

Alpha School

World History

Practice Worksheet

Aligned with Lessons 1-12: first civilizations, classical empires, Silk Road, exploration, revolutions, industrialization, and globalization.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Grade: _____

Score: _____ / _____

1. TIMELINE. Put these in order from earliest to latest: (a) Fall of Rome, (b) First civilizations in Mesopotamia, (c) World War I, (d) Industrial Revolution begins, (e) Silk Road trade peaks, (f) Printing press in Europe.

2. Multiple choice. Early civilizations grew up near rivers MAINLY because rivers provided:

A) Gold B) Water, fertile soil, and transport C) Mountains D) Oil

3. PRIMARY SOURCE. Emperor Ashoka's edicts say: "One should not honor only one's own religion... A person should honor other religions." (a) What policy is Ashoka promoting? (b) Why might a ruler promote this after a brutal conquest?

4. COMPARE. Rome and Han China: name TWO similarities and TWO differences between these classical empires.

5. SILK ROAD. Name **THREE** goods and **THREE** ideas/technologies that traveled along the Silk Road. For **ONE** of them, explain how it changed a society it reached.

6. MAP LABELING (described). On a blank world map, a student must label: the Mediterranean Sea, the Silk Road (China to Constantinople), India, and the Roman Empire at its height. Describe **IN WORDS** where each one goes.

7. EXPLORATION. Explorers' motives are often summed up as "Gold, God, and Glory." Explain **EACH** motive in one sentence.

8. REVOLUTIONS COMPARED. Name **TWO** similarities and **TWO** differences between the American Revolution and the French Revolution.

9. INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION. Name **TWO** causes of the Industrial Revolution and **TWO** effects on ordinary people's lives.

10. IMPERIALISM. Name TWO effects of imperialism on colonized regions. One effect must be negative and one may be positive or mixed.

11. WORLD WAR I. Name THREE causes of World War I and explain each in one sentence.

12. DECOLONIZATION. Name TWO examples of decolonization (country + year) and explain how EACH country gained independence.

13. GLOBALIZATION. Name TWO benefits and TWO challenges of globalization in the world today.

14. PRIMARY SOURCE. Gandhi wrote: "Nonviolence is the greatest force at the disposal of mankind." (a) What strategy is Gandhi describing? (b) Give one example of how it was used in India's independence movement.

15. WOMEN AND CULTURE. Describe ONE way women's roles changed between 1800 and today. Give a specific example.

16. SOURCING. Two sources describe the Silk Road: a merchant's travel diary from 1300, and a modern historian's book. Which is better for what traders actually experienced, and why? Which is better for the Silk Road's long-term effects, and why?

17. Explain in your own words: CAUSATION. How did the printing press help cause the Reformation and the Scientific Revolution? Give one link for each.

18. ESSAY PROMPT. Was the Industrial Revolution more beneficial or more harmful? Write a thesis statement (one sentence taking a side) and list TWO pieces of evidence that support your thesis.

ANSWER KEY -- For Teacher/Parent Use

1. Order: (b) First civilizations c. 3500 BCE, (a) Fall of Rome 476 CE, (e) Silk Road trade peaks (c. 1200s), (f) Printing press 1440s, (d) Industrial Revolution c. 1750s-1800s, (c) World War I 1914.
2. B) Water, fertile soil, and transport.
3. (a) Religious tolerance -- honoring all religions, not only one's own. (b) After the bloody conquest of Kalinga, Ashoka sought peace and unity; tolerance reduced conflict among his empire's many peoples and faiths.
4. Similarities (any two): large bureaucracies, road networks, standing armies, unifying culture/law, trade networks. Differences (any two): Rome relied on conquest and citizenship; Han China relied on Confucian bureaucracy and a shared script; Rome fell apart in the west while China reunified repeatedly; different languages/religions.
5. Goods (any three): silk, spices, porcelain, glass, horses, cotton. Ideas/technologies (any three): Buddhism, paper, gunpowder, compass, printing, algebra. Explanation: any one with a real effect, e.g. gunpowder changed warfare; Buddhism spread across Asia; paper changed record-keeping.
6. Rubric: Mediterranean Sea -- between Europe, North Africa, and the Near East; Silk Road -- overland route from China through Central Asia to Constantinople; India -- the peninsula south of Asia; Roman Empire -- around the Mediterranean, including Italy, Spain, France, Egypt, and Britain.
7. Gold: desire for wealth and valuable trade goods (spices, silver, land). God: desire to spread Christianity / convert peoples. Glory: desire for fame, power, and national prestige for explorers and their kings.
8. Similarities (any two): both challenged kings and old orders; both used Enlightenment ideas; both produced declarations of rights. Differences (any two): the American Revolution kept slavery and property limits; the French Revolution was more radical/violent and overturned the whole social order; France descended into Terror and then Napoleon.
9. Causes (any two): coal and iron, new machines, enclosure of farms pushing workers to cities, capital and trade, Britain's resources. Effects (any two): factory work and long hours, crowded cities, child labor, but also cheaper goods, railways, rising living standards over time.
10. Negative (any): exploitation of resources and labor, loss of land, cultural suppression, arbitrary borders causing later conflict. Positive/mixed (any): railways and schools built, new crops and medicine, spread of languages -- often built to serve the colonizers.
11. Any three with explanations: alliances (entangled promises), militarism/arms race, imperial rivalry, nationalism, the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand (trigger).
12. Any two, e.g.: India 1947 -- largely nonviolent mass movement under Gandhi plus negotiations; Ghana 1957 -- first sub-Saharan African colony to gain independence under Nkrumah; Algeria 1962 -- war of independence against France. Each needs a correct country, year, and method.
13. Benefits (any two): cheaper goods, wider trade, faster communication, cultural exchange, medical advances. Challenges (any two): job competition, inequality, spread of disease, cultural loss, environmental damage, dependence on global supply chains.
14. (a) Nonviolent resistance (satyagraha) -- refusing to cooperate without using violence. (b) Any one: the Salt March (1930), boycotts of British cloth, mass non-cooperation campaigns.
15. Any one well-supported change, e.g.: from mostly home-based work to paid work and professions; from no vote to voting rights in most countries; from limited schooling to university access. Full marks for a specific example and a clear change.

16. The merchant's diary is better for what traders experienced (eyewitness, firsthand). The historian's book is better for long-term effects (hindsight, many sources, patterns across centuries).

17. Rubric: printing spread ideas fast and cheaply. Reformation: Luther's ideas spread beyond the Church's control. Scientific Revolution: scientists could share results, check each other, and build on prior work. One clear link for each.

18. Rubric: clear one-sentence thesis taking a side; two pieces of evidence supporting it. Beneficial evidence: cheaper goods, railways, medicine, rising living standards. Harmful evidence: child labor, pollution, crowded slums, colonial exploitation.