SEVEN ERAS OF WORLD HISTORY:

Core Knowledge for World History 1
Before Humankind
Universe began 13.7 billion years ago.
Milky Way Galaxy
Home of our solar system located in an outer spiral arm called Orion’s Arm
Earth’s solar system
Planet Earth from Space
Life on Earth
Close relatives in human evolutionary path
HUNTER AND GATHERER ERA
200,000 – 10,000 BC
Places in Africa where humans evolved already possessing skills such as tool use, speech use and sociability.
NEOLITHIC ERA
10,000 – 3,500 BC
RISE OF CIVILIZATION
3,500 – 500 BC
World’s first civilization
Early empires evolved out of civilizations bringing permanent standing military units, subjugation of conquered peoples, and central control by imperial classes living in lavish capital cities.
Besides empires, civilizations also brought......
Cities
Monumental Architecture
Metallurgy
A Bracelet from Meroë

Metallurgy
Permanent military forces

China's Terra-Cotta Army
Complex Spiritual Beliefs
Patriarchy
Travels on the Silk Road
CLASSICAL ERA
500 BC – 500 AD

A time of larger empires, accelerating trade, and refinement and deepening of spiritual beliefs.
During the Classical era people sought to deepen their spirituality and reflected on how to better get along with each other. Prior to the Classical Era superstition, in the world’s civilizations, human and animal sacrifice, aggression, violence, warfare, destruction, and cruelty were part of life. In reaction to their realization they could do better, separate civilizations, unbeknownst to the others, founded new belief systems and new religions.
Confucianism in China meant respecting social relationships and family.
Hinduism in the classical era went from a focus on ritual sacrifice to a deepening of philosophical beliefs in Brahman (the oneness of the universe), the individual soul uniting with Brahman (atman), the effort to reach Brahman (moksha), one’s duty (dharma) and one’s fate (karma).
Buddhism fostered the belief that all people are equal and everyone can reach nirvana through practicing the 8-fold path, meditation and yoga.
Greek Rationalism brought a spirit of free inquiry about the truths of the empirical world.
Christianity brought love of neighbor, forgiveness of enemies, and respect for poor, sick and downtrodden.
ERA OF ZONES
OF CULTURAL EXPANSION
500-1500 AD
During this time period, the large civilizations’ cultures greatly influenced neighboring cultures.
• Chinese civilization spread to Japan, Korea, and Vietnam.
• Indian Civilization spread to Southeast Asia,
• Roman Civilization spread to Europe, and
• Islamic Civilization spread from Spain to Indonesia.
Sui, Tang, and Song China (589-1279) restored imperial unity and Confucian tradition and ushered in a golden age of Chinese achievement when Chinese Civilization spread to Japan, Korea, and Vietnam

Vietnamese Trung sisters resist Chinese
Srivijaya in Sumatra, a Malay kingdom, with gold and spices levied taxes on passing ships, dominated the choke point of Indian Ocean trade from 670-1025. That kingdom and the Khmer Empire in Cambodia were greatly influenced by Hindu-Buddhist culture.
Buddhist Temple at Borobudur built in 800’s in Java, Indonesia
Although the western Roman Empire collapsed around 500 AD, Roman Civilization lived on in Europe through its language Latin, its architecture, and its military, legal, and administrative traditions.
In the aftermath of Muhammad's life, Islam spread from Spain to India, to Indonesia from 600-1,000 AD
Africa from 500-1500 AD
Africa developed trans-Saharan trade routes, called sand routes, trading gold, salt and slaves and built large kingdoms and empires by 1500 AD.
The Gold of Mali
From 500 to 1500 AD the Bantu people migrated to southern Africa in one of the world’s great mass migrations.
Swahile culture in East Africa developed into 30 independent city states ruled by kings and class stratified with a mercantile elite engaged in Indian Ocean trade and commoners. Swahile is a Bantu language written in Arabic script.
North and South America from 500-1500 AD
North American centers of culture and trade, a chiefdom at Cahokia (today St. Louis) flourished from 900-1200. Shells, copper, buffalo hides, mica and obsidian were traded.
The collapse of the Mayan civilization and the city state of Teotihuacán by 900 AD allowed for the rise of the Aztecs and Mexica who formed a powerful state.
The Incas incorporated several previous Andean cultures shown here into a huge empire. Trade was state run, in contrast to trade in Mexico which was privately run.
Caravans of human transporters and llamas transported goods along some 20,000 miles of roads traversing the coastal plain and the high Andes in a north-south direction.
Global Era
1500 - Present

This era is subdivided into:
• Early Modern - 1500-1750
• Modern – 1750-Present