests were stripped of wood all over the empire.
- **Roman baths**: Public bathing brought the Romans together.
- **Slaves**: Many Romans owned slaves. Some slaves had to build Roman roads.
- **Amphitheaters**: Open-air theaters entertained Romans across the empire.
- **Roman soldiers**: The army kept the peace and defended the borders against enemy invasion.

Julius Caesar
One of ancient Rome’s most well-known leaders, Julius Caesar conquered large amounts of land for Rome. The empire began with his great-nephew, Augustus, who made himself the first emperor.
Roman roads
The Romans built many long, straight roads to link the towns and cities of the empire. These paved roads helped soldiers move quickly around the empire.

Rome was said to have been founded by twins who were raised by a wolf.

This theater in Verona, Italy, is still in use today.

The Romans built this amphitheater in what is now Tunisia.

The city of Pompeii was destroyed by the eruption of the volcano Mount Vesuvius in 79 CE.

An important city in Roman Libya.

Emperor Constantine the Great ordered this column to be built in 330 CE.

A massive wall was built around Rome in 271 CE, called the Aurelian Wall.

In 74 CE, a Jewish revolt against Roman rule ended when all the Jewish troops and civilians in the Masada fort killed themselves.

Cleopatra ruled Egypt until 30 BCE, when it was conquered by Rome.

These warships traveled all around the Mediterranean Sea.

Constantinople became the capital of the empire in 330 CE. Walls were built around the city to help defend it against attacks.

The Romans built this amphitheater in what is now Tunisia.

The Appian Way leading out of Rome

The Appian Way leading out of Rome

The Appian Way leading out of Rome

The Appian Way leading out of Rome

The Appian Way leading out of Rome

The Appian Way leading out of Rome
World religions

A religion is a set of beliefs about how to live a good life and what happens after death. In the past, there were hundreds of different religions. Then, people began to follow larger, organized religions. Today, most people belong to only a few world religions.

Smaller religions

Alongside the major religions, there are still many smaller ones. In some parts of Africa, people believe in powerful spirits. They try to get the help of the spirits by dancing while wearing masks.

Judaism
The faith of the Jewish people, called Judaism, was the first religion that worshipped one God. Jews believe that God chose them as a special holy people and gave them a set of laws to follow.

Islam
Muslims worship a single God, called Allah. Every year, millions of Muslims travel to their holy city of Mecca in a special journey called the Hajj.

Christianity
Christians believe in one God but also worship Jesus Christ as the Son of God. Jesus was a Jew who died 2,000 years ago, when he was nailed to a cross.

Buddhism
Buddhism began in northeast India, where the Buddha was born in 563 BCE.

Hinduism
Hinduism began in ancient India. Its sacred texts, the Vedas, were written down around 1200 BCE.

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Buddhism
Buddhism was founded in northeast India 2,500 years ago by a teacher called the Buddha. Unlike other religions, it is not based on a belief in gods. The goal of Buddhism is to find true wisdom.

Hinduism
Hinduism, the ancient religion of India, is practiced in many different ways. Hindus worship hundreds of gods. One of the most popular is Ganesh, who has an elephant’s head.

Sikhism
Sikhism was founded 500 years ago by an Indian teacher called Guru Nanak. He taught that there is one God, who can be worshipped anywhere, and that all humans are equal.

World of faiths
The world’s major religions all began in Asia and the Middle East, then spread to the rest of the world.

Buddhism
Buddhism was founded in northeast India 2,500 years ago by a teacher called the Buddha. Unlike other religions, it is not based on a belief in gods. The goal of Buddhism is to find true wisdom.
1. Which religion did Indian monks spread to China along the Silk Road?

2. Which desert did traders have to cross to reach Mali?

3. Which country has the world’s oldest royal family?

4. Where did Leif Erikson sail in 1000 CE?
The period from 600–1450 CE is known as the Middle Ages, because it lies between ancient and modern history. New kingdoms appeared in Europe. Religion was very important, and magnificent religious buildings, such as temples and cathedrals, were built around the world.

1. Which disease killed up to two-thirds of all Europeans?
2. On which continent would you find totem poles?
3. When did the Hundred Years' War begin?
4. Who conquered the biggest continuous land empire in history?
5. When did the Hundred Years' War begin?
6. Who conquered the biggest continuous land empire in history?
7. On which continent would you find totem poles?
8. Which disease killed up to two-thirds of all Europeans?
The Middle Ages

Many new kingdoms and empires arose during the Middle Ages. After the fall of the Roman Empire, several kingdoms appeared in Europe sharing a strong belief in Christianity. A new world religion also emerged during the Middle Ages: Islam.

- **Maya civilization**
  - The Maya civilization, a collection of competing cities in Mesoamerica, is at its height.

- **Muslim Spain**
  - A North African Muslim army invades and conquers Spain. The Muslims then move into France but are defeated at the Battle of Poitiers in 732.

- **First American towns**
  - The first towns are built in North America, in the eastern woodlands, by people known as the Mound Builders.

- **Baghdad**
  - Caliph al-Mansur founds Baghdad as a new capital of the Islamic Empire, beginning the “Golden Age” of Islam.

- **Norman Conquest**
  - The Normans, under William the Conqueror, conquer England. To control their English subjects, they later build many castles.

- **First Crusade**
  - The First Crusade is a holy war fought by European armies against the Muslims who rule the Holy Land. The crusaders capture Jerusalem, and start Christian kingdoms.

- **Mali Empire**
  - Growth of the Mali Empire, which conquers Ghana. The capital, Timbuktu, is famed for its wealth and the learning of its Islamic scholars.

- **Mongol conquests**
  - The Mongols of East Asia conquer an empire stretching from eastern Europe to the Pacific Ocean. It is the biggest continuous land empire in history.

- **Benin Empire**
  - The first towns are built in North America, in the eastern woodlands, by people known as the Mound Builders.

- **Dome of Florence**
  - The Italian architect Filippo Brunelleschi builds the dome of the cathedral in Florence.
First West African State
Rise of the Kingdom of Ghana, the first known state in West Africa. Its wealth comes from gold, traded across the Sahara with North Africa.

Birth of Islam
In Arabia, Muhammad, the founder of Islam, unites the previously divided Arab tribes under his rule.

Arab conquests
The Arabs conquer the Persian Empire and North Africa.

668
Korea unified
King Munmu of Silla unites Korea, which was previously divided into separate kingdoms.

789
First Viking raid
The Vikings stage their first attack on Britain, beginning more than a century of raiding.

Carolingian Empire
Pope Leo III crowns the Frankish (French) king, Charlemagne, as emperor. Charlemagne unites much of western Europe in his Carolingian Empire.

1050
Printing invented
Printing, with moveable clay type, is invented in China. Earlier Chinese books were printed using carved wooden blocks.

1280
Polynesians settle New Zealand
Polynesian sailors discover and settle New Zealand. After centuries of travel, it is the last place the Polynesians discover in the Pacific Ocean.

1337
Hundred Years’ War begins
Beginning of the Hundred Years’ War, a series of wars between England and France that went on for over a hundred years.

