Unit 5.1 Centuries of Upheaval in Afroeurasia 300-600 CE
Lesson 1: Empire
Unit Objectives:
1. Identify characteristics of empire.
2. Explain multiple causes for the fall of the Han empire.
3. Research and evaluate the multiple causes for the fall of Rome.
4. Describe Justinian’s attempt to recreate the Roman empire and why it failed.
5. Describe the rise of the Gupta empire and its golden age.
7. Explain the role of pastoral nomads in the collapse of the Gupta empire.
8. Use evidence from the Han, Roman, and Gupta empires to identify reasons for the demise of long-enduring empires.

MTP: 1. Historical Context - Han/Roman/Gupta
      2. What is an empire - a clearer understanding
      3. What’s due?

Apr 2015 75 min.
1. Historical Context

- Pair Work:
  - From 300 BCE to 500 CE a number of complex and enduring empires dominated large parts of Afroeurasia.
  - Among these were the Han and Roman empire.
  - In spite of their vast size, wealth, and power, all of these large empires suffered a devastating collapse between 200 and 600 CE.
  - As you read the Historical context, ask your partner, “Why do empires fall?”

- ...
2. What is an empire?

- In pairs or as a class:
  - What is an empire? How is an empire different from a kingdom?
  - Are you able to list examples of empires?
  - As you read SH_1.1 (What is an empire?), answer the following questions:
    - 1. Would you rather rule a kingdom or an empire? Explain your thinking. ...
    - 2. Although some large empires survived for a very long time, even the strongest and most organized among them disintegrated in the early centuries C.E. What do you think may have caused their collapse?
    - 3. Make a list of things necessary for an empire to survive and be successful. Rank the list in order of importance and give a reason or two why.

- ...
3. What’s Due?

- Primary Source Readings - various dates
- Project: Time Travel Brochure - April 10
- Knowledge Assessment I - April 17
- Historical Research Paper (Essay I) - April 24
- Historical Research Paper Planner
- Historical Portfolio - May 1
Unit 5.1 Centuries of Upheaval in Afroeurasia 300-600 CE
Lesson 2: A Concatenation of Miseries
(CSI Han China)
Unit Objectives:
1. Identify characteristics of empire.
2. Explain multiple causes for the fall of the Han empire.
3. Research and evaluate the multiple causes for the fall of Rome.
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MTP: 1. Introduction
     2. Mulan?
     3. Han Dynasty Graphic Organizer
     4. What’s due?

Apr 2015

75 min.
1. Introduction

- In groups:
  - The first empire to fall was the Han. We will investigate into the Han empire’s demise and why it occurred.
  - One clue to what happened is found in China’s later literature concerning this period.

- ...
2. Mulan?

- In groups:
  - Have you ever seen the Disney movie “Mulan”?
  - The original story is a poem that focuses on one of the problems that helped lead to China’s downfall.
  - Let’s read SH_2.1, The Poem of Mulan and discuss. ...
    - Note: In the disney version of Mulan, the leader of the invaders is named Xiongnu.
    - This constant struggle with the northern nomads was indeed one of the contributing factors in the collapse of the Han. But it was not the whole story.

- ...

Saturday, May 2, 15
3. Han Dynasty Graphic Organizer

- In pairs:
  - Read over SH_2.1 Han Dynasty Graphic Organizer.
  - It is important when reading over the organizer to follow the arrows.
  - Many of the events listed have a cause-and-effect relationship.
- As you read over the organizer, fill out SH_2.3, “What Happened and Why” and 2.4, “The Fall of the Han.”
- ...
3. What’s Due?

- Primary Source Readings - various dates
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Unit 5.1 Centuries of Upheaval in Afroeurasia 300-600 CE
Lesson 3: Rome Didn’t Fall in a Day
Unit Objectives:
1. Identify characteristics of empire.
2. Explain multiple causes for the fall of the Han empire.
3. Research and evaluate the multiple causes for the fall of Rome.
4. Describe Justinian’s attempt to recreate the Roman empire and why it failed.
5. Describe the rise of the Gupta empire and its golden age.
7. Explain the role of pastoral nomads in the collapse of the Gupta empire.
8. Use evidence from the Han, Roman, and Gupta empires to identify reasons for the demise of long-enduring empires.

MTP: 1. Introduction
     2. The Crossing
     3. Compare & Contrast (Rome & Han)
     4. The Fall of Rome: 42 Reasons?
     5. The Plague
     6. What’s due?

Apr 2015 75 min.
1. Introduction

- The fall of the Han empire was a very complex story involving many interrelated factors (remember the graphic organizer?).
- The next big empire to fall was the Roman empire. Was this also a complicated affair? Were there similar causes for fall of Han and Rome? or was Rome’s fall a completely different story? Let’s find out shall we?
- ...

