

# SOCIAL STUDIES 1010

## ANCIENT TIMES TO THE PRESENT

### CONTENTS

|                                                            |           |
|------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| <b>I. ANCIENT CIVILIZATIONS AND MEDIEVAL TIMES . . . .</b> | <b>2</b>  |
| <b>Hebrews . . . . .</b>                                   | <b>2</b>  |
| <b>Egyptians . . . . .</b>                                 | <b>3</b>  |
| <b>Babylonians . . . . .</b>                               | <b>4</b>  |
| <b>Chinese . . . . .</b>                                   | <b>5</b>  |
| <b>Greeks . . . . .</b>                                    | <b>6</b>  |
| <b>Romans . . . . .</b>                                    | <b>7</b>  |
| <b>Ancient Cultures . . . . .</b>                          | <b>9</b>  |
| <b>Medieval Times: Invasions . . . . .</b>                 | <b>10</b> |
| <b>Medieval Times: Social Systems . . . . .</b>            | <b>11</b> |
| <b>Medieval Times: Culture . . . . .</b>                   | <b>13</b> |
| <b>Medieval Times: Religion . . . . .</b>                  | <b>15</b> |
| <b>II. RENAISSANCE . . . . .</b>                           | <b>20</b> |
| <b>Politics . . . . .</b>                                  | <b>20</b> |
| <b>Arts and Sciences . . . . .</b>                         | <b>22</b> |
| <b>Reformation . . . . .</b>                               | <b>25</b> |
| <b>Absolutism and Mercantilism . . . . .</b>               | <b>30</b> |
| <b>III. THE MODERN WORLD . . . . .</b>                     | <b>38</b> |
| <b>Revolutions . . . . .</b>                               | <b>38</b> |
| <b>Wars . . . . .</b>                                      | <b>44</b> |
| <b>Current Events . . . . .</b>                            | <b>48</b> |
| <b>Glossary . . . . .</b>                                  | <b>56</b> |

2018 Printing

The material in this book is the product of the Lord's blessing and many individuals working together on the teams, both at Alpha Omega Publications and Christian Light Publications.

Original material copyright ©1978 by Alpha Omega Publications  
All rights reserved. Revised by permission.

CLP Revision copyright ©1980

**Christian Light Publications, Inc.**

Harrisonburg, Virginia 22802

Tel. 1-540-434-0768

Printed in USA

Copyrighted material. May not be reproduced without permission from the publisher.

---

---

---

---

---

---

# I. ANCIENT CIVILIZATIONS AND MEDIEVAL TIMES

The first section of the review will deal with the world prior to 1500. It will recall the ancient civilizations, will remind you of their ending, and will discuss their contributions to the world. By 1500 the nations of Western Europe were stable

enough to begin searching for places to establish colonies. Spain, England and France led the way in New World exploration and colonization. The modern world finally began to develop.

## SECTION OBJECTIVES

**Read these objectives.** When you have completed this section, you should be able:

1. To list the most important ancient civilizations.
2. To explain how ancient societies governed themselves.
3. To identify the leaders of the ancient civilizations and their accomplishments.
4. To describe the cultures of the various societies.
5. To explain feudalism.
6. To show the importance of the church in the Middle Ages.

## VOCABULARY

**Study these words** to enhance your learning success in this section.

assimilation

Ides of March

see

Diaspora

Nicene Creed

triumvirate

diocese

scriptorium

vernacular



**Note:** All vocabulary words in this LIGHTUNIT appear in **boldface** print the first time they are used. If you are unsure of the meaning when you are reading, study their definitions in the glossary.

## HEBREWS

Through the Hebrews, God gave the Old Testament of the Bible to the world. It records the most ancient of times. Its opening lines state: "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth" (Genesis 1:1). No time existed before the begin-

ning.

The Hebrews were the descendants of Abraham, who settled in Canaan. From Canaan, Abraham's grandson Jacob moved his family to Egypt to be reunited with his son Joseph and to provide

his family with sustenance during a famine. Generations later, Moses led them back to Canaan, the Promised Land. The area known as Biblical Canaan was approximately that of Israel today.

The Hebrews went through an eventful history in Canaan. Periods of prosperity and godly zeal were interspersed with famine, defeat, and idolatry. Repentance brought them back to God's blessing, but the toll of sin and disobedience had its effect. The kingdom was divided in a civil war. The Northern Kingdom fell prey to Assyria after about two centuries. After another 136 years Babylon conquered the Southern Kingdom, destroyed the city of Jerusalem, and carried many

of the Hebrews as captives into their empire. In Babylon, the Hebrews spent much of the next seventy years establishing the Old Testament canon and solidifying their beliefs.