1389
First eyeglasses
Eyeglasses are invented in Italy and are used to help with reading.

1347–1352
Black Death
A terrible plague called the Black Death spreads from Asia across Europe. It kills between a third and two-thirds of the population.

1315–1317
Great Famine
Cold, wet weather across northern Europe causes the Great Famine. Crops fail, and at least a tenth of the population starves to death.
The Vikings

From the 8th to the 11th centuries CE, the Vikings set off from Scandinavia to attack, trade, and settle in new lands. They sailed along the rivers of Russia to the Black Sea, and out into the North Sea and North Atlantic. They settled in the Faroe Islands, Iceland, and Greenland and became the first Europeans to reach America. In Britain, they conquered an area that the English called the Danelaw.

Longship

Voyages were made in double-ended oak ships, with single square sails. Ships were so important to the Vikings that rulers were buried in them. This beautiful ship was found in a grave in Norway.

Longhouse

A typical Viking home was a longhouse. It had one big shared room with a fire in the middle for warmth, cooking, and light. People slept on benches around the sides. Animals lived in a separate area at one end of the house.

Across the sea

The Vikings sailed all around Europe and the Mediterranean, across Russia, the North Sea, and the North Atlantic.
The first Viking attacks, shown carved into this stone, were raids on monasteries on Britain’s coast, such as Lindisfarne and Iona.

Jewelry
The Vikings loved jewelry, especially silver arm rings, which were worn by both men and women.

Combs made from deer antlers are found in many Viking areas.

Viking warriors
Blacksmiths made metal helmets to protect the heads of Viking warriors. Vikings fought using swords, spears, and battle-axes.
Ancient Korea

By the first century BCE, there were three competing kingdoms in Korea. Goguryeo was a large kingdom in the north; Baekje was in the southwest; and Silla was in the southeast. There was also a group of independent cities in the south called Gaya. Silla conquered the other kingdoms in 668 CE, but modern Korea took its name from the kingdom of Goguryeo.
Ancient Japan

Between the fourth and sixth centuries CE, Japan’s many small territories were united into one country under an emperor. Japan’s emperors said they were descended from the goddess of the sun. Japan used Chinese writing and began to follow Buddhism, which mixed with the local religion of Shinto.

God-like emperor
Japan has the world’s oldest royal family. It has reigned for at least 1,500 years and continues up to the present day. The emperors were thought to be like gods, so only they could rule the country.

Island state
Japan lies off the east coast of Asia. It is made up of four main islands: Honshu, Hokkaido, Shikoku, and Kyushu.

Himeji castle
Wealthy Japanese noblemen lived in castles, where they had their own followings of warriors called samurai. This castle in Himeji was originally built in the 1330s.
Indigenous people of North America

Before Europeans settled in North America, it was home to hundreds of groups of indigenous (native) people. North America can be divided into ten different regions, called cultural areas. In each area, people shared similar ways of life. In some places, they farmed, while in others they lived by hunting.

Inuit

The Inuit, the people of the icy Arctic, lived by catching fish and hunting seals, whales, and walruses. The Inuit chased these animals in light sealskin boats called kayaks.

Homes

People in different areas had different kinds of homes. This photograph, taken in 1876, shows a Paiute village in the Great Basin area. These huts, made from sticks, are called wickiups.

Wickiups were made from sticks. They were easy to build quickly.

The Inuit were made from blocks of snow, which were cozy in winter.

For ceremonies, the Salish people wore headdresses with bird faces.

In the northwestern forests, people carved totem poles decorated with spirit beings and animals.

In the northwestern forests, people carved totem poles decorated with spirit beings and animals.

The Plains were home to huge herds of buffalo. When the Spanish brought horses to the Americas, people began to hunt buffalo on horseback.

Igloo

The Inuit lived in igloos, homes made from blocks of snow which were cozy in winter.

Inuit hunter carrying a kayak
Varied landscape
North America has many different habitats, with snow in the north and grasslands in the center. Native peoples lived in all these areas.

Apache women
The Apache lived in the hot, dry Southwest. An Apache woman or girl would spend her time gathering wild plants for food, including prickly pears, roots, and seeds. This Apache girl was photographed in 1905.
Since around 100 CE, powerful kingdoms have risen and fallen in the land south of the huge Sahara Desert in Africa. These kingdoms struggled to gain land and control of trade routes. Trading made rulers rich, especially through selling gold, ivory, and slaves. In addition to rich monarchs, there were many ordinary farmers in the forests and grasslands below the Sahara.

Islam
North African traders crossed the Sahara Desert on camels to trade with Mali. They brought their religion, Islam, with them. In the ninth century, the people of Mali became Muslims. The Great Mosque of Djenné is the largest mud-brick building in the world.

African powers
The great African empires and kingdoms were to the south of the Sahara Desert, which stretches across North Africa.

Timbuktu
The city of Timbuktu in West Africa was famous for being rich. Gold was mined from local goldfields and traded for other goods. Timbuktu was also a center of learning. There were three mosques where people could study. Sankore Madrassa Mosque was built in the 14th century.
The earliest African kingdom was Aksum in Ethiopia, which lasted from around 100 CE to 940 CE. Aksum’s riches came from trading goods by sea with Egypt and Arabia. Early kings of Aksum built tall stone grave markers, called stelae. King Ezana had this one put up in the fourth century.

Aksum

Great Zimbabwe

These mysterious stone ruins are part of Great Zimbabwe. This city is said to have been home to 18,000 people in the 11th to 15th centuries. Great Zimbabwe grew rich from trading in iron, copper, salt, gold, and ivory (elephant tusk).

King of Kongo

In the 1480s, West African kings began trading with Europeans, such as the Portuguese. The kings of Kongo became Christians and even took Portuguese names. This picture shows King Alvaro meeting Dutch visitors.
The Silk Road
The trade route that allowed merchants to travel from east to west from Asia to Europe was known as the Silk Road. This road was first set up around 200 BCE and lasted until sea routes across the Indian Ocean replaced it in the 1500s CE. In addition to goods for trading, new ideas, religions, and inventions traveled along the Silk Road.

Marco Polo
In 1271 the young Italian Marco Polo traveled along the Silk Road to China with his father and uncle, who were both merchants. He wrote a best-selling account of his travels when he returned home 24 years later.

Caravanserais
Merchants traveling along the Silk Road stopped off in caravanserais, or inns. Here they could eat and sleep and let their animals rest.

West to east
Europe sent glassware, silver, gold, and cotton east to China. Horses from the Ferghana Valley in central Asia were much valued in China and traveled along the Silk Road to get there.
East to west
China sent silk, porcelain, jade, tea, and spices west along the Silk Road toward Europe. Among the many inventions that traveled west were paper and gunpowder.
The Middle Ages

During the Middle Ages, Europe was made up of many kingdoms. This was a period when noblemen lived in castles and fought in wars, riding into battle as knights on horseback. The Christian Church was rich and powerful, building great cathedrals across Europe.

Cathedrals around Europe
The biggest buildings in medieval Europe were cathedrals. These were big churches where archbishops based their power. Some cathedrals held the body parts of saints, called relics. People traveled on long journeys, called pilgrimages, to visit these relics.

