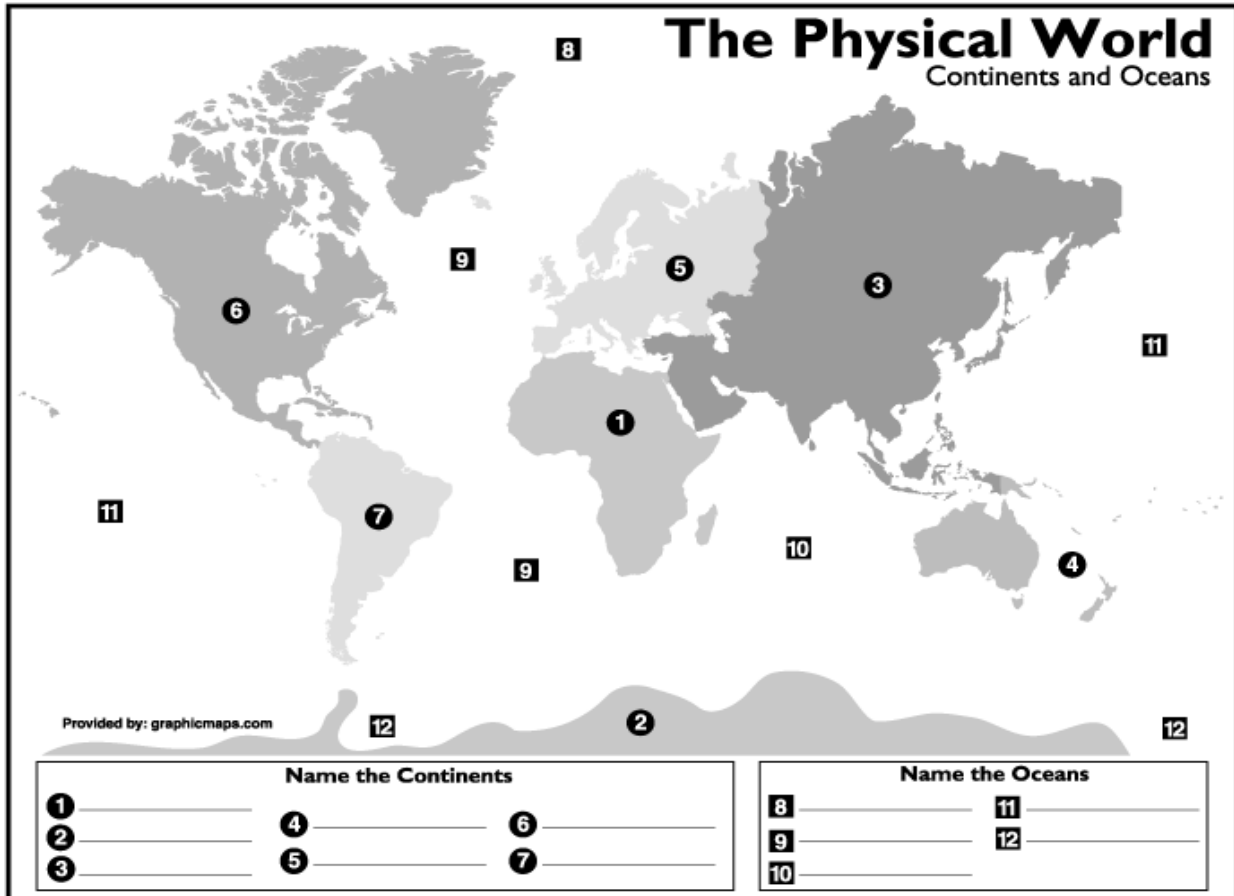


# WORLD HISTORY MUST-KNOW LIST

This list is intended to provide you a foundation for our studies coming up this year. It is not a complete list of things you will learn about this year, but it is a good start, and will help you understand future topics a little better.

Note: B.C.E. = Before Common Era (before year 0); C.E. = Common Era (after year 0)

## GEOGRAPHY



The **Nile River** is the longest river in the world. Located in northeast **Africa**, it flows north and empties into the **Mediterranean Sea**.

The **Tigris and Euphrates Rivers** are located in modern-day **Iraq (Middle East)**. The fertile land between the rivers is considered the birthplace of civilization.

The **Himalaya Mountains** are a mountain range in southern **Asia**, and has the world's highest elevation.

**China's** second longest river, the **Yellow River (Huang He)**, gets its name from the color of the muddy silt that collects in its lower course.

The world's largest sandy desert, the **Sahara**, is located in northern **Africa** and is almost as large as the **United States**.

## WORLD RELIGIONS

**Christianity** – founded during the 1<sup>st</sup> century C.E.; the most popular religion in the world with around 2 billion followers. **Monotheistic** (*belief in one god*).

**Islam** – founded during the 6<sup>th</sup> century C.E.; the second most popular religion in the world with around 1.5 billion followers. **Monotheistic**.

**Hinduism** – founded sometime between 3000 and 2000 B.C.E.; the most popular religion in India. 900 million followers around the world. **Polytheistic** (*belief in many gods*).

**Buddhism** – founded during the 5<sup>th</sup> century B.C.E.; a popular religion in **India, China, Japan**, and parts of southeast **Asia**. 376 million followers worldwide.

**Judaism** – founded sometime around 2000 B.C.E.; a **monotheistic** religion with many beliefs shared with Christianity. 14 million followers worldwide.

## PEOPLE

**Qin Shi Huangdi** (259 -210 B.C.E.) – first emperor to unify the different regions of ancient **China**.

**Julius Caesar** (100 – 44 B.C.E.) – general and senator during the time of the **Roman Republic**. Was elected “dictator for life” in 44 B.C.E., ushering in the time of Roman emperors.

**Siddhartha Gautama** (6<sup>th</sup> century – 5<sup>th</sup> century B.C.E.) – former Hindu prince, founder of **Buddhism**, one of the oldest and most popular world religions.

**Jesus Christ** (early 1<sup>st</sup> century C.E.) – central figure in **Christianity**, which became the cornerstone of western civilization.

**Muhammad** (570 – 623 C.E.) – founder of **Islam**; quickly became the dominant religion in western **Asia** and parts of southern **Asia**.

**Napoleon Bonaparte** (1768 – 1821 C.E.) – French general, declared himself emperor and attempted to secure leadership over much of **Europe**.

**Karl Marx** (1818 – 1883 C.E.) – considered the father of **communism**, an economic and political system that became popular in some nations, such as **Russia, Cuba**, and **China**, in the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

## SOCIETIES & EMPIRES

**Mauryan Empire** (321 – 185 B.C.E.) – powerful empire located in modern-day **India**. First empire to unite many of the competing Indian kingdoms of the time.

**Persian Empire** (550 – 330 B.C.E.) – at its height, the world’s largest and most powerful empire, covering today’s modern **Middle East**, including **Turkey, Iraq, Iran**, and **Afghanistan**.

**Roman Empire** (27 B.C.E. – 476 C.E.) – large, powerful ancient empire, centered on the **Mediterranean Sea**. Considered, along with ancient **Greece**, the foundation of western civilization.

**Aztec Empire** (14<sup>th</sup> century – 15<sup>th</sup> century C.E.) – rich, powerful empire located in modern-day **Mexico** and parts of **central America**. Known for its military might and extensive practice of human sacrifice.

**Inca Empire** (13<sup>th</sup> century – 15<sup>th</sup> century C.E.) – large empire located along the western side of **South America**. Once stretched from modern-day **Peru** to parts of northern **Chile** and **Argentina**.