



LIFE·PAC®

# History & Geography



Alpha Omega Publications®

**HISTORY & GEOGRAPHY 1010  
ANCIENT TIMES TO THE PRESENT  
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# ANCIENT TIMES TO THE PRESENT

In the previous nine LIFEPAcs you have studied the history of the world from very ancient civilizations to modern times. You will now review what you have learned. You will look once more at those ancient civilizations. You will reacquaint yourself with the Middle Ages and the Renaissance. You will see how each of these periods contributed to the modern world in which you live.

## OBJECTIVES

**Read these objectives.** The objectives tell you what you should be able to do when you have successfully completed this LIFEPAc®.

When you have finished this LIFEPAc, you should be able to:

1. List the most important ancient civilizations.
2. Explain how ancient societies governed themselves.
3. Identify the leaders of the ancient civilizations and their accomplishments.
4. Describe the cultures of the various societies.
5. Explain feudalism.
6. Show the importance of the church in the Middle Ages.
7. Point out the differences between the Middle Ages and the Renaissance.
8. Describe the politics in the major European countries during the Renaissance.
9. List the highlights of Renaissance arts and sciences.
10. Explain the Reformation.
11. Show how religious conflicts led to wars.
12. Define *absolutism*.
13. Show the development of the strongest nations in Europe.
14. Define mercantilism.
15. Trace the travels of European explorers and their claims in the New World.
16. Describe the great revolutions that helped to produce the modern world.
17. Describe the political and military career of Napoleon I.
18. List the important early inventions of the Industrial Revolution.
19. Describe the events leading to and during World War I.
20. Describe the events leading to and during World War II.
21. Outline the structure of the United Nations.
22. Discuss the important political areas in the modern world.
23. List the major international organizations today.

**Survey the LIFEPAc.** Ask yourself some questions about this study. Write your questions here.

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# I. ANCIENT CIVILIZATIONS AND MEDIEVAL TIMES

The first section of the review will deal with the world prior to 1500. It will recall the ancient civilizations, remind you of their ending, and discuss their contributions to the world. By 1500 the nations of Western Europe were stable enough to

begin searching for places to establish colonies. Spain led the way but did not handle her colonies wisely. England and France followed, and England gained the most. Out of these activities, the modern world finally began to develop.

## SECTION OBJECTIVES

**Review these objectives.** When you have completed this section, you should be able to:

1. List the most important ancient civilizations.
2. Explain how ancient societies governed themselves.
3. Identify the leaders of the ancient civilizations and their accomplishments.
4. Describe the cultures of the various societies.
5. Explain feudalism.
6. Show the importance of the church in the Middle Ages.

## VOCABULARY

**Study these words** to enhance your learning success in this section.

assimilation  
diocese  
Ides of March  
Nicene Creed

scriptorium  
see  
triumvirate  
vernacular

**Note:** All vocabulary words in this LIFEPAAC appear in **boldface** print the first time they are used. If you are unsure of the meaning when you are reading, study the definitions given.

## HEBREWS

The Old Testament of the Bible, the gift of God through the Hebrews to the people of the world, records the most ancient of ancient times. In the opening lines, it states (Genesis 1:1) "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth." No time existed before the beginning.

The Hebrews were the descendants of Abraham, who settled in Canaan. From Canaan, Abraham's grandson Jacob moved his family to Egypt to be reunited with his son Joseph and to provide his family with sustenance during a famine. Generations later, Moses led them back to Canaan, the Promised Land.

The area that was Canaan was approximately that of Israel today.

During this time many Hebrews did not remain true to God. They fought among themselves and were attacked by outsiders. They finally saw their Holy City, Jerusalem, destroyed by the Babylonians and many of their people carried off as captives to Babylon.

In Babylon they had to choose whether to spend their time in mourning or to make captivity meaningful. They chose the latter and spent much of the next seventy years creating the framework of the Old Testament and solidifying their beliefs.

Many Jews never returned to Jerusalem. The Diaspora, which is the name given to the scattering of

the Hebrews all over the world, took place. When Jesus Christ the Savior was born in Bethlehem as promised, most Jews refused to accept Him. Their descendants are still waiting for a Messiah.