Joan of Arc
From 1337 to 1453, England and France fought a war, later called the Hundred Years' War. Joan of Arc, a peasant girl, helped lead the French to victory.

European castles
Kings and nobles built hundreds of castles across Europe. They used them as bases to fight wars against each other and to rule over the local people.
In the 1340s, the Black Death, a deadly disease carried by rat fleas, arrived in Europe. It spread quickly across the whole continent and killed between a third and two-thirds of Europe’s population.

Power struggles
The countries of medieval Europe fought over land but shared a strong belief in the Christian religion.

Peasants in the Middle Ages
Most people lived as poor peasants, farming the land for the rich. Many were serfs, who were not free. They worked for a lord in exchange for land to grow their own food on.

Black Death
In the 1340s, the Black Death, a deadly disease carried by rat fleas, arrived in Europe. It spread quickly across the whole continent and killed between a third and two-thirds of Europe’s population.
1. Which South American empire made its leaders into mummies?

2. Who built India's Jama Masjid?

3. What was Istanbul called before the Ottomans renamed it?

4. What was the name of Vasco da Gama's ship?
The Age of Discovery
1450–1750
In the 1450s, Europeans began to explore the world by ship. They conquered the great civilizations of the Americas and captured African people to sell as slaves. New scientific ideas arose, and art flourished around the world.

5. What is the name of the pyramid at the center of Chichen Itza?

6. Where is the highest gateway in the world?

7. Which Mesoamerican king was buried wearing a jade mask?

8. How many slaves did Europeans capture and take across the Atlantic?
The age of discovery

In the 1450s, big changes began that would bring the Middle Ages to an end. European ships set off on voyages of exploration around the world. There were scientific discoveries and new ideas, which were shared across the continent in printed books. Europeans became the most powerful people in the world, yet they were divided because of religious differences.

1452
Portuguese enslave Africans
The Portuguese begin to use African slave labor in their sugar plantations in Madeira.

1497–1498
Portuguese reach India
The Portuguese explorer Vasco da Gama sails to India and back.

1525
Inca Empire
The Inca Empire of Peru is at its height.

1520–1566
Suleiman the Magnificent
Reign of Suleiman the Magnificent, the most famous Ottoman sultan.

1529
Siege of Vienna
Suleiman the Magnificent lays siege to Vienna, capital of Austria, but is not able to capture the city. The Ottoman advance into Europe is stopped.

1532
Conquest of the Incas
Spanish, led by Francisco Pizarro, conquer the South American Inca Empire.

1519–1522
World voyage
Ferdinand Magellan leads a Spanish expedition in the first crossing of the Pacific. One of his ships sails on to make the first voyage around the world.

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Suleiman the Magnificent lays siege to Vienna, capital of Austria, but is not able to capture the city. The Ottoman advance into Europe is stopped.

1534
Church of England founded
In England King Henry VIII argues with the Pope and declares himself head of the new Church of England.

1619
African slaves in North America
The first African slaves are brought to North America by the English.

1525
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The Inca Empire of Peru is at its height.

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First European printed book
Johannes Gutenberg, inventor of the printing press, creates the first printed book in Europe. The invention spreads, and by 1500, 20 million books have been printed.

Portuguese sail around Africa
The Portuguese explorer Bartolomeu Dias sails around the southern tip of Africa, which he names the “Cape of Good Hope.” Europeans can now sail to India.

Ottomans capture Constantinople
Ottoman Turks capture Constantinople, rename it Istanbul, and make it their capital.

English reach Newfoundland
John Cabot, an Italian, leads an English voyage to Newfoundland in North America.

Spanish found Hispaniola
Columbus founds the first European settlement in the Americas, La Isabella on Hispaniola in the Caribbean.

Columbus reaches the Americas
The Italian Christopher Columbus sails from Spain across the Atlantic and reaches the Americas, which Europeans did not know about before.

Portuguese reach Brazil
Pedro Cabral leads a fleet from Portugal to India, reaching Brazil on the way, which he claims for Portugal.

Michelangelo’s David
In Florence, the Italian artist Michelangelo carves his famous sculpture of David.

Transatlantic slave trade
The Spanish take 50 African slaves to Hispaniola, beginning the transatlantic slave trade.

Spanish conquers the Aztecs
A group of Spaniards led by Hernan Cortes conquers the Aztec Empire of Mexico.

The church divides
In Germany, Martin Luther challenges the teachings of the church, leading to a later split between Protestants and Catholics.

Rise of the Ottoman Empire
Ottoman Turks conquer Arabia, Syria, and Egypt.

Copernicus says the earth moves around the sun
Polish astronomer Nicolas Copernicus argues that the earth goes around the sun rather than the other way around.

Blue Mosque
The Ottoman sultan, Ahmed I, builds the Blue Mosque in Istanbul.

English settle in North America
The English found Jamestown in Virginia, beginning their settlement of North America.

Spanish Armada defeated
During a war with Protestant England, Catholic Spain sends an armada (fleet of ships) to invade England, but it is defeated.

Queen Elizabeth I of England
Aztec and Maya civilizations

Mesoamerica (meaning “middle America”) was home to the Maya. They lived in many cities ruled by kings who fought each other. Their civilization was at its height between 300 and 900 CE. Later, in the 16th century, the Aztecs of Mexico conquered a great empire. Both peoples built cities with tall, pyramid-shaped temples.

Writing

The Maya were the only American people to invent a complete writing system, with signs standing for sounds and ideas. Maya writing was carved onto monuments and written in books made of fig tree bark.

Between continents

The Aztecs and Maya lived in Mesoamerica, which lies between North and South America. “Meso” means “middle.”

Goods coming in

Conquered people had to send gifts to their Aztec rulers.

Cocoa

Cocoa beans were used to make a hot chocolate drink.

Feathers

Colorful feathers were of great value.

KEY

Aztec Empire
The greatest extent of the Aztec Empire.

Maya region
The area under the influence of Maya cities.

Tlacopan

Great Temple at Tenochtitlan

Tetzcoco

Cholula

Tehuantepc

Chichen Itza

El Castillo

Copan

Cocoa

Feathers

Maya kings were seen as living gods. King Pacal of Palenque was buried beneath a pyramid-shaped temple, wearing a jade mask.
Inca Empire

The 16th-century Inca Empire, in the high Andes Mountains of Peru, was the biggest and best organized empire in America. The emperor was at the top of Inca society. Under him were thousands of officials, then millions of ordinary people who worked as farmers, soldiers, and builders.
In the 15th century, an age of discovery began, with explorers setting off on long sea journeys. The earliest voyages were made by the Chinese in the early 1400s. Later, European explorers searching for a new sea route to Asia found America instead.

**KEY**
- Zheng He’s seven voyages, 1405–1433.
- Christopher Columbus’s voyage, 1492.
- Vasco da Gama’s voyage, 1497–1498.
- John Cabot’s voyage, 1497.
- Ferdinand Magellan’s voyage, 1519–1521.

**Mapping the world**
This map shows what Europeans thought the world looked like in 1491. Europe is on the left and Asia is on the right. There is no America because Europeans had not discovered it yet.
The Victoria was the only one of Magellan’s five ships to complete the voyage.

