Sixth Grade Social Studies Essential Facts

The Stone Ages

- 1. **<u>Geography</u>** is the study of the surface of the earth, determined by location, shape of the land, continentiality, slope, and altitude.
- 2. The earth's surface consists of **land** and **water**.
- 3. A <u>civilization</u> is a group of people who have well-developed forms of government, religion, learning, and economy.
- 4. A **<u>natural resource</u>** is something found in nature that is used.
- 5. <u>**Culture**</u> is the way of life of a group of people, determined by their geography and the resources around them.
- 6. **<u>History</u>** is the study of the past and includes the story of how a civilization's culture developed.
- 7. An **<u>artifact</u>** is something that was made by man and left behind.
- 8. An **archaeologist** is someone who studies the artifacts of the past.
- 9. An **anthropologist** is someone who studies the cultures of the past.
- 10. <u>**Carbon-14**</u> is a process used to measure the level of carbon in something that was once alive in order to determine its age.
- 11. A **primary source** is a firsthand account, someone, or something that was present at the time of an event.
- 12. A **<u>secondary source</u>** is a secondhand account of an event.
- 13. The first humans lived during the **Paleolithic Age** or **Old Stone Age**.
- 14. A **<u>nomad</u>** is someone without a permanent home who wanders in search of food and water.
- 15. Most nomads hunted **<u>buffalo</u>**.
- 16. The most important event of the Old Stone Age was the **discovery of fire**.
- 17. The **<u>Neolithic Age</u>** is called the Old Stone Age.
- 18. Agriculture is the cultivation of crops, which began in the New Stone Age.
- 19. Historians consider the most important event of the New Stone Age to be the <u>development of</u> <u>agriculture</u>.
- 20. The places where the first civilizations developed are called the **<u>Cradles of Civilization</u>**.
- 21. The first civilizations developed around the valleys of the <u>Tigris and Euphrates</u>, <u>Indus</u>, <u>Huang</u> <u>Ho</u>, and <u>Nile Rivers</u>.
- 22. The development of tools and methods used to help humans perform tasks is called **technology**.

Mesopotamia

- 23. One of the oldest communities in the world is **Jericho**.
- 24. The development of different kinds of jobs is called **<u>specialization</u>**.
- 25. The earliest known civilization developed in Mesopotamia.
- 26. Mesopotamia means "land between the rivers."
- 27. **Irrigation** is the method of brining water to a field from another place to water crops.
- 28. A <u>city-state</u> is an independent state made up of a city and the land and villages surrounding it.
- 29. A <u>ziggurat</u>, which means "hill of heaven" or "mountain of god," is a Sumerian temple located in the middle of a city.
- 30. Sumerian schools were called **<u>tablet houses</u>**.
- 31. **<u>Cuneiform</u>** is the Sumerian system of writing, made of wedge-shaped characters.
- 32. **<u>Babylon</u>** was the largest, richest city of its time and the center of trade, government, and education.

- 33. **Hammurabi** was the king of Babylon, famous for writing a code of law.
- 34. An **<u>empire</u>** is made up of territories that are under the control of another government.
- 35. King Nebuchadnezzar built the Hanging Gardens of Babylon for his wife.

Ancient Egypt

- 36. The first Egyptians settled along the <u>Nile River</u>, which is the world's longest river, about 4,000 miles long.
- 37. The fertile soil around the Nile River provided a **<u>surplus</u>** (extra amount) of crops. The money gained from the trade of these crops made Egypt a wealthy land, with time and resources to develop an empire.
- 38. A <u>delta</u> is an area of fertile land at the mouth of a river.
- 39. **Papyrus**, a reed plant that grew along the Nile River, became a valuable resource for the Egyptians.
- 40. <u>**Hieroglyphics**</u> was the Egyptian writing system.
- 41. **Narmer** was the ruler of Egypt who united the upper and lower Egyptian governments.
- 42. A line of rulers from the same family is called a <u>dynasty</u>.
- 43. A diagram of Egyptian social groups is called a **<u>social pyramid</u>**. The largest group, located at the bottom of the pyramid, was made up of slaves and poor farmers. At the top of the pyramid was the pharaoh.
- 44. Egypt's kings were called **pharaohs**.
- 45. The Egyptians worshipped many gods or <u>deities</u>. The pharaohs were considered gods.
- 46. **<u>Re</u>** was the sun god, the main god of the Egyptians.
- 47. A **pyramid** was a burial tomb for Egyptian pharaohs.
- 48. The Great Pyramids of Giza were built for King Khufu.
- 49. The pyramid of **King Tutankhamen** revealed many treasures. It was discovered by Howard Carter in 1922. Historians and scientists are able to learn much about ancient Egypt from the artifacts left in the tomb.
- 50. **<u>Ramses II</u>** rebuilt Egypt's empire and ruled for 66 years.

