

**The Yale University Press Educators' Guide to
E. H. Gombrich's *A Little History of the World***

This guide is written to aid 7th through 12th grade teachers and home school educators teach E. H. Gombrich's best-selling book *A Little History of the World*.

Gombrich's book offers a wealth of information written in a conversational and entertaining style. The Educator's Guide closely follows Gombrich's book; questions are derived from his headings, page number references are throughout the guide, and detailed answers are almost always given. "Challenge" questions are also included.

This guide was prepared for Yale University Press by Ellen S. Bakalian, a writer who holds a doctorate in English and American Literature from New York University.

Chapter One: Once Upon a Time

What is history? What do you think?

Create a list or write an essay. Is history the past? A memory? A collection of memories? Facts, and facts alone?

Chapter Two: The Greatest Inventors of All Time

1. How can we explain the deep past, before there were humans on earth? *To explain "prehistory," as it is called, we rely upon artifacts.*

2. Define artifact. Give a few examples of prehistory artifacts.
Fossils, tools, bones.

3. What is the Heidelberg jaw? Where was it found?

The Heidelberg jaw is a powerful jaw of a man that is thought to be between 400,000 and 650,000 years old. It is a chinless jaw, broad, massive, and apelike; the teeth are proportionately too small for so large a jaw. It was found in 1907 near Heidelberg, Germany.

(<http://student.britannica.com/comptons/article-9326043/Heidelberg-jaw>)

4. What is the name we give to early man? Why do we give him that name? *The earliest man was the Neanderthals, so called because a human skull was found near the Neander Valley, in Germany.*

5. Why is the Stone Age called the "stone" age?

Archeologists have uncovered stone tools, and so this time is called the "Stone Age." The earliest tools were probably just sticks and stones, but soon the stones were shaped and sharpened. (Gombrich 7)

6. Prehistoric man is known as "cavemen," although they may not have actually lived in caves. These cavemen invented stone tools, but what else?

Cavemen from the Stone Age invented talking, and pictures, many of which can still be seen today, scratched and painted on the walls of caves.

7. How did the Bronze Age gets its name?

It was during the Bronze Age that man discovered metals, little by little, and learned how to melt copper and tin together to make bronze. Helmets, swords, axes and jewelry was made during the Bronze Age.

Chapter Three: The Land by the Nile

To say "history" and not "prehistory" means that we can give something a place and date.

History, with a date and a place, began with King Menes, who ruled over Egypt in 3100 BC.

1. What were kings of Egypt called?

They were called pharaohs, and were immensely powerful. The Pharaoh Menes lived in a great stone palace with massive pillars.

2. Find Egypt on a map. Locate the River Nile and trace its route. Today there is a manmade dam on the River Nile. What is it called? Research the dam and how it changed Egypt.

3. What is the type of writing that the Egyptians created?

The Egyptians developed an elaborate way of writing, using pictures, called hieroglyphics. Their words and pictures are still seen today on the walls of the elaborate tombs they created.

4. Which Pharaoh built the Great Pyramid?

Pharaoh Cheops, in 2500 BC.

5. How did the Egyptians build the temples and the pyramids?

Egyptian workers built these massive buildings, stone by stone. They had no machines; perhaps some rollers and pulleys at the most.

6. Describe one or two Egyptian gods.

The Egyptians believed in many gods. The god Osiris and his consort Isis were the main gods, along with the sun god, Amon. The Kingdom of the Dead was ruled by was Anubis, always represented by a jackal's head. Each pharaoh believed he was a son of the sun god, which explains why the Egyptians feared the Pharaoh, and obeyed all his commands.

7. What is an obelisk? Are there any Obelisks still standing today? Any located near you? Where?

Obelisks were tall pillars, cut from single piece of granite (means "little spear" in Greek). Several cities around the world have Egyptian obelisks that were "gifts" from archeologists. There are several standing today -- one in Central Park, in NYC, and one in Rome, Italy.

8. Challenge: Research the recent controversies surrounding ancient art that is 'stolen' from one country and put on display in other country's museum. Did this happen with Egyptian art?

9. Why is the Sphinx in the shape of a cat?

Animals are sacred to the Egyptians, especially the cat. The Sphinx is about 5000 years old.

10. Explain the Egyptian's burial rites.

The Egyptians believed that man's soul left body when dead, yet for "the soul continued to need the body, and it would suffer if it crumbled to dust. To preserve the body, they rubbed it with ointments and the juices of certain plants and bandaged it with long strips of cloth, so that it wouldn't decay" (Gombrich 12). The mummy was placed in wood coffin, and then within a stone coffin which was buried not in the earth, but in a tomb that was chiseled out of the rock. Powerful pharaohs had huge tombs, for the tomb was intended to be a dwelling for the soul when it returned to visit its body. Food, furniture and even clothes were placed in the tombs. The walls are exquisitely painted, depicting scenes from the departed person's life. His "portrait was there too; to make sure that when his soul came on a visit it wouldn't go to the wrong tomb" (Gombrich 12 – 13).

11. Where can you see mummies and Egyptian art?

In Cairo, at the Egyptian Museum; the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City; the British Museum in London.

12. How do we know so much about Egyptian life?

Gombrich writes: "Thanks to the great stone statues, and the wonderfully bright and vivid wall paintings, we have a very good idea of what life in ancient Egypt was like: how they used great nets to catch ducks on the Nile, how they fished with long spears, how they threshed grain, made shoes and clothes, blew glass. Pictures survive depicting girls playing catch, or playing music on flutes, and soldiers going off to war, or returning with loot and foreign captives, such as black Africans" (Gombrich 13).

13. What is the Rosetta Stone?

The Rosetta Stone is what enabled archeologists to decipher hieroglyphs. In 1799 the French discovered the huge stone artifact, weighing over 1000 pounds. Written on the Rosetta Stone are the same words written in three different scripts: ancient Greek, hieroglyphs and another Egyptian script. It was still a tremendous puzzle, and great scholars devoted their lives to it" (Gombrich 14). The Rosetta Stone is on display at the British Museum, in London.

14. Challenge: Research the Rosetta Stone. Who found it, and where? How did it end up in the British Museum? How long did it take for scholars to decipher it?

15. What is papyrus?

Papyrus is made from a reed that grows along the Nile River. Egyptians wrote on long strips of papyrus. The word "papyrus" is Greek, from which our name for paper comes.

16. Which Empire lasted the longest? Egyptian or Roman?

The Egyptian empire lasted longer than "any empire the world has ever known: nearly three thousand years." (Gombrich 15)

17. What is the Pharaoh Akhenaton known for?

Akhenaton did not like the Egyptian religion, and so he shut down the temples, and even changed the style of painting. As soon as he died, the people reverted to the older ways.