Death of Magellan
Ferdinand Magellan led the first ever crossing of the Pacific Ocean. When he reached Mactan Island in April 1521, he was killed in a battle with local people.

Zheng He sailed with fleets of huge ships called junks.

Zheng He was a Chinese admiral who led seven voyages to explore south Asia and east Africa.

The spice routes
One of the main aims of European explorers was to find new spices. These included pepper from India and nutmeg and cloves from the Spice Islands. They could be sold for great sums of money back in Europe.

In 1497, Vasco da Gama sailed from Portugal to India.

Christopher Columbus sailed from Spain to the Caribbean in 1492.

In 1519, Ferdinand Magellan sailed from Spain to the Pacific.

Magellan’s death in the Philippines didn’t stop his crew from continuing their voyage of discovery.
The Mughal Empire

In the 1520s, a ruler from central Asia called Babur invaded India. His empire made scientific breakthroughs, including new stargazing technology. The Mughals ruled most of India before it was taken over by Britain in 1857.

Mughal founder Babur had conquered and lost lands in central Asia before he successfully founded the Mughal Empire. He wrote a book about his life called the Baburnama, which described his military conquests.

Over the centuries, the Mughal Empire grew from a small kingdom to an empire reaching all the way from the Himalayas to the Indian Ocean.

Mountain to ocean

Emperor Shah Jahan built one of the biggest mosques in India from 1644–1656.

This is the highest gateway in the world. It was built as an entrance to a Mughal palace in 1601.
In 1498, Portuguese explorer Vasco da Gama sailed to India, which was little known in Europe. The spices he brought back encouraged many more Europeans to travel to India.

Europeans in India

The empire reached its largest size under the sixth Mughal emperor, Aurangzeb (1658–1707). He took over many lands and ruled over 160 million people. These lands were lost after his death.

Rise and fall

The Taj Mahal—which means “crown of the palace”—was built by Mughal emperor Shah Jahan (1628–1658) to hold the tomb of his favorite wife, Mumtaz Mahal. Mughal buildings often had onion-shaped domes.

Taj Mahal

Key (c.1700)

- Akbar’s empire: Akbar (1556–1605) made Babur’s empire bigger by conquering many lands.
- Southern conquests: Southern India was conquered by Emperor Aurangzeb between the 1650s and 1680s.
- Mughal armies: Mughal warriors fought battles to gain land or defend the empire.
- Mughal war elephant: Elephants were used in Mughal battles.

Arab and Indian traders crossed the seas in ships called dhows, which had large triangular sails.

Dhow

Carried goods between India and Europe.
The Ottoman Empire

Between 1300 and 1699, the Ottoman Turks conquered a vast empire, which stretched from North Africa to the Indian Ocean. At the empire’s height, more than 35 million people lived under Ottoman rulers, called sultans.

Istanbul
In 1453, the Ottomans conquered Constantinople. It was renamed Istanbul, which means “in the city.” Istanbul’s Blue Mosque was built by Sultan Ahmed between 1609 and 1616.

Empire founder
The word “Ottoman” comes from the name of the first ruler, Osman I. He founded a small state in northern Anatolia in the early 1300s.

Osman I, ruled 1299–1324

KEY (c.1566)
- Goods coming into the empire
  - Furs: Luxurious furs were bought from icy Russia.
  - Slaves: Slaves did many jobs, from paperwork to guarding the sultan.
  - Spices: Used to flavor food.
  - Incense: Burning incense released perfume.
  - Silk: Raw silk was made into fine cloth.

Ottoman galley
Ottoman warships, called galleys, were rowed by prisoners, who were chained to benches.

Istanbul
Streets were filled with goods coming into the empire. The empire was home to many religions and cultures.

The word “Ottoman” comes from the name of the first ruler, Osman I. He founded a small state in northern Anatolia in the early 1300s.

Osman I, ruled 1299–1324
Janissary warriors were Christian boys taken as slaves, converted to Islam, and trained to be soldiers.

The Ottoman Empire stretched along the coasts of Europe, North Africa, and the Middle East. It included many cultures.

Suleiman the Magnificent
The most famous Ottoman ruler was Suleiman the Magnificent. He ruled from 1520 to 1566. He fought battles but also wrote laws to keep the peace.

Coastal empire
The Ottoman Empire stretched along the coasts of Europe, North Africa, and the Middle East. It included many cultures.
The Renaissance

Beginning in the 1400s, there were big advances in art and science in Europe. Artists were inspired by ancient Greek and Roman works of art, which had been rediscovered. That is why this period is called the Renaissance, meaning “rebirth.” New ideas were spread quickly thanks to the invention of the printing press in Germany.

The church divides
In 1517 Martin Luther, a German priest, challenged many of the teachings of the Catholic Church. As a result, Luther’s followers founded new Protestant churches.

New view of Earth
The church taught that Earth was the center of the universe. But in the early 1500s, the Polish astronomer Nicolaus Copernicus argued that Earth and the other planets moved around the sun.

In the 1400s, Portuguese ships set off to explore the coast of Africa. The astrolabe was used by Portuguese explorers to find their way at sea.

In England, composers wrote music for the lute, a stringed instrument.

The borders that separated countries.

The printing press was used to print books, which spread ideas quickly. Presses were set up in many cities.
Jan van Eyck
Northern Renaissance artists, like Jan van Eyck from the Netherlands, painted in a new, lifelike style. This portrait of a married couple skillfully uses light to make things look realistic.

Michelangelo’s David
Ancient Greek sculpture inspired the Italian artist Michelangelo to create beautiful new works of art. In the early 1500s, he carved a famous statue of David, a hero from the Bible.

Connected continent
Much of Europe is close to the sea and linked by rivers. This meant new ideas could spread either by water or land.
The slave trade

Slaves are people treated as property and forced to do work. Slavery was carried out on a huge scale after Europeans settled in the Americas. From the 16th to the 19th centuries, Europeans took 12 million African slaves across the Atlantic. In North America, slaves worked on big farms called plantations.
Ending slavery
Abolitionists like Sojourner Truth, a former slave, were people who campaigned to end slavery. Britain banned the selling of slaves in 1807, but slavery continued in the Americas until the late 19th century.

Triangle trade
The slave trade was carried out across the Atlantic in a triangle between the continents of Europe, Africa, and the Americas.
1. What was the last battle of the American Revolution?

2. Who invented the spinning jenny?

3. When was the Declaration of Independence passed?

4. Who delivered the Gettysburg Address?
Starting around 1750, new inventions began changing the way humans lived. New machinery led people to work in factories, making cloth and other goods. In places such as India and the Americas, people rose up against European rule. People fought against slavery, and women gained new rights.

5. What did people throw into Boston Harbor in anger at British taxes?

6. In which British county was the first moving steam engine built?

7. Which French prison was attacked by a mob on July 14, 1789?

8. Which country gained independence from Britain in 1901?
The age of industry

Starting around 1750, the world began to change very quickly. People rose up against their rulers, and many countries became independent for the first time. The invention of steam power led to new ways of making things and getting around. This Industrial Revolution completely changed how people lived and worked.

