

# 历史类文章背景知识

## 词汇补充

ancestor 祖先

ancient civilization 古代文明

origin 起源 originate 起源于

anthropology 人类学

paleo-anthropology 古人类学

artifact 人造物品；手工艺品

antique 古物，古董

antiquity 古代，古老

relic 遗物，文物

clan 氏族；部落

tribe 部落

cluster 丛生，群聚

excavate (unearth) 挖掘

hominid 原始人类，人（科）

Bronze Age （青）铜器时代

Iron Age 铁器时代

Neolithic Age 新石器时代

Neolithic 新石器时代的

Mesolithic 中石器时代的

Stone Age 石器时代

Paleolithic Age 旧石器时代

Rock painting 岩画

remains 遗迹，遗骸

ruins 遗迹，废墟

skull 颅骨；头盖骨

fossil 化石

accusation 谴责，指控

Amendment 修正案

American Civil War 美国内战

colonize 拓殖，殖民

Congress 美国国会

conspiracy 阴谋

election 选举

federal system 联邦制

immigrant 移民

imprisonment 监禁

Independence War 美国独立战争

institutionalize 机构化

legislation 立法

metropolitan 大都市的

military 军事的

monarchy 君主制

municipal 市的，市政的

office holding 任职

overturning 颠覆性的

presidential system 总统制

radical 激进的，根本的

release 释放

Republicans 共和党

Senate 参议院

vote 投票

evolution 进化

structure 结构

import 进口

merchandising 推销

flourish 繁荣

isolation 隔离

sufficiency 充足

antagonistic 敌对的

inhabitant 居民

migration 移民  
community 社区

urbanism 都市生活

## 背景知识

### America

Sample passages:

TPO33-2 Railroads and Commercial Agriculture in Nineteenth-Century United States

TPO50-2 The Achievement of Brazilian Independence

Topics: agriculture, economics, migration, colony, independence, architecture



The Americas, a landmass comprising the continents of North and South America. Humans first settled the Americas from Asia between 42,000 and 17,000 years ago. A second migration of Na-Dene speakers followed later from Asia. The first known European settlement in the Americas was by the Norse explorer Leif Ericson.[8] However, the colonization never became permanent and was later abandoned. The voyages of Christopher Columbus from 1492 to 1502 resulted in permanent contact with European (and subsequently, other Old World) powers, which led to the Columbian exchange

**Maya civilization:** The Maya civilization was a Mesoamerican civilization developed by the Maya peoples, and noted for its hieroglyphic script—the only known fully developed writing system of the pre-Columbian Americas—as well as for its art, architecture, mathematics, calendar, and astronomical system. The Maya civilization developed in an area that encompasses southeastern Mexico, all of Guatemala and Belize, and the western portions of Honduras and El Salvador. This region consists of the northern lowlands encompassing the Yucatán Peninsula, and the highlands of the Sierra Madre, running from the Mexican state of Chiapas, across southern Guatemala and onwards into El Salvador, and the southern lowlands of the Pacific littoral plain.

**United States Declaration of Independence:** The United States Declaration of Independence is the statement adopted by the Second Continental Congress meeting at the Pennsylvania State House (now known as Independence Hall) in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on July 4, 1776. The Declaration announced that the Thirteen Colonies at

war with the Kingdom of Great Britain would regard themselves as thirteen independent sovereign states, no longer under British rule. With the Declaration, these new states took a collective first step toward forming the United States of America.

**Second Industrial Revolution:** Advancements in manufacturing and production technology enabled the widespread adoption of preexisting technological systems such as telegraph and railroad networks, gas and water supply, and sewage systems, which had earlier been concentrated to a few select cities. The enormous expansion of rail and telegraph lines after 1870 allowed unprecedented movement of people and ideas, which culminated in a new wave of globalization. In the same time period, new technological systems were introduced, most significantly electrical power and telephones. The Second Industrial Revolution continued into the 20th century with early factory electrification and the production line, and ended at the start of World War I.

**The Independence of Brazil:** comprised a series of political and military events that occurred in 1821–1824, most of which involved disputes between Brazil and Portugal regarding the call for independence presented by the Brazilian Empire. It is celebrated on 7 September, the anniversary of the date in 1822 that prince regent Dom Pedro declared Brazil's independence from the former United Kingdom of Portugal, Brazil and Algarves. Formal recognition came with a treaty three years later, signed by both the new Empire of Brazil and the Kingdom of Portugal in late 1825.

