



6th Grade World History

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Unit #1 Geography of the Ancient World

[Catalhöyük: Life in an Ancient Settlement](#) (Explainer video, 2017) Katheryn Twiss, an archaeologist at Stony Brook University, studies food and animal archaeology within the Neolithic Era. Specializing in southwest Asia, Twiss is conducting research in Turkey at the Neolithic site of Çatalhöyük. By studying animal bones and fragments, Twiss is helping determine how the Neolithic era evolved from a hunter gatherer society to one that relied on domesticated animals and farming.

Unit #2 Mesopotamia

[Acts of Faith: Passover of Judaism](#) (Explainer video, 1986) Jews in Israel discuss the Passover tradition as a reminder of flights from oppression in both ancient and modern times.

[The Code of Hammurabi](#) (Explainer video, 2017) The ancient King of Babylon, Hammurabi, created a set of laws known as the "Code of Hammurabi" to rule his vast empire. This story is produced by NBC Learn in partnership with Pearson.

[Iraq War Endangers the Ruins, Treasures, of Ancient Mesopotamia](#) (News clip, 2003) The war in Iraq is threatening several archaeological sites in Baghdad, Basra and Nasiriya, including the reconstructed city of Babylon, the Hanging Gardens of Babylon, and other ruins of ancient Mesopotamia.

Unit #3 Egypt

[Hidden Planet: Egyptian Pyramids](#) (News clip, 2014) Nineteen miles south of Cairo lies the Saqqara Plateau, Egypt's oldest Pyramid complex. As part of the quest for immortality, Egyptians built massive burial chambers, where NBC's Richard Engel explores the miles of limestone tunnels that are hidden underneath the plateau.

[Restoring Egypt's Precious Artifacts After Looting](#) (News clip, 2011) Egypt's Minister of Antiquities, Dr. Zahi Hawass, shows how objects damaged amid violent protests in Cairo are being restored.

[Golden Mask Off, King Tut's Face Seen by Public for First Time in 3,000 Years](#) (News clip, 2007) Archaeologists move King Tut's mummy to a new climate-controlled display case, and remove its famous golden mask, allowing the public to see the Boy Pharaoh's face for the first time in more than 3,000 years

[Two Ancient Egyptian Tombs Found in Luxor](#) (News clip, 2017) The tombs, which date back some 3,500 years, are the latest discovery in Luxor, a city famed for its temples and tombs spanning different dynasties of ancient Egyptian history.

[In the Artifact Lab](#) (Interview, 2016) At the University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, Egyptologist David Silverman and conservator Molly Gleeson talk about the Egyptian concept of the afterlife and demonstrate some of the techniques used to study and preserve ancient artifacts.

[What Howard Carter Saw: King Tut's Tomb Revisited](#) (News clip, 2005) In 1922, archaeologist Howard Carter broke through a mud wall in a dank Egyptian tomb, and saw the golden wonders of King Tut's tomb. NBC's Campbell Brown retraces Carter's steps, and shows the tomb today.

[King Herod's Tomb May Be Found at Long Last](#) (News clip, 2007) There are no inscriptions and no bones, but Israeli archaeologists believe they have discovered the tomb of King Herod, the last King of the Jews and the ruler who ordered the Massacre of the Innocents, according to the Bible.

[DNA, CT Scans Identify Mummy of Queen Hatshepsut](#) (News clip, 2007) Egyptologists identify the mummy of the greatest Queen of ancient Egypt, Pharaoh Hatshepsut, with CT scans and DNA analysis of a missing tooth.



[Hatshepsut, the Woman Who Was King](#) (Explainer video, 2014) Queen Hatshepsut is regarded as one of the most successful pharaohs of Ancient Egypt, coming to power circa 1479 B.C. when her husband Thutmose II died. Hatshepsut served as regent and co-ruler until her death in 1458 B.C.

Unit #4 Africa

[A Tour of Morocco, a Country of Contrasts](#) (News clip, 2002) Morocco is known for its tolerance, but it's a country of contrasts. Modern and ancient practices exist side by side.

[Islam Today: An Introduction to Muslims and Their Faith](#) (News clip, 2001) NBC News contributor Jonathan Alter outlines the tenets and practices of Islam, the world's second-largest and fastest-growing religion, with 1.2 billion Muslim followers worldwide.

[The Art and Technique of Moroccan Rugs](#) (News clip, 2002) NBC's Matt Lauer visits a Moroccan carpet market and discusses the influences on the different rug designs.

[Ibn Battuta, Traveler](#) (Explainer video, 2014) Ibn Battuta travelled for almost 30 years, logging 75,000 miles and visiting the lands of every Muslim ruler at the time. His journey is considered one of the greatest in history.