Chapter Four: Sunday, Monday

1. The Egyptians were not the only ancient peoples who we can now credit for things, but they are the most well-known. Another ancient people lived in Mesopotamia, which is a Greek word that means land between the rivers. Where was Mesopotamia located? What country is there today?

Mesopotamia is a country that lies between the rivers Tigris and the Euphrates, in the country we know today as Iraq. The Tigris and the Euphrates rivers join together and flow out into the Persian Gulf.

2. Mesopotamia was located in a vast plain, crossed by two rivers, a land of heat and swamp and sudden floods. Here and there tall hills rise out of the plain. Are these hills just regular hills?

No, the hills in Mesopotamia are really "ruined towns, palaces and temples. But unlike Egypt's stone temples and pyramids, they were built with sun-baked bricks which cracked and crumbled over time, and eventually collapsed into great mounds of rubble" (Gombrich 17-18.)

3. Name one or two cities that were in Mesopotamia.

Babylon, once the greatest city on earth city, was the capital of the Babylonians. The nearby city of Nineveh was the capital of the Assyrians.

4. What empires existed in Mesopotamia?

The Sumerians, the Babylonians and the Assyrians. Unlike Egypt, Mesopotamia was rarely ruled by just one king.

5. What were the Sumerians like?

The Sumerians created a culture, with towns, tradesmen, noblemen and kings, temples and priests, administrators and artists – people with writing and technical skills. For many years the Egyptians were given credit for all these things, but the Sumerians deserve credit for this. (Gombrich 18)

6. What is important about the city of Ur, in Mesopotamia?

The city of Ur, a Sumerian town, is in one of the mounds, and it is the place where Abraham was born, according to the Bible. Some of the tombs in Ur date from the same time as King Cheops' Great Pyramid in Egypt, 2500 BC.

7. What was discovered in the tombs of Ur?

The tombs in Ur contained gold helmets and vessels and daggers set with precious stones. Some of these things are in the British Museum today. (Gombrich 18)

8. What is cuneiform?

Cuneiform is the Sumerian's type of script. It means "wedge-shaped," and is made up of single strokes ending in a small triangle or wedge. The ancient Sumerians wrote on baked clay tablets, not papyrus. Many of these clay tablets were discovered, and some were merchant tablets, letting us know that the ancient Sumerians, Babylonians and Assyrians were tradesmen. (Gombrich 19)

9. Who is King Hammurabi, and what is the Code of Hammurabi?

The Code of Hammurabi is a rule book created by the Babylonian King Hammurabi who lived around 1700 BC.

10. What did the Babylonians and Assyrians worship?

The Babylonians and Assyrians worshipped the sun, moon and the stars. They observed and recorded the movement of the stars and what they saw in the sky. They gave star shapes names, and thought planets symbolized things, like war (Mars) and love (Venus).

11. How did their observations of the planets carry forward into something we use every day?

To each of the 5 planets the Babylonians and Assyrians dedicated a day, and with the sun and moon that made 7 days. This was the origin of our seven-day week. In English we still say Satur (Saturn) –day, Sun-day, and Mon (moon) –day.

12. Challenge: Gombrich writes that “in other languages such as French or Italian -- most of the days of the week still belong to the planets that the Babylonians first named” (Gombrich 20). What are the days of the week in Spanish? In French? In Italian? Do these words correspond to a planet, such as Mars?

13. Who was Nebuchadnezzar? Why is he remembered?

The last great Babylonian king was Nebuchadnezzar who lived around 600 BC. He is remembered for his feats of war. He fought against Egypt and brought a vast number of foreign captives home to Babylon as slaves. His truly greatest deeds however are the canals and water cisterns he had dug in order to retain the water and irrigate the land, so that it became rich and fertile. Only when those canals became blocked with silt and the cisterns filled with mud did the land become what it is today: a desert wasteland and marshy plain with the occasional mound. (Gombrich 21)

Chapter Five: The One and Only God

1. Why does Gombrich say that the Palestinians, the Jews, were “something special, that they didn’t just become a part of history, they made history” (Gombrich 24).

Because of their religion. Thousands of other small tribes were conquered and ruled by the Egyptians and then the Babylonians, but unlike other tribes, the Jewish people remained true to their religion. They prayed to one god only -- they even went so far to insist that he was only god there was. (Gombrich 25)

2. What is the story of the Tower of Babel? Or what does it mean when people use the word “babel”?

The Babylonians built gigantic towers so they could be nearer the sun, moon, and stars which they studied. They tried to build a tower that would reach up to heaven, but God became angry at their pride, and to stop them from building any higher, he made them all speak different languages so that they could no longer understand each other – it sounded just like babel – the Tower of Babel.

3. Who was King Solomon?

King Solomon “was a wise and just king who ruled soon after 1000 BC, which was about 700 years after King Hammurabi and 2,100 years after King Menes. He built the first Temple of Jerusalem.

4. What was located in the innermost part – the holiest part -- of King Solomon's Temple?

In the innermost sanctum there was nothing -- no image at all, for the Jews believed that no image of God "could or might be made." This was unusual at the time – think of the Egyptians hieroglyphics of gods – and therefore the Jews were regarded differently. (Gombrich 27)

5. To what event does the phrase "Babylonian captivity of the Jews" refer?

After King Solomon's reign, King Nebuchadnezzar, the Babylonian king, marched through the Jewish city of Jerusalem in 586 BC. He captured the Jews, and took them back to Babylon as slaves. Remarkably for the Jews, the people who survived became even more devout. (Gombrich 27) The Jews were viewed differently by other people, for they worshipped a god that could not be seen, among other beliefs.

Chapter 6: I Can Read

1. Another ancient people were the Phoenicians. What are the Phoenicians famous for?

The Phoenicians developed the twenty six simple letters that make up our alphabet. "Simple" compared to the Egyptian hieroglyphs or the cuneiform script. The Phoenicians did a lot of writing -- not just songs and stories, but contracts and other business transactions -- for they were merchants. They traveled far to do business, bartering and trading in every land.

2. Where did the Phoenicians live? Where did they do their trading?

The Phoenicians lived near Jerusalem in bustling cities of Tyre and Sidon that rivaled Babylon. The Phoenicians made their conquests by sailing to unknown shores, setting up trading posts and trading with the wild tribes they met there. They would trade fur and precious stones in exchange for cooking pots and colored cloths. Their craftsmanship was known throughout the world.

