GEOGRAPHY / ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS

Mesopotamia—Fertile Crescent; Tigris & Euphrates Rivers
Egypt—Nile River; Libyan and Sahara Deserts; cataracts
India—Indus and Ganges Rivers; monsoons; tsunami; Himalayas
China—(Huang He) Yellow River; Yangtze River; Himalayas; Gobi Desert
Americas—Mississippi River; Amazon River; Andes Mountains; foot bridges; terraces

Push & Pull Factors
Migration

RELIGIONS / BELIEF SYSTEMS

HINDUISM—Texts (The Vedas; Ramayana; Mahabharata) ; no given leader or creator; major beliefs (karma, dharma, reincarnation; CASTE SYSTEM); India

BUDDHISM— Text (Tripitaka); Leader (Siddhartha Gautama); major beliefs (karma, dharma, reincarnation; ahimsa—nonviolence; enlightenment FOUR NOBLE TRUTHS; EIGHTFOLD PATH); India
TODAY: Dalai Lama; Tibet: India, China, Japan, Korea, Thailand

ZOROASTRIANISM—Text (Zend Avesta); Leader (Zarathrustra); major beliefs (Dualism; Ahura Mazda “good god” vs. Ahriman “bad god”; Day of Judgment; Towers of Silence); Persia
TODAY: followers in Iran and India

ISLAM—5 PILLARS of ISLAM; MUHAMMAD; THE KORAN (Qu’ran)
DIVISIONS within ISLAM (Sunni, Shi’a, and Sufi)
Spread of ISLAM & ISLAMIC GOLDEN AGE
ISLAMIC EMPIRES (Ottomans—Suleiman & Mughal—Akbar the Great)

JUDAISM—Text (Torah); Leaders (Abraham, Moses); major beliefs (monotheism; Ten Commandments; Old Testament; covenant with God; no messiah yet); began in Mesopotamia & Canaan
TODAY: Diaspora (scattering of Jews); State of Israel

CHRISTIANITY—Text (Bible = Old + New Testament); Leaders (Jesus Christ; Paul);
Major beliefs (monotheism; messiah exists as Jesus; Trinity (father, son, Holy Spirit); began in Judea (kingdom within the Roman Empire)
TODAY: 1/3 of world is Christian; Pope is spiritual leader of Catholic Church

CONFUCIANISM—Text (The Analects); Leader (Confucius); major beliefs (Filial Piety; ideas of Civil Service for jobs; knowing your place in society; shame instead of punishments after the fact); China (Han Dynasty)
TODAY: Still exists in China; often combined with beliefs from Daoism and Christianity by its followers
DAOISM— Text (I Ching); Leader (Lao Zi); major beliefs (belief in the “way;” let nature takes its course; Yin and Yang –everything has a balance); China
   TODAY: followers in China

LEGALISM— Text (Han Feizi—named after founder); Leader (Han Feizi); major beliefs
   (the law is the supreme ruler of the nation; punishments for the bad; rewards for the good; leads to the creation of a totalitarian (total control) government);
   China (Qin Dynasty)
   TODAY: Totalitarian-type governments exist still in the world (ex: North Korea)

ANIMISM—spirits in nature; spirit / nature worship; native to sub-Saharan Africa
   TODAY: Still followed by many in Sub-Saharan Africa

PRE – HISTORY ➔ CIVILIZATION

Paleolithic & Neolithic Eras: Be able to COMPARE the two eras.
   The Paleolithic Era: How would you describe the people; types of shelter; types of food; types of tools; art; religious beliefs; subsistence living
   The Neolithic Era: (Agricultural Revolution); how would you describe the people; types of shelter; types of food; types of tools; art; religious beliefs

ANCIENT CIVILIZATIONS

Egyptian Civilization:
   Art & Architecture (Pyramids, mastabas, obelisks)
   Religion (polytheism, key gods/goddesses, Book of the Dead)
   Social Class Pyramid (pharaoh, vizier; priests, scribes, craftsmen, soldiers, farmers…)

Mesopotamian & Surrounding Civilizations:
   Art & Architecture (ziggurats); Literature (Epic of Gilgamesh); Religion (polytheism, key gods/goddesses); Hammurabi’s Code of Laws
   Phoenicians, Hittites, Assyrians, Babylonians, Sumerians, Jews, Persians
   Contributions to Society (ex: alphabet, wheel, war chariot, bureaucracy, cuneiform, laws)
   Which contributions go with which civilization?

Indian Civilization:
   Key Religions (Hinduism; Buddhism; Jainism)
   Mauryan Empire—Chandragupta and Ashoka (what were his reforms?)—spreads Buddhism
   Gupta Empire—Golden Age

Chinese Civilization:
   Middle Kingdom; Ethnocentrism: Mandate of Heaven; Dynastic Cycle
   Han Dynasty: Golden Age—science, technology, art; Confucianism;
   Civil Service System; Silk Road; Monopolies
   T’ang Dynasty—importance of wood block printing; growth of Buddhism; Golden Age
   Song Dynasty—foot binding; Confucianism; improvement of weapons: Golden Age
   Ming Dynasty—**ZHENG HE—who was he? Importance to China?

Civilizations of the Americas: (Olmecs, Mayans, Aztecs; Incans).culturally advanced; used geography to their advantage (examples: footbridges and terrace-farming)