## Near East/Middle East

Sample passages:

TPO26-3 Sumer and the First Cities of the Ancient Near East

TPO27-1 Crafts in the Ancient Near East

TPO 16-1 Trade and the Ancient Middle East

TPO 34-1 Islamic Art and the Book

Topics: languages, crafts, religion, trade



The concept is in limited use, as it significantly overlaps with the Middle East (or the Near East), the main difference usually being the exclusion of the majority of Egypt (which would be counted as part of North Africa) and the inclusion of the Caucasus. The term West Asia is sometimes used for the purposes of grouping countries in statistics. The total population of Western Asia is an estimated 300 million as of 2015. Although the term "Western Asia" is mostly used as a convenient division of contemporary sovereign states into a manageable number of world regions for statistical purposes, it is sometimes used instead of the more geopolitical term "Middle East".

**Cuneiform(楔形文字):** Cuneiform or Sumero-Akkadian cuneiform, one of the earliest systems of writing, was invented by the Sumerians.[3] It is distinguished by its wedge-shaped marks on clay tablets, made by means of a blunt reed for a stylus. The name cuneiform itself simply means "wedge shaped".

**Islam:** From the 3rd up to the course of the 7th century AD, the entire Middle East was dominated by the Byzantines and Sassanid Persia. From the 7th century, a new power was rising in the Middle East, that of Islam. The dominance of the Arabs came to a sudden end in the mid-11th century with the arrival of the Seljuq Turks. In the early 13th century, a new wave of invaders, the armies of the Mongol Empire, mainly Turkic, swept through the region. By the early 15th century, a new power had arisen in western Anatolia, the Ottoman emirs, linguistically Turkic and religiously Islamic, who in 1453 captured the Christian Byzantine capital of Constantinople and made themselves sultans.

**Sumer and Akkad:** The earliest civilizations in history were established in the region now known as the Middle East around 3500 BC by the Sumerians, in Mesopotamia (Iraq), widely regarded as the cradle of civilization. The Sumerians and the Akkadians (later known as Babylonians and Assyrians) all flourished in this region. "In the course of the fourth millennium BC, city-states developed in southern Mesopotamia that were dominated by temples whose priests represented the cities' patron deities. The most prominent of the city-states was Sumer, which gave its language to the area, [presumably the first written language,] and became the first great civilization of mankind. About 2340 BC, Sargon the Great (c. 2360–2305 BC) united the city-states in the south and founded the Akkadian dynasty, the world's first empire."

## Far East:

Sample passages:

TPO10-1 Chinese Pottery

TPO48-1 Chinese Population Growth

Topics: agriculture, craft, population



The Far East is a geographical term in English that usually refers to East Asia (including Northeast Asia), the Russian Far East (part of North Asia), and Southeast Asia

**Agriculture in Far East:** The development of farming over the course of China's history has played a key role in supporting the growth of what is now the largest population in the world. Analysis of stone tools by Professor Liu Li and others has shown that the origins of Chinese agriculture is rooted in the pre-agricultural Paleolithic. During this time, hunter-gatherers harvested wild plants with the same tools that would later be used for millet and rice. Due to China's status as a developing country and its severe shortage of arable land, farming in China has always been very labor-intensive. However, throughout its history, various methods have been developed or imported that enabled greater farming production and efficiency. They also utilized the seed drill to help improve on row farming.

**Population in China:** The population of China fluctuated between 30 million and 86 million during the Han dynasty. After the collapse of the Han Dynasty, the population stayed around 50 million until the advent of the Tang Dynasty. Under the Tang Dynasty, the population increased from 45 million to 80 million over the course of 200 years. At the beginning of the Song Dynasty, the population stood at over 100 million. After Ming and earlier period of Qing dynasty founded population moved around 100 million to 150 million until 1700s. In the period between 1749 and 1851, the population doubled in a century. During 1960-2015, the population grew to nearly 1.4 billion. Under Mao Zedong, China nearly doubled in population from 540 million in 1949 to 969 million in 1979. This growth slowed because of the one-child policy instituted in 1979.

**Craft in China:** Pottery is the art of using ceramic material to make pottery wares, of which major types include earthenware, stoneware and porcelain. The place where such wares are made by a potter is also called a pottery (plural "potteries"). The definition of

pottery used by the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) is "all fired ceramic wares that contain clay when formed, except technical, structural, and refractory products."



## Pacific

Sample passages:

TPO5-2 The Origin of the Pacific Island People

Topics: origin, environment



The Pacific Ocean is the largest and deepest of Earth's oceanic divisions. It extends from the Arctic Ocean in the north to the Southern Ocean (or, depending on definition, to Antarctica) in the south and is bounded by Asia and Australia in the west and the Americas in the east.

**Easter Island:** Easter Island is one of the youngest inhabited territories on Earth, and for most of the History of Easter Island it was the most isolated inhabited territory on Earth. Its inhabitants, the Rapanui, have endured famines and big push factors, epidemics, civil war, slave raids and colonialism; have seen their population crash on more than one occasion, and created a cultural legacy that has brought their fame out of all proportion to their numbers.

