

## Understanding Checks:

**Directions:** These will be given at various times during each week. These prompts are meant to get you thinking about a topic we are covering, see what you know about the topic, or gain an understanding of what you have learned so far. The Warm Ups are posted below and need to be submitted through my [Google Classroom Site](#).

Your responses will be graded based on the Warm Up Rubric. Make sure you follow the directions for each and reference the content provided or provide evidence as directed. You need to attain a 3 or above on your Warm Up. If you receive anything less, you need to revise your response and resubmit it to me.

[Understanding Check Rubric](#)

## Trimester One

1. **(9/14/16) - Where to Settle in Ancient India?** Directions: Answer the prompt after carefully examining the maps on the lesson webpage. Use evidence from these maps (refer to them) in your response to the prompt below. You'll need to download the PowerPoint slide and open in Google Slides. **Prompt:** If it were up to you, where would you settle in ancient India and why?
2. **(9/20/16) - Artifacts from Mohenjo Daro and Harappa - What do they tell us?** **Directions:** Look at the artifacts found at Mohenjo Daro and Harappa and speculate what it says about their culture. Answer the prompt below referring to the artifacts and ruins presented in the slideshow. **Prompt:** What do these artifacts and ruins tell us about Harappan Civilization?
3. **(9/29/16) - Namaste: Hindu's Pluralism - Directions:** Watch the Introduction to Hinduism video and read the article, What Does Namaste Mean?, then answer the prompt using evidence from these sources. **Prompt:** [Varun Soni](#), Dean of Religious Life at the Univ. of Southern California featured in the video, quoted the [Rigveda](#) (sacred Hindu scripture), "God is one, but the wise call God by many names. Or truth is one, but the wise call truth by many names." He also defined the practice of Namaste as one person saying to another, "The divinity in me acknowledges and salutes the divinity within you." --- How does the custom of Namaste, and the religion of Hinduism, [espouse pluralism](#) or acceptance of other religions and beliefs?
4. **(10/5/16) - Hinduism and Buddhism: A Comparison - Directions:** Watch the video, "Hinduism and Buddhism," then complete the Venn Diagram task explaining the similarities and differences of these two major world religions.
5. **(10/13/16) - Buddhism - A Path to Free Yourself From Suffering - Directions:** Read the quote in the image below and watch the video clip on the Four Noble Truths of Buddhism. Read the article on the Four Noble Truths for more understanding. Use these resources to answer the **Prompt:** What does this quote mean to you as it relates to the Four Noble Truths of Buddhism?
6. **(10/19/16) - Government Campaigns to Change Public Behavior - Directions:** Check out the Tobacco Facts and Figures HHS website, read the Los Angeles Times article, and then watch the video clips of commercials about our government's anti-smoking

campaign, then answer the prompt using evidence from these sources. Prompt: Why would our government spend money and time to get teens to stop smoking? How are they going about it?

7. **(10/26/16) - Geographic Factors and Early Settlement in North America** - Directions: Look at the U.S. climate, elevation, land use and precipitation maps below. Consider the geographic factors, like elevation, amount of rainfall, climate, and what land is used for today in various parts of our country to answer the prompt. In Google Slides, drag the settlement image to the place you choose and use evidence by referencing the maps in your answer. **Prompt:** Considering geographic factors, where would it make sense for early Americans (about 15,000 or more years ago) to settle within what is now the United States?
8. **(11/1/16) - Tackling Geography in China** - **Directions:** Watch the video, China's Amazing Water Canal, look at the map, read the article, China Just Opened the World's Largest Water Diversion Project, then watch the video on the Dujiangyan Irrigation System. Answer the prompt using evidence from these sources. **Prompt:** In both the Dujiangyan Irrigation System and the North-South Water Transfer Project, how has China tackled the physical geography of its country?
9. **(11/7/16) - What qualities are most important to have in a nation's leader?**  
Directions: Look over the list of leadership qualities, like "Intelligent," listed below. Click any one of them that you don't know to get its definition. Choose your top 3 that you believe are most important or necessary for a nation's leader. Justify why you believe each of the 3 you chose are most important. **Prompt:** What are the top three qualities you would look for in a nation's leader?
10. **(11/10/16) - Abraham Lincoln - Our Legendary Leader?** - Directions: Watch the video on Abraham Lincoln and use the leadership qualities list to answer the prompt using evidence to back up your answer. **Prompt:** What leadership qualities did Abraham Lincoln have that made him one of our country's greatest leaders? (Are there any qualities that he had that are not on the list?)
11. **(11/16/16) – What is Your Philosophy?** - Directions: Answer the following prompt considering the definition of philosophy and ethics below.  
**Philosophy** - the study of ideas about knowledge, truth, the nature and meaning of life, etc.  
**Ethics** - rules of behavior based on ideas about what is morally good and bad.  
**Prompt:** What is the meaning of life, according to you? What is your philosophy? How and why do you choose to behave and live your life the way you do? (Your reasons might include a religion you follow, your parents or family values, or upbringing. Think of your goals, what's right versus what's wrong...)