[Hidden Planet: Timbuktu](#) (News clip, 2012) NBC's Richard Engel travels to Mali where his journey takes him down the Niger River, ending in Timbuktu where he meets the tuareg people.

[The Bushmen of Botswana](#) (News clip, 2004) Anthropologists and descendants of Africa's bushmen tell the story of the history of mankind.

[A Camel Ride Through the Sahara Desert](#) (News clip, 2002) NBC's Jamie Gangel explores the Sahara Desert in Morocco by camel.

[The Desertification of Africa](#) (News clip, 1992) Desertification, the movement of sand from the Sahara Desert, is covering the grass and forests in the Sahel Region and displacing people.

[The Price of Gold in Mali](#) (News clip, 2011) The skyrocketing price of gold has led to a rush on the precious metal in the United States and throughout the world, but some of the mining involves child labor and dangerous process involving mercury.

Unit #5 Persia and India

[A Discussion of the Clash Between Traditional Beliefs and Modern Life in India](#) (News clip, 1998) An editor from "The Times of India" explains how Indian traditions like the caste system and bathing in the Ganges River continue in modern life.

[Indian Classical Dance in the Modern World](#) (Explainer video, 2017) Sonali Skandan, artistic director and choreographer at Jiva Performing Arts in New York City, connects modern audiences to ancient traditions through the art of music and dance. With the help of her composer and husband, Bala, Sonali carefully choreographs the ancient Indian dance called Bharatanatyam. She along with three of her students perform the dance in traditional costume and show how music and dance can connect us to broader cultures.

[Tibet's Religious Heritage](#) (News clip, 1987) NBC's Tom Brokaw visits Tibet and takes a look at the history and practice of Buddhism in that country.

[Mohandas Gandhi, the Power of Nonviolence](#) (Explainer video, 2014) Mohandas Gandhi devoted his life to freeing India from the yoke of British rule, always with the strong conviction that people could never win their rights through violence.

[Making the Climb to Mt. Everest's Base Camp](#) (News clip, 1999) NBC's Keith Miller makes the 50-mile, 10-day hike to the base camp of Mt. Everest, showcasing the beauty and challenge of the journey.

Unit #6 China

[History of the Great Wall of China](#) (News clip, 1999) Extending over 4,000 miles, The Great Wall of China was originally built to protect the Chinese from invaders. Although it failed in multiple instances, the Great Wall is still a symbol of China's strength and a major tourist attraction for visitors.

[Genghis Khan, Conqueror](#) (Explainer video, 2014) Genghis Khan grew up among the feuding nomadic clans of the Mongolian Steppe in the 13th century. As his power and influence expanded, he ultimately unified Mongolia, creating a powerful empire that would open up cultures to other parts of Asia and Europe.

[2000 Terracotta Warriors Protect Burial Site of China's First Emperor](#) (News clip, 1999) The tomb of China's first Emperor, Qin Shi Huangdi, is protected by two thousand terracotta warriors. Locals and Chinese officials debate whether to excavate the tomb to uncover the Emperor's secrets.



[Shi Huangdi, First Emperor of Unified China](#) (Explainer video, 2014) In the year 246 BC, the young ruler of the Qin Kingdom began a war with the neighboring kingdoms of China that would eventually result in a more unified China. The young ruler would go on to become China's first emperor, named Shi Huangdi.

[The Growing Gobi Desert](#) (News clip, 2009) As the Gobi Desert continues to grow across China, parts of it are creeping across the border into Mongolia. NBC News' Adrienne Mong travels to Middle Gobi to look at what's being done to halt the desertification there.

[Visit to Old Beijing](#) (News clip, 2008) Brian Williams takes a tour through some Hutongs, narrow alleys of housing that have been home to inhabitants of Beijing for generations.

[The Expedition of Marco Polo by Computer](#) (News clip, 1999) School children use the internet to follow an expedition investigating Marco Polo's route through China.

Unit #7 Greece and Rome

[Pericles, the Golden Age of Athens](#) (Explainer video, 2014) Pericles was a statesman, orator and military general who was so influential in rebuilding ancient Athens that the "golden age" of that city-state, from 449 - 429 B.C., is known as the Age of Pericles.

[The Elgin Marbles: Can "World Art" Be Claimed or Owned?](#) (News clip, 2009) A new Acropolis Museum opens in Athens in 2009, with a space reserved for the Elgin Marbles, taken from the Parthenon 200 years ago, then sold to the British Museum, which refuses to return them.

[Ancient Rome: The Colosseum](#) (News clip, 1999) Death and entertainment were daily servings at the popular Colosseum, a centerpiece of Ancient Roman society and the precursor to the modern stadium.