Ancient Greece

- 51. The <u>Minoan</u> civilization, an early Greek civilization, developed on the island of Crete. The Minoans earned their living by building ships and trading.
- 52. The <u>Mycenaean</u> people came from central Asia and settled on the Greek mainland; they built the first Greek kingdoms.
- 53. The mainland of Greece was located on a **peninsula**, a body of land surrounded by water on three sides, and all parts of ancient Greece were near water.
- 54. The mountains and sea kept the early Greek communities **isolated**, or separated from each other; therefore, they became independent of each other.
- 55. The <u>Dark Ages</u> of ancient Greece (1100 B.C. to 750 B.C.) were a time of poverty due to war and earthquakes.
- 56. The **Dorians** moved from the mountains of Greece to the Peloponnesus and brought with them iron weapons that improved farm tools and weapons.
- 57. A **<u>colony</u>** is a settlement in a new territory that keeps close ties to the homeland.
- 58. A **polis** is a Greek city-state made up of a city and the surrounding countryside; it functions like an independent country.
- 59. The main gathering place in a polis was usually an **<u>acropolis</u>**, a fortified hill.

- 60. An **agora** was an open area below the acropolis that served as a marketplace and a meeting place.
- 61. The Greeks were the first people to develop the idea of citizenship. A <u>citizen</u> is a member of a political community who is treated as an equal and who has rights and responsibilities to the community.
- 62. A <u>hoplite</u> was an ordinary citizen-soldier of the Greek army.
- 63. A **<u>tyrant</u>** is someone who takes power by force and rules with total authority.
- 64. An **<u>oligarchy</u>** is a government in which a few people hold the power to govern.
- 65. A <u>democracy</u> is a government in which all citizens have an opportunity to share in the running of the government.
- 66. **<u>Sparta</u>** was a militaristic city-state founded by the Dorians.
- 67. The Spartans captured and enslaved workers called **helots**.
- 68. **Ephors** enforced laws and managed tax collections.
- 69. **<u>Athens</u>** was a city-state in ancient Greece that became a democracy.
- 70. **Solon** was a noble who ruled Athens wisely. He cleared farmers' debts and freed slaves.
- 71. **<u>Cleisthenes</u>** was the leader credited with making Athens a democracy.
- 72. The Persians were united into an empire by **Cyrus the Great**.
- 73. As the Greeks became more powerful, they clashed with the Persians in the <u>Persian Wars</u> for control of the Mediterranean Sea.
- 74. **Darius** and **Xerxes** were famous Persian rulers who were defeated by the Greeks.
- 75. The Greeks defeated the Persians in the **Battle of Marathon**.
- 76. The **<u>Battle of Plateau</u>** ended the wars with Persia.
- 77. The Greek city-states (except Sparta) formed the **Delian League** to defend themselves against the Persians.
- 78. Athens became a <u>direct democracy</u>, a form of government where masses of citizens gather to decide on government matters.
- 79. **Pericles** was a general who became ruler of Athens and made it stronger and more democratic at home.
- 80. The <u>Age of Pericles</u> was a period of great creativity and learning in ancient Athens.
- 81. The people of Athens and Sparta fought over control of Greece in the Peloponnesian Wars.
- 82. The Greeks were **polytheistic**; they worshipped many gods and goddesses.
- 83. The 12 main gods and goddesses lived on **Mount Olympus**.
- 84. **Zeus** was the main god, and his wife was **Hera**.
- 85. **<u>Athena</u>** was the goddess of wisdom.
- 86. **Myths** are stories about gods and goddesses.
- 87. **Homer** was a blind poet who wrote the first epic poems.
- 88. **The Iliad** and **The Odyssey** are Homer's poems that tell the history of the Trojan War and taught the values of the Greeks.
- 89. A **fable** is a short tale that teaches a lesson and usually involves animals.
- 90. Aesop was a former slave who wrote the most famous fable, "The Tortoise and the Hare."
- 91. The first **Olympic Games** were held in ancient Greece on Mount Olympus in 776 B.C.
- 92. The Greeks enjoyed <u>drama</u>, stories that are told by actors who pretend to be the characters in the stories.
- 93. A **tragedy** is a play that tells a sad story in which people fail to overcome their difficulties.
- 94. A **<u>comedy</u>** is a story that has a happy ending.
- 95. Greek architecture expressed ideas of beauty and harmony and included three types of **columns**: Doric, Ionic, and Corinthian.
- 96. The **Parthenon**, the most famous example of Greek architecture, is a temple built to Athena.
- 97. An **<u>amphora</u>** is a Greek urn used for many purposes.

