

Two Hundred and Fifty-Seven Facts You Need to Know

Global History and Geography

E. Napp

The facts are categorized according to geographic region with one introductory category.

Introduction:

1. The archaeological evidence gathered by Louis and Mary Leakey suggest that the earliest humans developed in the Great Rift Valley in Africa.
2. During the Neolithic Revolution (c. 8000 B.C.E. – 5000 B.C.E.), people learned to farm and domesticate animals. This allowed people to settle and develop civilization.
3. A civilization is a complex society. With food surpluses, civilization developed. Writing, cities, complex government, specialization, technology, complex religious institutions and a social class system are components of civilization.
4. An economist studies the production and exchange of goods and services.
5. In a traditional economy, economic traditions are based on customs and habits. Sons perform the same jobs as their fathers.
6. In a free market economy, individuals make economic decisions. Laissez-faire exists or the government does not intervene in the market.
7. In a command economy, government planners make economic decisions. Communist societies typically have command economies.
8. Subsistence farming occurs when a farmer produces just enough food for the family's use. There is no surplus.
9. An archaeologist studies the human past by excavating and examining artifacts or objects created by humans. Anthropologists study the origins and/or behaviors of humans.
10. Monsoons are seasonal winds. Early traders used monsoons winds to travel.
11. A primary source is an eyewitness account. A diary is an example.
12. Geography is the study of the earth and its surface. A physical map shows physical or geographic features like mountains. Geographic features affect people.
13. Cultural diffusion is the spreading out of culture or the exchange of cultural ideas or objects. An example is the spread of Buddhism from India to China.
14. Inflation is an upward movement of price. It means rising prices.
15. Animism is the belief in spirits of nature. It is the earliest belief system.
16. Polytheism is the belief in many gods. Monotheism is the belief in one God.
17. Slash and burn farming occurs when a farmer uses fire to clear the land and ashes to fertilize the soil. Typically, slash and burn farming occurs in rain forests or wooded areas. Trees need to be cut in order to clear the land for farming.
18. Urbanization is the growth of cities. It is also movement to cities.

Africa:

19. The Nile River provided water for irrigation and transportation. An early civilization developed in the Nile River Valley.
20. Hieroglyphics or Egyptian writing, pyramids, pharaohs (divine rulers), and mummification are associated with ancient Egyptian civilization. King Menes united Upper and Lower Egypt in 3100 B.C.E.
21. The kingdom of Kush was located south of Egyptian civilization. Cultural Diffusion occurred. Many Egyptian cultural ideas entered Kush. And of course, culture is a way of life of a group of people.

22. The Bantu originally lived in West Africa but migrated (starting c. 1500 B.C.E.) throughout sub-Saharan Africa, spreading agriculture and iron-working.
23. Savannas are grasslands in Africa where farmers and herders (pastoralists) lived.
24. The Sahara desert is the largest desert in the world. It separates North Africa from sub-Saharan Africa. Africans could cross the desert. It was not a complete barrier for Africans. However, it was very difficult for Europeans to cross the desert.
25. Africa's geography slowed or hindered European penetration of Africa. Africa has a smooth or regular coastline and few natural ports and harbors as well as the largest desert in the world.
26. The West African Kingdoms of Ghana, Mali, and Songhai were prosperous kingdoms and controlled Trans-Saharan trade or the salt for gold trade. It is important to remember that Africa had many great kingdoms before the arrival of the Europeans. In fact, African kingdoms flourished (to achieve success) before the arrival of the Europeans.
27. Mansa Musa (r. 1312 – 1337) was a significant king of Mali. He was a Muslim and made a famous pilgrimage to Mecca.
28. The city of Timbuktu was an important commercial and cultural center.
29. During the Atlantic Slave Trade (1500s – 1800s), Africans were taken as slaves to replace a dying Native American Indian population in the Americas.
30. The Atlantic Slave Trade had a devastating impact on some African societies as Africans were captured and permanently removed from Africa.
31. The Middle Passage was the forced journey of enslaved Africans to the Americas. Conditions on ships were horrendous and many Africans did not survive the Middle Passage. Those Africans who did survive were sold into slavery in the Americas and labored under difficult circumstances. African slaves were mistreated.
32. Triangular trade connected Europe, Africa, and the Americas and included the importation of African slaves to the Americas, the exporting of natural resources from the Americas to Europe, and the exporting of European goods to Africa.
33. The Zulus, indigenous peoples of South Africa, fought the Boers and the British in South Africa but were not successful. The Boers were descendants of Dutch farmers that settled in Cape Town. The British eventually conquered the land for several reasons: gold and diamonds as well as access to their colony in India – the jewel in the British crown. The Zulus lost control of their lands to the Europeans.
34. During the Boer Wars (1880-1881 and 1899-1902), the British gained control of Boer lands. The British had discovered gold and diamonds on the land.
35. At the Berlin Conference of 1884-1885, representatives of European countries met to establish rules for the division and conquest of the African continent.
36. The Berlin Conference led to the "Scramble for Africa" – Europeans raced to conquer and colonize Africa. The Age of Imperialism had begun in Africa.
37. The Europeans wanted Africa's natural resources for European factories.
38. Africa was conquered later than other lands because its geographic features as well as malaria and Yellow Fever hindered (to make difficult) European penetration of the continent.
39. It is also important to remember that African kingdoms flourished before the arrival of the Europeans. Kingdoms like Kush, Meroe, Axum, Benin, Ghana, and Zimbabwe were powerful and important kingdoms before the Age of Imperialism.

40. The Suez Canal was a strategic waterway connecting the Mediterranean Sea to the Red Sea and Indian Ocean.
41. World War II (1939-1945) was a turning point for many African colonies. Many colonies gained independence after World War II.
42. Kwame Nkrumah and Jomo Kenyatta were important African nationalists. Nkrumah led Ghana's independence movement and Kenyatta Kenya's.
43. African nationalists wanted independence from their European conquerors.
44. Apartheid was a system of racial segregation in South Africa. Apartheid was established in 1948 and formally ended in 1990.
45. Under apartheid, black South Africans were required to carry pass books or identification papers. Bantustans or black homelands and separate facilities were also characteristics of apartheid.
46. Nelson Mandela was imprisoned for his protests against apartheid (1964-1990). Eventually, released from prison, Mandela was elected the first black president of South Africa in 1994. Today, the South African government is a multiracial government.
47. Genocide occurred in Rwanda in 1994. The Hutu-controlled government ordered the massacre of the Tutsis. The Tutsis were a minority in Rwanda and during the colonial period were favored. However, after independence, the Hutu majority came to control the government and the Tutsis often faced discrimination. But in 1994, Tutsis and moderate Hutus were murdered.
48. Desertification is a problem in many African nations. As deserts expand, more productive land is lost. Overuse of land and population pressures can cause desertification.
49. AIDS is another problem in Africa as many Africans have died as a result of the transmission of the disease.

Southwest Asia (The Middle East):

50. Mesopotamia was the land between the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers (in present-day Iraq). An early civilization developed in this land. This land was a cradle of civilization. The rivers provided water for irrigation and farming.
51. The Sumerians developed an early civilization in this land. Cuneiform was Sumerian writing. It was the earliest system of writing developed (3500 B.C.E.). Ziggurats were Sumerian temples. Sumerians lived in city-states.
52. The Code of Hammurabi (c. 1700 B.C.E.) was an early written law code. It had harsh punishments but also class divisions. Rich people could pay fines to avoid physical punishments.
53. The Phoenicians were seafaring traders. They invented the world's first alphabet.
54. Muhammad was the founder of Islam. He was born in Mecca, Arabia. Islam is a monotheistic religion. Sunni and Shi'ite Muslims disagree over the question of leadership. Sunnis believe that any pious Muslim man may lead the community. The Shi'ite community believes that descendants of the Prophet's (through his son-in-law, Ali) should rule.
55. The Hegira (Hijra) refers to Muhammad's flight from Mecca to Medina. The Hegira (Hijra) occurred in 622 C.E. (A.D.). The Hegira (Hijra) marks the first year of the Islamic calendar.