Many of the **Diaspora** Jews never returned to Canaan. Others returned to Jerusalem after the Babylonian Captivity. Later they became part of the Roman Empire.

The promised Saviour, Jesus Christ, was born in a Palestinian Jewish setting during the Roman rule. His life, teachings, and salvation were not accepted by many of His countrymen. Many of their descendants are still waiting for a Messiah. Those Jews who believed in Jesus helped establish the Christian church throughout the world.



### **Complete these statements.**

- 1.1 Through the Hebrews, God gave the world the \_\_\_\_\_ .
  - 1.2 Canaan was called the \_\_\_\_\_ .
  - 1.3 The Hebrews solidified their beliefs while in \_\_\_\_\_ .
  - 1.4 The Hebrews were the descendants of \_\_\_\_\_ .
  - 1.5 The scattering of the Hebrew people all over the world was called the \_\_\_\_\_ .
- 

## **EGYPTIANS**

The land along the Nile River had the requirements for settlement: warm climate, water supply, protective mountains, fertile soil, and a long coastline.

Egypt, the oldest of the early civilizations, developed a calendar, a system of irrigation, written communication, and local government before it was classified as a civilization.

The first central government was formed by the uniting of Egypt's upper and lower kingdoms under King Menes in 3100 B.C. From his capital at Memphis, he ruled with a strong hand and was able to keep the two kingdoms together and start a dynasty. Later the Pharaohs, as they came to be known, were considered divine, and their words were never questioned.

The government was not always strong enough to keep out invaders. Over the centuries, Egypt

was conquered several times. One group of invaders, the Hyksos, brought horses and chariots with them in the sixteenth century B.C. The horses and chariots proved very valuable to the Egyptians, who used them to attack and conquer others once they drove out the Hyksos forces.

After cities were established and when the government was stable, Egypt began to trade with cities and nations in the Mediterranean world. Surplus wheat and other grains were traded for needed lumber, tin, and other products. Trading brought tin to the Egyptians, possibly by the Phoenicians. Egyptian artisans mixed copper and tin to make bronze for decoration and weapons. Scribes kept records of trade transactions as Egyptians learned the importance of records for government and trade.



**Answer true or false.**

- 1.6 \_\_\_\_\_ Egypt was settled on land along the Nile River.
- 1.7 \_\_\_\_\_ King Menes ruled Egypt from his capital at Hyksos.
- 1.8 \_\_\_\_\_ The Egyptians imported tin for making bronze.
- 1.9 \_\_\_\_\_ Business records were kept by Egyptian scribes.
- 1.10 \_\_\_\_\_ Egypt was such a powerful nation it was never invaded.



**Complete these statements.**

- 1.11 Bronze is made by mixing a. \_\_\_\_\_ and b. \_\_\_\_\_.
- 1.12 The Hyksos brought the a. \_\_\_\_\_ and b. \_\_\_\_\_ to Egypt.
- 1.13 Four developments of the Egyptian civilization were:  
a. \_\_\_\_\_, b. \_\_\_\_\_,  
c. \_\_\_\_\_, and d. \_\_\_\_\_.
- 1.14 Egyptian leaders considered divine were called \_\_\_\_\_.