1756–1763
Seven Years’ War
At the end of this war, the British Empire grows. It takes land from the French Empire in Canada, America, and India.

1770
James Cook
James Cook makes maps of the eastern coast of Australia, then claims Australia for Britain.

1791–1804
Haitian revolution
Slave workers on plantations in Haiti revolt, led by Toussaint Louverture. Haiti becomes the first black-ruled state in the Americas.

1790
Australian revolt
Native Australian people called aborigines begin to fight back against the newly arrived British.

1800–1815
Napoleonic Wars
The French ruler, Napoleon, tries to conquer other countries in Europe and fights wars against other European nations.

1839–1842
First Opium War
Britain starts a war against China to force China to trade. In 1842, Britain wins the war and takes Hong Kong.

1848
Communist Manifesto
Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels write and publish The Communist Manifesto, describing their radical new ideas about how money should be divided between people.

1856
Steel
Henry Bessemer invents a process to create steel that is strong enough to make railroads, skyscrapers, and machines.

1857–1858
Indian Mutiny
India tries to become independent from British rule but does not succeed.

1861–1865
American Civil War
In the United States, North and South go to war over slavery. The North wins and slavery is abolished.

1867
Canadian independence
Canada becomes an independent country and is no longer ruled by Great Britain.

1868
Meiji Restoration
Emperor Meiji takes control of Japan and modernizes how the country is ruled.

1890
Karl Marx

1891–1894
1890–1914

1912
Chinese Revolution
Sun Yat-sen leads a revolution in China, overthrowing the Manchu dynasty, which had ruled for 276 years.

1913
Ottoman retreat
The Ottoman Empire loses the First Balkan War, and most of its lands in Europe.

1914
Outbreak of World War I
Archduke Franz Ferdinand is shot, which triggers a series of events leading to World War I.
Slave trade
The slave trade reached its peak in the 18th century, with 80,000 slaves brought from West Africa to America every year.

First modern factory
Richard Arkwright builds the water frame, a spinning machine that is powered by water wheels. His invention is quickly copied.

US independence
The United States approves the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776, breaking free from Britain. The new nation is made of 13 colonies.

French Revolution
People in Paris rebel. They overthrow their king and queen. 

Steam engine
James Watt develops the first of his many steam engines and introduces the term “horsepower” to show how powerful his engines are.

Denmark bans slavery
Denmark is the first European country to ban slavery.

Independent Americas
Several American countries fight wars against their Spanish rulers, winning independence.

Greek War of Independence
Greece becomes independent, winning its freedom from the Ottoman Empire.

First electrical motor
Michael Faraday, a British physicist and chemist, invents the first electric motor.

Prize-winning steam engine
George Stephenson designs the Rocket, which wins a competition to power the Liverpool & Manchester Railway.

Brazilian independence
Brazil wins its independence from Portugal. Pedro I becomes the founder and first ruler of the empire of Brazil.

Telephone invented
Alexander Graham Bell invents the first telephone. People are able to talk over long distances for the first time.

Internal combustion engine invented
Nikolaus Otto invents the combustion engine, which can be used to power cars, trucks, and motorcycles.

Votes for women
New Zealand is the first country to give women equal voting rights. The next country to do so will be Australia, in 1903.

Russo-Japanese War
Japan defeats Russia with clever new tactics and weapons. Japan is seen as a world power for the first time.

First airplane
The Wright brothers successfully fly the first powered airplane.

Australian independence
Australia becomes independent and is no longer under British rule.
American Revolution

Before the United States was a country, there were 13 British colonies in America. In 1775, they rose up against the British because they wanted to rule themselves. This type of change in government is called a revolution. The colonies fought many battles with the British. In 1783, peace was made, and the United States of America became an independent country.

American war

The fighting took place along the East Coast of North America. Most of the battles were clustered in the same areas.

SCALE

0  100 miles
0  100 kilometers

New flag

On June 14, 1777, the Americans flew a new flag. The 13 stars and 13 stripes represented the 13 colonies. Since then, a new star has been added for each new state. There are now 50.

George Washington

A former farmer, Washington (1732–1799) became leader of the American army in 1775. After the war, he helped set up the new US government and became the first US president in 1789.
In anger at British taxes on tea sold in America, colonists threw tea into Boston Harbor on December 16, 1773.

In 1795, George Washington arrived in Paris.

In 1789, many people in France were starving. They rose up against their king, Louis XVI, and his government. In 1792, the French people set up a republic, which meant they could choose how France was ruled. King Louis and thousands of his supporters were killed.

Napoleon Bonaparte, in the 1800s

French Revolution

In 1799, a brilliant French army general called Napoleon (1769–1821) overthrew the new government. He crowned himself emperor of France in 1804. Napoleon conquered most of Europe, before being defeated by Britain and Prussia in 1815.
The Industrial Revolution

Britain changed a lot in the 18th century. New machines were invented, and modern factories opened for the first time, making cloth and other goods in huge amounts. People moved from the countryside to perform factory work in smoky new towns. This period was called the Industrial Revolution.

Industrial towns
New towns sprang up across Britain, housing thousands of workers. Many houses were built back-to-back, with no outside space. Diseases spread quickly in the cramped streets, and living conditions were very bad.

Factories
Factories were built to contain new machines. Many of the factories made cloth. People who used to make cloth in their own homes now worked long hours inside busy, noisy factories instead.
There were many new inventions in the Industrial Revolution. New machines and high-powered steam engines made it faster to create products, such as cotton and wool cloth, iron tools, machines, and pottery.

In 1712, Thomas Newcomen built the first steam engine. It pumped water out of mines.

Richard Trevithick built the first moving steam engine in Cornwall in 1804.

In 1837, Isambard Kingdom Brunel launched this huge new steam-powered ship in Bristol. It was designed to get to the United States very fast.

People called Luddites attacked the machines that now did their jobs between 1811 and 1813.

In 1781, the world's first cast-iron bridge opened. The impressive structure crosses the River Severn in Shropshire, in an industrial area now known as Ironbridge.

The Industrial Revolution began in Great Britain. Later, it spread to Europe, the United States, and across the world.

Children as young as four worked in the new factories and coal mines. Their work was often dangerous, and many were killed. Laws were passed from the 1830s onward to limit the hours and ages at which children were allowed to work.

New inventions
There were many new inventions in the Industrial Revolution. New machines and high-powered steam engines made it faster to create products, such as cotton and wool cloth, iron tools, machines, and pottery.
The Civil War

In 1861, a war broke out in the United States that split the country in two. Eleven states feared that the government would free African-American slaves, workers who were owned by other people and not paid. These states left, or seceded from, the United States to form the Confederacy. The states that remained loyal to the United States were known as the Union. The two sides fought for four years.

The Confederate flag
When the 11 Southern states left the Union and set up the Confederacy, they created their own flag. The 13 stars stood for the Confederate states and the states that supported them.

President Lincoln
Abraham Lincoln was elected president of the United States in November 1860. He spoke out against slavery, causing 11 southern states to leave the Union. Lincoln led the Union to victory in 1865.