56. The Five Pillars of Islam: To believe in one God, to pray five times a day facing the holy city of Mecca, to give charity to the poor, to fast during the month of Ramadan, and to make a pilgrimage to Mecca (pilgrimage is known as the hajj).
57. The Koran (Qu'ran) is the holy book of Islam.
58. Jihad is an Arabic term for holy war. According to Muslims, there is an inner jihad and an outer jihad. The inner jihad refers to the individual's struggles against temptation and the outer jihad refers to the war against unbelievers.
59. During the Islamic golden age (750 – 1258/Abbasid Caliphate), great advances in mathematics and science occurred. Algebra was developed and Greek and Roman learning was preserved.
60. Muslim controlled territory was invaded by Christian Crusaders (1096-1291) during the Middle Ages. Christians tried to permanently claim the holy land but failed. However, Christian Crusaders gained new knowledge from the Islamic golden age and trade between Europe and the Middle East increased.
61. The Ottomans established a powerful Muslim empire by conquering the Byzantines and specifically, the Byzantine capital of Constantinople in 1453. The Ottomans renamed the city, Istanbul. Today, Istanbul is an important city in Turkey.
62. Suleiman the Magnificent (r. 1520-1566) was a powerful Ottoman sultan. He controlled trade routes on the Eastern Mediterranean sea. He was a tolerant ruler. The Ottoman Empire at its height included lands in Southwest Asia (the Middle East), North Africa, and Europe. It was a multinational and tolerant empire. Jews and Christians were allowed to worship.
63. While the Ottoman Empire had been a vast, successful, and tolerant multinational empire, by the early 1900s, the Ottoman Empire was in state of decline and known as the "Sick Man of Europe."
64. Genocide occurred in the Ottoman Empire (1915-1916). Many Armenians were killed. Armenians were Christians in an Islamic empire.
65. Mustafa Kemal Atatürk (1881-1938) was a Turkish nationalist. Turkey became an independent nation after the First World War and the collapse of the Ottoman Empire. Atatürk promoted modernization and secularization in Turkey.
66. Iran experienced a religious revolution in 1979. The Shah was removed from power as Ayatollah Khomeini rose to power. An Islamic state was established.
67. The Balfour Declaration (1917) was a British document that promised Jews a homeland in Palestine or a future Jewish state in Palestine. The document was written during World War I to increase Jewish support of the war effort. However, the British had also made promises of the land to Muslim Palestinians.
68. Israel was created in 1948. It was created after the tragedy of the Nazi Holocaust. It was founded as a result of a United Nations partitioning of the land (after the British handed over the land to this international peacekeeping organization) and the increasing popularity of Zionism, a political philosophy committed to the creation of a Jewish homeland. Zionism had become an increasingly popular philosophy during the Twentieth Century. Theodore Herzl was an important advocate of Zionism. Prior to 1948, Jews did not have a homeland.
69. OPEC (the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries) was created to establish production quotas to control the price of oil. Saudi Arabia is a member of OPEC. OPEC nations control the price of oil by controlling the supply of oil.

China:

70. Geography: Mountains protected and isolated China in the past. The Yellow River or Huang He River was a birthplace of early civilization in China.
71. There were many Chinese dynasties (ruling families). Important dynasties are the Shang, Zhou, Qin, Han, Sui, Tang, Song, Yuan, Ming, and Qing.
72. The Mandate of Heaven was the Chinese belief that the emperor received the right to rule from the gods but could lose the right to rule if corrupt or incompetent.
73. The Mandate of Heaven led to the dynastic cycle as an old dynasty fell and a new dynasty claimed the Mandate of Heaven or right to rule.
74. Confucianism (c. 500 B.C.E.) was an important Chinese philosophy. It stated that order was important. Therefore, inferiors had to obey superiors and superiors had to set a good example. The Five Relationships were emperor and subject, father and son, husband and wife, elder brother and younger brother, and friend and friend. Children had to respect parents and ancestors (filial piety).
75. Legalism was a Chinese philosophy that was based on the belief that people were selfish and only harsh punishments would ensure proper behavior. During the Qin dynasty, the emperor (Shih Huang-ti) used Legalism. Although the Qin Dynasty (221 B.C.E. – 206 B.C.E.) only lasted 15 years, it unified China with a uniform system of writing and a uniform system of weights and measures. The Qin dynasty also started construction on the Great Wall of China. The Wall was created to prevent invasions. The Wall was not completed until the Ming Dynasty.
76. Confucianism was eventually adopted as the philosophy of many dynasties. The examination system was created during the Han Dynasty (206 B.C.E. – 220 C.E. /A.D.). The Han Dynasty is frequently compared to the Roman Empire because it encouraged trade (Silk Roads) and established principles that affected China for many years. In the examination system, man had to pass a rigorous examination to work in government. Confucius encouraged education for men.
77. Daoism was a Chinese philosophy that stressed the importance of nature and living naturally. The Yin-Yang is an important Daoist symbol.
78. Buddhism entered China through cultural diffusion.
79. The Chinese considered China the Middle Kingdom. This ethnocentric view meant that China was the “central kingdom” – China was superior.
80. The Silk Road was an important trade route that connected China to the Middle East and ultimately, the Mediterranean Sea. Cultural diffusion occurred.
81. A golden age occurred during the Tang (618-907) and Song (960-1279) dynasties. A golden age is a time of prosperity and great achievements.
82. Chinese inventions include paper, the compass, gunpowder, and printing.
83. The Mongols conquered China and established the Yuan dynasty (1271-1368). Kublai Khan was an important emperor of the Yuan dynasty. Marco Polo visited China during the Yuan dynasty and met Kublai Khan. Writings about his travels increased European interest in China.
84. Admiral Zheng He (1371-1433) was a Chinese explorer during the Ming dynasty. His ships traveled throughout the Indian Ocean and even reached the east coast of Africa. A Chinese emperor eventually ordered the expeditions stopped because he saw no value in the expeditions.

85. A Ming emperor ended Zheng He's voyages as China became increasingly isolationist.
86. The Qing dynasty (1644-1911) was the last Chinese dynasty. The rulers of the Qing dynasty were Manchurians. The Manchus had invaded China and claimed the Mandate of Heaven.
87. The British defeated the Chinese in the Opium Wars (1839-1860). The British sold opium, an addictive drug to China. Chinese officials tried to end the trade. War ensued and Britain won. European powers gained spheres of influence in China. The British even received Hong Kong but Hong Kong was eventually returned to China in 1997.
88. The Boxer Rebellion (1900) was an attempt to remove foreigners from China. The Boxer Rebellion failed but the desire for a China free of foreign control increased.
89. In 1911, China became a republic. Dr. Sun Yat-sen (Sun Yixian) was the leader of the Kuomintang, the Nationalist Party.
90. The Japanese invaded China in the 1930s. Japanese soldiers committed many atrocities in China, especially during the Rape of Nanjing (1937). The Japanese wanted China's natural resources. The Japanese invaded Manchuria for its resources.
91. Mao Zedong was the leader of the Chinese Communist Party. The Chinese Communist Party defeated the Nationalists under the leadership of Chiang Kai-shek (Jiang Jieshi). China became a communist nation in 1949. Mao Zedong had the support of the peasants and used guerrilla warfare. Mao granted legal equality to men and women.
92. Mao Zedong's Great Leap Forward (1957) was a five-year plan to industrialize China and collectivize agriculture. It failed and a famine ensued.
93. After the failure of the Great Leap Forward, Mao Zedong began the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution. During the Cultural Revolution (began 1966), Mao punished his enemies and those harboring anti-communist sentiments. The Red Guards were students who punished anyone suspected of harboring anti-communist sentiments.
94. The Communists adopted the One-Child policy to reduce China's population.
95. After the death of Mao Zedong (1976), Deng Xiaoping became the leader of communist China. Deng Xiaoping introduced elements of the free market to China to increase productivity. In Deng Xiaoping's Four Modernizations, the Chinese economy moved towards increased capitalism.
96. However, Deng Xiaoping did not allow freedom of speech or freedom of the press. When pro-democracy students gathered in Tiananmen Square (1989), Deng ordered the army to stop the protests.
97. Hong Kong was returned to China in 1997. The British had taken Hong Kong during the Opium Wars.
98. The Three Gorges Dam was built in China to control flooding.

Japan:

99. Japan is a series of islands or an archipelago. Japan is mountainous and lacks natural resources. Japan has an irregular coastline and many natural harbors.
100. China and Korea influenced the development of early Japanese culture.

101. Shinto is an early religion of Japan. It is animistic. Practitioners of Shinto believe in the forces of nature or that spirits exist in nature.
102. The Japanese believed the emperor was a descendant of the Sun goddess until the end of the Second World War.
103. The Heian Period (794-1185) was a golden age in Japan.
104. During the feudal period in Japan (began in 1185), the shogun was powerful and the emperor was a figurehead. Samurai or Japanese warriors were important as well as lords or daimyo. Samurai adhered to the Code of Bushido, the warrior's code.
105. During the Tokugawa shogunate (1603-1868), the shoguns isolated Japan (the Act of Seclusion) in an attempt to protect the Japanese from foreign influences.
106. Commodore Matthew Perry (1853), sailing for the United States, arrived in Japan to open Japan to trade and end its policy of isolation.
107. During the Meiji Restoration (1868), the emperor was restored to power and the feudal period with its shogun and samurais ended. During the Meiji Restoration, the Japanese began a policy of modernization and industrialization.
108. The Japanese engaged in a policy of imperialism to acquire needed natural resources. The Japanese invaded Korea, China, and Southeast Asia.
109. During World War II, Japan had an alliance with Nazi Germany and Fascist Italy.
110. On December 7, 1941, the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor, a U.S. naval base.
111. The Second World War ended in Japan when the United States dropped two atomic bombs on the city of Hiroshima and Nagasaki (August 1945).
112. The United States helped create a democracy in Japan after the Second World War. The emperor lost his political power. The Diet or Japanese Parliament gained power. Women were granted the right to vote. Japan no longer had a military for war.
113. The Japanese experienced an "economic miracle" after the Second World War as the Japanese increased manufacturing and exports.

