In World History: 1500 to Present, students learn to see the world today as a product of a process that began thousands of years ago when humans became a speaking, travelling, and trading species. Through historical analysis grounded in primary sources, case studies, and research, students investigate the continuity and change of human culture, governments, economic systems, and social structures.

Students build and practice historical thinking skills, learning to connect specific people, places, events and ideas to the larger trends of world history. In critical reading activities, feedback-rich instruction, and application-oriented assignments, students develop their capacity to reason chronologically, interpret and synthesize sources, identify connections between ideas, and develop well-supported historical arguments. Students write throughout the course, responding to primary sources and historical narratives through journal entries, essays and visual presentations of social studies content. In discussion activities, students respond to the position of others while staking and defending their own claim. The course's rigorous instruction is supported with relevant materials and active learning opportunities to ensure students at all levels can master the key historical thinking skills.

This course is built to state standards.

Length: Two Semesters

Unit 1: Welcome to World History

- What Is World History?
- Historical Thinking Skills: Historiography and Chronology
- Historical Thinking Skills: Working with Sources
- Wrap-Up: Welcome to World History

Unit 2: The Rise of Agriculture and Early Civilizations

- The Rise of Agriculture and Early Civilizations
- The Neolithic Revolution
- Early River Valley Civilizations
- Daily Life in Early Civilizations
- Wrap-Up: The Rise of Agriculture and Early Civilizations

Unit 3: Classical Era Civilizations and World Religions

- Classical Era Civilizations and World Religions
- Classical Civilizations of Persia, Greece, and Rome
- Art, Empire, and Trade in China and India
- The Development of Major World Religions
- Classical Era Civilizations of Africa and the Americas
- Wrap-Up: Classical Era Civilizations and World Religions

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Unit 4: Regional and Transregional Interactions

- Regional and Transregional Interactions
- Commerce and Exchange in Afro-Eurasia
- New Empires on the Rise
- Europe after the Fall of Rome
- The Aztec and Inca Empires
- Wrap-Up: Regional and Transregional Interactions

Unit 5: The Rise of the World's First Global Age

- The Rise of the World's First Global Age
- Transoceanic Encounters and Global Commerce
- Africa and the Atlantic World
- Expansion of Land Empires in Asia
- The Transformation of Europe
- Wrap-Up: The Rise of the World's First Global Age

Unit 6: Semester Wrap-Up

Unit 7: World History: 1750 to the Present

- World History: 1750 to the Present
- Historical Thinking Skills: Causation and Interpretation
- Historical Thinking Skills: Writing and Arguing about History
- Wrap-Up: World History: 1750 to the Present

Unit 8: Revolutions in Science and Industry

- Revolutions in Science and Industry
- New Approaches to Science and Philosophy
- The Industrial Revolution
- Life in Industrialized Society
- Wrap-Up: Revolutions in Science and Industry

Unit 9: Imperialism, Nationalism, and Political Revolutions

- Imperialism, Nationalism, and Political Revolutions
- An Era of Imperialism
- The American and French Revolutions
- Independence in the Americas
- Legacies of the Revolutions
- Wrap-Up: Imperialism, Nationalism, and Political Revolutions

Unit 10: Global Conflicts and Recoveries

- Global Conflicts and Recoveries
- The First World War
- Life Between Wars
- The Second World War
- The Impact of Total War
- Wrap-Up: Global Conflicts and Recoveries

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Unit 11: Globalization and the World Today

- Globalization and the World Today
- Independence in Asia and Africa
- Communism and the Cold War
- The Middle East and Islam in the Modern Era
- Global Problems and Solutions
- Wrap-Up: Globalization and the World Today

Unit 12: Semester Wrap-Up

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