[Vatican's Secret Archives Open to Public View](#) (News clip, 2012) The Vatican is giving the public a rare and temporary glimpse inside its secret archive that houses hundreds of ancient documents. Many of these are on display in an exhibition at Rome's Capitoline museum.

[Ancient Greece: Delos, Birthplace of Apollo](#) (News clip, 2001) Matt Lauer discusses the Ancient Greek island of Delos, the mythic birthplace of the gods Apollo and Artemis and a centerpiece of Ancient Greece.

[Christian Heritage in Jordan](#) (News clip, 1991) NBC's Stan Bernard explores the history of Arab Christians and visits the ruins of Christian monuments at the ancient Roman community of Jerash in Jordan.

[Cicero and the Roman Republic](#) (Explainer video, 2017) Marcus Tullius Cicero's Roman Republic is the foundation for many governments today. Romans called Cicero "Pater Patriae," or father of the country.

[Augustus and the Pax Romana](#) (Explainer video, 2014) After the assassination of his great uncle, Julius Caesar, in 44 BC, Augustus hunts down the murderers and defeats the armies of his enemies. Rising quickly to power, he becomes Rome's first emperor, beginning a period of peace and prosperity known as the Pax Romana, or Roman Peace.

[The Rich History of Cyrene, a Greek Colony](#) (News clip, 2011) NBC's Richard Engel takes a look at the ancient Greek colony of Cyrene, east of the rebel capital Benghazi in Libya, which has been rarely explored by tourists.

[Colosseum Reflected Social Class in Ancient Rome](#) (News clip, 1999) NBC's Matt Lauer looks at the history of the Colosseum. Its tiers of seats divided the economic classes of ancient Rome.

Unit #8 Maya, Aztec, Inca

[The Maya's Remarkable Civilization](#) (Explainer video, 2012) Dr. David Stuart, an archaeology professor at the University of Texas at Austin, says the Maya created a culture of sophistication and artistry. He calls the Maya calendar an "incredible invention."

[Who Were The Incas?](#) (Interview, 2001) An interview with "Exploring Cusco" author Peter Frost, who talks about the ancient Incas and early Andean civilization.

[The History of Chocolate](#) (Explainer video, 2009) A travelling museum exhibit charts the history of chocolate -- once a bitter drink served to Aztec kings and a rare delicacy, and now a favorite treat worldwide. The average American eats 12 pounds of chocolate a year.

[Pachacuti, He Who Remakes the World](#) (Explainer video, 2014) Pachacuti, the ruler of the Incas, consolidated a vast empire that stretched across South America in the 15th century.

[Simón Bolívar, an American Liberator](#) (Explainer video, 2014) Simón Bolívar was a military and political leader in Latin America, who helped several countries gain their independence from Spain in the early 19th century.

[Hernán Cortés and Moctezuma, the Conquest of a Golden City](#) (Explainer video, 2014) In the early 16th century, the Spanish and Aztec empires clashed when Hernán Cortés arrived in Mexico and met Aztec Emperor Moctezuma.



[Spanish Conquistadores](#) (Explainer video, 2007) Two decades after Columbus' famous voyages, the Spanish explorers Vasco Nunez del Balboa, Hernán Cortés and Francisco Pizarro's venture across the Atlantic. The Spanish often use savage tactics to subdue Indian tribes and steal their wealth.

[Uncovering the Past at Kaxil Kiuic](#) (News clip, 2014) Mandi Strickland is an archaeologist working at the ancient Maya site of Kaxil Kiuic in the Yucatán peninsula of Mexico. Along with her colleagues, Strickland is uncovering artifacts that will help her learn more about the ancient Maya and lessen the gap between the ancient and current Maya heritage.

[Life in the Amazon](#) (News clip, 2002) The people and wildlife of the Amazon in Brazil coexist in a rainforest that many call the "lungs of the world."

[The Temple of the Sun at Machu Picchu](#) (News clip, 2001) NBC's Matt Lauer visits the Temple of the Sun at the Inca ruins of Machu Picchu in Peru and points to a window that was designed by the Inca to showcase the sun during the winter solstice.

[Machu Picchu: The Lost City of the Incas](#) (News clip, 2001) National Geographic explorer Johan Reinhard tours the Lost City of the Incas, Machu Picchu, with NBC's Matt Lauer, explaining theories about the city's building and its abandonment.

[Lost City of Caral in Peru Had Pyramids Like Those in Ancient Egypt](#) (News clip, 2001) Archaeologists find the Lost City of Caral in Peru, with huge flat-topped stone pyramids built at about the same time as the pyramids in Ancient Egypt -- two civilizations developing simultaneously, half a globe apart.

[Farming in Ancient Empires](#) (Explainer video, 2017) The Aztecs, the Incas, and the Mayans were indigenous groups that lived in Central America but each had their own unique civilization.