- 98. **Philosophy**, the study of nature and the meaning of life, comes from the Greek word meaning "love of wisdom."
- 99. Many of the Greek **philosophers** were teachers who developed ideas that are still in use today.
- 100. <u>Socrates</u> was the most famous Greek philosopher; he believed that knowledge would lead to truth.
- 101. **<u>Plato</u>** was a student of Socrates who founded The Academy and wrote *The Republic*.
- 102. Aristotle was a student of Plato who taught that a person should do nothing in excess.
- 103. Herodotus is known as the Father of History because he was the first to try to separate fact from legend in his writings.
- 104. **Pythagoras** was a philosopher who taught that everything in the universe could be explained in numbers.
- 105. **Philip II of Macedonia** united the Greek city-states when he conquered them.
- 106. Alexander the Great was the son of Philip II; he spread the Greek culture as he conquered lands throughout Asia and Africa.
- 107. <u>Alexandria, Egypt</u> was a city built by Alexander that became the center of trade and culture.
- 108. **<u>Hippocrates</u>**, the "Father of Medicine," wrote a code of behavior for doctors.

Ancient Rome

- 109. The city of Rome was built on seven hills near the **<u>Tiber River</u>**.
- 110. One legend of the founding of Rome is in the story of **Romulus and Remus**.
- 111. **<u>Virgil</u>**, a blind poet, wrote *The Aeneid*, another story about the founding of Rome.
- 112. The **Etruscans**, **Latins**, and **Tarquins** were the first groups to settle in Rome.
- 113. A **republic** is a form of government in which the leader is elected by the citizens.
- 114. Roman soldiers were called **legionaries** who defended the city from attack.
- 115. The Roman soldiers were divided into groups of 6,000 people or legions.
- 116. <u>Centuries</u> were small groups of 90 soldiers from the legions who could cut through enemy lines.
- 117. Rome fought the Phoenicians for control of the Mediterranean Sea in the **Punic Wars**.
- 118. **Hannibal** was the strongest Carthaginian general.
- 119. **Scipio** was the Roman general who defeated the Carthaginians at the Battle of Zama.
- 120. Rome's wealthy landowners were called patricians.
- 121. Rome's ordinary citizens were called **plebeians**.
- 122. Roman laws were written on bronze tablets called the **<u>Twelve Tables</u>**, which are the basis for many laws today.
- 123. **Latifundias** were huge farming estates, bought by the wealthy when the farmers could no longer afford the land.
- 124. The <u>Gracchus Brothers</u> were Roman officials who tried to keep the republic out of the control of the wealthy.
- 125. Julius Caesar was a military hero who seized power in Rome and made reforms.
- 126. A <u>triumvirate</u> is a government ruled by three people.
- 127. Caesar gained power on his own after he crossed the **Rubicon River** and defeated Pompey.
- 128. Caesar declared himself <u>dictator</u>, one who rules with complete authority, in 44 B.C.
- 129. Julius Caesar was assassinated on the Ides of March, March 15, 44 B.C.
- 130. Octavian was a nephew of Julius Caesar who changed his name to <u>Caesar Augustus</u> after he became ruler of Rome.
- 131. **Pax Romana** (Roman peace) was a period of peace and prosperity after the reforms of Caesar Augustus.