3. Many Phoenicians stayed in their trading posts on foreign shores and built towns. Were they welcomed?

Yes the Phoenicians were welcomed everywhere, in Africa, Spain and in southern Italy, because they brought beautiful things with them to trade and sell.

4. Gombrich states that the Phoenicians did not feel cut off from their home and their families. Why?

The Phoenicians could write to their relatives, using the “wonderfully simple script they had invented, which we still use today” (Gombrich 30).

Chapter 7: Heroes and their Weapons

Homer: Homer is a legendary ancient Greek poet, traditionally said to be the author of the epic poems the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey*. The ancient Greeks generally believed that Homer was a historical individual, but modern scholars are skeptical. (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Homer>).

In 1868 a wealthy German business man named Schliemann decided to find out if Homer's stories had any historical reality. His archeological diggings in and near Troy lend “material weight” to Homer's *Iliad* and Vergil's *Aeneid* as reflecting historical events” (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Heinrich_Schliemann).

1. What did Schliemann discover?

Schliemann went to Greece, and dug for the cities mentioned in Homer. At Mycenae he discovered palaces and tombs of kings, armor and shields, just as the Homeric songs had described them. He found the city of Troy, destroyed by fire, as Homer wrote. A ring was found, with Egyptian hieroglyphs, and it said the name of an Egyptian king, Akhenaton, the great reformer, who lived around 1400 BC. Schliemann discovered that most of what Homer wrote was true – “not in every detail, of course: the heroes named in the song were no more real than the giants and witches in fairy tales. But the world that Homer describes – the drinking cups, the weapons, the buildings and the ships, the princes who were at the same time shepherds, and the heroes who were also sea raiders – were not inventions” (Gombrich 33).

2. Research the various ways today's archeologists date objects. Visit a museum and notice the dates on the ancient objects.

3. Schliemann found vessels and daggers in Greece. Where were these objects created?

It is now thought that the things Schliemann found in his excavations of Greek cities – fine vessels and daggers decorated with hunting scenes, the golden shields and helmets, the jewelry and even the colorful paintings – were not invented there, but were made on the island of Crete during the time of King Hammurabi (about 1795 – 1750 BC). (Gombrich 34)

4. Name some of the differences between Cretan and Egyptian art.

The Egyptian pictures are very beautiful, but rather severe and stiff. The Cretan artists liked to catch people or animals in motion – “hounds chasing wild boar, and people leaping over bulls – nothing was too hard for them to paint.” The Greeks learned a great deal from the Cretan artists. (Gombrich 34)

5. Throughout the book Gombrich tells us things like “when the Greeks came to Greece, they weren’t yet Greeks.” What does he mean by this?

Gombrich is pointing out that tribes invaded the lands they were to occupy; they weren’t yet a unified people. They spoke different dialects and had different chieftains. In Greece, for example, the tribes were Dorians and Ionians. The city of Sparta, in the southernmost tip of Greece, was settled by the Dorians, while the Ionians settled in Athens. Both Dorians and Ionians were great seafarers and they soon took possession of the many islands nearby. Eventually they were all Greeks.

Chapter 8: An unequal Struggle

1. Who were the Persians? Where did they live? What did they worship?

Persians were small bands of mountain people long dominated by Assyrians and Babylonians. They worshipped light and the sun and believed it to be in a state of constant warfare with the dark, the dark powers of evil.

2. Who was Cyrus? What did he do?

Cyrus was the ruler of the Persians around 538 BC. Against the odds, Cyrus and his army defeated the Babylonians thereby freeing all the slaves, which included Jews who returned to Jerusalem.

3. What amazing feat did Cyrus’ son Cambyses do?

Cyrus’ son King Cambyses marched on Egypt, and defeated the Egyptians. The Pharaoh was deposed, which effectively ended the Egyptian Empire -- after 3000 years of existence. Cambyses’ now ruled nearly all the known world, but not Greece. (Gombrich 38)

4. The vast Persian Empire was ruled by what king? How big were his lands? What did he want?

Persian King Darius governed the Persian Empire which stretched from Egypt to India. He built roads, and headed out towards the coast where the Ionian Greeks lived. He called himself King of Kings and wanted to destroy Athens and conquer Greece.

5. Why is the Battle of Marathon famous? Why is it called "marathon"?

The Battle of Marathon, between the Greeks and the Persians, was fought in 490 BC. The Persians dropped anchor at Marathon, a city not far from Athens, and 70,000 Persians disembarked, ready to march. The Athenians were outnumbered seven to one, but their leader, Miltiades, formed ranks in Marathon and startled the Persians, causing them to flee towards Athens by sea. Miltiades knew it was a shorter distance to Athens over land, so he sent a runner to warn the Athenians. This is "the Marathon Run, after which we call our races. Famous, because the messenger ran so far and so fast that all he could do was deliver his message before he fell down dead" (Gombrich 39). Because of this Marathon-Runner, in 490 BC, Athens and all of Greece was saved.

6. What happened at the pass called Thermopylae?

The Persians attacked Greece by sea and by land. Spartans, from northern Greece, allied themselves with the Athenians, and tried to block the Persian advance in a narrow pass called Thermopylae. Although they were outnumbered, the Spartans would not throw down their spears, as the Persians requested. "The Persians quickly surrounded the Spartans and killed them all – 300 Spartans and 700 Greeks. Not one of them tried to run away, for that was their law" (Gombrich 41).

7. Who were the Spartans? What is the definition of the word "Spartan"?

Sparta and Athens were Greece's most important cities. The Spartans were Dorians, who arrived in Greece around 1100 BC, and enslaved the local inhabitants. Spartans prided themselves on being ready for rebellion and "their aim in life was to be fighting fit, ready to crush any uprising by their slaves." From young ages, Spartan children were taught to endure pain, hunger and cold, and to be denied all pleasures. Today we use the word "Spartan" to describe a harsh upbringing. (Gombrich 46)

8. The Greeks were always outnumbered against the Persians, yet they persevered. What made the Greeks different than other peoples?

The Greeks were constantly trying new things – they did not cling to the past. Gombrich writes: This "explains why, during the hundred years that followed the Persian wars, more went on in the minds of the people of the little city of Athens than in a thousand years in all the great empires of the East. The ideas, the painting, sculpture and architecture, the plays and poetry, the inventions and experiments, the discussions and arguments which the young brought to the marketplaces and the old to their council chambers still continue to concern us today. It is strange that it should be so, and yet it's true." (Gombrich 43)

Chapter 9: Two Small Cities in One Small Land

Greece was not yet a unified country – the Dorians occupied the south, the Ionians and the Aeolians were in the north. Each city was a kingdom in itself, and the kingdoms “spent all their time bickering and exchanging insults.” (Gombrich 45)

However, the Greeks were united by their religion and their sport, which were closely connected. The Greeks worshipped the gods, and to honor them, they would have great sporting events.