India:

114. Monsoons are seasonal winds. Some monsoon winds bring rains that help Indian farmers. The Himalayas separate India from China but passes in the mountains allow for movement of peoples. Civilization in South Asia developed in the Indus river valley. The Ganges River is a sacred river. India is a peninsula.
115. The Indus River was a cradle for early civilization. Two important cities, Harappa and Mohenjo-Daro (c. 2500 B.C.E. – 1500 B.C.E.), existed. These cities demonstrated urban planning or carefully built cities. Every brick in every building was the same size.
116. The Aryans (1500 B.C.E.) migrated into the Indian subcontinent and brought religious and cultural beliefs with them.
117. Hinduism was an ancient religion of India. Karma, dharma, reincarnation, moksha, and caste are important Hindu beliefs. Karma is the idea that an individual's actions have consequences in this life or the next. Dharma involves the rules of caste. Reincarnation is the belief in the rebirth of the soul. Moksha is the end of reincarnation and union with the Divine. Caste is the fixed social class system of Hinduism. There are four castes: Brahmins or priests, warriors,

- merchants, and farmers. The caste system lacks social mobility. A person is born into his caste and remains in his caste a lifetime. Untouchables belong to no caste. With independence, untouchability was declared illegal but discrimination exists. The majority of Indians are Hindus. Hinduism is the dominant religion of India.
118. **Buddhism** (c. 500 B.C.E.) originated in India as a reaction to Hindu thought. The founder of Buddhism was Siddhartha Gautama. Siddhartha came to believe that life had suffering and that suffering was caused by selfish desire. The **Four Noble Truths** of Buddhism explain the nature of suffering and how suffering can end. The Four Noble Truths are that life has suffering, that desire causes suffering, that suffering can end, and that individuals should follow the **Eightfold Path**. The Eightfold Path encouraged Buddhists to practice right action to help end suffering. According to Buddhists, the end of suffering is known as **nirvana**. Like Hindus, Buddhists believe in **reincarnation** but Buddhists do not accept the Hindu caste system.
119. The **Maurya Empire** (ca. 323 – 185 B.C.E.) was an early Indian empire. Chandragupta Maurya was the founder of the Mauryan Empire. However, **Asoka** (r. 262 -232 B.C.E.) was a significant ruler of the Mauryan Empire. After a violent battle, Asoka renounced violence and converted to Buddhism. He encouraged the spread of Buddhism and ordered his ideas inscribed on his **Edicts of Asoka** or Pillars of Asoka.
120. The **Gupta Empire** (320 – 550 C.E.) was a golden age of Hindu culture. Advances in math and science occurred. The concept of zero, the decimal system, and the concept of infinity developed. Hindu traditions were preserved.
121. The **Mughal Empire** (1526 – 1707) was an Islamic Empire in India. Muslim rulers controlled a Hindu majority. Some Mughal rulers were tolerant like **Akbar the Great** (r. 1556 – 1605). Others were not. The **Taj Mahal** was constructed during this time period.
122. The **British East India Company** monopolized trade in India. The Company ruled most of the subcontinent. Sepoys were soldiers employed by the Company.
123. The **Sepoy Rebellion** or Sepoy Mutiny (1857 – 1858) occurred when sepoys, Indian soldiers in the British East Company, rebelled. The soldiers rebelled when rumors circulated regarding the issuance of beef and pork grease for their guns' cartridges. To Hindus, the cow is a sacred animal. To Muslims, pork is forbidden. The Sepoy Rebellion was an attempt to remove the British from India. However, it failed. Yet the desire for a free India only increased over the years.
124. After the Sepoy Rebellion, the **British crown** took over the colony. The era of imperialism under the British crown had begun in the subcontinent.
125. **Mohandas Gandhi** (1869 – 1948) was the **nationalist** leader of India's independence movement. Gandhi advocated **nonviolence** and passive resistance. He used **boycotts** and **civil disobedience**. During the boycott, Indians were encouraged to stop buying British goods. During the Salt March, Indians were encouraged to make their own salt in violation of the British monopoly on salt production. Breaking an unjust law and facing the consequences is known as civil disobedience. India achieved independence in 1947.
126. At independence (1947), the subcontinent was **partitioned** or divided. **Pakistan** was created for Indian Muslims. Since Muslims were a minority in Hindu-

dominated India, they feared discrimination. Muhammad Ali Jinnah (1876 – 1949) was the leader of the Muslim League.

127. India experienced a Green Revolution (1965) when science and technology (i.e. better fertilizers and better seeds) were used to increase India's food production.

128. India developed nuclear weapons by the 1970s.

129. Tensions between India and Pakistan have increased over Kashmir; this land is between India and Pakistan.

Latin America:

130. Latin America consists of Mexico, Central America, South America, and Caribbean. The term Latin America refers to lands that were conquered and colonized by Spain and Portugal – Latin-speaking nations.

131. The Andes Mountains dominate the western portion of South America. The Amazon rain forest dominates Brazil. Mountains and rain forests prevented communication between certain groups of pre-Columbian Indians (pre-Columbian Indians refers to Native American Indians before the arrival of Christopher Columbus in the Americas.)

132. The geography of Latin America led to cultural diversity as pre-Columbian Indians developed cultures often in isolation of one another.

133. The Mayas (300 – 900 A.D. /C.E.) experienced a golden age. They developed the concept of zero, a writing system, and astronomy. The Mayas built pyramids. The Mayas lived primarily in southern Mexico and Guatemala. The Mayas used slash and burn farming.

134. The Aztecs (1100s – 1519) developed a civilization in central Mexico. They conquered an empire, built pyramids, and engaged in human sacrifice. The Aztecs were conquered by Hernán Cortés (1519). Cortés was a Spanish conquistador. He was able to defeat the Aztecs due to superior military technology and alliances with the enemies of the Aztecs.

135. The Incas (1100s – 1533) developed a civilization in South America. The Incas conquered a vast empire on the Andes Mountains. Like the Romans, the Incas built many roads and bridges to connect their empire but unlike the Romans, the Incas built these roads on mountains. The Incas engaged in terrace farming on mountains and had a quipu or a knotted cord to keep records. However, like the Aztecs, the Incas never developed a writing system. The Incas also developed a social welfare system and provided for all members of the community. The Incas were conquered by Francisco Pizarro (1532), a Spanish conquistador. Like Cortés, Pizarro had superior military technology.

136. It is important to remember that Pre-Columbian civilizations flourished in the Americas before the arrival of the Europeans. Kingdoms like the Olmecs, Chavín, Mayas, and Incas were powerful and important kingdoms.

137. During the Age of Exploration, Christopher Columbus arrived in the Caribbean in 1492. The arrival of Columbus was a profound turning point in Latin America's history. Many American Indians died from the smallpox disease the explorers and conquerors unknowingly carried in their bodies. The Indians had no immunities to smallpox disease. Indeed, this dying American Indian population was replaced by

African slaves in certain parts of the Americas. While the arrival of the Europeans benefitted Europe, it did not benefit the Native American Indians.

138. The Encounter refers to the arrival of the Europeans in the Americas and their contact with the American Indians. The Columbian Exchange refers to the cultural diffusion that occurred between the Americas, Europe, and Africa with the arrival of the Europeans in the Americas. Potatoes and corn from the Americas were sent to Europe. Potatoes improved the European diet.
139. African slaves were brought to labor in the Caribbean, Brazil, and the southern United States to replace a dying Indian population. African slaves labored on plantations. The Atlantic Slave Trade (1500s – 1800s) was part of Triangular Trade. Triangular Trade connected the Americas, Europe, and Africa. Natural resources were shipped from the Americas to the Europe. Finished goods were shipped from Europe to Africa. Africans were shipped to the Americas.
140. The Middle Passage refers to the captured African's journey across the Atlantic Ocean. The enslaved African's journey across the Atlantic Ocean to the Americas was a brutal journey where slaves were boarded onto overcrowded ships and abused.
141. After the arrival of the explorers, the conquistadors arrived and conquered the Americas in the name of Spain. A conflict developed between Spain and Portugal over Spain's newly acquired lands. In the Treaty of Tordesillas (1494), the pope divided the world between Spain and Portugal. During this division, Portugal received Brazil.
142. Spanish colonialism was based on the principle of mercantilism. Mercantilism was the idea that colonies must benefit the mother country. A colony must provide natural resources to the mother country and buy finished goods from the mother country. As Spain had conquered for "God, Glory, and Gold," it sought precious metals from its colonies and other natural resources.
143. The Spaniards also converted the Native American Indians to the Roman Catholic religion. The American Indians had been polytheists and became monotheists.
144. The Encomienda system was Indian slavery. Indians were expected to labor for a Spanish colonist while the colonist was required to convert his Indians.
145. The colonial hierarchy favored people born in Spain. Peninsulares were the most powerful individuals. They had been born in Spain and held the most powerful jobs.
146. Creoles were individuals born in the colonies but of European ancestry. Though they were often wealthy landowners, they were denied the top military and political jobs. Creoles resented their treatment and resented the policies of mercantilism with its restricted trade. They were also inspired by the American and French Revolutions. Creoles eventually led independence or nationalist movements in the early 1800s.
147. Mestizos were individuals of mixed European and Indian ancestry. Mestizos often faced discrimination. Indians and Africans also faced discrimination.
148. Toussaint L'Ouverture, Simón Bolívar, and José de San Martín were nationalist leaders. Toussaint led Haitian slaves in their fight for freedom and independence in Haiti. Simón Bolívar and José de San Martín were important independence leaders in South America. Bolívar led many colonies in South America to independence. He was known as the Great Liberator. Bolívar had a dream of Gran Colombia, a united South America. However, geographic barriers and regional differences prevented his dream.

