

High School
By
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GETTING TO KNOW YOU

Learning Objective(s): The student will

Evaluate the impact of key world history figures on the world.

TEKS/TAKS: WH1.A, WH1.B, WH.1.C, WH10.B, WH19.A, WH24.C, TAKS Obj. 5

Materials Needed: A set of the names, dates, and accomplishments so that each student has one of the three and a copy of the chart for each student.

Teaching Strategy:

Have students brainstorm the criteria that would be used to determine the people who have made the biggest impact (either good or bad) in the world during the past 6000 years.

Pass out a strip to each student. 1/3 of the students will have a person's name and 1/3 will have a short bio of an individual explaining their significance to world history, and the final 1/3 will have the years the person lived.

At a given time, have them attempt to find their matches. When all three think they have found the match, they will check it with the teacher and then sit down together until all matches are made.

Have each trio introduce themselves to the entire class by summarizing the biographical information for the remaining students to take notes on each of the ten on their chart.

Using his/her notes, have each student draw conclusions about the similarities and differences the ten people have. They could also create groupings, categorizing them by time period or area of expertise.

Optional assessments-Choose one of the following

Have the students write a short paragraph in which they decide on the top three of the ten and justify their choices for numbers 1,2,and 3.

Select the most influential and the least influential and explain why.

Write a paragraph explaining what the ten have in common and how they are different.

Have the students rank all ten, with one being the most influential.

I am the founder of Islamic faith. This is the fastest growing religion in the world today. I was born in one of the most backward areas of the world, orphaned at age six, and until age twenty-five lived rather modestly. After marrying into wealth, I learned of the belief of one god. I am personally responsible for both the Islamic theology and its main ethical principles. I also was instrumental in establishing the religious practices of the faith, which continues to play an important role in human history and the world of the twenty-first century.

I am an English scientist who eventually laid the foundations for the scientific theories that revolutionized the world. My first discovery was that ordinary white light is a mixture of all the colors of the rainbow. Even though my work in optics alone is impressive, it is my accomplishments in pure mathematics and mechanics that are considerably more important. I invented integral calculus forming the basis of most modern mathematical theory. However, my most important discoveries were in the field of motion. When I discovered the second law of motion, it became the fundamental law of classical physics. With later discovered laws of motion, I applied calculus to them to show how actual problems could be solved. Life was substantially the same from 1500 BC to 1500 AD. However, the rapid changes that have occurred during the last five hundred years can truly be attributed to the scientific revolution set in motion by my work.

I formulated the basic ethical ideas and spiritual outlooks of the largest religion in the world today, Christianity. Because I lived only 33 years, and preached my beliefs only three years, the spread of my spiritual message was done by my disciples. Born Jewish, I preached that I had been sent to save the world from the punishment of God for sinning against his laws. This belief caused the split in the oldest monotheistic faith in the world and began the Christian religion that has since spread to all continents and parts of the world.

My original name is Prince Siddhartha. Born into privilege and luxury in northeast India, I became dissatisfied and disillusioned upon seeing the poverty, suffering, and unhappiness in my surroundings. Therefore I abandoned my comfortable life in the search for truth. I decided that the suffering all came from want. While sitting under a tree, I deeply meditated until I found the solution of all pain and suffering. These Four Noble Truths formed the basis of the Buddhist religion that is one of the world's major religions, popular especially in Asia. Even though many in China today do not think of themselves as practicing Buddhists, they are strongly influenced by Buddhist philosophy and principles of living.

I was a Chinese philosopher who was the first to develop a system of beliefs synthesizing the basic ideas of the Chinese people. Believing strongly in personal morality and the idea that the role of the government was to serve its people and guide them by example, my ideas are not only evident in China for over 2000 years, but also a great deal of the rest of the world. I believed that the two most important virtues to live by were "benevolent concern for one's fellow man" and a disciplined following of rituals and obligations in daily life. I was especially concerned that the ruler of a country rule for the benefit of his people and rule by example rather than by force. While the Chinese Communists have attempted to eradicate these principles from life in China, my ideas have remained deeply rooted in China, Korea, and Japan.

I became the foremost known Christian writer and thinker and therefore am given credit for the spread of Christianity from its origin in Jerusalem. I was a Roman citizen and Jewish by birth. After the death of Jesus, I spent time personally involved in the persecution of early Christians. However, upon my conversion I became Jesus' strongest and most influential proponent. I spent my life writing about Christianity. These writings form fourteen of the twenty-seven books of the New Testament. I also spent my life in spreading the faith to non-Jewish people known as Gentiles. It is because of that reason that Christianity is no longer confined to the Middle Eastern area of the world and claims the position of the largest religion in the world.

I am the inventor of paper. Living in the imperial Chinese court, I presented the emperor several samples of paper that became commonly used by the second century throughout the empire. For a long time, the technique of papermaking was kept secret and did not escape China. However in the 8th century, Arabs kidnapped Chinese papermakers. Paper soon began to be manufactured throughout the Arab world and later in Europe.

I was the person given credit for inventing the printing press. What I actually did was develop the first method of utilizing movable type on a press allowing for a large variety of written material to be printed with speed and accuracy. At the time of the invention, China was probably more technologically developed than Europe. After my invention, Europe progressed very rapidly while China continued to use block printing and progress was comparatively slow.

While looking for a westward route from Europe to the Orient, I accidentally discovered the Americas. Not long after my exploration, the age of exploration and colonization of the New World was well underway. The history of the world would never be the same. My discovery brought people from two continents together and provided a source of mineral wealth and raw materials that altered the economies of Europe, changing the balance of power between nations.

I am best known for the theory of relativity. This discovery opened the doors for the discovery of atomic energy that was demonstrated to the world with the dropping of the atomic bombs on Nagasaki and Hiroshima.

Muhammad	570 - 632
Issac Newton	1642 - 1727
Jesus	c.6 B.C.-c. 30 A.D.
Buddha	563 B.C.-483 B.C.
Confucius	551 B.C.-479 B.C.
St. Paul	c.4 A.D.-c. 64 A.D.
Ts' Ai Lun	c. 105

Johann Gutenberg	1400-1468
Christopher Columbus	1451-1506
Albert Einstein	1879-1955

Ten Most Influential People in the World

Name	Date	Accomplishment
Ts'ai Lun		
Issac Newton		
St. Paul		
Jesus		
Muhammed		
Albert Einstein		
Johann Gutenberg		
Buddha		
Confucius		
Christopher Columbus		