Christian belief accepts the Trinity and acknowledges Christ as (I John 2:1 and 2) "...an advocate with the Father...the propitiation for our sins..." With this knowledge of God and his acceptance of the Trinity, the Christian is prepared to carry on his struggle with Satan which is his heritage from Adam and Eve. Since he believes in this manner, he must accept God's presence in the making of history.



### Complete these statements.

- 1.1 The gift of God through the Hebrews to the whole world was the \_\_\_\_\_.
- 1.2 Canaan was called the \_\_\_\_\_.
- 1.3 The Hebrews solidified their beliefs while in \_\_\_\_\_.
- 1.4 The Hebrews were the descendants of \_\_\_\_\_.
- 1.5 The scattering of the Hebrew people all over the world was called the \_\_\_\_\_.

## EGYPTIANS

The land along the Nile River had the requirements for settlement: warm climate, water supply, protective mountains, and a long coastline.

Egypt, the oldest of the early civilizations, developed a calendar, a system of irrigation, written communication, and local government before it was classified as a civilization.

The first central government was formed by the uniting of Egypt's upper and lower kingdoms under King Menes in 3400 B.C. From his capital at Memphis, he ruled with a strong hand and was able to keep the two kingdoms together and start a dynasty. Later the Pharaohs, as they came to be known, were considered divine, and their words were never questioned.

Once cities were established and the government became stable, Egypt began to trade among cities up and down the Nile. Finally, it started to trade with other countries around the eastern end of the Mediterranean Sea.

The government was not always strong enough to keep out invaders. Over the centuries, Egypt was conquered several times. One group of invaders, the Hyksos in the sixteenth century B.C., brought horses and chariots with them. The horses and chariots proved very valuable to the Egyptians, who used them to attack and conquer others.

Egypt built an empire and proceeded to set up trade routes with other countries. Surplus wheat and other grains were traded for products in the Mediterranean area. Egypt was able to buy the lumber and tin it needed as well as many other products. The Phoenicians brought tin all the way from England to Egypt, and Egyptian artisans mixed copper and tin to make bronze for decoration and weapons. Scribes kept records of trade transactions as Egyptians learned the importance of records for government and trade.



Answer true or false.

- 1.6 \_\_\_\_\_ Egypt was settled on land along the Nile River.
- 1.7 \_\_\_\_\_ King Menes ruled Egypt from his capital at Hyksos.
- 1.8 \_\_\_\_\_ The Egyptians imported tin that came from England.
- 1.9 \_\_\_\_\_ Business records were kept by scribes.
- 1.10 \_\_\_\_\_ Egypt was such a powerful nation it was never invaded.



Complete these statements.

- 1.11 Bronze is made by mixing a. \_\_\_\_\_ and b. \_\_\_\_\_.
- 1.12 The Hyksos brought the a. \_\_\_\_\_ and b. \_\_\_\_\_ to Egypt.
- 1.13 Four developments of the Egyptian civilization were these:  
a. \_\_\_\_\_, b. \_\_\_\_\_,  
c. \_\_\_\_\_, and d. \_\_\_\_\_.
- 1.14 Egyptian leaders considered divine were called \_\_\_\_\_.

## BABYLONIANS

Between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers at the eastern end of the Fertile Crescent is located the land whose name, *Mesopotamia*, means *the land between two rivers*. Here on the plains of Shinar several groups settled. They never became true civilizations, although some of them did build empires, because they never developed beyond a city-state organization.

One of these groups was the Babylonians. Their capital city of Babylon was beautiful, and it lasted nearly two thousand years. It was in Babylon that

one of the emperors, Hammurabi codified the laws of Babylonia. Hammurabi was able to unite the Babylonians, but after his death his empire disintegrated.

Most of the Babylonians remained agricultural, but they did trade with the existing civilizations. A few craftsmen made articles to sell, but most of their sales were of food grains. Babylonians used clay for building, since stone was not available. Brick remains have been located by archaeologists.



Babylon