149. Dictatorship, inequality, and the concentration of land ownership in the hands of the few were causes of the Mexican Revolution (1910). Emiliano Zapata and Francisco “Pancho” Villa were revolutionary leaders.
150. The Panama Canal was a strategic waterway that connected the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans.
151. Fidel Castro led the communists to victory in the Cuban Revolution. Castro defeated an invasion led by exiled Cubans at the Bay of Pigs (1961). Soviets placed missiles on Cuban soil but American President Kennedy ordered the missiles removed during the Cuban Missile crisis (1962). The Cuban Missile crisis was an American success.
152. A cause of civil wars (1980s) in Central America was economic differences between social classes. Many Latin American nations were developing nations. High rates of illiteracy often limited economic development.
153. The North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) (1994) allows for the free movement of goods between Canada, United States of America, and Mexico. There are no tariffs – no taxes on imported goods.
154. Deforestation is a problem in the Amazon Rain Forest. Logging is destroying the rain forests as trees are cut down for paper and timber.

Russia:

155. Russia was influenced by the Byzantine Empire. Through cultural diffusion, the Russians received Orthodox Christianity and the Cyrillic alphabet from the Byzantines.
156. The Mongols (1200s – 1400s) invaded and conquered Russia. The Mongols in Russia were known as the Golden Horde. The Mongols isolated Russia from the rest of Western Europe and established the principle of a ruler with absolute power.
157. The Russians eventually gained their independence from the Mongols. Ivan the Terrible was an early Russian Tsar (Czar) or king. Ivan had absolute power.
158. Peter the Great (1682 – 1725) was an important Russian tsar. Peter wanted to modernize and westernize Russia. He wanted to emulate Western Europe in its advances in science and technology. He wanted a “window to the west.” Peter even ordered that the beards of lords be cut off to ensure that Russians looked like westerners.
159. Catherine the Great (1762 – 1796) was an enlightened despot. She was an absolute ruler but liked some ideas of the Enlightenment. However, she would not give up her power. Catherine continued Peter’s policies of westernization.
160. Napoleon (1804 – 1815) invaded Russia because the Russians refused to obey his orders regarding trade. However, the harsh climate of Russia defeated Napoleon.
161. Tsar (Czar) Nicholas II (1894 – 1917) was the last Russian Tsar. He was executed by the Bolsheviks (the Communists).
162. Prior to the First World War (1914 – 1918), Russia was allied with Britain and France in the Triple Entente. However, during the First World War, Russian soldiers were ill-prepared for fighting on the Eastern Front. As Russia was not fully industrialized, it was not prepared for the war. Many Russians died.
163. Vladimir Lenin (1917 – 1928) was the leader of the Bolsheviks. The Bolsheviks were communists. Lenin promised the Russian people “Bread, Peace,

and Land.” The Russian people were hungry and tired of losing battles on the Eastern Front during the First World War. Lenin and the Bolsheviks came to power in **1917**. The Communists had to fight a civil war (Reds vs. Whites) to maintain their power. Ultimately, the Communists won. After the civil war, Lenin implemented his NEP or New Economic Policy (1921). The NEP encouraged some free market reforms. After the death of Lenin and Stalin’s rise to power, the NEP was discontinued.

164. Joseph Stalin (r. 1928 – 1953) was the leader of the Soviet Union after Lenin. Joseph Stalin was a totalitarian dictator. In a totalitarian society, the citizen is totally subject to the absolute state and the state controls all forms of media. During the Great Purge, Stalin removed his opponents from the Communist Party. Many of Stalin’s opponents were executed. Stalin also tried to rapidly industrialize the Soviet Union. Using Five-Year Plans, Stalin tried to increase industrial and agricultural output. Stalin created collective farms (collectivization). Collective farms were state-owned farms. Peasants hated the collectives. In particular; the kulaks (successful peasant farmers) hated the loss of their land. Many kulaks were sent to the gulags (labor camps) or imprisoned. Collectivization of agriculture was not productive and a terrible famine ensued in the Ukraine.
165. Stalin signed a non-aggression pact with Hitler but then Hitler invaded the Soviet Union. The Soviets joined Britain and the United States. These Allies successfully defeated the Axis Powers (Nazi Germany, Fascist Italy, and Japan). But the Soviets lost the greatest number of lives fighting the Second World War. Twenty million Soviets died.
166. After WWII ended, the Cold War (1945 – 1991) began. The Cold War was a conflict between the world’s two superpowers: the United States and the Soviet Union. The United States wanted to stop the spread of communism (the containment policy). The Soviets had occupied Eastern Europe at the end of the Second World War and established communist governments in Eastern Europe (Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary etc.). These Soviet-dominated Eastern European countries were known as the Soviet Bloc or Soviet Satellites. An Iron Curtain had seemed to descend on Europe, separating the democracies of Western Europe from the communist regimes of Eastern Europe. As communism spread to Eastern Europe, the Americans feared that it would spread around the world. Thus, many conflicts ensued as the U.S.A. tried to contain communism and the Soviets encouraged communist revolutions. Several Cold War conflicts occurred around the world but particularly, in the Korean peninsula, Vietnam, and Cuba.
167. The Soviets formed the Warsaw Pact (1955) as an alliance of communist nations during the Cold War. The Warsaw Pact was a response to NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization). NATO was an alliance of non-communist nations.
168. In 1968, the Soviets put down a rebellion in Czechoslovakia known as the Prague Spring. Czechs wanted more freedoms but the Soviets would not allow it.
169. The Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan in 1979 to support an unpopular Communist government in Afghanistan. The Mujahidin formed. The Mujahidin consisted of individuals opposed to communism and in favor of Muslim traditions. The Mujahidin fought the Soviets. The Soviets had to withdraw from Afghanistan.

170. Mikhail Gorbachev (1985 – 1991) was a communist leader of the Soviet Union. He tried to reform the communist system to increase productivity. His policies were known as perestroika and glasnost. Perestroika was economic restructuring and allowed some free market elements in the Soviet Union. Glasnost was openness and allowed some free speech. These reforms ultimately led to the collapse of the Soviet Union as Soviets demanded an entirely new system.

Southeast Asia, Central Asia, and Korea:

171. Southeast Asia includes countries such as Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, Indonesia, the Philippines, etc. Indonesia and the Philippines are archipelagos or series of islands. Southeast Asian countries are located “between” India and China. A number of important trade routes intersected in Southeast Asia. Due to trade routes, cultural diffusion occurred as Buddhism and Islam entered the region.
172. Many Southeast Asian countries were conquered during the European Age of Imperialism. Southeast Asia had valuable natural resources like rubber. The Europeans initially conquered parts of Southeast Asia but the Japanese conquered the region during World War II. The Japanese occupation of Southeast Asia was brutal during the Second World War.
173. Vietnam was partitioned at independence from the French (1954). North Vietnam had a communist government and South Vietnam had a non-communist dictatorship. The leader of North Vietnam was Ho Chi Minh. Ho Chi Minh was also the nationalist leader of Vietnam and had led the Vietnamese people to independence from France. A vote was scheduled to unite the two countries but the vote was never held. In South Vietnam, a civil war developed between supporters of the non-communist government and the Viet Cong, supporters of unification with the communist north. The United States sent soldiers to South Vietnam to contain the spread of communism. But by 1975, South Vietnam had fallen to communism. Vietnam was reunited as a communist Vietnam.
174. Cambodia, a country located near Vietnam, was affected by the Vietnam War. U.S. bombing of Cambodia destabilized the government and a communist group known as the Khmer Rouge came to power in 1975. The Khmer Rouge soldiers were led by Pol Pot. Pol Pot and the Khmer Rouge wanted to return the country to the year zero. They did not want any foreign or modern influences. People were forced to leave the cities and genocide was committed. Any Cambodian accused of having been influenced by foreign, western ways was killed. The country was known as the killing fields during this period (1975-1979). Eventually, the Vietnamese army invaded Cambodia due to long-standing ethnic tensions and Pol Pot went into hiding. He died before he was ever brought to justice.
175. The Mongols (1200s – 1400s) were pastoral nomads from the Central Asian steppes. Genghis Khan was a Mongol who united the Mongol tribes. Once united, the Mongols conquered a vast empire. The Mongols had several advantages – among them, superior horseback riding skills. The Mongol Empire eventually stretched from the Pacific Ocean to the Black Sea. The Mongols conquered China, Russia, and Persia but they never conquered Japan. The Mongols isolated Russia from the rest of Western Europe and established a Mongol dynasty in China, the Yuan dynasty.