Divided country
The Civil War was fought between the Southern Confederate and the Northern Union states of the United States.
Abraham Lincoln was elected president of the United States in November 1860. He spoke out against slavery, causing 11 southern states to leave the Union. Lincoln led the Union to victory in 1865.

On January 1, 1863, President Lincoln ordered all slaves in the Confederacy to be freed. In 1865, the 13th Amendment to the US Constitution freed every slave in the Union.
The imperial world

By 1900, most of the world was controlled by a few European nations. The part of the world ruled by each nation was called its empire. Europeans called the foreign countries they ruled their colonies.

World fairs
Imperial countries held big international exhibitions. These allowed each country to show off its great empire, along with its peoples and products, to the rest of the world.

Exposition Universelle, Paris, 1900
From 1837 to 1901, Queen Victoria ruled the British Empire. By 1900, the empire ruled over 412 million people—almost a quarter of the world’s population at the time.

The Scramble for Africa
Between 1884 and 1885, the European nations met in Berlin, Germany, to divide up Africa between themselves. By 1900, all but two African countries—Liberia and Ethiopia—were European colonies.

A railroad that connected the two ends of the huge Russian Empire was built between 1891 and 1916.

The British Empire gained Hong Kong in 1842 and turned the island into a major business hub.

People rushed to newly discovered goldfields.

These ships carried emigrants to the United States and Canada. They were also used for trading with the colonies.
1. Who did Allied forces try to force out of World War I at Gallipoli?

2. When was the TV invented?

3. When did World War II begin?

4. In which country was the first personal computer invented?
Between 1914 and today, the world has seen some of the deadliest wars in history. People have continued to fight their governments to bring about change. Humans have also been to space for the first time and invented amazing new technology.
World War I
A war that begins in Europe in 1914 is fought around the world for four years. More than 18 million people are killed.

Russia in revolt
Russia gets rid of its tsar (king) and becomes the first communist country, aiming for everyone to be equal.

World War II
The biggest war in human history breaks out in Europe in 1939 and spreads around the world. More than 60 million people are killed.

Spanish Civil War
The Spanish Army led by General Franco fights against the elected government, winning power over the whole of Spain in 1939.

The modern world
The world today has been shaped by two world wars, huge political changes, and amazing new inventions. People have fought to create many different types of government. The population continues to grow, and exciting new technology is still being developed.
**1925**
Black-and-white TV developed
Scottish engineer John Logie Baird makes the first working black-and-white TV. Color TV follows in 1928.

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**1928**
Penicillin
Scottish scientist Alexander Fleming discovers a new medicine called penicillin. It is used to cure infections and saves many lives.

---

**1929**
Great Depression
There is an economic slump from 1929–1939, which means people around the world lose their jobs and don’t have enough money.

---

**1932**
Roosevelt elected US president
Franklin Roosevelt wins the presidency and promises to create more jobs so that people can earn money.

---

**1933**
Nazis come to power
Adolf Hitler’s Nazi Party comes to power in Germany. The Nazis soon ban all other political parties—only the Nazi Party is allowed to exist.

---

**1939**
Great Depression
There is an economic slump from 1929–1939, which means people around the world lose their jobs and don’t have enough money.

---

**1941**
US enters the war
The United States enters World War II.

---

**1945**
USSR breaks up
The Cold War between anti-communist and communist countries ends when the communist USSR collapses. New states are created, including Russia.

---

**1946**
First electronic computer
ENIAC, the world’s first electronic computer, is built in the United States. It is nicknamed “Great Brain.”

---

**1947**
India and Pakistan become independent
The British give up rule in India. India and Pakistan become independent. Ceylon (Sri Lanka) and Burma (Myanmar) become independent in 1948.

---

**1949**
China becomes communist
After a lengthy civil war, the Communist Party led by Chairman Mao Zedong takes power in China.

---

**1950–1953**
Korean War
A war breaks out in Korea as North Korea seeks to take over South Korea. The United States fights alongside South Korea.

---

**1953**
Korean War ends
The Korean War ends with a ceasefire agreement.

---

**1969**
Moon landing
American astronaut Neil Armstrong becomes the first person to walk on the moon.

---

**1973**
First PC designed
The world’s first personal computer (PC) is designed and developed by IBM in California. It is much smaller than earlier computers.

---

**1982**
CDs introduced
Technology companies Philips and Sony produce the first compact disc (CD), to store data such as music.

---

**1989**
Berlin Wall falls
As communism ends in Eastern Europe, the Berlin Wall dividing West Berlin and communist East Berlin is pulled down. The city is reunited after 44 years apart.

---

**1991**
USSR breaks up
The Cold War between anti-communist and communist countries ends when the communist USSR collapses. New states are created, including Russia.

---

**1994**
Apartheid ends
South Africa ends its policy of apartheid, which treated white and black people differently. Nelson Mandela becomes the new president.

---

**1995**
Nelson Mandela elected president
Nelson Mandela becomes the first black president of South Africa.

---

**2019**
Korea Peninsula reunification
North and South Korea sign an agreement to cooperate and work toward reunification.

---

**2023**
World population reaches 8 billion
The world population reaches 8 billion people.
**Inventions**

The 20th century was a period of great technological change. The world’s first airplane, first rocket, and first satellite were all in the sky by 1957. Toward the beginning of the 21st century, computers and cell phones transformed the world. Today, new inventions continue to improve human life.

**Taking to the skies**

Orville Wright was the first person to make a powered flight, above North Carolina in 1903. Thanks to the development of powerful gas engines, he flew 120 feet (37 m) in 12 seconds on board the **Flyer**.

**The computer revolution**

The first computers, created in the 1940s, were huge machines that worked slowly. Today’s computers are small, fast, and can do many different things. Modern computers have changed the way we work, live, learn, and entertain ourselves.

**In 1958, Jack Kilby created a tiny electronic circuit called a microchip. This changed the way technology was powered.**

**ENIAC, the world’s first electronic computer, was built in Pennsylvania in 1946.**

**Martin Cooper developed the world’s first cell phone in 1973. It was about the size of a brick.**

**The world’s first personal computer was designed and developed by IBM in California in 1973.**

**The world’s first integrated circuit (microchip) was developed in 1958.**

**The first handheld cell phone was developed in 1973.**

**UNIVAC, an early computer**
New communications

The world's first telephone voice message was sent by Alexander Graham Bell in 1876. Today's cell phones are able to send text messages, stream videos, take photographs, and connect to the internet.

Alexander Fleming discovered penicillin in 1928, an antibiotic medicine that kills germs.

Frank Whittle designed the first jet engine in 1927.

In 1911, a plane first carried mail by air in India. It delivered more than 6,000 letters its first flight.

In 1942, Jacques Cousteau of France developed the scuba, letting him breathe underwater.

In 1959, the world's first vehicle that could hover above the ground and sea was launched.

In 1957, Sputnik I became the first human-made object to travel around Earth.

The V2 rocket was developed in Germany in 1942. It was used to bomb cities during WWII.

Philips in the Netherlands and Sony in Japan together developed the CD in 1982.