- 132. <u>Hadrian</u> was a Roman emperor who built Hadrian's Wall in Britain and made laws easier to understand.
- 133. The Romans copied much of **<u>Greek culture</u>** and changed it to meet their own needs.
- 134. The arch was developed to build bridges and <u>aqueducts</u>, channels built to carry water for long distances along the famous Roman roads.
- 135. A **vault** is a curved ceiling made of arches built against one another.
- 136. The Romans developed <u>concrete</u>, a mixture of volcanic ash, lime, and water, which made buildings stronger.
- 137. Horace was an author who wrote satires and odes that reflected Roman life.
- 138. **Galen** was the most famous Roman doctor who emphasized the importance of studying organs and anatomy.
- 139. **<u>Ptolemy</u>** studied the stars and planets and explained their movements.
- 140. A forum was an open space that served as a market and meeting place.
- 141. The **<u>Colosseum</u>** was an arena that supported itself, not built on a hillside.
- 142. The **paterfamilias**, "father of the family," was the head of the Roman household.
- 143. A Roman home was called a **domus**.
- 144. Romans used **<u>slaves</u>**, people captured from wars, to do much of their work.
- 145. **Spartacus** led an unsuccessful slave revolt.
- 146. Latin was the language of ancient Rome.
- 147. The Romans borrowed many gods from the Greeks, with **Jupiter** as their main god.
- 148. The favorite sport of the Romans was gladiator games held in the Colosseum.
- 149. Chariot races were held in the Circus Maximus.
- 150. **<u>Constantine</u>** was a Roman emperor who moved the capital to Constantine to try to save the empire.
- 151. The three main causes of the <u>fall of the Roman Empire</u> were poor leadership, a declining economy, and invasions by Germanic tribes.
- 152. **Romulus Augustulus** was the last emperor of Rome.
- 153. **Odoacer** was a Germanic general who overthrew the last Roman emperor.
- 154. The eruption of Mt. Vesuvius buried the city of **Pompeii** in the year 79. The discovery of the ruins of the town in the 1500's gave us information about ancient Rome.
- 155. Pliny the Elder and Pliny the Younger were historians who wrote of the burial of Pompeii.

Judaism

- 156. The **Israelites** set up their kingdom in Canaan around 1000 B.C. They believed that this land was promised to them by God.
- 157. <u>Monotheism</u> is the belief in one god.
- 158. The Israelites recorded their history in the **Hebrew Bible**.
- 159. The faith of the Israelites became known as **Judaism**.
- 160. The Israelites believed that they were descended from Abraham.
- 161. **Jacob** was the grandson of Abraham. He was also called Israel, which means "struggle with God." This name was later given to Jacob's descendants.
- 162. The families of the 12 sons of Jacob divided into **<u>12 Tribes of Israel</u>**.
- 163. Because of a **drought** in Canaan, the Israelites moved to Egypt where they were slaves.
- 164. To put down a rebellion, the pharaoh ordered all baby boys who were born to Israelites to be killed. The mother of <u>Moses</u> hid him in the river. He was discovered by the pharaoh's daughter who raised him.

- 165. Moses grew up to lead the Israelites from Egypt to Canaan. This escape was known as the **Exodus**.
- 166. Moses went to the top of Mt. Sinai where he received laws from God, which were called the *Torah* by the Israelite people.
- 167. In the *Torah* was a <u>covenant</u> or agreement with God.
- 168. The most important part of the Torah was the <u>Ten Commandments</u> or the most important laws. These commandments helped shape the basic moral laws of many nations.
- 169. After the Israelites settled in Canaan, they were ruled by judges. One judge, <u>Deborah</u>, helped win a battle against the Canaanites.
- 170. The <u>Philistines</u> were a powerful group of people living in Canaan who made weapons of iron. They were feared by the Israelites.
- 171. The Israelites were led against the Philistines first by **Saul**.
- 172. King **David** built the Israelite empire and made Jerusalem the capital city.
- 173. David's son, **Solomon**, built a temple in Jerusalem.
- 174. Eventually the Israelites were conquered by Nebuchadnezzar but continued to practice their religion in <u>exile</u>, or time living in a foreign land, while unable to live their own land.
- 175. The Jews living outside of Judah were known as the **Diaspora**. They learned Greek ways and helped to spread Judaism.
- 176. Judas Maccabeus led the Jews to drive the Greeks out of Judah.

Christianity

- 177. **Christianity** is the religion of those who follow the teachings of Jesus Christ.
- 178. Jesus was born in **Bethlehem**.
- 179. Jesus claimed to be the **messiah** or savior of all people.
- 180. Jesus taught in **parables**, stories that use everyday events to teach spiritual ideas.
- 181. Jesus gathered a group of 12 followers, called **<u>disciples</u>**, to help him teach.
- 182. Because Jesus threatened the power of the Romans and Jews who controlled Judea, he was arrested by the Romans and <u>crucified</u>, hung on a cross to die.
- 183. Jesus' followers claimed that he had been resurrected or raised from the dead.
- 184. The most famous <u>Apostles</u>, followers who spread the religion after Jesus' death, were Peter and Paul.
- 185. Constantine was the first Christian emperor of Rome; he ordered that the **persecution**, or mistreatment, of Christians end.
- 186. **<u>Theodosius</u>** made Christianity the official religion of Rome.
- 187. The church was organized in a <u>hierarchy</u>, an organization with levels of authority, based on the government of Rome.
- 188. Decisions reached by the patriarchs became the **<u>doctrine</u>**, official teachings of the church.
- 189. The <u>**Bible</u>** is a combination of the Old Testament Jewish writings and the teachings and life of Jesus, written by four followers who knew him, in the New Testament.</u>
- 190. The **pope** was the bishop of the Roman church who became leader of all of the Christian churches.
- 191. The Eastern Byzantine Christians did not accept the power of the pope and formed their own church, the **Eastern Orthodox Church**.

