Middle School World History to 1500 delivers instruction, practice, and review designed to build middle school students' knowledge of world history, from the Neolithic Revolution through the Middle Ages. By constantly honing their ability to analyze history, students build the depth of knowledge and higher-order thinking skills required to demonstrate their mastery when put to the test.

The two-semester course is arranged in themed units, each with three to five lessons. In each unit, activities make complex ideas about world history accessible through focused content, guided analysis, multi-modal representations, and personalized feedback. Each lesson includes a variety of activities such as direct instruction, application of skills, performance tasks, and formative and summative assessments. Students engage with the subject matter in an interactive, feedback-rich environment as they progress through standards-aligned content and demonstrate their learning through computer- and teacher-scored assignments.

Middle School World History to 1500 is built to state standards and informed by the College, Career, and Civic Life (C3) Framework for Social Studies State Standards.

Length: Two Semesters

Unit 1: Social Studies Skills and Big Ideas

- Thinking Chronologically
- Thinking Geographically
- Government in Early World History
- Economies Throughout World History
- Wrap-Up: Social Studies Skills and Big Ideas

Unit 2: The Beginning of Civilizations

- The Neolithic Revolution
- The Development of Civilizations
- Early Mesopotamian Civilizations
- Later Mesopotamian Civilizations
- Wrap-Up: The Beginning of Civilizations

Unit 3: Ancient Civilizations

- Nile River Civilizations
- Ancient India
- Ancient China
- Wrap-Up: Ancient Civilizations

Unit 4: Classical Civilizations

- Classical India
- Classical China

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- Classical Greece
- The Roman Empire
- Life in the Roman Empire
- Wrap-Up: Classical Civilizations

Unit 5: Major Religions in Asia

- Hinduism
- Buddhism
- Confucianism and Daoism
- Wrap-Up: Major Religions in Asia

Unit 6: Semester Wrap-Up

Unit 7: Social Studies Skills and Big Ideas

- Reading Historical Evidence
- Understanding Context and Bias in World History
- Understanding Causation and Argumentation in History
- Trade and Cultural Exchange in World History
- Wrap-Up: Social Studies Skills and Big Ideas

Unit 8: Abrahamic Religions

- Judaism
- Christianity
- Islam
- Wrap-Up: Abrahamic Religions

Unit 9: The Middle East and Europe in the Middle Ages

- Islamic Civilizations
- The Byzantine Empire
- Feudal Europe
- The Crusades
- Wrap-Up: The Middle East and Europe in the Middle Ages

Unit 10: Civilizations in Africa and the Americas

- Sub-Saharan African Civilizations
- South American Civilizations
- Mesoamerican Civilizations
- North American Civilizations
- Wrap-Up: Civilizations in Africa and the Americas

Unit 11: Postclassical Civilizations in Asia

- Postclassical China
- The Mongol Empire
- Feudal Japan
- Wrap-Up: Postclassical Civilizations in Asia

Unit 12: Semester Wrap-Up

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