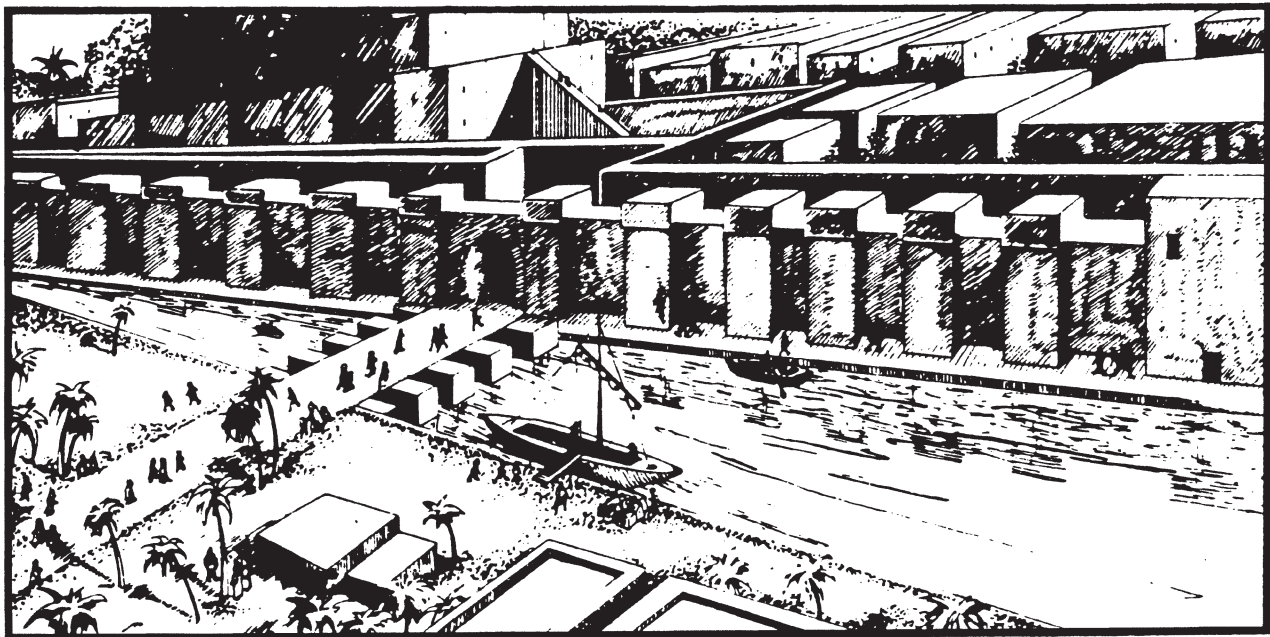
## BABYLONIANS

Between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers at the eastern end of the Fertile Crescent is located the land whose name, *Mesopotamia*, means "the land between two rivers." Several groups settled in this river valley, known as the plains of Shinar. Although some of them did build empires, they never developed beyond a city-state organization. Thus they are not considered major civilizations.

One of these groups was the Babylonians. Their capital city of Babylon was beautiful, and it lasted nearly two thousand years. It was in Babylon that

one of the emperors, Hammurabi, codified the laws of Babylonia. Hammurabi was able to unite the Babylonians, but after his death his empire disintegrated.

The Babylonian economy was agriculturally based, but the people did trade with the existing civilizations. A few craftsmen made articles to sell, but most of their sales were of food grains. Babylonians used clay for building, since stone was not available. Brick remains have been located by archaeologists.



Babylon





**Answer true or false.**

- 1.15 \_\_\_\_\_ No remains of the Babylonians have ever been found.  
1.16 \_\_\_\_\_ Hammurabi, emperor of Babylonia, codified the laws of his country.
- 

## CHINESE

The earliest Far East civilization began in the Yellow (Huang Ho) and Yangtze river valleys of east-central China. The Yellow River often flooded, causing disaster for the people. Crops could not be planted, and starvation followed. Mass migrations to northern China, and later to southern China, took place because of this condition. In the south, rice cultivation was begun. In the north, the geography was more suitable to wheat-growing.

The unification of the tribal groups in China was difficult. Its feudal stage was a period of war and invasion, as it would be much later in Europe. China became one nation in the third century before Christ. Under the Sung rule China reached new heights of production and trade. After the Crusades, demand from Europe for Chinese products became very great. At the same time, trade routes overland became costly and dangerous. Europeans began to look for a way to reach the Far East by sailing west.

China is protected by mountains and the sea, but to the north are plains from which invaders came. The Huns, a fierce and warlike tribe, inhab-

ited the area. To protect themselves from the Huns, the Chinese had built the Great Wall of China about 200 B.C. Over the years the wall began to crumble, and in the thirteenth century the Mongol leader Ghenghis Khan, who had united several of the nomadic tribes north of the wall, attacked and conquered the northern Chinese. These Mongols, as they were called, also swept across Asia into Russia. Ghenghis Khan left his empire to his grandson, Kublai Khan, who was successful in reuniting northern and southern China. It was during this time that Marco Polo came with his father and brother from Italy to visit China. Marco became a valued government official for the Khan and traveled over many areas in the East fulfilling his duties. After twenty-four years, the Polos returned to Italy where Marco dictated his adventures while imprisoned by the Genoese. His book *The Description of the World* became widely read and influenced subsequent explorers.

The later dynasties, though troubled by turbulence and rebellion, continued to economically develop the empire. However, they kept an aloof policy toward European influence.