Islam

192. The **Islam** religion was founded by Muhammad.

- 193. The followers of Islam flocked to <u>Makkah</u>, or <u>Mecca</u>, their sacred city, where Muhammad was born.
- 194. The <u>Kaaba</u> was a low, square building that housed statues of gods and goddesses.
- 195. <u>Allah</u> is the Arabic word for God.
- 196. Muhammad moved to the city of **Yathrib**, which was renamed **Madinah**.
- 197. The holy book of Islam is called the **Quran**.
- 198. The Five Pillars of Islam are acts of worship that Muslims are expected to fulfill.
- 199. A <u>caliph</u> is an important Muslim religious leader.
- 200. The Islam people split into two groups after Muhammad died: the **Sunnis** and the **Shiite**.
- 201. A mosque is a Muslim house of worship.
- 202. A **bazaar** is a Muslim marketplace.
- 203. <u>Mamun</u> was an Arabic scholar who established the House of Wisdom.
- 204. A **minaret** is a tower atop a mosque from which a crier calls people to prayer five times a day.

Ancient India

- 205. A **<u>subcontinent</u>** is a large landmass that is part of a continent but separate from it.
- 206. The Himalayan Mountains are the highest in the world.
- 207. The earliest civilization in ancient India developed around the Indus River.
- 208. A monsoon is a wind that blows one direction in summer and the opposite direction in winter.
- 209. Harappa and Mohenjo-Daro were the two major cities of ancient India.
- 210. The <u>Aryans</u> conquered the Harappans and ruled India.
- 211. Sanskrit was the written language of India.
- 212. A **raja** is a prince who ruled the Aryan tribes in India.
- 213. A **<u>caste</u>** is a social group into which a person is born and cannot change.
- 214. A guru is an Indian teacher.
- 215. <u>Hinduism</u> is one of the religions of India.
- 216. **Brahman** is the universal spirit of Hinduism.
- 217. Karma is the good or bad energy a Hindu builds as he or she lives.
- 218. **Dharma** is the divine law of Hinduism.
- 219. The idea of passing through many lives is called **reincarnation**.
- 220. **Buddhism** was an Indian religion founded by Siddhartha Gautama.
- 221. Siddhartha Gautama became known as **Buddha**, the "enlightened one."
- 222. The main teachings of Buddha are contained in the Four Noble Truths.
- 223. The **<u>Eightfold Path</u>** is Buddha's steps to eliminate suffering.
- 224. Chandragupta Maurya founded India's first empire.
- 225. **Stupas** are Buddhist shrines.
- 226. Asoka was the world's first Buddhist king.
- 227. The **<u>Gupta</u>** dynasty formed around the Ganges River.
- 228. <u>Vedas</u> are Indian prayers and hymns.
- 229. Aryabhata was the leading mathematician of India.

Ancient China

- 230. China's earliest civilizations grew around the <u>Huang Ho</u>, or <u>Yellow River</u>, and the <u>Yangtze</u> <u>River</u>.
- 231. The **Shang** were the first rulers of China.
- 232. The Shang used **oracle bones** to determine their future.

- 233. Chinese writing used **pictographs**, characters that stand for objects.
- 234. **Wu Wang** led a revolt against the wealthy of the Shang dynasty.
- 235. The **Zhou** dynasty ruled longer than any other in China.
- 236. The Zhou claimed to have a **mandate from Heaven**; they believed they ruled because the heavens ordered it.
- 237. **Dao** is the proper way to reach heaven according to Zhou rulers.
- 238. **Filial piety** is children's respect for parents and older relatives.
- 239. <u>Ancestors</u>, relatives that come before us, were worshipped by the ancient Chinese, who believed power came from them.
- 240. **Confucius** was ancient China's first great teacher and thinker.
- 241. **Confucianism** was the philosophy which taught that people should have a sense of responsibility to their family and community.
- 242. Legalism was the philosophy which taught that people were basically evil.
- 243. Hanfeizi developed legalism.
- 244. The Great Wall was built across northern China to protect it from invaders.
- 245. The **Silk Road** was a network of trade routes from western China to southwest Asia.