176. The Mongol dynasty in China was called the Yuan dynasty (1271-1368). Kublai Khan was an important emperor of the Yuan dynasty. Kublai Khan claimed the Mandate of Heaven. Kublai Khan rebuilt the Chinese economy and respected Chinese culture. But he did not use the examination system to select candidates for government service. Only Mongols and foreigners could serve in government.
177. The Mongol dynasty in China, the Yuan dynasty, established peace and security on the Silk Roads. During the Pax Mongolia, a time of peace and prosperity in the Mongol Empire, trade on the Silk Roads flourished. Cultural diffusion increased but also the transmission of disease. The Black Death spread on the Silk Roads.
178. Korea is a peninsula located in East Asia. Korea is located between China and Japan. Korea served as a “cultural bridge” between China and Japan. Many Chinese ideas traveled to Korea and to Japan. Korea’s location has made Korea vulnerable to invasion.
179. During the Second World War (1939 – 1945), Korea was invaded by the Japanese for its valuable natural resources and location. Koreans suffered under this occupation.
180. After WWII ended, Korea was divided. North Korea had been occupied by the Soviet Union at the end of the war and adopted communism. South Korea had been occupied by the U.S.A. at the end of the war and adopted a non-communist system. Korea was divided at the 38th parallel.
181. In 1950, North Korean troops invaded South Korea. This was the first significant armed conflict of the Cold War. American soldiers were sent to South Korea to help the South Korean army. In 1953, the Korean War ended. The 38th parallel was restored as the dividing line between the two nations.
182. Kim Il Sung (r. 1945 – 1994) was North Korea’s first communist dictator. Kim Jong Il, his son, followed as dictator. The North Korean government adheres to a strict command economy. The government is also interested in developing nuclear weapons. North Korea is a communist nation.

Europe (Primarily Western Europe)

183. Greece is a mountainous land. The mountains separated the ancient Greek city-states. Greece also consists of a peninsula and islands. The ancient Greeks used the seas to trade.
184. Athens and Sparta were two significant ancient Greek city-states. In Athens, direct democracy was created. In a democracy, citizens vote and participate in government. But in Athens, only free men born in Athens voted. Women, slaves, and foreigners could not vote. Sparta was a militaristic city-state. The Spartans relied on helots or Spartan slaves to farm. The Spartans left sick babies to die. All Spartans needed to be strong. The possibility of slave rebellion was always present.
185. Athens experienced a golden age (500s B.C.E.). Great ideas and philosophies developed. Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle were important Greek philosophers. Columns were used in architecture. Comedies and dramas were written. Many of these ideas still influence people today.
186. When the Persian Empire threatened the Greek city-states, the Greek city-states united and formed an alliance. After the Greek victory, the alliance

eventually began to fall apart. As conflict between the Greek city-states intensified, war between the city-states (431 – 404 B.C.E.) developed. An alliance led by Sparta defeated the Athenian alliance. The war had left the Greek city-states weakened, paving the way for Alexander the Great's conquest.

187. Alexander the Great (356 – 323 B.C.E.) was a Macedonian (Macedonia was north of Greece) leader but heavily influenced by Greek culture (Aristotle was his tutor). Alexander conquered a vast empire from the Eastern Mediterranean to the Indus River. Though the empire was divided at his death, Alexander's armies spread Hellenism or a Greek-like culture.
188. The Roman republic (509 B.C.E. – 27 B.C.E.) was centered on the Italian peninsula. In a republic, citizens vote for representatives. During the republican period of Rome, Rome began to conquer lands around the Mediterranean Sea. As Rome conquered more land, the republic was threatened with the rise of powerful generals and an increasing divide between the rich and poor. Eventually, the republic fell. Emperors began to rule. However, during the Republican period, the Romans did develop the Twelve Tables or Rome's written laws. These laws included ideas like innocence until proven guilty and equality before the law. These laws still influence many modern law codes today. And of course, the Romans, like the Han, developed extensive trade networks.
189. While the Romans initially persecuted Christians, the Emperor Constantine (c. 274 – 337) eventually converted to Christianity. Christianity is a religion based on monotheism, ethical conduct, and the divinity of Jesus. Christianity was influenced by Judaism.
190. The Roman Empire (27 B.C.E. – 476 A.D. / C.E.) covered much of Western Europe, North Africa, and the Middle East (Southwest Asia). During the Pax Romana from the reign of Augustus Caesar to the reign of Marcus Aurelius, the Romans experienced a golden age. However, over time, problems developed that led to the collapse of the Western Roman Empire. Barbarian invasions, corrupt emperors, and high taxes were factors in the fall of the Western Roman Empire. The Western Roman Empire fell in 476 C.E. However, the Romans left a lasting legacy from ideas about government (the concept of a republic) and law (the Twelve Tables and its "innocence until proven guilty" clause) to language (many languages are Latin languages) and engineering/architecture.
191. While the Roman Empire fell in the West, it survived in the East. The Eastern Roman Empire after the fall of Rome is known as the Byzantine Empire.
192. The Byzantine Empire (330 – 1453 C.E.) had many accomplishments and achievements. The Byzantines preserved Greek and Roman learning. Byzantine missionaries brought the Orthodox Christian religion to Russia as well as the Cyrillic alphabet. The Byzantines built a beautiful cathedral known as the Hagia Sophia. Emperor Justinian (r. 527 – 565) was a significant Byzantine emperor. He ordered the collection of all Roman written laws into a law code known as the Code of Justinian. The capital of the Byzantine Empire was Constantinople. Constantinople had a great location between Europe and Asia. Trade flourished in the Byzantine Empire. But with the rise of Islam, the Byzantines began to lose land to Muslim Empires. Although the empire lasted one thousand years, it fell in 1453 when the Ottomans captured Constantinople. The city was renamed Istanbul. Yet

the Byzantine preservation of Greek and Roman learning would help revitalize Western Europe.

193. When the Roman Empire fell in the West, Europe entered the Middle Ages. The Medieval (476 – 1453) period lasted for one thousand years. The early Middle Ages was a dangerous time as invasions continued. People needed protection. A system of feudalism developed where lords offered peasants protection on their manors. Many peasants became serfs. Serfs were bound to their lords' land. In other words, a serf could not leave his lord's land. A serf farmed for his lord and in return a lord protected a serf. In addition, kings and lords exchanged land in exchange for soldiers. In fact, the definition of feudalism is an exchange of land for military service. As time passed, the Middle Ages became less dangerous. However, the feudal system continued for many years.
194. In the Medieval period, the Roman Catholic Church was very powerful. Most people in Western Europe were Roman Catholics. The church received taxes or tithes and owned land. Over time, the Church ordered the construction of cathedrals. Gothic architecture became important.
195. In 1095, the Roman Catholic Pope ordered a Crusade or holy war. From 1096 to 1291, Christians engaged in a number of holy wars with Muslims over control of Jerusalem and the holy land. Many historians consider the Crusades "Successful Failures" for the Christians. While the Christians never regained full control of the holy land, they did receive many ideas and goods from their interactions with Muslims. It is important to remember that the Muslims had experienced a golden age. Christian crusaders learned new ideas and discovered new products from the Muslims. Cultural diffusion increased as a result of the Crusades.
196. In England in 1215, the Magna Carta was signed. The Magna Carta was a document that in theory, limited the power of the king. Over time, the king's power was limited even more in England.
197. The Black Death entered Western Europe in 1347. The Black Death was formally known as the Bubonic Plague. The Black Death entered Western Europe on trade routes, particularly Silk Road trade routes. The Mongols had created peace and stability on the Silk Roads during the Pax Mongolia, thus increasing trade. In fact, Marco Polo had traveled the Silk Roads. Of course, as trade increased, so, too, did cultural diffusion as well as the spread of disease. The plague killed one-third of Europe's population.
198. The Black Death greatly weakened the feudal system. Of course, it was not only the Black Death that weakened the feudal system. As a result of the Crusades, trade had increased in Western Europe and cities had grown. But the Black Death had created significant labor shortages. Labor shortages led to greater opportunities for surviving serfs and ultimately, freedom from serfdom.
199. With significant transformations occurring in Western Europe, the Renaissance (1350) occurred. Renaissance is the French word for "rebirth". During the Renaissance, intellectuals rediscovered the ideas of the classical Greek and Roman thinkers. New ideas like humanism and secularism developed. Humanism was the belief in the inherent worth and ability of humans (the importance of the individual). Secularism was an emphasis on nonreligious thought

or thought that is not religious in perspective. The Renaissance was also a period of great creativity in the arts as artists like Michelangelo and Leonardo da Vinci created beautiful works of art. Machiavelli was an important philosopher during the Renaissance. Machiavelli once wrote, ". . . I conclude, therefore, with regard to being feared and loved, that men love at their own free will, but fear at the will of the prince, and that a wise prince must rely on what is in his power and not on what is in the power of others, and he must only contrive to avoid incurring hatred, as has been explained. . . ." Machiavelli believed that kings needed to do whatever was necessary to maintain power. He believed that the ends justified the means or that the actions a person takes are considered acceptable if these actions produce the desired end results.