1. What god did the Greeks honor at their Olympic games? What games were held?

In honor of Zeus, the Father of the Gods, there was a sporting contest “every four years in which all Greeks -- Dorians, Ionians, Spartans and Athenians - came to Athens to show how well they could run, throw the discus and the javelin, fight hand to hand and race chariots” (Gombrich 45).

2. What prizes did the victors win?

To be victorious at Olympia was “the greatest honor in a man’s life. The prize was no more than a simple garland made from sprigs of wild olive, but what fame for the winners: the greatest poets sang their praises; the greatest sculptors carved their statues to stand for ever in Olympia. Victory statues can still be seen today” (Gombrich 45).

3. What happened at the Temple at Delphi? What was the shrine called?

A temple was built in Delphi in honor of Apollo, the sun god, and it was called the Delphic Oracle. “In the temple was a fissure from which a vapor issued. If anyone inhaled it, it literally clouded her mind, as if she was drunk or delirious, and nothing she said made sense. The very meaninglessness of these utterances seemed deeply mysterious to the Greeks, who said that ‘the god himself speaks through a mortal mouth’. As the priestess sat over the fumes, other priests interpreted her babble as prediction of the future” (Gombrich 45 – 46).

4. Greeks would make pilgrimages to the Delphi, to consult the god Apollo. How accurate was the Delphic Oracle?

The answer was so unclear and puzzling that the word “oracular” today means “vague” or “enigmatic.” The answer could easily be interpreted in a variety of ways.

5. The Athenians had fewer reasons to be afraid of outsiders, but they lived by strict rules created by a leader named Draco. What does the word "draconian" mean today?

Draconian is a word we use today to denote severity.

6. Democracy is an idea that its roots in Greek cities. In 594 BC, King Solon introduced new laws. (This is the same time as when Nebuchadnezzar ruled.) What did Solon's rules decree?

Solon's rules decreed that the people who lived in the city should decide their own affairs and own laws. The majority would decide to elect a council of experts to put those decisions into effect. This type of government is "democracy," or 'the rule of the people' in Greek.

7. Could anyone become a citizen, and vote with the majority?

No, citizenship depended upon wealth and influence, and women and slaves were excluded.

8. The word "politics" derives from Greek. What does it mean?

'Polis' is Greek for city, and 'politics,' the affairs of the city. (Gombrich 47)

9. What did Athenians do with their rulers who showed signs of acting like tyrants?

The Athenians banished any politician who acted like a tyrant; they did not tolerate that behavior.

10. Who was Pericles? What is his claim to fame?

By 444BC, Pericles was Athens' sole ruler. He was a wise and intelligent man. (Gombrich 48)

11. Describe Pericles, for he was more than a warrior king.

Pericles' main concern was that Athens retains its power at sea, and this he achieved through the alliances he made with Ionian cities, which paid Athens for its protection. Pericles was also interested in truth and beauty, and in what they called "reflecting" -- what we call philosophy.

12. Challenge: What playwright wrote a play entitled "Pericles"? Read the play and compare what you know about Pericles to the play's depiction of the man. William Shakespeare.

13. Gombrich writes that the Athenians began to think about things in a new way, and they also saw things differently. What are the new ways in which they were thinking? What new style of art did the Athenian artists create?

Philosophers and deep thinkers were gaining respect in Athens at this time as people became interested in what was just and what was unjust, about how people should act, what was good and what was evil. These were new thoughts for a new age. Greek artists created objects and statues that looked natural. The sculptor Phidias created statues of gods with the same beauty and humanity as he did statues of man. Phidias did not create mysterious images, like the Egyptians, but realistic ones. If you visit the Acropolis in Athens, you can see the remains of the statues dating from the time of Pericles (444BC).

14. Find a picture of the Acropolis and study it. What is noticeable about the architecture – something that we might take for granted, but that the Greeks invented and perfected?

The Acropolis is a beautiful marble building supported by what we call "Greek columns." Greek columns are everywhere, but Gombrich asserts that "none of them is as beautiful as the ones on the Acropolis where they were used not for show and decoration but for the purpose for which they were invented: as elegant supports for the roof" (Gombrich 49).

15. Go online and research the extensive Greek and Roman art collections in the following museums. Find out what other museum house Greek art. Are images of some of their collections available online?

- *National Archaeological Museum of Athens*
- *The Acropolis Museum (at the Acropolis of Athens)*
- *Delphi Museum, Greece*
- *British Museum, London*
- *Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York*
- *J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles*
- *The Getty Villa in Malibu, CA*

16. The Athenians perfected the art of poetry, and they also created a new form of literature. What was it?

The Athenians invented the theatre, which was also bound up by their religion, with festivals held in honor of the god Dionysus, also known as Bacchus. On his feast day a performance could last all day. "We still have the plays which the Greeks performed, serious, grand plays known as tragedies, or the witty lively plays known as comedies" (Gombrich 50).

Chapter 10: The Enlightened One and his Land

Like Mesopotamia, ancient civilizations were prevalent in India.

Around 2500 BC, when the Sumerians were holding sway at Ur, there was a mighty city in the valley of Indus (today's Pakistan) called Mohenjo Daro, with well-drained streets, canals and workshops.

1. When was the city of Mohenjo Daro discovered?

Its ruins were discovered in the 1920s, and until then, no one knew it existed. We know nothing about the people who built Mohenjo Daro, but we know of the people who lived there later, who spoke a language similar to those spoken by the Persians and the Greeks.

2. What does "Indo-European" mean?

Indo-European family of languages denotes the languages spoken by both Indians and Europeans.

3. Explain the caste system in India. Does it still exist today?

Most of India was conquered by people like the Spartans who maintained a distance between themselves and the peoples they had conquered. In the caste system, professions or occupations are strictly separated from each other. Men who were warriors had to remain warriors, and their sons had to be warriors too, because they belonged to the warrior caste. A farmer could never become a craftsman, and a man who was the member of one caste could never marry a woman from another. (Gombrich 52) At the top were priests, Brahmins, who were higher than warriors. The lowest people were excluded from all castes, and were pariahs – they were given the dirtiest and most unpleasant jobs and their very touch was thought to be defiling. They were known as the untouchables. The caste system still exists in India today. (Gombrich 52)

4. Who is Brahma in Indian religion?

Indian holy men meditate on their fierce gods, and upon Brahma, the Supreme Being, the highest divinity of all. The Indians believed that the "breath of this one Supreme Being was throughout the world, in gods as well as men, and in every animal and plant. He was everywhere...in all cycles and transformations in all of nature. A soul may inhabit the body of a man, and after his death, that of a tiger, or ...any living creature – the cycle will only end when that soul has become so pure that it can at last become one with the Supreme Being" (Gombrich 54).