The Early Americas

- 246. Farming began in **Mesoamerica**, which means "middle America," about 10,000 years ago.
- 247. The Maya built an empire in what is now southern Mexico.
- 248. The Mayans settled in <u>Petén</u>, meaning "flat region," which had swamps and sinkholes that gave a source for many wells.
- 249. Mayan city-states were ruled by god-kings.
- 250. **<u>Chocolate</u>**, which came from the cacao trees, was popular with the Maya.
- 251. The <u>calendar</u> of the Mayans had 365 days.
- 252. The **Aztecs** built an empire in what is now central Mexico.
- 253. **Quetzalcoatl** was the Aztec sun god.
- 254. **Tenochtitlan** was the Aztec capital city.
- 255. The Aztecs were ruled by god-kings.
- 256. There were four **social classes** in Aztec society.
- 257. Montezuma was the emperor who was defeated by Hernán Cortés.
- 258. The <u>Inca</u> built an empire in what is now Peru.
- 259. **Pachcacamac** was the main Incan god.
- 260. Pachacuti, which means "earth shaker," was the Incan leader who built Inca into an empire.
- 261. Cuzco was the Incan capital.
- 262. Itzi was the Incan sun god who protected the city.
- 263. Machu Pichu was a retreat for Incan kings.
- 264. A <u>quipu</u> is a rope with knotted cords of different lengths and colors used by the lncas to measure and keep records.
- 265. Atahualpa was the Incan emperor defeated by Francisco Pizarro.

The Middle Ages

- 266. The Middle Ages were a time period between ancient civilizations and modern times.
- 267. Great historical, cultural, economic, and technological events of the Middle Ages shaped the **modern** world.

Medieval China

- 268. A <u>warlord</u> is a military ruler who runs a government.
- 269. Warlords ruled until the Middle Ages when the **Sui and Tang dynasties** reunited China.
- 270. <u>Wendi</u> was a military ruler who united China and founded the Sui dynasty.
- 271. The **Grand Canal** united the rivers of China and improved trade.
- 272. With improved farming methods, the Chinese were able to develop more efficient methods of growing **rice** and **tea**.
- 273. During the Tang dynasty, government officials had to take a <u>civil service exam</u>, which was a test to prove they were qualified to do the work.
- 274. The *Diamond Sutra* is the earliest known printed book.
- 275. The rule of the **Song dynasty** is known as the Golden Age of Art and Literature in China.
- 276. **Buddhism** spread to China as the Chinese traded with India.
- 277. Confucianism was made the official religion of China during the Song dynasty.
- 278. Porcelain is made of fine clay and baked at high temperatures; it was a very popular trade item.
- 279. The Mongols lived in an area north of China.
- 280. The **Gobi Desert** covers part of Mongolia and China.
- 281. Genghis Khan developed an empire in Mongolia and invaded China.
- 282. Kublai Khan moved the capital of China to Khanbaliq, which is now Beijing.
- 283. The Mongols encouraged trade and sent <u>Marco Polo</u> on many fact-finding trips.
- 284. During the Ming dynasty, the Chinese experienced peace and prosperity.
- 285. **Zheng He** was a famous Chinese navigator who was the first to sail to India and Africa.

Medieval Africa

- 286. Most of the vast continent of Africa rests on a **<u>plateau</u>** or area of high, flat land.
- 287. **Caravans**, groups of traveling traders and merchants, traveled across the Sahara Desert to and from West Africa.
- 288. The **Berbers** were the first known people to settle in North Africa.
- 289. African empires became wealthy from <u>trade</u> during the Middle Ages.
- 290. Ghana was a West African empire known as "the crossroads of trade."
- 291. The people of Ghana taxed those who transported salt, gold, and iron down the Niger River.
- 292. The kingdom of Mali was built on the trade of salt and gold.
- 293. <u>Griots</u> are African storytellers.
- 294. Sundiata Keita was the Mali leader who expanded the empire to trade with Timbuktu.
- 295. The **Songhai Empire** rose to power by driving the Berbers out of Timbuktu.
- 296. Sunni Ali was the leader of the Songhai who seized control of the river with a fleet of canoes.
- 297. **Axum** was a city-state in East Africa located near the Red Sea.
- 298. **Ezana** was a king of Axum who brought Christianity to the empire.
- 299. **Zimbabwe** was a trading center that traded gold, copper, and ivory.
- 300. Kings ruled organized African governments that were divided into smaller family groups called **clans**.
- 301. People of medieval Africa lived in **extended families** or families made up of several generations.
- 302. Many African villages were **matrilineal**, tracing their family descent from their mother rather than their father.
- 303. African storytellers educated children through <u>oral history</u>, stories passed down from generation to generation.
- 304. **<u>Bantu</u>** chiefs raided other African villages for captives for labor.