200. The Renaissance, which began in the Italian city-states due to location and resulting prosperity from Mediterranean trade, through its emphasis on secularism, encouraged scientific thinking. The Scientific Revolution (1500s) marked a new way of thinking. During the Scientific Revolution, the scientific method developed. In this method, a hypothesis is tested and observation and experimentation are used to determine facts. Great scientists of this era included Nicolaus Copernicus, Galileo Galilei, and Sir Isaac Newton. Copernicus supported the heliocentric model or the idea that the sun is the center of the universe and the planets revolve around the sun. The Roman Catholic Church did not support this conclusion. The Church maintained a geocentric position or the idea that the earth was the center of the universe. Galileo supported the Copernican or heliocentric model. Galileo even built a telescope to prove Copernicus' theory. The Roman Catholic Church ordered Galileo brought before the Inquisition or Catholic Court. Galileo was forced to recant. Newton discovered the Universal Law of Gravitation. Modern science was born in the Scientific Revolution.
201. During the Protestant Reformation (1500s), Martin Luther and other reformers challenged the authority of the Roman Catholic Church. Martin Luther was a Catholic theologian. After reading the Bible many times, Martin Luther concluded that the Roman Catholic Church was in error. In particular, Martin Luther was opposed to the Church's selling of indulgences. Indulgences were pardons from sins. Luther believed that only God could forgive a person's sins. Luther also believed that only God could save a person's soul. Luther came to believe in faith alone or the idea that a person's faith in God was essential for salvation. In order to make known his protests, Luther wrote the Ninety-five Theses (1517). In his Ninety-five Theses, Luther made known his criticisms of the Roman Catholic Church. Church officials demanded that Luther recant. Luther refused and was excommunicated. German princes protected Luther and Luther formed his own church. Another Protestant reformer was John Calvin.
202. Johan Gutenberg's printing press (1450) helped spread the ideas of Protestant reformers. The printing press allowed for increased production of books. Of course, as books were produced cheaper and faster, prices for books fell.
203. The Protestant Reformation weakened the Roman Catholic Church as new Christian churches developed. The Catholic Church responded with the Catholic Counter-Reformation. During the Counter-Reformation, church officials met at the Council of Trent (1545 – 1563). Church officials agreed to stop selling indulgences

and established the Inquisition, a court to punish heretics. The Society of Jesus (Jesuits) was formed to help spread the Catholic faith.

204. The Reformation and the Scientific Revolution transformed Western European society as did the end of feudalism and the rise of absolute monarchs. With the demise of feudalism, nation-states emerged. These new states often were led by powerful kings. It is important to remember that many factors contributed to the end of feudalism, such as increased trade and the rise of cities and towns, the impact of the Black Death, and the increased power of kings. Absolutism emerged. Absolutism is a system of government with an all-powerful monarch. The king has complete power and authority. As Louis XIV (r. 1643 – 1715), a powerful monarch of France once said, “L'état, c'est moi” or “The state is me.”
205. Divine Right Theory was the idea that the monarch's power came from God. As James I stated, A DEO REX, A REGE LEX —“the king is from God, and law is from the king.” Or as Jacques-Benigne Bossuet, a French bishop, once said, “You have seen a great nation united under one man: you have seen his sacred power, paternal and absolute: you have seen that secret reason which directs the body politic, enclosed in one head: you have seen the image of God in kings, and you will have the idea of majesty of kingship.”
206. The Age of Exploration radically altered Europe's relationships with the rest of the world. As Europeans discovered all-water routes to Asia, Europeans also began to claim land. With the arrival of Christopher Columbus in the Americas in 1492 and Vasco da Gama's successful all-water route to India in 1498, Europeans were able to trade directly with foreign empires and even to conquer certain foreign lands. Exploration had been encouraged by Prince Henry the Navigator in Portugal and while Portugal and Spain led exploration due to their location on the Atlantic coast, other nations quickly followed. Navigational instruments, like the compass and the astrolabe, helped European navigators. Of course, the compass had arrived in Europe through diffusion from China. Nonetheless, with new trade routes came new interactions.
207. The arrival of the Europeans in the Americas completely transformed the Americas. After the arrival of Columbus, the conquistadors arrived. Conquistadors like Hernán Cortés (1519) and Francisco Pizarro (1532) came to the Americas for “God, Glory, and Gold”. Cortés conquered the Aztecs and Pizarro conquered the Incas. For the Native American Indians, the arrival of the Europeans greatly altered their realities. Many Native American Indians died from smallpox and other diseases the Europeans unknowingly carried to the Americas. Having no immunities to these diseases, the Native American Indians died in great numbers. Those who survived often lost control of their land and even their labor. The Spanish colonial hierarchy favored individuals born in Spain, peninsulares, and enslaved Native American Indians in the encomienda system. Eventually, Portugal claimed Brazil and even the British, French, and Dutch claimed some lands in the Caribbean and North America.
208. The encomienda system was a system of forced Indian labor or Indian slavery. A Catholic priest, Bartolomé de las Casas (1484 – 1566), protested against the encomienda system and the mistreatment of Native American Indians.

209. Europeans turned to Africans to replace a dying Native American Indian population in the Americas. The Atlantic Slave Trade (1500s – 1800s) developed. Europeans purchased African slaves from African traders and brought African slaves to the Americas under horrendous conditions. Triangular trade also developed as slaves were sent to the Americas from Africa, resources were sent from the Americas to Europe, and goods were sent from Europe to Africa. While geographic factors hindered European contact with the African interior, Europeans greatly benefitted from the Atlantic Slave Trade at the expense of Africans.
210. The Columbian Exchange or the cultural diffusion that resulted from European contact with the Americas had a tremendous impact not just on the Americas but on Europe and Asia. New crops from the Americas like potatoes, peanuts, and corn were brought to Europe and Asia. These new crops led to population explosions as these crops were easy to plant and high in caloric content.
211. With the arrival of the Europeans came a new economic theory known as mercantilism. Mercantilism was the belief that colonies must benefit the mother country. Colonies exported valuable natural resources or raw materials to the mother country and colonies were expected to import more expensive finished goods from the mother country. Mother countries became increasingly wealthy while colonies lost wealth.
212. In addition to the new economic theory of mercantilism, another economic system developed known as capitalism. Capitalism has its roots in the Commercial Revolution. And the Commercial Revolution had its roots in the expansion of trade during the late Middle Ages and the end of feudalism. With increased trade came new ideas about commerce, business, and trade. Some of these new ideas included mercantilism and capitalism. Other ideas included guilds. Guilds were trade associations of craft workers and merchants. Guilds set standards on prices and quality of goods. Capitalism was based on trade and capital or money for investments. Capitalism is an economic system based on private ownership of property, business and industry. Capitalism consists of the free market. In a free market, individuals are free to buy and sell without government interference. Another fact to consider about the Commercial Revolution is that as early as the middle of the 12th century, German and Scandinavian merchants banded together to establish rules for trading in the Baltic Sea. These merchants also ensured that ports were safe. The Hanseatic League is the organization that these merchants founded. The League became powerful in the 14th century.
213. With increased trade came new ideas about business organizations. Joint-stock companies were formed. In a joint-stock company, capital or money is raised through many investors. Each investor owns a stock or partial share in the company. Rather than one owner, there are many owners with each owner owing a different percentage of the company. This allows for risk to be shared by many as opposed to one. Banks were also established. Banks loaned money to individuals with the expectation that the loaned money would be repaid. By loaning money, banks increased the capital that individuals had.
214. In England, the English Civil War (began in 1642) and the Glorious Revolution (1688) led to a further limiting of the monarch's power. As the king's power was limited, Parliament or England's legislative body increased in power.

215. Adam Smith was the philosopher who first explained the new economic system of the free market. In 1776, Adam Smith published *The Wealth of Nations*. In *The Wealth of Nations*, Adam Smith explained how a free market functioned as well as the benefits a free market provided. Smith explained how supply and demand interact to determine price. He also explained how the market ultimately fixed itself. If there were no suppliers of bread but people had a demand for bread, eventually suppliers, seeing the opportunity to profit, would enter the market. Due to the Invisible Hand or the ability of the market to fix itself, Adam Smith believed that governments should not intervene in markets. This principle that a government should not intervene or interfere with the free market is known as Laissez-faire. Laissez-faire is a French term that essentially translates as “let things alone” or “let them [business] do as they please”.
216. With so many changes occurring in European society, from the Renaissance and Scientific Revolution to the Commercial Revolution and Colonization, philosophers began to ask questions regarding government. Which system of government would truly benefit the majority of people? In the 1700s, philosophers of the Enlightenment professed to know the answer to that question. The Enlightenment was also known as the Age of Reason for reason or logical thinking was now being applied to political systems and governments. Many important Enlightenment thinkers were French such as Montesquieu, Voltaire, and Rousseau. Montesquieu believed in the separation of powers or the idea that political power must be divided for if one person, say a powerful monarch, had complete power, he could do great harm to the citizens of the nation. Too much power, according to Montesquieu, was a dangerous thing. As such, according to Montesquieu, power should be separated or divided. There should be executive, legislative, and judicial branches of government. Each branch would then possess a different responsibility and thereby a system of checks and balances in government would develop – with each branch checking the power of and balancing the power of the other branches. Voltaire believed in religious toleration and individual freedoms. Rousseau wrote of the Social Contract and the consent of the governed or the idea that the government’s power came directly from the people. Consent of the governed as clearly antithetical or directly opposed to Divine Right Theory. Finally, an earlier British philosopher, John Locke was considered a very important Enlightenment thinker. Locke believed in natural rights or rights that every individual was entitled to. Natural Rights, according to Locke, included the right to life, the right to liberty, and the right to property.
217. Clearly, the ideas of the Enlightenment influenced the American Revolution (1775 – 1783) or the American War for Independence. The American Constitution is an Enlightenment document with its ideas of rights, separation of powers, and religious freedom. Indeed, the French king supported the American revolutionaries, not because he believed in such freedoms but in an attempt to weaken France’s rival, Britain. But those French who fought in the American Revolution returned home with some new ideas about the feasibility or possibility of creating a new government in France.
218. The French Revolution was an important event in European history. The French Revolution began in 1789 when King Louis XVI called a meeting of the