5. Write an essay about Prince Gautama, and how he became the "Buddha."

About 500 years before Christ lived a nobleman named Gautama. He grew up in luxury, living in a palace from which he was not permitted to leave because his father wanted to keep him away from the world and all its sorrows. (Gombrich 54) When Gautama finally saw illness, and then

suffering, old age and death, he decided to renounce the world and become a hermit – despite his family's protests. For six years he fasted and meditated upon the world and all its sadness, but he did not find inner peace.

6. What was Buddha's "Moment of Enlightenment"?

While sitting under the Tree of Enlightenment, a fig tree, he found the peace for which he had been searching. Buddha realized that if we want to avoid suffering, "we must start with ourselves, because all suffering comes from our own desires. We must stop wanting all the beautiful and pleasant things in life, and learn to control our greed for happiness, comfort, recognition and affection. If the appetite goes, the pain goes with it" (Gombrich 55).

Buddha believed it was "possible for people to control their desires," but only through years of work. The highest achievement is to reach the point at which one no longer has any desire. This is the Buddha's 'inner calm', the blissful peace of someone who no longer has any wishes" (Gombrich 56).

Challenge: Make a list of all the things you want – for your birthday, for example. Cut the list down to five things? Down to one? Take note of how you feel as you cut back on your desires, as you rein them in, so to speak. Do you feel more in control? Are you more peaceful?

7. Do people practice Buddhism today?

There are almost as many Buddhists in the world as Christians, especially in South East Asia, in Sri Lanka, Tibet, China and Japan.

Chapter 11: A Great Teacher of a Great People

The Emperors of China called themselves the 'Son of Heaven,' just as the Egyptian pharaoh called himself 'Son of the Sun'. They ruled over China for a thousand years, a country larger than Egypt, Babylonia and Assyria put together. The Chinese spoke many different languages, but they had their script in common. (Gombrich 58)

1. What kind of writing did the Chinese do?

Instead of writing words, Chinese script is writing signs. There are over 40,000 signs and some are really complicated.

2. Challenge: Learn how to write your name in Chinese, or learn how to write the days of the week.

3. Who was Confucius? When did he live? *Around 500 BC, when Buddha was seeking a way to relieve man's suffering, a Chinese man named Confucius told everyone to live together peacefully – parents with their children and rulers with their subjects.*

4. What was Confucius' goal?

Confucius' goal was to teach how to live together properly. Confucius taught that "outward appearances are more important than we think. To Confucius, things like bowing to our elders, letting others go through a door first, standing up to speak to a superior, were all important every day things that show and teach respect. Confucius believed in Antiquity, in the sound good sense of all the thousand year old Chinese customs and habits, and he repeatedly urged his fellow countrymen to observe them" (Gombrich 59).

5. What was the most important thing for Confucius?

For Confucius, the family, with its brotherly and sisterly love and respect for parents, was the most important thing of all. He called it 'the root of humanity'. He believed that all people were born honest and good, and that, deep down, they remained so." (Gombrich 60)

6. Who is Lao-tzu and what did he preach? What is the Tao?

Another wise Chinese man was named Lao-tzu. His writings are rather mysterious; he wrote that in the entire world, everything acts in accordance with one great law. This he called 'Tao', which means the Way, or the Path. 'Do nothing' Lao-tzu said. Be still within yourself" (Gombrich 61).

Chapter 12: The Greatest Adventure of All

1. Who fought against each other in the Peloponnesian War? Why is it called that?

In 430 BC, the Peloponnesian War between Athens and Sparta was in full swing. There was a great deal of fighting and laying waste to each others' crops and land, plus a plague which killed Pericles. Athens was destroyed. (Gombrich 62) The war was named for "Peloponnese," the large peninsula and region in what is now southern Greece, where it was fought.

2. What did the Macedonians plunder during the Delphic War?

The Macedonians took advantage of the Greeks' misfortunes and plundered the sanctuary of Apollo, the Delphic Oracle. The Delphic Oracle was sacred to all tribes near Greece. In the Battle of Chaeronea,

in 338 BC, the Macedonian King Philip defeated the Greeks again. He then joined the two armies together and invaded Persia. The Persian Kings were "no longer ambitious like Darius or mighty Xerxes," and they too were defeated. (Gombrich 63)

3. When King Philip was assassinated, his 20 year old son Alexander took command of all of Greece and Macedonia. Why was he "no ordinary boy"?

The Greeks thought Alexander would be easy to defeat, but Alexander "was no ordinary boy." He was ambitious and good looking, but he was also smart.

4. Who was Alexander's teacher?

His teacher was the Greek philosopher Aristotle, "the teacher of mankind for 2,000 years" (Gombrich 64).

5. Why is Aristotle so revered?

Aristotle continues to be the referee for many people and their arguments. Aristotle's writings cover many, many subjects, and it is often thought that whatever it is he has to say "must be right." Aristotle gathered together all the knowledge of his time. He wrote about natural sciences – the stars, animals and plants; about history and politics; about the right way to reason – logic; and the right way to behave – ethics. He wrote about poetry and its beauty. And last of all he wrote down his own thoughts on a god who hovered impassive and unseen about the vault of heaven" (Gombrich 64).

6. How did Alexander figure out how to ride his horse, Bucephalus? What does this story say about Alexander?

Alexander loved to ride horses, especially his horse Bucephalus, a horse no one could mount. Alexander figured out why – the horse was afraid of his own shadow -- so he figured out a way to mount him. (Turn his head away from his shadow). This story illustrates that Alexander examined situations before jumping into them. (Gombrich 65)

Alexander's popularity flourished and his troops marched on Persia, conquering Asia Minor. In Asia Minor Alexander came upon the Gordian Knot. What do you know about this famous tale?

In 334 BC, "in the city of Gordian there was a temple, and in it an old chariot whose shaft was held fast by a strap that was tightly and intricately knotted. Now it had been foretold that he who could untie the enchanted knot would become master of the world. Alexander wasted little time fiddling with a knot. He took his sword and simply chopped it through. The story's meaning is twofold: Alexander would conquer the

world in fulfillment of the ancient prophecy, and he would do it with the sword. As indeed he did" (Gombrich 66).