---



**Answer true or false.**

- 1.17 \_\_\_\_\_ The Great Wall of China was built after the birth of Christ.  
1.18 \_\_\_\_\_ Mesopotamia means "land between two rivers."  
1.19 \_\_\_\_\_ Flooding on the Yangtze River caused great hardship for the early Chinese.  
1.20 \_\_\_\_\_ Ghenghis Khan was a native of northern China.  
1.21 \_\_\_\_\_ After the Crusades, Chinese demand for European products became very great.



**Complete this writing assignment.**

- 1.22 Research Marco Polo's visit to China and prepare a paper of approximately one hundred words telling about what he saw. Have your teacher check your paper.



## GREEKS

Much of Greek civilization had its origin in the culture of Crete. The Cretans, or Minoans, had developed a high degree of civilization and dominated the Aegean world until 1450 B.C. when the Mycenaean empire took control. This culture developed in the large and powerful town of Mycenae in the Peloponnesus. Mycenae was invaded by the barbaric Dorians in the mid-1200s B.C., throwing Greece into a period known as the Dark Age. During this time achievements and knowledge were destroyed or neglected.

It was during the Dark Age that the Greek city-states developed. At times, neighboring city-states allied to each other to form larger and stronger states. Often fighting occurred over the little farmland found along the Grecian coastline. A lack of sufficient agricultural soil led these city-states to develop trading relationships with other regions. This led to the founding of Greek colonies around the shores of the Mediterranean.

Athens and Sparta emerged as the two influential city-states. The first democratic practices in government appeared in Athens. First in 490 B.C. and again in 480 B.C., Athens defeated an aggressive Persia. The Athenian civilization reached its peak under Pericles after the Persians were routed. Its culture and economy flourished.

Rivalry between Athens and Sparta led to the Peloponnesian War (431-404 B.C.). Athens was defeated but Spartan victory was short-lived. Thebes defeated Sparta in 371 B.C. Continued clashes between city-states weakened Greece. In

338 B.C. Philip of Macedonia conquered the independent Greeks. His son, Alexander the Great, spread the Greek Empire and culture over the Middle East. As Greek culture mingled with the cultures of the conquered peoples, the Hellenistic culture developed.

Alexander swept as far east as India. He attempted to unite the area, but was not successful. Probably his worst mistake was his failure to provide for a successor to rule after his death. The empire went into a period of decline, and the Greeks began to give way to the next civilization, Rome.



**The Ancient Greek World.**



### **Answer these questions.**

- 1.23 Why were the ancient Greek city-states forced to trade outside their borders?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 1.24 What is the Dark Age of ancient Greece? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 1.25 Where did much of Greek civilization have its origins? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 1.26 What was one of Alexander the Great's most serious mistakes? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 1.27 Who fought in the Peloponnesian War? a. \_\_\_\_\_ and  
b. \_\_\_\_\_

