

GLOSSARY AND CREDITS

History is, quite simply, the study of people. In this course, you will look at people from around the world and across time. In learning about them, you will also learn why the study of history is important to us today. You will discover that there are connections among historical events in our world; connections that link all people together across time and space. Once you understand what the study of history is all about, you will be able to apply this knowledge as you examine the history of the world's people.

In this unit, you will look at some of the historical and current complexities affecting the world in which you live. Throughout the lessons, you will study the four turning points in history and the issues affecting populations today. You will also study the characteristics of political revolutions, nation-states, and economic systems.

VOCABULARY

alchemy	a medieval science with aims to turn one substance into another (like sand into gold), discover universal cures, and prolong life
autonomy	existence as an independent nation or government
barter	to trade goods or services without the exchange of money
capital	money that is used to produce greater wealth
developing country	low and middle-income countries where people have limited access to basic goods and services
economist	a person who studies the field of economics
entrepreneur	a person who organizes, operates, and assumes the risk for a business venture
etymology	the study of the origins of words
family planning	a service intended to help people decide if they will have children and how many children they will have

laissez-faire	an economic doctrine that opposes government interference in economic activities
mercantilism	an economic system where colonies supply goods to the mother country
Mesolithic Age	the middle period in the development of technology; between the Paleolithic and Neolithic periods (12,000-8,000 B.C.)
nation	a group of people united by a common language, culture, and history
nationalism	a strong sense of love and devotion toward a nation
natural philosophy	the philosophical study of nature and physical universe
Neolithic Age	the latest period of the Stone Age (8,000-5,000 B.C.)
Paleolithic	Old Stone Age (1,000,000-12,000 B.C.)
physiocrat	an eighteenth-century French economist
production	something that is produced; a product
quota	a fixed amount
rural	describes the area outside cities; the country
sedentary	having settled down in one location
social services	government-sponsored services that improve a population's standard of living
sovereignty	ultimate authority over a state or an independent state
urban	describes the area that makes up a city
W.H.O.	World Health Organization - United Nations agency dedicated to making sure all people can attain the highest possible level of health