7. Does the Gordian Knot story remind you of any other heroic tale?

Yes it is similar to when King Arthur pulled the sword out of the stone, thereby fulfilling the prophesy of the future king.

8. Study the map on pages 70 and 71. Compare the map to a modern day map, so you can see which countries Alexander traversed and conquered.

In 333 BC, Alexander conquered Issus in Persia, and for 7 months, he laid siege to city of Tyre (located in what is present-day Lebanon), a rich coastal town, founded by the Phoenicians.

9. What was the name of the city Alexander founded in Egypt? For many years it was the richest and most powerful city in the world.

The city he founded was Alexandria, located near the sea. Alexander was determined to be the true ruler of Egypt, so he had the Egyptian priests anoint him as the Son of the Sun, like a Pharaoh.

Alexander then defeated the largest Persian army, making him king of the whole of Persia – Greece, Egypt, Phoenicia, Palestine, Babylonia, Assyria, Asia Minor and Persia – but he was still not satisfied. (Gombrich 67) He waged more battles, but his troops had had enough. Alexander set up his court in Babylonia, and introduced age-old ceremonies that befit the ruler he was: Son of the Sun to the Egyptians, King of Kings to the Persians, with troops in India and in Athens. His aim was to combine the wisdom and splendor of the East with the clear thinking vitality of the Greeks, but when died he was 32 years old, and his Empire was in pieces. (Gombrich 69)

10. What is one of the best things that Alexander did?

Alexander preserved Greek culture by safely storing thousands of scrolls in libraries. The information these scrolls hold continue to enlighten us today.

Chapter 13: New Wars and New Warriors

1. What peninsula did Alexander leave alone?

Italy is a peninsula that Alexander did not touch. The peasant tribe of the Romans inhabited this land, and Rome was a city of twisted streets and strong walls.

2. What is the story of how Rome was founded?

The legend is that the Trojan Aeneas fled to Italy, and his descendants were the twin brothers Romulus and Remus, sons of Mars, the god of war, who were suckled and raised in the forest by a wild she-wolf. Romulus, so the myth goes, founded Rome in 753 BC. Today in Rome you can find several statues of the she-wolf and the twins.

Carthage, located in what is now Northern Africa was a powerful trading city, and the inhabitants, the Carthaginians became Rome's first real opponents. (Gombrich 76) Part of Sicily, which is separated from Carthage by a small strip of the Mediterranean Sea, was controlled by the Carthaginians.

3. Who fought in the Punic Wars? What does the word "punic" signify?

The Punic Wars (a series of 3 wars) were fought between Rome and Carthage between 264 and 146 BC. They were called the "Punic Wars" because the Latin term for "Carthaginian" was "Punici," which refers to their Phoenician ancestry. (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Punic_Wars) The Romans were expanding their power and in order to do so, they had to conquer Carthage. "At the start of the first Punic War, Carthage was the dominant power of the Western Mediterranean, with an extensive maritime empire, while Rome was the rapidly ascending power in Italy. By the end of the third war, Rome had conquered Carthage's empire and razed the city, becoming the most powerful state of the Western Mediterranean.

4. Who was the Carthaginian soldier who traveled with war elephants?

A young Carthaginian soldier, Hannibal, led an army from Spain towards Italy, equipped with war elephants and a large army. He traveled through the Alps with the elephants. Hannibal was raised amongst soldiers and was fearless, unbelievably tenacious, and a born leader." (Gombrich 77). In 217 BC the Romans were defeated in a bloody battle, but little by little they fought back, and as long as Hannibal was not involved in the battle, the Romans would win through their sheer tenacity. Hannibal stayed in Italy 14 years, returning to Carthage where he was finally defeated by a leader named Scipio. Hannibal poisoned himself, rather than being taken captive.

Rome now conquered Greece, which was still under Macedonian rule, and still in a fragmented state. Roman expanded north, and attacked the Gauls, who 200 years earlier had sacked Rome. And finally, in 146 BC, the Romans attacked and razed Carthage. Rome was now the mightiest city in the world. (Gombrich 79)

Chapter 14: An Enemy of History

1. Who was the "Enemy of History," the book burner from China?

Around 220 BC, when Hannibal was ruling in Italy, the Emperor Shih Huang-ti of Ch'in, ordered that all history books, and the writings of Confucius and Lao-tzu be burned because he considered them rubbish. The Emperor was a warrior, and the first emperor of all China – hence the name "China," most likely taken from his name – but he hated history and wanted to erase it all so to create a new China, his way.

2. Who built the Great Wall of China? How many miles does it stretch?

Emperor Shih Huang-ti built the Great Wall of China, an enormous 4000 miles long wall. It is "a double wall made of stone with tall towers and castellations, winding its symmetrical way over plains, through deep ravines and up steep mountain slopes" (Gombrich 81).

3. Why did he build the Wall?

Shih Huang-ti built the Wall to protect China's many hardworking and peaceable peasants and townspeople.

4. Find the Great Wall of China on a map and trace its path. Using an aerial space map, see if you can find the Great Wall. Is there any other man-made creation can you see from space?

5. Gombrich writes: "If you want to do anything new you must first make sure you know what people have tried before." What does Gombrich mean by this statement? (Gombrich 82)

6. Gombrich points out that China is the only country in the world to be ruled for hundreds of years by who -- not soldiers, nobility or even priests. By who?

By scholars.

7. Emperor Han took the throne following Shih Huang-ti's death. He was unlike Shih Huang-ti in one very important way. What was it?

He was very interested in China's past, so much so that he wanted to find and preserve any and all of the old writings by Confucius. Luckily some people had the courage not to burn these books. Han carefully collected and valued them: to become one of his government officials, one had to know Confucius' writings.

Chapter 15: Rulers of the Western World

1. The Romans did not try to turn the lands they conquered into a single, vast empire as Alexander did. What did they do instead?

The lands that the Roman legions conquered became Roman provinces, towns occupied by Roman troops and Roman officials. They made the towns feel like Rome, complete with aqueducts and bath houses. The towns had to pay taxes and send grain to Rome.

2. Why did the Romans build so many roads?

The Romans were superb engineers. They made roads so they could send news and troops to all parts of the empire in the shortest possible time. The Roman towns were crushed by the taxes that were imposed upon them, even though they, too, benefited from the roads.

3. What is an aqueduct? Why did the Romans build them?

The Romans built magnificent aqueducts that carried fresh water from the mountains down into the towns to fill fountains and bathhouses so that the Roman officials living in these towns "could enjoy all the comforts" of home (Gombrich 84).