## ROMANS

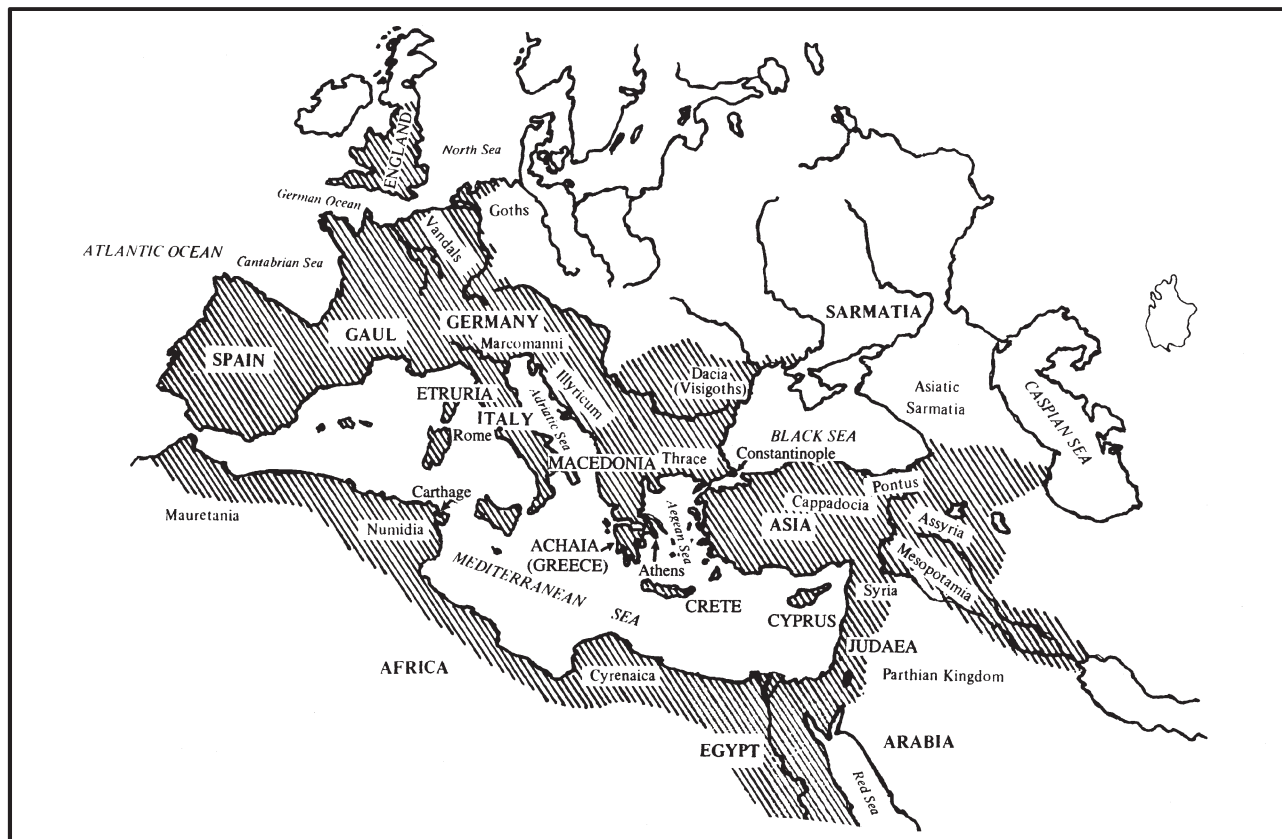
The story of Rome began with the defeat of the Etruscans for control of the city-states that had grown up around the mouth of the Tiber River. The Etruscans were of the Etrurian empire, situated in central northwest Italy. Rome was not located on the seacoast since no natural harbor indented the Italian coastline there.

During the early years, Rome followed the practice of the Etruscans and ruled with a king who took advice from a senate made up of the people from the upper classes. When dissatisfaction arose among the lower classes, the *plebians*, Rome became a republic and allowed *tribunes* or representatives of the people to be elected and to advise. Rome was on its way to becoming a democracy. Rome took possession of different regions of the Italian peninsula in one of two ways. They drove out the residents or they made them subservient. This takeover included the Greeks. As it established supremacy over the peninsula, Rome made the conquered people feel as if they were part of Rome by granting them Roman citizenship. At the same time, Rome assured itself of

a large army when it was needed.

Rome became involved in the Punic Wars with Phoenicia over the city of Carthage in North Africa. Carthage was a Phoenician colony, and Phoenicia interfered with Roman trade in the Mediterranean. Three wars were fought over a period of more than a hundred years until Rome devastated Carthage and sold its people into slavery. Shortly afterward, the city of Corinth in Greece met almost the same fate.

Rome began to hire mercenaries to fight battles of expansion, but ensuing chaos destroyed the political gains the plebeians had made. The two Gracchi brothers, members of the senate and the upper class, came to their support. Their efforts to help the poor failed, and the result was civil war. The senators fled for their lives; and Caesar, Pompey, and Crassus tried to form a **triumvirate** to rule Rome. Seven years later Crassus died in warfare. Caesar turned on Pompey and defeated him in 45 B.C. to become the sole ruler of the Roman world. Fearing that he would start a line of dictators, the senators decided to get rid of





Caesar; and accordingly on the **Ides of March**, 44 B.C., they stabbed him to death in the senate chambers. No one wanted to succeed Caesar although Octavian, Caesar's adopted son, was his heir. Trouble over who should rule ended when Mark Antony and Octavian decided to rule together, with Antony ruling in the east and Octavian in the west. This arrangement lasted for about ten years when Octavian was told that Antony together with Cleopatra, queen of Egypt, would try to seize control. A battle followed at Actium where Antony and Cleopatra were defeated in 31 B.C. Antony and Cleopatra committed suicide, and Egypt became a Roman province. Octavian was granted the title Augustus (meaning "exalted") by the senate and became the first Roman emperor.

During his short term in office, Caesar had begun reforms. Octavian continued these reforms. He gave food to the poor and provided entertainment for them. Caesar had decided that all conquered people should be given Roman citizenship with all the privileges that went with it. He also had made reforms in the tax system, which Augustus continued.