**Hawaii:** Hawaiian history is inextricably tied into a larger Polynesian phenomenon. Hawai'i is the apex of the Polynesian Triangle, a region of the Pacific Ocean anchored by three island groups: Hawai'i, Rapa Nui (Easter Island), and Aotearoa (New Zealand). The many island cultures within the Polynesian Triangle share similar languages derived from a proto-Malayo-Polynesian language used in Southeast Asia 5,000 years ago. Polynesians also share cultural traditions, such as religion, social organization, myths, and material culture. Anthropologists believe that all Polynesians have descended from a South Pacific proto-culture created by an Austronesian (Malayo-Polynesian) people that had migrated from Southeast Asia. The seven main Polynesian cultures are Aotearoa, Hawai'i, Rapa Nui, Marquesas, Samoa, Tahiti, and Tonga

## Europe

Sample passages:

TPO10-3 Seventeenth-Century European Economic Growth

TPO25-2 The Decline of Venetian Shipping

Topics: industrialization, origins, trade



**Ancient Greece:** was the birthplace of Western civilization.[8][9][10] The fall of the Western Roman Empire in 476 AD and the subsequent Migration Period marked the end of ancient history and the beginning of the Middle Ages. Renaissance humanism, exploration, art and science led to the modern era. From the Age of Discovery onwards, Europe played a predominant role in global affairs. Between the 16th and 20th centuries, European powers controlled at various times the Americas, almost all of Africa and Oceania and the majority of Asia.

**Ancient Rome:** ancient Rome is Roman civilization from the founding of the city of Rome in the 8th century BC to the collapse of the Western Roman Empire in the 5th century AD, encompassing the Roman Kingdom, Roman Republic and Roman Empire until the fall of the western empire. The term is sometimes used to refer only to the kingdom and republic periods, excluding the subsequent empire. The civilization began as an Italic settlement in the Italian peninsula, dating from the 8th century BC, that grew into the city of Rome and which subsequently gave its name to the empire over which it ruled and to the widespread civilisation the empire developed. The Roman empire expanded to become one of the largest empires in the ancient world, though still ruled from the city, with an estimated 50 to 90 million inhabitants (roughly 20% of the world's population[3]) and covering 5.0 million square kilometres at its height in AD 117.

**Renaissance(文艺复兴):** The Renaissance (UK: /rɪˈneɪsəns/, US: /ˌrɛnəˈsɑːns/)[1] is a period in European history, covering the span between the 14th and 17th centuries. It is an extension of the Middle Ages,[2] and is bridged by the Age of Enlightenment to

modern history. It grew in fragments, with the very first traces found seemingly in Italy, coming to cover much of Europe, for some scholars marking the beginning of the modern age.

**Industrial Revolution:** The Industrial Revolution was the transition to new manufacturing processes in the period from about 1760 to sometime between 1820 and 1840. This transition included going from hand production methods to machines, new chemical manufacturing and iron production processes, the increasing use of steam power, the development of machine tools and the rise of the factory system. Textiles were the dominant industry of the Industrial Revolution in terms of employment, value of output and capital invested. The textile industry was also the first to use modern production methods

## Africa

Sample passages:

Tpo11-1 Ancient Egyptian Sculpture

TPO51-1 Memphis: United Egypt's First Capital

Topics: craft, migration, trade



Africa is the world's second largest and second most-populous continent (behind Asia in both categories). At about 30.3 million km<sup>2</sup> (11.7 million square miles) including adjacent islands, it covers 6% of Earth's total surface area and 20% of its land area.

**Egypt:** a country spanning the northeast corner of Africa and southwest corner of Asia by a land bridge formed by the Sinai Peninsula. Egypt is a Mediterranean country bordered by the Gaza Strip and Israel to the northeast, the Gulf of Aqaba to the east, the Red Sea to the east and south, Sudan to the south, and Libya to the west. Across the Gulf of Aqaba lies Jordan, across the red sea lies Saudi Arabia, and across the Mediterranean lie Greece, Turkey and Cyprus, although none share a land border with Egypt.

**South Africa:** is the southernmost country in Africa. It is bounded to the south by 2,798 kilometres (1,739 mi) of coastline of Southern Africa stretching along the South Atlantic and Indian Oceans; to the north by the neighbouring countries of Namibia, Botswana, and Zimbabwe; and to the east and northeast by Mozambique and Swaziland (Eswatini); and it surrounds the enclaved country of Lesotho. South Africa is the largest country in Southern Africa and the 25th-largest country in the world by land area and, with over 57 million people, is the world's 24th-most populous nation. It is the southernmost country on the mainland of the Old World or the Eastern Hemisphere. About 80 percent of South Africans are of Sub-Saharan African ancestry, divided among a variety of ethnic groups speaking different African languages, nine of which have official status. The remaining population consists of Africa's largest communities of European (White), Asian (Indian), and multiracial (Coloured) ancestry.