4. Research and identify Roman towns in the British Isles that did not fall into ruin and still exist today. What buildings or roads are left? Does any part of the Roman Wall still stand? Any bathhouses?

5. Describe a typical Roman soldier.

The soldiers held the huge empire together, and were fierce to anyone who opposed them. War was their pastime. They were well-drilled soldiers who wore metal-plated tunics, and carried shields and javelins, swords, slings, and pulled weaponry like catapults. They marched in triumph, and killed their vanquished leaders without mercy. A great hero on the battlefield also provided for the people of Rome, because he sent grain to Rome to ensure against famine in the big city.

6. What is the difference between Roman and Greek sporting events?

The Romans' sporting events were quite unlike the ones the Greeks had. In Rome the captives were made to fight each other to the death, or to fight against animals, while hundreds of people cheered and watched. In Greece, trained athletes willingly competed in contests of strength and endurance.

7. What is a gladiator?

Some Romans sold their slaves to become gladiators, men who fight the wild animals in the Coliseum. The most famous gladiator was Spartacus, who in 71 BC led the slaves in revolt against their masters.

8. Who was the most popular Roman general?

The best known of all Roman generals was Gaius Julius Caesar (100 BC - 44 BC), a man who knew how to win the hearts of the populace. Caesar wrote a famous but simple letter after he won a battle. It simply said "veni, vidi, vici" meaning I came, I saw, I conquered (Gombrich 89). Caesar worked fast, but it took him 7 years, from 58 to 51 BC, to conquer France, which was then called Gaul.

9. Define "Romance languages." From where does this name derive?

"Once Gaul became a Roman province the inhabitants soon learned to speak Latin, just as they had in Spain. And this is why French and Spanish, which come from the language of the Romans, are known as the Romance languages" (Gombrich 89).

10. Today we use an every day object that can be credited to Caesar?

Caesar is responsible for the calendar we use today. He called it the Julian calendar, after his own name. It was "more or less like ours, with twelve months and leap years" (Gombrich 89). The month of July is also named after him.

11. Who murdered Caesar? Who came to power after him?

In 44 BC Caesar was murdered by his best friend Brutus; by 31 BC Caesar's adoptive son, Caesar Octavianus Augustus, became the sole ruler on the empire. The month of August is named after him. Caesar Augustus was a cool-headed man, who recited the alphabet in order to keep his temper down. He ruled the empire fairly and wisely; he wasn't a warrior and he lived simply, and appreciated the arts and poetry.

12. The Roman poets during Augustus' time are the most famous of all Roman poets. These poets were influenced by Greek poetry, which "was lucky for us, for if they hadn't, we might never have heard about any of it" (Gombrich 91). Name at least one poet and a few of his works.

*Ovid; his full name is Publius Ovidius Naso (43 BC - 17 AD). By 8AD, he wrote the *Metamorphoses*, a long poem that drew upon Greek mythology. Ovid was banished to an island for mysterious reasons, and died there. Medieval poets revered him as the "preceptor of love."*

Chapter 16: The Good News

Augustus ruled from 31 BC until AD 14; he was on the throne when Jesus Christ was born (7-2 BC - 26-36 AD).

1. What did Jesus teach?

Jesus taught that all men are God's children, and that the greatest of all gifts from God is love. He traveled all over the country of Palestine, which was a Roman province, preaching and teaching, healing the sick and comforting the poor.

2. Why was Jesus put to death on a cross?

Jesus was accused of wanting to be king; he was killed for his rebelliousness. The Roman officials were afraid of him. He was put to death in the way criminals were in those days – nailed to a cross, and left hanging to die. This was a humiliating and painful way to die, but the Christians took the image of the cross, and made it their symbol, their sign, of God's love.

3. Who was the Apostle Paul?

The Apostle Paul was one of Christ's disciples, who preached about God's love, and his mercy. He preached in many cities, in Rome, Athens, and Corinth. It is doubtful if Paul ever met Jesus.

4. The Apostle Paul's word struck a chord with the "poor and downtrodden" people. What did he say that was so enlightening to them?

Paul's words were something entirely new. He preached of a Divine Grace which was far greater than any law. He spoke of God the Father – the unique and invisible God in whom the Jews had believed – and soon the Good News of God spread throughout the Roman Empire" (Gombrich 94).

5. How did the Romans react to Paul's teaching?

The Roman patricians most likely disapproved of Paul's words, for they wielded a firm hand over the people. The Roman Empire was not usually involved in matters of religion, but the Christians, who only believed in one God, "were refusing to scatter incense before images of the emperor, which was the custom." The Roman emperors demanded to be worshipped as gods, but the Christians refused to do so and the Romans were angry. (Emperors in Egypt, China, Babylon and Persia were also worshipped as gods.) (Gombrich 94)

6. Who was the Roman Emperor Nero? What was he like?

The Roman Emperor Nero came to power 60 years after Christ's death -- in AD 60. Nero was a monster – a "weak, vain, suspicious and lazy man, utterly devoid of decency and dignity. He had his mother, his wife and his tutor murdered." (Gombrich 94).

7. What did Nero blame on the Christians?

A huge fire burned through Rome, leaving many people homeless.

The people blamed Nero, saying he started the fire, but he in turn blamed the Christians. Nero had the Christians rounded up, and he either burned them alive, or threw them in the arena to be torn apart by wild lions.

8. What was the significance of the Roman Catacombs?

The catacombs are underground passageways and tombs where the persecuted Christians worshiped secretly. The catacombs were located outside the Rome's city gates, and are still there today. Despite all the persecutions, the Christian religion thrives today. The Christians, however, were not the only ones to suffer persecution for their beliefs under Nero. The Jews gathered together in secret to pray in foreign towns, "scorned and derided by all because...they still clung to their ancient customs." (Gombrich 96)

Chapter 17: Life in the Empire and at its Frontiers

1. How did wealthy Romans live?

Whether in Rome or in the frontier towns, Romans who were wealthy lived in villas with small gardens and fountains, in homes that were heated in the winter "by a form of central heating in which hot air circulated through hollow bricks under the floor."

2. Describe a Roman Bath.

The Roman Baths "were magnificently furnished and decorated and had halls for hot baths, cold baths and steam baths, and others for practicing sports." (Gombrich 97-98) Wealthy Romans could take baths at the bath houses, or therms, thanks to the aqueducts that provided fresh water.

3. Challenge: Do any ruins of the Roman Baths still stand? Where? Find pictures of these baths.

There are Roman bath houses in Germany (in Cologne, Trier, Augsburg and Regensburg), in Austria (in Salzburg and Vienna), in France (in Arles and Nimes), and in England (Bath). Ruins of Roman theatres, villas and soldier barracks also still stand. (Gombrich 100).