Estates General because the French government was nearly bankrupt and the king needed more revenue or income. The Estates General was an assembly representing the three estates or social classes of France. The First Estate was the clergy (people ordained for religious duties) and it consisted of approximately 1% of the population of France. The Second Estate was the nobility and it consisted of less than 2% of the population of France. The Third Estate was everyone else and it consisted of approximately 97% of the population. The Third Estate paid the majority of taxes and had the least privileges. This inequality in taxation was a major cause of the French Revolution. In any event, when the king called a meeting of the Estates General, representatives of the Third Estate quickly broke away from the meeting and formed their own National Assembly. The National Assembly then declared France a constitutional monarchy and issued the Declaration of the Rights of Man and of Citizen. This document limited the power of the king and granted all Frenchmen equality before the law.

219. When France was attacked by foreign powers for its revolutionary fervor, leading revolutionaries became more violent. The Reign of Terror had begun. A primary architect of the Reign of Terror was Maximilien Robespierre. During the Reign of Terror, individuals suspected of being enemies of the Revolution were executed. The guillotine became the symbol of the Reign of Terror as many heads were chopped off. The Reign of Terror began after the execution of King Louis XVI and with the execution of Marie Antoinette. The king and queen had been accused of being enemies of the revolution by summoning aid from foreign monarchs (and in some cases, actual relatives of the king and queen). During the Reign of Terror, the Committee for Public Safety assumed virtual dictatorial control of France. Eventually, the French people tired of the execution and Robespierre, the architect of the Terror, was executed.
220. After the Reign of Terror, another government formed but it was weak. So, the famous French general, Napoleon Bonaparte (r. 1799 – 1814), came to power. Although Napoleon restored order and political stability, France was not a republic anymore. Rather France now had a dictator. However, Napoleon kept some ideals of the revolution. In his Napoleonic Code or the Code of Napoleon, French men were equal before the law. Napoleon also went to war against France's enemies and conquered or controlled much of Europe. However, when Russia refused to adhere to Napoleon's rule, French troops invaded Russia. But the harsh Russian winter soon defeated Napoleon's troops and shortly afterwards, Napoleon was captured by his enemies, escaped, fought again, and was captured again where he died in prison. However, the French Revolution had radically altered Europe with its new ideas about equality, consent of the governed, and yes, nationalism. Indeed the French Revolution encouraged nationalism. It is important to remember that the ideals of the Revolution were summarized in the words: liberté, égalité, and fraternité or liberty, equality, and fraternity. Fraternity or a group of people organized for a common purpose promoted nationalism. The French were united in their pursuit of Revolution and in the defense of the Revolution.
221. After the defeat of Napoleon, European leaders met to restore the old regimes to power and to restore the map of pre-Napoleonic Europe. At the Congress of Vienna (1814 – 1815), under the leadership of the Austrian Prince

Metternich, European leaders sought to undo the changes wrought by the French Revolution. Aside from the very important idea of restoring the old ways of life to Europe, Prince Metternich also sought to establish a balance of power among the European nations. This idea of a balance of power meant that no one nation would be so powerful as to give rise to another Napoleonic Empire in Europe.

222. The French Revolution also greatly affected events in Latin America. Due to the influence of the American and French Revolutions, Latin Americans fought for and gained independence in the early 1800s. Toussaint L'Ouverture, Simón Bolívar, and José de San Martín were important leaders of Latin American independence movements.

223. The rise of nationalism, an effect of the French Revolution, also led to the unification of Italy and Germany. Nationalism is the belief in loyalty and devotion to the nation. Prior to the unification of Italy and Germany, the Italian peninsula and the German lands consisted of many independent kingdoms, sharing a common culture but not united. Due to the efforts of Count Camillo di Cavour and Giuseppe Garibaldi, the Italian states were united by 1870. Giuseppe Garibaldi organized an army known as the Red Shirts and Cavour, the Prime Minister of Piedmont-Sardinia, worked diplomatically and militarily. German unification was led by Prussia, a powerful German state. Otto von Bismarck, Prime Minister of Prussia, was a leading figure in German unification. Bismarck's famous words of "Blood and Iron" summarized his method for unification. Through a series of wars, German unification was achieved in 1871.

224. Since Italy and Germany had achieved unification later than most nations in Western Europe, Italy and Germany conquered lands during the Age of Imperialism later than the other Western European nations. Of course, before students can discuss the Age of Imperialism, it is important to return to an earlier transformation in Western Europe, the Industrial Revolution.

225. The Industrial Revolution began in England in the mid-1700s. The Industrial Revolution first began in the textile industry. During the Industrial Revolution, machines were used to make goods. Prior to the Industrial Revolution, goods were made by hand at home in the cottage or domestic system. With the Industrial Revolution, the factory system was used. The Industrial Revolution occurred first in England for a variety of reasons. England had coal and iron, ports and rivers, and of course, capital or money. Another factor that made industrialization possible in England was the Agricultural Revolution. During the Agricultural Revolution, farming became more efficient in England. No fields were left fallow or empty anymore as had been the case with the three-field system of the Middle Ages. During the Agricultural Revolution, it was discovered clover and turnips could be planted in the once fallow fields to replenish the soil. The Enclosure Act enclosed or fenced in fields increasing profitability for farmers. As farming became more efficient, more workers were available for factory work.

226. The Industrial Revolution had many effects on England and eventually, the rest of Western Europe as industrialization spread. Industrialization increased the number of goods available as more goods were produced faster and thus sold at cheaper prices. Industrialization also eventually increased the standard of living and led to the growth of the middle class. And of course, industrialization

encouraged urbanization or the growth of cities as workers moved to cities to work in factories. Yes, with new machines, and frequently large machines, came factories. Some important inventions during the early Industrial Revolution were the spinning jenny and of course, the steam engine.

227. Of course, the early Industrial Revolution was a period of great change. As workers moved to cities (urbanization), cities were often ill-prepared for the arrival of so many new people. Cities were often overcrowded and dirty due to the lack of sanitation and the rise in the number of slums. Workers also often worked long hours for low wages. Workers frequently worked on machines that were dangerous and in factories that were poorly ventilated. The early years of the Industrial Revolution were years of great suffering for some and great riches for others.

228. A number of philosophers and writers confronted the enormous shifts that were occurring during the early Industrial Revolution. As industrialization spread throughout Western Europe, so, too, did new ideas about how society should be structured. Indeed one of the most controversial philosophers of this period was Karl Marx. In 1848, Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels wrote *The Communist Manifesto*. In the manifesto, Marx argued that workers were exploited or used in an unfair way by their bosses. Marx also argued that since workers actually made the products, profits from the sale of products should belong to workers. Marx encouraged workers to unite and overthrow their bosses through violent revolution. Marx referred to workers as the proletariat.

229. Once workers united and overthrew their bosses, Marx envisioned a society in which complete equality existed. In this communist society, there would be no rich or poor but economic equality where wealth was shared by all equally. With a dictatorship of the proletariat (workers), the government would ensure that economic equality existed. All private property would be abolished and the Communist dictatorship would control all property for the benefit of the workers. A command economy (sometimes referred to as a centrally planned economy) would exist. In a command economy, government officials would make all economic decisions. Freedoms would be limited but equality would reign. Of course, Marx's theory often led in reality to states with tremendous power and individuals with no power. The first nation to experience a communist revolution was Russia in 1917. Marx had died long before the Bolshevik Revolution and would have been surprised that Russia was the first country to experience a communist revolution. Marx had believed that only a highly industrialized society could experience a communist revolution.

230. Of course, fully industrialized nations did not experience communist revolutions, primarily due to reform movements within the nations. Reform movements led to higher wages and limits on the numbers of hours workers could work. Unions or organizations of workers were also formed. By uniting, workers were able to gain more rights in the workplace. Governments also abolished child labor and of course, in general, industrialization led to a higher standard of living. In industrialized societies, Marxism or Communism had little appeal. Rather in poor nations, Communism held greater appeal.