## **Trimester Two**

1. **(12/8/16) – The Standardization of Measurement** Directions: Watch the TED-Ed video on the metric system and read article on Chinese weights and measures standardized

- under Qin Shi Huang Di of the Qin Dynasty. Answer the prompt using evidence from the sources given. **Prompt:** Why is it important to have a standard system of measurement?
- (12/9/16) - **Book Burnings** - Directions: Read the passage from the Records of the Grand Historian of China on the Qin Dynasty's book burnings. Then watch the video on book burnings carried out by the Nazis. Answer the prompt using evidence from these sources. **Prompt:** Why would leaders, like Qin Shi Huang Di (Qin Emperor) or Hitler (Nazi Leader) burn books?
  - (12/13/16) - **Han Dynasty's Confucian Government** - Directions: The Han dynasty ran their government based on Confucianism. Go back and review the Three Ways of Thought lesson on Confucianism. and watch the short video below on Confucianism during the Han dynasty. Then, using evidence from the text, answer the prompt. **Prompt:** How would have the Han Dynasty governed China since they practiced Confucianism?
  - (1/7/17) - **Pizza & Hamburgers - The Foreign Influence on U.S. Culture** - Directions: Watch the short video (below) on the history or evolution of pizza. Then read the article, "The History of Hamburgers" and view the slideshow, Crazy McDonald's Menus Around the World. **Prompt:** Hamburgers and pizza are common items in the diet of the majority of a U.S. citizens. If someone were to ask, "What is American food?" hamburgers and pizza would surely make the list. But, they are not from or are indigenous to the U.S. Use these examples to explain how foreign things help to form our own "American" culture. Use evidence from the sources mentioned.
  - (1/10/17) - **History Repeats Itself: The Chinese Dynastic Cycle** - Directions: Consider the following quote: "If history repeats itself, and the unexpected always happens, how incapable must Man be of learning from experience." by George Bernard Shaw. We have studied the Qin dynasty and the Han dynasty so far. If you view the Animated Map Timeline (below) of the Chinese succession of dynasties and their territories, you will realize that they seem to come and go or rise and fall. Now, view the Chinese Dynastic Cycle Graphic (below) to see the common process and events that reoccur each time a dynasty rises then declines. Lastly, watch the short videos, Chinese Dynastic Cycles, that summaries this rise and fall process through illustrations. **Prompt:** Does history repeat itself? What advice would you offer the current government of China (or dynasty if there still was a dynasty in power) to avoid a decline or fall in their power? What could they do or have done to avoid this cycle of rising and falling? Use evidence from the sources to back up your answer.
  - (1/19/17) - **Explaining the Unbelievable** - Directions: Look at the two pictures of the remote village in Laos and New York City's Times Square. Visit the virtual tour link for a better picture or understanding of the location. Use these resources to answer the **prompt:** Imagine that you traveled to a remote village where the people never had electricity, TV, cellphones, or contact with the rest of the world. Now, imagine how difficult it would be to explain what New York City Times Square was like. The technology and lifestyle we have here in our country would seem incredible to the people of the small, remote village. How might you explain NYC to them? Write a description of it to try to explain it to them.

7. (1/31/17) – **Human Settlement in Ancient Greece** - Directions: 1. Look at the elevation and physical features map of Greece (below) to familiarize yourself with Greek geography. 2. Go on Google Maps and search for Greece. (View the tutorial for help). Search the physical geography of Greece to choose, in your opinion, where the best place for ancient humans to have settled and build a city. 3. Drag the settlement icon to your selected location and then answer the prompt using evidence from the map resources. **Prompt:** Where is the most ideal place in Greece for ancient humans to have settled and have built a city to start a civilization? Justify your chosen location by referencing the surrounding physical geography and describing how it would affect human settlement.
8. (2/7/17) – **Interpreting the Minoans through their Artwork** - Directions: View the Minoan artwork that's part of the Metropolitan Museum of Art collection, then read the article about Minoan art. Use evidence from these sources to answer the prompt. **Prompt:** Consider the archaeological evidence of Minoan artwork presented here. In your opinion, who were the Minoans and what was life like for them?
9. 3/1/17) – **Using Myths to Teach Values** - Directions: Watch the video below and answer the following prompt using evidence to back up your answer. **Prompt:** Even though George Washington never chopped down his father's cherry tree, why would teachers use this story or lesson in their classroom? What purpose does it serve?
10. (3/9/17) - **Is the ASFMS Dress Code Fair?** Directions: Look at the ASFMS dress code as it is written in our Student Handbook. Use evidence from the text to answer the prompt. **Prompt:** Is our dress code appropriate or not?

