**Chapter 6 Reading Guide**

1. Define “**Eurocentrism**” (Hint: see the chapter 6 wrap up at the end of the chapter)
2. Explain how this chapter reflects an effort to not be “Eurocentric” in our study of history.

**I. Continental Comparisons**

1. What are some of the major differences between the Americas and Eurasia during the Classical era?
2. How did African history differ from that of the Americas during this time?
3. List some examples of resources or knowledge that African gained access to through cross-cultural interaction- things the Americas wouldn’t have had available to them.

**II. Civilizations of Africa**

1. What caused Africans human populations to be so diverse?
2. What are some of the major downsides to African geography?

**A. Meroë: Continuing a Nile Valley Civilization**

1. Complete the Spice chart for the civilization of Meroe

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | **Descriptions of Meroe** |
| **Social** (gender, family, social classes) |  |
| **Political** (government structure) |  |
| **Interaction with Environment** (how did they modify their environment?-examples: architecture, farming, extracting resources etc.) |  |
| **Culture** (religion, beliefs, language) |  |
| **Economy** (types of labor) |  |

**B. Axum: The Making of a Christian Kingdom**

1. How did Axum’s farming techniques differ from the rest of Africa?
2. List some ways that long-distance trade affected Axum?
3. How are the declines of Meroe and Axum similar?

**C. Along the Niger River: Cities without States**

1. What made the cities along the Niger river distinctive from other civilizations around the globe at the time?
2. How do the occupational communities that developed in each of the cities along the Niger river compare to India’s caste system?
3. What caused long-distance trade routes to develop between these cities near the Niger river and elsewhere in Africa?

**III. Civilizations of Mesoamerica**

1. Describe the location of “Mesoamerica.”
2. What are some similarities that most Mesoamerican civilizations shared during the classical era? (at least 3)

**A. The Maya: Writing and Warfare**

1. List some of the many intellectual and cultural achievements of the Mayans.
2. Describe ways in which the Mayans interacted with (and altered) their environment.
3. What two previous civilizations that we’ve studied most closely resembled the political system of the Mayans by also using city-states instead of one unified empire?
4. What were the dates of the existence of the Mayan civilization? (beginning and end- don’t forget to use BCE or CE)- so approximately how long did their civilization exist?
5. How did environmental damage lead to the demise of Maya civilization?

**B. Teotihuacán: The Americas’ Greatest City**

1. Teotihuacan was one of the largest cities in the world during its time and can serve as an example of city life in general. What were some of the key elements needed to keep this city functioning?
2. In what ways did Teotihuacan shape the history of Mesoamerica?

**IV. Civilizations of the Andes**

1. Compare/Contrast the agricultural resources of Mesoamerica (p.273) with Andean America? Why did differences exist if they were both located in the Americas?
   1. Similarities:
   2. Differences:
   3. Reason for differences:

**A. Chavin: A Pan-Andean Religious Movement**

1. How did the Chavin influence the Andes region?

**B. Moche: A Civilization of the Coast**

1. Complete the Spice chart for the civilization of the Moche

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | **Descriptions of Moche** |
| **Social** (gender, family, social classes) |  |
| **Political** (government structure) |  |
| **Interaction with Environment** (how did they modify their environment?-examples: architecture, farming, extracting resources etc.) |  |
| **Culture** (religion, beliefs, language) |  |
| **Economy** (types of labor) |  |

**C. Wari and Tiwanaku: Empires of the Interior**

1. What were some similarities and differences between Wari and Tiwanaka?
   1. Similarities:
   2. Differences:

**V. Alternatives to Civilization: Bantu Africa**

1. Where and when did the Bantu Migrations take place? ( use an approximate end date- the text gives you a vague estimate)

**A. Cultural Encounters**

1. Define “**cross-cultural interaction**”
2. What advantages did Bantu farmers have over the foraging (hunter-gather) peoples living in Southern Africa?
3. How did the Bantus change the cultures they were interacting with?
4. How was Bantu culture changed by the cultures it was interacting with?

**B. Society and Religion**

1. Describe the organization of most Bantu societies? (think social classes and treatment of women)
2. Describe Bantu religious beliefs.
3. What other classical civilization also worshipped their ancestors?

**VI. Alternatives to Civilization: North America**

1. Your text argues that North America was populated by people who were “semi-sedentary” during this time period. What does this term mean?

**A. The Ancestral Pueblo: Pit Houses and Great Houses**

1. What were pueblos?
2. What were some of the causes of decline and collapse of the pueblo peoples?

**B. Peoples of the Eastern Woodlands: The Mound Builders**

1. Why did the Mound Building people of North America continue to hunt and gather while farming was already being employed?
2. What are the two different purposes of the large mound structures as stated in the examples from the Hopewell and Cahokia peoples?
3. How do historians know that the mound builders and the pueblo peoples engaged in long-distance trade? (what is their proof?)

**VII. Reflections: Deciding What’s Important: Balance in World History**

1. What are the 5 different criterion listed in the reflections section that historians use to determine what should be included in their history text?

a.

b.

c.

d.

e.