Sony Walkman, developed by Sony in Japan in 1978, was the world's first portable music player.

Black-and-white television was developed by John Logie Baird in 1925.

London

Bell's early telephone
World War I

In June 1914, a war began in Europe that grew to become the First World War. The Central Powers, led by Germany, fought the Allies—Britain, France, Russia, and, eventually, the United States. Millions of soldiers were killed in deadly battles on land and at sea. The Allies won the war in November 1918.

War begins
Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia after a Serb shot an Austrian prince, Franz Ferdinand, in June 1914. European countries joined the two sides, and war broke out across Europe in August 1914.

Western front
The fighting in western Europe turned into a stalemate, which meant neither side could win. Both sides dug trenches to defend the ground they had gained. Soldiers lived in these muddy trenches while being fired on by the enemy.
Europe at war
Most of the fighting in World War I happened in Europe, though many other countries were affected. America joined the Allies in 1917.

Women at war
Women weren’t allowed to fight in the war, but they still carried out important jobs. They worked on farms to grow crops and in factories to make explosives and bullets for the troops.

War ends
In late 1918, most of the Central Powers had stopped fighting. Germany fought on with exhausted troops in western Europe. A ceasefire ended the war on November 11, 1918, and a peace agreement was signed in June 1919.
New ideas

People have often come up with new ideas about society, especially during the early 20th century. Communists believe in rule by a single party, while democrats think that people should have the right to choose their own leaders. Fascists want all-powerful leaders, called dictators. Many people have fought to change the way they are governed.

Communism

Communists believe that everything should be shared equally. Many communist states have appeared since 1945.

Fascism

Fascists believe in obedience to a powerful leader. The Nazi Party in Germany was a fascist party led by Adolf Hitler (1899–1945). The Nazis believed that Germans were better than all other people.

People began protesting against governments using deadly nuclear weapons in the 1960s.

The Spanish Civil War was a conflict between supporters of the fascist General Franco (1892–1975) and believers in democracy. It lasted from 1936 to 1939.

The fascist Nazi Party ruled Germany from 1933 to 1945, when they lost World War II.

Benito Mussolini (1883–1945) was the fascist leader of Italy from 1922 to 1943. He made it illegal to oppose his rule.
Joseph Stalin (1878–1953) became leader of communist Russia after 1924 and ruled until his death.

Benito Mussolini (1883–1945) was the fascist leader of Italy from 1922 to 1943. He made it illegal to oppose his rule.

More than 70 million Chinese people died from famine or execution during Mao Zedong’s rule.

Karl Marx
Karl Marx (1818–1883) was a German political thinker. He thought that people could develop a society in which wealth is owned by the whole community rather than by individuals. This is called communism.

Nonviolence
In India, Mahatma Gandhi (1869–1948) wanted to free the country from British rule. He sought to achieve this change through peaceful activities, such as refusing to buy British goods. Gandhi’s work helped force the British out of India in 1947.

Communism in China
The Chinese Communist Party’s Mao Zedong (1893–1976) won power in 1949 after a war with other political groups in China. He believed in revolution and got rid of his political opponents. Mao’s sayings were collected in the Little Red Book.
World War II

In 1939, a war broke out in Europe that spread across the world. Bombs were dropped on cities by planes, and millions of soldiers were killed in battle. Both Germany, led by Adolf Hitler and the Nazi Party, and Japan conquered huge empires. They were defeated in 1945 by a group of countries called the Allies.

Children at war

Anti-Jewish laws forced Jewish children in Germany to escape to other countries, becoming refugees. Other children left their homes in cities to escape bombing.

D-day

The largest ever invasion from the sea took place on June 6, 1944. American, British, and Canadian troops crossed the English Channel and landed on the French coast to free France from German rule.

The Holocaust

The Nazis killed Jewish people just because they were Jewish. During the Holocaust, Jews were sent to camps to be killed. More than six million died.
Russia won the biggest ever tank battle against Germany at Kursk between July and August 1943. German troops surrounded the city of Stalingrad from 1942 to 1943 but were defeated by the Russians.

Pearl Harbor
On December 7, 1941, Japanese planes bombed US Navy ships based at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. The attack took the United States by surprise and led it to join the war on the Allies' side.

The cost of war
World War II was the deadliest war in human history. More than 38 million civilians and 22 million troops lost their lives. Another 25 million people were killed by disease and lack of food.

Soldiers' graves in France
Independent world

In 1945, most of the world's nations were colonies, which meant they were ruled by other countries. Since then, most colonies have become independent. Some countries gained their freedom peacefully, while others had to fight for it. There are now 195 independent nations in the world.

South Africa
South African laws used to keep white and black people separate in a system called apartheid. Black people were treated as less important. Nelson Mandela led people against these laws. Apartheid finally ended in 1991.
Colonies today
Britain, New Zealand, the United States, Norway, the Netherlands, France, Denmark, and Australia still have colonies. Most of these are small islands or areas with very few people. Around seven million people live in colonies today.

Vietnam
Vietnam became independent from France in 1954 but was divided into Northern and Southern halves with different governments. A war led the country to be united under the North’s leadership in 1976.

India gains independence
In 1947, Britain decided to give up its Indian empire. The land was split into two new countries, India and Pakistan. Jawaharlal Nehru (pictured) was the first Indian prime minister.
The Cold War

After World War II, two superpowers had different ideas about how to run the world. The communist USSR wanted everybody to be equal. The capitalist United States thought it was more important for people to be free. There was a Cold War, with America and the USSR taking opposite sides in struggles around the world between 1947 and 1991.

The Space Race

America and the USSR raced each other to get into space. The United States won when Neil Armstrong became the first person on the moon in 1969.

The first nuclear bomb was created during World War II. This atomic bomb was the most powerful weapon in history. During the Cold War, both sides developed an even more destructive nuclear bomb, called the hydrogen bomb.

The hydrogen bomb

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The fall of the Berlin Wall

The end of the Cold War

In 1989, communist governments in Europe began to lose control. The Berlin Wall was pulled down in this year, and Germany was united in 1990. The USSR itself collapsed in 1991. The Cold War was over.

The divided city

After World War II, the German capital of Berlin was divided into two. The Western half was controlled by the United States, Britain, and France, while the USSR had the Eastern half. The city became the center of the Cold War.

In 1961 East Berlin built a wall around the West to prevent Easterners from escaping there.

In 1948 to 1949, the USSR tried to block food from getting into West Berlin. Supplies were dropped in by planes.

From 1948 to 1949, the USSR tried to block food from getting into West Berlin. Supplies were dropped in by planes.

The two sides of the Cold War faced each other across an "Iron Curtain" dividing Europe.

The USSR and US soldiers helped different sides in Afghanistan between 1979 and 1989.


In 1961, Yuri Gagarin from the USSR became the first man in space.

In 1961, Yuri Gagarin from the USSR became the first man in space.

In 1955 the Warsaw Pact was set up as a military alliance between the USSR and six communist countries in Eastern Europe.

The USSR's first intercontinental missile was launched in 1957.

The USSR tested its first nuclear bomb in 1949.

The United States and the USSR supported opposing sides in this war between 1975 and 2002.