Saturday, May 2, 15
2. The Crossing

- In pairs:
  - Read SH_3.1 The Crossing, an historical fiction story is an account of real events that took place along the Danube River in 376 CE.
  - As you read the story, try to answer, What factors are found in this story that might have helped bring down the Roman empire?
  - Also answer the questions that follow the reading.

...
3. Compare & Contrast (Han vs Rome)

- In pairs:
  - Cite factors that might have led to the eventual destruction of the Roman empire. Think about how the Han empire fell as well.
  - Are there any similarities? What “falling dominoes” could have resulted from the events portrayed in the story?
  - Do the Poem of Mulan and The Crossing have anything in common?
  - ...
Decline of Empire

Roman Empire

- Internal opposition - inept emperors
- Difficulties in administering vast empire creates rivalries and divisions of authority
- Eastern and Western Empire - capital moved to Constantinople
- Germanic invasions by Vandals, Ostrogoths, and Visigoths
- 476 Odacer deposes final Western Roman Emperor
- Eastern Roman Empire becomes Byzantine Empire lasts another 1000 years

Han China

- Infighting among ruling elites
- Inequitable distribution of land - tax burden fell on peasants rather than on large landowners
- Series of peasant rebellions
- Generals usurp political power - become warlords
- 220 CE generals divide empire into three kingdoms.
- Emigration of nomadic peoples into N. China kept country disunited

Decline in Morals and Values that have upheld society together
- Public Health and Urban Decay
- Political Corruption
- Unemployment and Inflation
- Military Spending - too costly
4. The Fall of Rome: 42 Reasons?

- Think about this...
  - There were other factors at work beyond those illustrated in “The Crossing” to help explain the decline of Rome.
  - Historians continue to debate a rather long list of causes (around 140 something) for the fall of Rome. Let’s take a look at a list of 42 of them, see SH_3.2, 42 Reasons.
  - Would a graphic organizer showing the fall of Rome look similar or different to the Han empire’s graphic organizer?

...
5. The Plague

- Attempts were made following the fall of Rome to reunite the empire. The Byzantine Emperor Justinian attempted to do this. Like Emperor Wen (in China), Justinian’s efforts were successful, but he would lead to ultimate failure.
- Read over SH_3.3 (Procopius, Plague, 542 CE) and discuss the plagues impact on his efforts.
- ...
6. What’s Due?

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Unit 5.1 Centuries of Upheaval in Afroeurasia 300-600 CE
Lesson 4: The Light Go Out in India
Unit Objectives:
1. Identify characteristics of empire.
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3. Research and evaluate the multiple causes for the fall of Rome.
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MTP: 1. Introduction
       2. Golden Age Epic Poem
       3. The Hephthalites (The Who?)
       4. Shock and Awe: Nomad Style
       5. What’s due?

Apr 2015 75 min.
1. Introduction

- Both the Han and Roman empires disintegrated as a result of many complex, interrelated factors.
- Did the Gupta empire suffer the same fate? Let’s find out shall we?
- ...

Saturday, May 2, 15
2. Golden Age Epic Poem

- One important form of literature from this time period is the “epic poem.”
- An epic poem is a long poem that tells a story.
- The story to be told in this case is the “golden age” of India, which was the Gupta empire.
- You will compose the story as a class, each pair will do a portion of the poem. :)
- Read over SH_4.1 (The Gupta empire: An Epic Poem). Use textbooks and internet sources to create your class’ epic poem.
- Once finished read it out loud. Discuss the significance of the many accomplishments of Gupta India.
- Note:
  - Although the accomplishments of the Gupta “golden age” were very impressive, it is really about the demise of the Gupta empire. So how could such a successful and brilliant empire suddenly collapse?
  - is this story similar to the Han and the Romans?

Epic poetry: “A long narrative poem celebrating the great deeds of legendary heroes, in a grand ceremonious style. The hero usually protected or even descended from gods performs superhuman exploits in battles or voyages often
3. The Hepthalites (The Who?)

- In pairs:
  - Read over SH_4.2 The Hepthalites
    - As a result of the Hepthalite invasions, the Gupta empire was completely annihilated. Even though the Hepthalite were eventually defeated, India fragmented into dozens of small kingdoms and was not united again on a large scale for a thousand years.
    - Now, can we compare the end of the Gupta empire to the fall of the Han and Roman empires?
    - If the Gupta empire was well organized and healthy, how could it be so decisively overwhelmed by a bunch of nomads?
- ...
4. Shock and Awe: Nomad Style

- In pairs:
  - Read over SH_4.3 Shock and Awe and discuss.
  - ...

![Image of historical scene with Mounted Warriors and text: TURKISH WARS
1: Late Sassanian Savar-Framandar
2: Kanarang of Abarshahr
3: Paygospanan-Banu
4: Turkish Gok warriors]
6. What’s Due?

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