231. It should also not be forgotten that a terrible famine occurred in Ireland in 1845. When a disease destroyed the potato crop (a crop introduced to Europe

during the Columbian Exchange), many Irish died. Many Irish had depended on the potato to feed their families. Approximately one million Irish died during the Irish Potato Famine and another one million left Ireland. Many Irish immigrants arrived in the United States of America.

232. As industrialization spread in Western Europe, so, too, did the demand for colonies. During the Age of Imperialism (1800s – mid-1900s), many European countries conquered land in Asia and Africa. With the Industrial Revolution came an increased demand for natural resources for factories. During the Age of Imperialism, stronger countries conquered weaker lands and gained control of their natural resources. These natural resources were then sent to European nations and ultimately, European factories. The Age of Imperialism greatly benefitted Europe as European nations gained cheap natural resources and made more expensive finished goods for sale and export.
233. Of course, from the start of Imperialism, conquered people tried to resist their colonial masters. The Sepoy Rebellion (Sepoy Mutiny) in India in 1857-1858 and the Boxer Rebellion in China (discussed previously) in 1900 were challenges against foreign control.
234. In 1884-1885, representatives from European nations met in Berlin to discuss the conquest and subsequent division of Africa. At the Berlin Conference, Europeans established rules for the conquest of Africa. This led to the Scramble for Africa where Europeans raced to conquer as much land as possible in Africa. The Europeans conquered African lands later than other lands because Africa's geographic factors as well as diseases like Malaria and Yellow Fever had prevented European conquerors from arriving in the African interior. But with new technologies, the Europeans were able to penetrate the African interior and conquer much of Africa.
235. In China, after the Opium Wars (1839 – 1842/First Opium War), Europeans established spheres of influence or controlled important ports and trading cities in China. When the Americans under Commodore Perry opened Japan, Japan's policy of isolationism ended and refueling stations for foreign ships were opened in Japan. And of course, India was Britain's "jewel in the crown."
236. As the years passed, four factors began to impact relations between European nations. These factors were Militarism, Alliances, Imperialism, and Nationalism (MAIN). These factors increased tensions between European nations. Militarism refers to the belief that a nation should have a strong military capability and the nation's military is exalted or in high regard. The Alliance System refers to the alliances that European nations formed to maintain a balance of power. Alliances increased tensions as nations sometimes felt confident taking risks in war or battle knowing that allies existed to help in times of need. Imperialism or the conquest by strong nations of weaker lands encouraged nations to gain new territories. This scramble for colonies often led to two or more European nations competing over the same piece of land. And of course, nationalism increased tensions as every nation considered its culture or nation the best and considered every other culture or nation as inferior. Eventually, these factors exploded into the First World War (1914 – 1918).

237. While militarism, alliances, imperialism, and nationalism increased tensions among European nations, there was a “spark” that started the actual war. On June 28, 1914, the heir to the Austro-Hungarian throne, Archduke Franz Ferdinand, was assassinated by a Serbian nationalist. The Austro-Hungarian Empire was a multinational empire and many groups within the empire wanted their own nation-states. The assassination quickly triggered the alliance system as one nation after the next joined the conflict. A world war ensued.
238. During the First World War, there were two alliances known as the Central Powers and the Allies. The Central Powers consisted primarily of Germany, Austria-Hungary, and the Ottoman Empire. Prior to the war, this alliance had been known as the Triple Alliance and consisted of Germany, Austria-Hungary, and Italy but Italy decided to remain neutral at the start of the war and eventually joined the Allies during the war. The Allies, an alliance that grew from the Triple Entente, initially consisted of Britain, France, and Russia. However, Italy eventually joined this alliance and Russia eventually left the alliance as Lenin promised an end to Russia’s involvement in the War. It is important to remember that Russia experienced a Communist or Bolshevik Revolution during the First World War. And of course, the United States eventually joined the Allies.
239. On the Western Front, soldiers experienced trench warfare as a stalemate ensued. On the Eastern Front, the Central Powers experienced many victories as Russia was not fully industrialized and ill-prepared for war.
240. New military technologies were used in First World War. Poison gas, tanks, and planes were used as well as machines guns, which had been used earlier, but greatly impacted the loss of the life on the front.
241. Eventually, the Allies won the First World War and treaties were signed. The most significant treaty was the Treaty of Versailles (1919) which ended Germany’s involvement in the war. The Treaty of Versailles was very harsh and included a “war guilt” clause that blamed Germany for starting the First World War, required Germany to pay reparations to the Allies, and led to the loss of German colonies overseas. The Germans had surrendered believing that they would be signing a treaty similar to Wilson’s ideals in his Fourteen Points, ideals that included principles like self-determination and respect for independent nations. However, France and Britain sought revenge. Ultimately, the Treaty of Versailles created more problems than it solved.
242. During the First World War, in order to increase Jewish support for the war in Britain, the British issued the Balfour Declaration (1917). The Balfour Declaration was a formal statement of British support for the creation of a Jewish homeland in Palestine. Earlier, thinkers like Theodore Herzl, formulated Zionism, a political movement dedicated to the creation of a Jewish state.
243. Between the First World War and the Second World War, Europe experienced a Great Depression (1929). The Depression began in the United States but quickly spread to other countries. During the Depression, many people were unemployed and countries like Germany also experienced rising prices or inflation. The Depression along with disappointment by many individuals over the peace terms agreed upon at the Paris Peace Conference in 1919 led to the rise of extremist philosophies, particularly philosophies like Fascism.

244. The League of Nations was formed after the First World War as an international peacekeeping organization but the League of Nations was unable to prevent war. It lacked a military force and was unable to prevent Japan or Germany from engaging in militarily aggressive acts such as conquering lands.
245. Benito Mussolini (r. 1922 – 1943) became the Fascist dictator of Italy. Fascism is a political philosophy that emphasizes extreme nationalism, militarism, and the importance of the state over the individual.
246. Adolf Hitler (r. 1933 – 1945) became the Nazi dictator of Germany. The Nazi Party was a Fascist Party but it was also Anti-Semitic or hostility toward or discrimination against Jews. The Anti-Semitism of the Nazi party led to the Nuremberg Laws and ultimately, the Holocaust. The Nuremberg Laws denied Jews of their citizenship rights in Germany and the Holocaust was the destruction or mass murder of six million Jews.
247. Prior to the Second World War, Adolf Hitler violated a number of provisions in the Treaty of Versailles. Hitler invaded the Rhineland (1936), annexed Austria (1938), and invaded the Sudetenland (1938), a German-speaking land in Czechoslovakia. Rather than prevent Hitler from taking these lands, Britain and France gave in to the demands of Hitler. This policy of giving in to the demands of an aggressor is known as appeasement. Of course, the policy of appeasement failed. With each demand granted, Hitler only wanted more.
248. World War II began on September 1, 1939 when Hitler invaded Poland. At the Munich Conference, Hitler had promised that in return for the Sudetenland, he would not conquer anymore land. When Hitler invaded Poland, he clearly violated his promise and the Second World War began.
249. Poland had historically been “easy” to invade due to a lack of natural barriers.
250. During World War II, the Axis Powers consisted of Germany, Italy, and Japan. The Allies would eventually consist of Britain, the United States, and the Soviet Union. Initially, Hitler had a nonaggression pact with the Soviets but eventually invaded Stalin’s Soviet Union. The Soviets then joined the Allies. Initially, the United States was neutral but the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor changed that.
251. The Second World War (1939 – 1945) was the world’s deadliest conflict. The Soviets alone lost 20 million. With the end of the Second World War and after an Allied victory, a new conflict developed. This conflict was known as the Cold War. During the Cold War, some European countries were Soviet satellite nations (under the control of the Soviet Union) while Western European nations were democracies.
252. Europe was divided during the Cold War. In particular, Germany was divided into two nations during the Cold War: West Germany and East Germany. The city of Berlin which was located in East Germany was divided into West Berlin and East Berlin. Shortly after World War II, the Soviets blockaded the roads leading into West Berlin. An Allied airlift (1948 – 1949) dropped supplies into the city of West Berlin to ensure that West Berlin did not fall to communism.
253. The domino theory and the U.S. policy of containment or stopping the spread of communism impacted Western Europe. After World War II, the United States offered billions of dollars in aid to help rebuild Western Europe. This aid package was known as the Marshall Plan. The U.S. believed that by rebuilding Western Europe, communism would be less appealing.

254. The United Nations was created at the end of the Second World War as a peacekeeping organization.
255. The Maastricht Treaty, signed in 1992, created the European Union. The European Union emerged from earlier efforts such as the European Economic Community to increase economic and political cooperation among European nations. Free trade among member nations, a currency known as the Euro, and a common foreign policy were among some of the features of the European Union.
256. As communism became to collapse in the Soviet Union (1991), Eastern European nations overthrew or removed their communist governments. Today, many former, Soviet satellite nations are seeking membership in the European Union.
257. Europe, like other nations, faces environmental problems that require attention. From global warming or the impact of carbon emissions on the earth's climate to environmental destruction, Europeans must grapple with the problems that face all humans as they interact with history and geography.