Ancient History Review

How much do you remember from 6th grade?
Early Humans

- Early humans were hunter-gatherers. They relied on animals and plants for food.
- They moved constantly in search of their food.
- Early farmers used slash and burn techniques.
- After the Ice Ages, people began to domesticate plants and animals and build mud-brick houses, eventually leading to permanent settlements.
Farming

- Agriculture is the planting of seeds to raise crops.
- Societies started where water was in supply and people learned irrigation.
- Irrigation - moving water from one place to another.
- They also began to specialize in different activities, including weaving cloth for clothes.
Mesopotamia means land between the two rivers (which provided water and transportation). It was between the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers. The yearly flooding of the Tigris and Euphrates rivers created rich soil allowing for good agriculture and early civilizations. However, the flood was unpredictable.
Hammurabi’s Code

- Hammurabi’s code of law was significant because it organized many existing laws.
- An eye for an eye. A tooth for a tooth.
- If you steal, your hand gets cut off.
Mesopotamian's wrote using cuneiform.

Cuneiform was first used to keep track of trade.
In ancient Egypt, the Nile River flooded every year providing fertile farmland in the desert.

The Egyptians developed irrigation and other techniques to control Nile floodwaters.
Egyptians embalmed their pharaohs and built great pyramids as tombs so that the pharaohs would make it to the after life.

The pharaoh was considered both king and god.
Hatshepsut

Queen Hatshepsut was one of the first female pharaohs.
The Egyptians had a form of writing called hieroglyphics.
Judaism was the first monotheistic religion. [belief in one god]

According to tradition, Moses received the Ten Commandments from God.

The Ten Commandments became the basis for civil and religious laws of Judaism.

The Torah is the holy book of Judaism. The Torah is the first five books of the Bible.
The Torah is the holy book of Judaism. The Torah is the first five books of the Bible.
In 1700 BC, a famine forced the Hebrews into enslavement in Ancient Egypt. They were led out of slavery by Moses who received the 10 Commandments from God.
Ancient India

- Began near the Indus River
- India’s first major religion was Hinduism
- Vedas (meaning knowledge) are a collection of sacred hymns and poems.
- India developed great literature in Sanskrit, such as the Bhagavat Gita, and developed algebra, and the zero.
The caste system organized Indians into four classes - the Brahmins (teachers, scholars and priests), the Kshatriyas (kings and warriors), the Vaishyas (traders), and Sudras (agriculturists, service providers, and some artisan groups).
Buddhism is a religion of ancient India.

Buddhism is based on the teachings of Siddhartha Gautama, who later became known as the Buddha, or “Enlightened one.”
The Buddha’s life and teachings, such as honesty, non-violence, and compassion, created a new religion called Buddhism, which spread throughout India to Central Asia.

The Buddha's Four Noble Truths:

1. Life is suffering
2. People suffer because of desire
3. The only way not to suffer is to have no desires
4. The Eightfold Path is the way to end suffering and end the cycle of reincarnation
Emperor Shi Huangdi united much of China under one dynasty.

He created one currency, built roads and a huge canal, and the Great Wall.
Confucius taught the importance of duty and respect for family.

Confucius lived at a time when the government was struggling to run society and when many people were not following the ancient rules.

Confucius wanted to improve society through teaching people to do their duty and honor their parents.

Respect for elders, proper conduct, and the proper behavior of rulers are key elements of Confucianism.
Taoism

- Taoists follow the teachings of Laozi, and believe people should give up worldly desires and follow the force that guides all things—the Tao.

- Taoism stressed that everything in life should be in harmony with nature.

- Taoists call the opposite forces of nature yin and yang.
Under the Han dynasty, the civil service exam created a government run by scholars. (If you wanted a job you had to pass a test and couldn’t just be given a job based on who you know).

The Han dynasty also developed the Silk Road and began a trading network that reached much of Asia and Rome. The major item traded from China was silk.

The Silk Road brought new goods and ideas to China. Buddhism reached China during the A.D. 100's by monks traveling along the Silk Road. Buddhism began as an important religion in China after the Han dynasty collapsed.
Ancient Greece

Greece was made up of city-states, each run by its citizens, or members of the political community.

Two of the biggest city-states were Sparta and Athens.

Sparta developed a militaristic government.

Athens created a democracy and focused on trade and culture.

Athens and Sparta joined forces to defeat the Persians in the Persian Wars, but later fought the Peloponnesian War.
Accomplishments of Greece

- Alexander conquered the Persian Empire and spread Hellenism throughout southwest Asia.
- The Greeks spread their art, architecture, literature, theater, philosophy, and mathematics.
- Some of the great Greek writers include the dramatists Sophocles, Euripides, and Aeschylus.
- Greek ideas of art and architecture influence styles today.
- Greek philosophers tried to answer life’s big questions.
- Major accomplishments included first Olympic games, world’s first democracy, philosophy (Socrates, Plato, Aristotle), literature, geometry, and written history.
Rome is located in Italy (the big boot on the map).

Legend says Romulus founded Rome after killing his brother Remus in 753BC.

Rome was involved in a series of Punic Wars with Carthage (located in Northern Africa) between 264BC-146BC. Hannibal was a Carthage General. After the 3rd Punic War, Rome destroyed Carthage completely.

Julius Caesar, a Roman general, was named dictator for life. He had many reform ideas, but was assassinated by senators were afraid of his gaining too much power.

Augustus was Caesar's grand nephew. He became Rome's first emperor. Under his rule, Rome expanded and enjoyed a period of peace. This period of peace lasted for 200 years and was called the Pax Romana.
Christianity

Jesus of Nazareth preached love, compassion, and forgiveness. He often taught using stories called parables. Jesus lived during the time of the Roman Empire.

Early church leaders taught that people could gain salvation through Jesus, who was the messiah.

Jesus made many enemies in Rome, and was put to death.

Accounts of his resurrection, or rising from the dead form the basis of Christian belief that Jesus was the son of God.

St. Paul the Apostle led the early church and its teaching that Jesus was the son of God and the Holy Trinity, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

In 312 AD, Constantine became Roman emperor and converted Rome to Christianity by 330AD.