The United States and the USSR supported opposing sides in this war between 1975 and 2002.

First Lightning

Korean War

Vietnam War

R-7 Semyorka

Afghan War

Chinese Civil War

The two sides of the Cold War faced each other across the Arctic Circle. At their closest, the countries were separated by only 2.4 miles (3.8 km).

The United States and the USSR faced each other across the Arctic Circle. At their closest, the countries were separated by only 2.4 miles (3.8 km).

The fall of the Berlin Wall

The fall of the Berlin Wall

Close enemies

The United States and the USSR faced each other across the Arctic Circle. At their closest, the countries were separated by only 2.4 miles (3.8 km).

Angolan War

The United States and the USSR supported opposing sides in this war between 1975 and 2002.

The Iron Curtain

Berlin Wall

Berlin blockade

East Germany

West Germany

Berlin Wall

Close enemies

The United States and the USSR faced each other across the Arctic Circle. At their closest, the countries were separated by only 2.4 miles (3.8 km).
The space age

The first human-made object left Earth in 1957—a tiny spacecraft called Sputnik. The Space Age had begun! A human flew in space for the first time in 1961, and people first walked on the moon in 1969. People have continued to explore space, finding out more and more about what exists beyond our world.

The Mariner 10

Venera 9
In 1975, Venera 9 sent photographs of the surface of Venus to Earth.

Sputnik 1
The first-ever satellite was launched into space by Russia on October 4, 1957. It was 23 in (58 cm) wide.

Salyut 1
The first space station was launched into space by the Russians on April 19, 1971. It stayed there for 175 days.

Luna 2
In 1959, the Luna 2 became the first spacecraft to reach the moon.

The first-ever satellite was launched into space by Russia on October 4, 1957. It was 23 in (58 cm) wide.

Venus

Earth

Mars

Jupiter

Pioneer 10
Pioneer 10 became the first spacecraft to leave the solar system, in 1983.

Viking 2
The American Viking 2 spent 1,316 days on the surface of Mars, from 1976 to 1980.

The first-ever satellite was launched into space by Russia on October 4, 1957. It was 23 in (58 cm) wide.

Man on the moon
On July 20, 1969, American Neil Armstrong became the first person to walk on the moon. Along with Buzz Aldrin, he spent about 150 minutes walking around and collecting rock samples.

The Rosetta mission
On November 12, 2014, a spacecraft landed on a comet for the first time. Unfortunately, it landed in the shadow of a cliff and could not recharge its batteries, which were powered by the sun. After two days, its power ran out, and it went silent.

Landing on the surface of a comet

The sun

Mercury

Venus

Earth

Mars

Jupiter

Pioneer 10
Pioneer 10 became the first spacecraft to leave the solar system, in 1983.
International Space Station
Launched in 1998, the International Space Station is the largest human-made body orbiting (circling) Earth. It is used for experiments in space and can test computer systems and equipment needed for missions to Mars.

Satellites
Sputnik I was the first satellite sent into space, in 1957. Today, satellites are used to transmit signals for TV programs and telephone calls. They also gather data about weather and locations for digital maps.

Our solar system
Our solar system is made up of the eight planets that circle our sun. The image above shows them closer together than they really are.

The American Galileo became the first craft to fly all the way around Jupiter, in 1995.

The American Voyager 2 was the first space probe to visit outer planets Uranus and Neptune, in 1986 and 1989, respectively.

The American Cassini was launched in 1997 and spent 13 years circling Saturn. It burned up in 2017.
The world today
Slightly fewer than eight billion people are alive in 2018, living in 195 countries. That number is expected to grow to 11.2 billion by the year 2100. China is the world’s most populous nation, with around 8,800 Chinese babies born every day.

Uniting the world
The United Nations (UN), set up in 1945, is an organization that works to keep peace around the world. Almost every country today is a member of the UN.

World cities
In 2009, for the first time in history, more people lived in towns and cities than in the countryside. This trend is likely to continue as the world’s population grows.

World’s newest nation
New nations are still forming. The world’s newest nation is South Sudan, which broke away from Sudan in 2011 after a long fight for independence.
The Marshall Islands

Disappearing islands
Not many of the 1,156 islands that make up the Marshall Islands rise more than 7 ft (2 m) above sea level. Some are in danger of disappearing due to rising sea levels caused by global warming.
Atlas picture quiz

Here are some of the civilizations that appear in this atlas. Can you name them? Look at the clues to help you. The answers are on page 91.

1. This civilization was ruled by pharaohs.
2. The Olympic Games were created by the people in this civilization.
3. This empire was founded by Osman I.
4. This empire was home to more than 65 million people.
5. These kingdoms and city-states became one country.
6. Divine emperors ruled this country.
7. The rulers of these kingdoms grew wealthy by trading gold, ivory, and slaves.
8. This empire was located in South America.
9. This empire was created in the 1520s.
10. This country got its name from Qin, one of its states.
agriculture
Growing crops and raising livestock for food

ally
Country that supports another country and might agree to trade deals or to fight alongside it in a war

ancient
Very old

army
Organized group of soldiers

artifact
Human-made object, generally of historic or cultural interest, such as a painting or a vase

astronaut
Someone who is trained to travel and work in a spacecraft

ancient
Very old

army
Organized group of soldiers

artifact
Human-made object, generally of historic or cultural interest, such as a painting or a vase

astronaut
Someone who is trained to travel and work in a spacecraft

BCE
Before Common Era, or all the years before year 1

beliefs
Set of views that people hold about the world, life, and the afterlife

Buddhist
Member of a religion called Buddhism, which follows the teachings of the Buddha, who lived in India about 2,500 years ago

capitalism
Political or economic system where individuals own property and companies, instead of the government owning them

Christian
Someone who follows the religious teachings of Jesus Christ, who lived in the Middle East 2,000 years ago

Holy
Something or somewhere sacred to a religion

independence
Freedom from outside control, such as when a country or area is no longer ruled by another country

Jew
Follower of the religion Judaism. Jews worship one God and their holy books are the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament) and the Talmud

Muslim
Someone whose religion is Islam. Muslims believe in one God, and they follow the teachings of the Prophet Muhammad

native
Person linked to a place by birth, or who is descended from the original inhabitants of an area

Nazi
Member, or follower, of the Nazi Party (National Socialists) in Germany, led by Adolf Hitler

peasant
A poor person whose way of life is dependent on farming

persecution
Bad treatment of people because of their beliefs

Renaissance
A focus on art and learning in Europe that began in the 15th century, linked to a renewed interest in the ancient cultures of Greece and Rome

slave
Person who is forced to work for or serve another person or family. Slaves are considered the property of their owners and forced to obey them

society
Organized group of people with a shared culture

spy
Person who gathers information in secret. In war, each side uses spies to find out the other’s secrets

technology
Using scientific knowledge to create machinery and devices, such as computers

territory
Area of land that belongs to a particular country or state

trade route
Route traveled by merchants carrying goods from one country to another

traditional
When something has been done in the same way for a long time

tribal
Group of people who share the same culture and history. It usually refers to people who live together in traditional communities, far from cities and towns
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