Augustus was now ruler over a large empire, and his reign began with what would later be called the Roman Peace or as the Romans called it, *Pax Romano*. Peace allowed time and money for other activities. New trade was established with the provinces, and the empire became almost self-sufficient. North Africa furnished grain for most of the empire's bread. Roads, bridges, public buildings, and aqueducts were built. Travel became easier within the empire, and roads were filled with carts and people. Christ was born during the reign of Augustus in the town of Bethlehem in the Roman province of Judaea.

However, Rome ruled with a firm hand. Human life was not considered of great value. More than half of the empire's population were slaves. Law and order were enforced, with insurrectionists and anti-Roman advocates ruthlessly punished or

killed. The crucifixion of Christ was not seen as such an unjust event in the eyes of pagan Romans. It was part of a calculated state system.

After the death of Augustus, peace continued, but inferior rulers outnumbered good ones. Emperor worship was enforced, and those who did not cooperate were considered disloyal and worthy of death. The early Christian church suffered untold tribulation as pagan rulers sought to bring this rival religion to extinction. Devout Christians were tortured, fed to wild beasts, or used as torches to light Emperor Nero's (A.D. 54-68) evening stroll in his garden.

Many of the emperors ruled for personal advantage. Great expenses were made to erect monuments and buildings honoring rulers and Roman gods. The welfare of the state was not considered. Rome went into decline. No longer able to keep invaders out, Rome found its borders under constant attack by Germanic tribes. The army was increased in size, but the cost was high. As more soldiers were needed, the cost to the people impoverished them and inflation eroded the value of the money. Government was not only inefficient but corrupt. Civil disorder was almost constant. Emperors Diocletian and Constantine tried to solve these problems. Diocletian thought the empire was too large for one man to rule; therefore, he divided it into the Eastern and Western empires. Constantine reunited them and moved the capital to Constantinople. Constantine also made Christianity an officially-recognized religion, and sought the collaboration of the church and the state.

The plan of Constantine to strengthen the empire by reunification failed. It was divided again after Constantine died, and from that point on the Western half declined. It was overrun by the Ostrogoths in A.D. 476, and a Germanic emperor named Odacer took the throne. The Eastern half lived on for a thousand years and finally succumbed to the Ottoman Turks when they came into power in southwest Asia.



### **Complete these statements.**

- 1.28 The plebians were the \_\_\_\_\_ classes of Rome.
- 1.29 After defeating Antony and Cleopatra, Octavian was granted the title of \_\_\_\_\_ by the Roman senate.
- 1.30 To make conquered peoples feel like Romans, Rome gave them Roman \_\_\_\_\_.



- 1.31 The Roman leader stabbed to death on the Ides of March, 44 B.C., was \_\_\_\_\_ .
- 1.32 The Roman Empire was divided into Eastern and Western empires by the emperor \_\_\_\_\_ .
- 1.33 *Pax Romano* means \_\_\_\_\_ .
- 1.34 When Christ was born during the reign of Augustus, Bethlehem was a town in one of the Roman \_\_\_\_\_ .
- 1.35 The story of Rome began with the defeat of the \_\_\_\_\_ .



**Answer this question.**

- 1.36 Why did the Roman Empire in the west go into decline? \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

## ANCIENT CULTURES

All of the ancient civilizations, with the exception of the Hebrews, were polytheistic; that is, they worshiped many gods. Their gods were similar in nature, and the presence of one overruling god was evident. Most civilizations developed a religion that was based on nature. Several also added mysterious religious practices. The Far Eastern cultures adopted religions based on the thoughts of great men of the time, such as Confucius and Buddha. The Chinese added ancestor worship, which does not appear to have developed anywhere in the West. Egypt considered its Pharaohs to be divine, and Rome deified its deceased emperors.

Most ancient cultures believed in education for boys, but only Babylon made an effort to educate its daughters. The fact that all ancient cultures were interested in education indicates that they must have made a connection between success and learning. Government jobs in ancient China were based on civil service examinations, for which a strong educational background was required.

Each society had a small, rich upper class and a large mass of lower-class poor. Middle classes were significantly small, but the middle class was making its beginning among people engaged in trade, business, and industry. In no case did the middle class become large enough to be a political force.

All of the civilizations traded with the other parts of the known world, and the upper classes enjoyed the products brought in from other nations. The lower class had little money or opportunity to advance. Most societies remained agricultural, with few large centers of trade.

Most civilizations developed a written language, but Eastern languages were far different from those in the West. Latin was the official language of the Roman Empire; it was the source of many languages spoken today. Some written languages, such as Chinese, were very complicated. Trading nations also developed a system of bookkeeping and keeping records.