305. **Enslaved** or forced laborers became part of the African trade with Europe.

Medieval Japan

- 306. Japan is an **archipelago** with four main islands.
- 307. The first people to develop a culture in Japan were the **Jomon**.
- 308. The <u>Yayoi</u> were the people who introduced farming to Japan.
- 309. The **Yamato** were the first to establish an empire in Japan.
- 310. Jimmu was the ruler who declared himself "emperor of heaven."
- 311. **Prince Shotoku** created Japan's first constitution.
- 312. **Samurai** were Japanese warriors who pledged loyalty to nobles in return for land.
- 313. A **<u>shogun</u>** is a military leader who commands the emperor's army.
- 314. Minamoto Yoritomo was the first shogun.
- 315. **Daimyo** were rulers over small territories and farms.
- 316. **Kamikaze** are "divine winds" that kept Mongol invaders out of Japan.
- 317. **Rice** was the main crop grown by Japanese farmers.
- 318. **Buddhism** and **Shinto** were the main religions of Japan and shaped the culture.
- 319. **Murasaki Shikibu** wrote the world's first novel.
- 320. **Tanka** is Japanese poetry that does not rhyme and has five lines.
- 321. **Calligraphy** was handwriting used by the Japanese.
- 322. **Martial arts** are sports such as karate and judo that involve combat and self defense.
- 323. **Meditation** is the practice of quiet reflection that clears the mind and brings inner peace.

Medieval Europe

- 324. After the Roman Empire fell, the <u>Germanic Kingdoms</u> began to rebuild their societies and defended themselves against the Muslims, Magyars, and Vikings.
- 325. <u>**Rivers, seas, and mountain ranges**</u> determined where the people of Europe settled after they were no longer united by the Roman Empire.
- 326. The Middle Ages in Europe were also called the Dark Ages and the Age of Faith.
- 327. The **Franks** were a Germanic people who settled in what is now France.
- 328. King <u>Clovis</u> of France became the first Catholic king.
- 329. At the **<u>Battle of Tours</u>**, the Franks defeated the Muslims and Christianity became the main religion of Europe.
- 330. The **pope** was the head of the Catholic Church and supported the Christian kings.
- 331. Charlemagne increased the Frankish empire and was crowned emperor.
- 332. Otto I was crowned emperor of the Holy Roman Empire.
- 333. **Pope Gregory the Great** was the first to send missionaries throughout Europe.
- 334. The <u>Concordat of Worms</u> was an agreement that assigned power to the pope and ruler of a government.
- 335. **Feudalism** is a political system based on loyalty between lords and vassals.
- 336. Knights were warriors on horseback who fought for nobles in exchange for land.
- 337. A code of chivalry was a set of rules that were followed by knights after years of training.
- 338. The lands and fields of the Middle Ages were called manors.
- 339. A serf was a peasant laborer bound by law to the noble's land.
- 340. The rise of towns created a new **middle class** of people who did not own land but did have freedoms.
- 341. **<u>Guilds</u>** were medieval business groups formed by craftsmen and merchants.