### Trimester 3

1. (3/19/17) – **Perception is Reality** - Directions: Watch the video clip from Independent Media in a Time of War documentary (below - WARNING! It does contain some graphic images of war). **Prompt:** Describe the main point the host, Amy Goodman, is trying to make. Why would U.S. viewers of the news, like CNN, see the Iraq War differently than international viewers of the news (watching CNN International)?
2. (3/21/17) - **Who were the Persians?** Directions: Watch the video on the Persian Empire and then answer the prompt using evidence from the video. **Prompt:** Who were the Persians?
3. (4/5/17) - **The United States - "Golden Age"** - Directions: Read the definition of a golden age, then answer the prompt. Golden Age Definition: an idyllic, often imaginary past time of peace, prosperity, and happiness. the period when a specified art, skill, or activity is at its peak. **Prompt:** If the United States was in its "Golden Age" right now, what might that look or be like? Describe what our lives might be like, society, economy, technology, etc.
4. 4/9/17) - **Freedom or Security?** - Directions: Respond to the following question. Make sure you justify your response with specific reasons why you made the choice you did. **Prompt:** Would you be willing to give up your right to privacy, right to vote, and/or freedom of expression (like speech, press, etc.) in order to gain protection and security from your government?

5. (4/10/17) - **Background on Athens and Sparta: A Comparison** - Directions: Watch the two videos on each of the Greek city-states and complete the organizer using evidence from these sources.
6. (4/26/17) – **Thomas Jefferson: Hero or Villian?** **Directions:** Watch the two video clips on the Alexander the Great lesson webpage and consider whether you believe our 3rd President of the U.S., Thomas Jefferson, should be remembered as a hero or a villain? Use evidence from the video clips (and elsewhere) to describe your opinion of Jefferson’s historical place in our history. **Prompt:** Should Thomas Jefferson be remembered as a hero or a villain of history?
7. (5/15/17) – **Greek Architecture’s Influence on the U.S.** - Visit the lesson webpage for all resources. Look at the pictures of buildings in the handout, Greek Architecture's Influence on the U.S. and use the other resources provided to find examples of each type of column, then insert them into the table below. Finally, defend the following claim using evidence from resources provided – **Claim:** The ancient Greek's style of architecture, like that of the Parthenon, has influenced architectural styles in the United States.
8. (5/17/17) - **The Origin Myth of Rome** - Directions: Watch the video on origin myths then watch the video on the story of Romulus and Remus. Answer the prompt using evidence from these sources. **Prompt:** What kind of origin myth is the story of Romulus and Remus? How does or did this myth shape how Romans looked at their past?
9. (5/22/17) - **Cultural Syncretism: Etruscan & Greek Culture Then Roman Culture** - Directions: Watch the two videos on cultural syncretism and the influences of Etruscan and Greek art on Roman art then answer the prompt using evidence from these sources. **Prompt:** How is Roman art a good example of cultural syncretism?
10. (5/24/17) - **Wealth and Power Inequality in the U.S.** Directions: Read the quote below, watch the video on U.S. wealth inequality then respond to the claim. Use evidence from the video to back up your response. “Money can't buy love, but it improves your bargaining position.” - Christopher Marlowe **Claim:** 1% of the United States’ population has a huge portion of our country’s wealth, making our country very unequal. Money equals power, therefore power in the United States is also very unequal.
11. (5/29/17) – **Power to the People: U.S. Protest Movements** - Directions: Watch the video, Why They Protest (below), then read the text, Top Ten Protest Movements, and choose one to research and complete the Activity Response.
12. (5/30/16) - **The Quest for Resources in the Mediterranean Sea Region** - Directions: Look at the Importance of the Mediterranean Sea Map Slide Presentation and then answer the following questions using this map information. [Slide Presentation](#): The Importance of the Mediterranean Sea - The Quest for Resources: Controlling Trade on the Mediterranean Sea **Prompt Questions:** 1. Why is the Mediterranean Sea so important to growing and maintaining an empire in that region? 2. Given Rome and Carthage's geography or location to each other, why might it be argued that it was only a matter of time before they went to war with one another?