

Instructional Vocabulary

World History

Unit 1: Early Civilizations, 8000 BC – 500 BC

- **Periodization** – an act or instance of dividing a subject into historical eras for purposes of analysis and study.
- **Neolithic Revolution** – major change to human life caused by the development of farming
- **Civilization** – a form of culture characterized by established cities, specialized labor, complex institutions, written records, and advanced technology
- **Irrigation** – the bringing of water to fields through man-made canals
- **City-state** – a political unit made up of a city and its surrounding land
- **Dynasty** – several rulers from one single family
- **Cultural diffusion** – the spreading of ideas and products from one culture to another
- **Empire** – a political unit where large numbers of people and areas of land are controlled by one ruler

Unit 2: Celebrate Freedom Week

- **Democracy**—a government by the people
- **Republic**—a government in which supreme power resides in a body of citizens entitled to vote and is exercised by elected officials and representatives responsible to them and governing according to law
- **Totalitarianism**—centralized control by an autocratic authority

Unit 3: Classical Civilizations, 500 BC – 600 AD

- **Empire** – a major political unit having a territory of great extent or a number of territories or peoples under a single sovereign authority
- **Dynasty** – a succession of rulers of the same line of descent
- **Democracy** – government controlled by its citizens, either directly or indirectly
- **Diffusion** – the spread of cultural elements from one area or group of people to others by contact

Unit 4A: Diffusion of Ideas and Systems: The Middle Ages in Europe, 600-1450

- **Feudalism** – the system of political organization prevailing in Europe from the 9th to about the 15th centuries having as its basis the relation of lords granting parcels of land known as fiefs to lesser knights who are known as vassals, who in turn, provide military service to the lord.
- **Manorialism** – smallest economic social unit revolving around an estate, controlled by a lord, who gives land and protection to his serfs, who in turn give him their services.
- **Schism** – a formal division in or separation from a church or religious body
- **Hundred Years' War**— a series of wars between England and France from 1337 through 1453

Unit 4B: Diffusion of Ideas and Systems: The Middle Ages in Africa and Asia, 600-1450

- **Diffusion** – the spread of cultural elements from one area or group of people to others by contact
- **Interaction** – mutual or reciprocal action or influence

Unit 5: Global Commerce, Renaissance, and Reformation, 1450-1750

- **Renaissance** – the transitional movement in Europe between medieval and modern times beginning in the 14th century in Italy, lasting into the 17th century, and marked by a humanistic revival of classical influence expressed through the arts, literature and modern science.
- **Reformation** – a 16th century religious movement marked ultimately by rejection or modification of some Roman Catholic doctrine and practice and establishment of the Protestant churches.
- **Secularism** – indifference to or rejection or exclusion of religion and religious considerations.
- **Inventive-** having or showing an ability to think of new ideas and methods; creative or imaginative
- **Mercantilism** – an economic system developing during the decay of feudalism to unify and increase the power and especially the monetary wealth of a nation by a strict governmental regulation of the entire national economy usually through policies designed to secure an accumulation of bullion, a favorable balance of trade, the development of agriculture and manufactures, and the establishment of foreign trading monopolies

Unit 6: Scientific and Economic Revolutions, 1750-1914

- **Free Enterprise** – freedom of private business to organize and operate for profit in a competitive system without interference by government beyond regulation necessary to protect public interest and keep the national economy in balance
- **Industrialization** – the process that involves building and operating factories and businesses in a city, region, country, etc.
- **Inventiveness** – the quality of being adept or prolific at producing inventions

Unit 7: Political Revolutions, 1750-1914

- **Imperialism** – the policy, practice, or advocacy of extending the power and dominion of a nation especially by direct territorial acquisitions or by gaining indirect control over the political or economic life of other areas
- **Monarchy** – undivided rule or absolute sovereignty by a single person
- **Political Revolution** – the overthrow of one government and its replacement with another
- **Political Philosophy** – a theory or set of theories regarding a sphere of political thought. Political is a word that derives from the Greek word “politikos” which pertains to polis (a city state)
- **Sovereignty** – freedom from external control
- **Constitutionalism** – adherence to or government according to constitutional principles

Unit 8A: Global Conflicts, 1914 to World War II

- **Alliance** – an association to further common interests of the members and in this context, nations
- **Militarism** – a policy of aggressive military preparedness
- **Nationalism** – loyalty and devotion to a nation with a sense of national consciousness exalting one nation above all others and placing primary emphasis on promotion of its culture and interests as opposed to those of other nations or supranational groups
- **Interdependence** – mutual dependence, as in between two or more countries
- **Communism** – a system in which goods are owned in common and are available to all as needed
- **Fascism** – a political philosophy, movement, or regime that exalts nation and often race above the individual and that stands for a centralized autocratic government headed by a dictatorial leader that uses forcible suppression of opposition

Unit 8B: Global Issues, Post World War II (1945) to the Present

- **Human rights** – rights regarded as belonging fundamentally to all persons
- **Global interdependence** – countries rely on each other (examples include economic, military, etc...)

Unit 9: Tying it All Together

- **Historical interpretation** – historical thinking involves the ability to describe, analyze, evaluate and create diverse interpretations of the past, as revealed through primary and secondary sources. (Source: College Board/APCentral)
- **Periodization** – a method that historians use to categorize events into blocks and to identify turning points, recognizing that the choice of specific dates favors one narrative, region or group over another narrative, region or group. (Source: College Board/APCentral)