- 342. <u>William of Normandy</u> invaded England and brought European customs to England and the Anglo-Saxons.
- 343. The **Domesday Book** was a census taken by William the Conqueror.
- 344. Henry II set up two kinds of juries in England: the grand jury and the trial jury.
- 345. The <u>**Crusades</u>** were a series of wars between Christians and Muslims over control of the Holy Land. There were 10 crusades over a period of about 200 years.</u>
- 346. **Pope Urban II** called for the Christians of Europe to fight in the Crusades.
- 347. The **First Crusade** was the only victory for the Christians.
- 348. The Third Crusade was led by **<u>Richard the Lionhearted</u>** and ended in a truce with Saladin, the Muslim ruler.
- 349. King John signed the <u>Magna Carta</u>, which took power from the king and gave some rights to the people of England.
- 350. Edward I organized England's first **Parliament**, a group of officials to help him rule.
- 351. The Middle Ages were also called the <u>Age of Faith</u> because the Catholic Church had power in the government, education, and daily life.
- 352. Education took place in **monasteries** and **convents**, where monks and nuns lived in religious orders.
- 353. A belief that differs from the teachings of the Church is called heresy.
- 354. The **Inquisition** was a court established by the Catholic Church.
- 355. Anti-Semitism, the hatred of Jews, was practiced in Europe during the Middle Ages.
- 356. **Cathedrals**, or large churches, were examples of medieval architecture and were built in Romanesque or Gothic style.
- 357. <u>University</u> comes from the Latin word for guild.
- 358. **Oxford University** is one of Europe's oldest universities.
- 359. **Theology** is the study of religion and God.
- 360. St. Thomas Aquinas combined theology with reason to write Summa Theologica.
- 361. Much literature in the Middle Ages began to be written in the <u>vernacular</u>, or everyday language, instead of Latin.
- 362. A **plague** is a disease that spreads very quickly and kills many people.
- 363. The <u>Black Death</u> was a plague that spread through Europe and killed about one out of every two people in Europe between 1347 and 1351.
- 364. The French and English fought for control of Normandy in the Hundred Years War.
- 365. **Joan of Arc** was a French peasant girl who led soldiers into battle; she was captured and burned at the stake.
- 366. **Isabella and Ferdinand** united Spain and tried to drive out the Muslims.
- The Renaissance
- 367. **<u>Renaissance</u>**, which means "rebirth," was the name given to the period in history from about 1350 to 1550 because there was a rebirth in art and learning.
- 368. During the Renaissance, people became more <u>secular</u>, more interested in worldly than religious matters.
- 369. **Florence** and **Venice** became important cities of culture and learning during the Renaissance.
- 370. The <u>de Medici</u> families ruled Florence and were patrons of the arts.
- 371. <u>Niccolo Machiavelli</u> wrote *The Prince*, a book which said that rulers had to be strong, not good, to be effective.
- 372. **<u>Humanism</u>** is a philosophy based on the idea that the individual and society are important.

- 373. **Johann Gutenberg** invented the printing press with moveable type, which helped spread ideas throughout Europe.
- 374. Leonardo da Vinci was a Renaissance scientist, inventor, and artist.
- 375. Michelangelo Buornarrotti was a famous Renaissance sculptor and artist.
- 376. **William Shakespeare** was the most famous author of the Renaissance.

The Reformation

- 377. The **<u>Reformation</u>** was a movement in the early 1500's to change the Catholic Church.
- 378. <u>Martin Luther</u> was a young monk who challenged the ideas of the Catholic Church in a document called the *Ninety-Five Theses*.
- 379. Many other religious leaders followed Martin Luther and formed other <u>denominations</u>, or branches, of Christianity.
- 380. A Christian who was not a Catholic was called a protestant.
- 381. The <u>Council of Trent</u>, a church council that held meetings to make Catholic beliefs clear, was called by Pope Paul III.
- 382. The <u>**Counter-Reformation**</u> was the effort of the Catholic Church to defeat Protestantism and to return to the Catholic Church.
- 383. The <u>Thirty Years War</u> was fought between Bohemia and the Holy Roman Empire. Other European countries became involved.
- 384. <u>Henry VIII</u> of England changed the religion of England to Anglican so that he could divorce his wife.
- 385. **<u>Bloody Mary</u>**, a daughter of Henry VIII, ruled England and tried to change it back to Catholic.
- 386. <u>Elizabeth I</u>, a daughter of Henry VIII, ruled England for 45 years and was one of England's most popular rulers.

The Age of Exploration

- 387. The social, political, and economic changes in Europe led to a period of exploration and worldwide trade called the <u>Age of Exploration</u>.
- 388. <u>Henry the Navigator</u> set up a sailing research center in Portugal.
- 389. Bartolomeu Dias and Vasco da Gama sailed the coast of Africa.
- 390. Christopher Columbus reached the Americas as he tried to sail to India.
- 391. Ferdinand Magellan circumnavigated the world.
- 392. Sir Walter Raleigh helped Elizabeth I to defeat the Spanish Armada.
- 393. Jacques Cartier explored the St. Lawrence River.
- 394. **Nicolaus Copernicus** was a Polish mathematician who developed the heliocentric theory, stating that the sun was the center of the universe.
- 395. <u>Galileo Galilei</u> proved the heliocentric theory using a telescope.