4. What was the Colosseum? What was it used for? Find a picture of it.

The Colosseum, a huge stone stadium, is today one of Rome's greatest ruins. During Nero's time, it held up to 50 thousand spectators and was used for gladiatorial contests and animal-baiting – many Christians died there.

5. Challenge: Many ruins survive in Rome alone. Research and identify the various ruins. Which were built by Trajan? By Nero? Caesar?

Outside the Empire

Beyond the distant Roman frontiers were fierce, barbarian tribes waiting to raid and pillage the rich provinces. The Germans, who lived in the north at the other side of the Danube and the Rhine, were the Roman's real enemies. They were especially troublesome – Caesar had already clashed with them during his conquest of Gaul. (Gombrich 98)

6. How did the Germanic tribes live?

The Germans "were peasants and herdsmen, as the Romans themselves had once been, and they preferred to live as they always had, in isolated wooden farmsteads." Germany was a country of swamps and dark forests, and the Roman soldiers often found themselves lost and ambushed by fierce tribes. During Augustus' time, a Germanic tribe led by Arminius, who had been trained by the Romans, attacked the Romans in the Teutoburg Forest, and completely annihilated them. (Gombrich 99)

7. What were the Limes?

In the first century AD the Romans built a wall, called the Limes, which stretched from the Rhine to the Danube Rivers. It was made of palisades with watchtowers, and was intended to protect the empire from the nomadic Germanic tribes. The Romans kept troops "permanently stationed at the frontiers to defend the empire. They had encampments along the Rhine, the Danube, and in Vienna there were Egyptians who built a temple to Isis; the town is now called "Ybbs" and Isis lives on in that name.

8. Emperor Trajan conquered Dacia, what is now Hungary and Romania, in AD 106. Once Dacia became Roman, its inhabitants spoke Latin. What was it then called?

It was called "Romania." The Emperor Trajan lived AD100; he was renowned for his justice and gentleness. Trajan also created beautiful town squares, hiring Greek architects to build temples, colonnades and monuments – the ruins of which you can visit in Rome. (Gombrich 100)

9. What animal did Marcus Aurelius take with him when he battled near Vienna?

It is said that Marcus Aurelius marched on Vienna with lions. The lions were supposed to scare off the enemy, but because the Germans had never seen lions before, they weren't frightened at all. Marcus Aurelius became emperor after Trajan, between AD 161 and 180. He was a philosopher who wrote about self-control and tolerance, much like Buddha, except he was also a fighter, waging war near Vienna against the Germanic tribes. Marcus Aurelius died in AD 180, and because "there was almost

no one to keep order, confusion and misery reigned after AD 200 (Gombrich 102).

10. Which Roman emperor decreed that Christianity be the state religion? Why?

The Emperor Constantine decreed in AD 313 that Christians were no longer to be persecuted. Constantine “abandoned the struggle against the Christians on the eve of a battle against his rival, Maxentius. He had a dream in which he saw the Cross, and heard the words: ‘Beneath this sign you will be victorious.’ Victorious in that battle, he issued a decree in 313 that Christians should no longer be persecuted. He himself remained a pagan for a long time, and was only baptized on his death-bed.

11. Constantine no longer ruled the empire from Rome because the chief threat to the Roman Empire came from the east; the Persians were once again a powerful force. From what city did Constantine rule?

Constantine ruled from the ancient Greek colony of Byzantium on the Black Sea; he renamed it Constantine's City or Constantinople. Today it is known as Istanbul. (Gombrich 102)

Two Roman Empires

“By 395 the Roman empire had two capitals and two states – the Western Empire consisting of Italy, Gaul, Britannia, Spain, and North Africa, where people spoke Latin, and the Eastern Empire, consisting of Egypt, Palestine, Asia Minor, Greece and Macedonia, where they spoke Greek. Christianity became the official religion from 380 onwards in both states. This meant that bishops and archbishops became important dignitaries who wielded great authority in the affairs of the state. Christians no longer met in underground passages, but in grand churches with fine pillars.” (Gombrich 103)

Chapter 18: The Storm

Even though the Roman Empire was threatened -- at the frontiers in Germany, and by campaigns led by Caesar, Augustus, Trajan, Marcus Aurelius and many others -- the storm that brought down the Roman Empire came from the East, as Asiatic hordes from the steppes turned westwards in search of new lands to plunder.

1. Who were the Huns? How did they fight?

The Huns were small Asiatic men who rode fast ponies they rarely dismounted. They even slept on their horses. Gombrich describes their fighting technique: “With fearful howls and a noise like thunder they

charged down on their foes, showering them with arrows, before whirling round and rushing away, as if in headlong retreat. Then, if they were followed, they would twist in their saddles and shoot backwards at their pursuers. They were nimbler, more cunning and more bloodthirsty than any of the other tribes;" even the Germans fled before them (Gombrich 105).

2. What happened to the Roman Empire during the period known as the "Migrations"?

During the Migrations, the Visigoths, or the Goths, a Germanic tribe, attacked the Roman Empire. In 410 the Goths sacked Rome, and then they headed North to Gaul and eventually to Spain. Because the Romans had to send troops North to defend themselves, other garrisons were left unguarded, giving other Germanic tribes a chance to attack the Romans too.

3. Who was Attila the Hun?

In 444 the Hun king was Attila the Hun. It is said that wherever Attila trod, the grass ceased to grow. His hordes burnt and destroyed everything in their path. Despite all the treasures the Huns looted, Attila ate off a wooden plate and remained a plain man. It was said he never laughed; power was all to him. Attila battled the Roman Empire of the West in 451, and headed towards Rome. Only Pope Leo the Great opposed Attila. It is said that he walked out to greet the Hun, with flags and religious objects, and persuaded Attila to turn back. In 453 Attila married a German princess, but he died that same night. (Gombrich 10 7)

4. Who was the last Roman emperor? What is the "curious coincidence" about his name?

Romulus Augustulus was the last Roman Emperor. A curious coincidence is that Rome's founder and first king was called Romulus and the first Roman emperor was the Emperor Augustus. Romulus Augustulus was deposed in 476.

Challenge: The year 476 marks the end of the Roman Empire together with the long period we call "antiquity." It also marks the birth of a new era, the Middle Ages, given its name for no other reason than that it falls between antiquity and modern times. Gombrich notes that at the time, no one noticed that a new era had begun. Is it possible to notice when a new era has begun? Did anyone notice when in our lifetime, things went from several people owning cell phones, to many people owning cell phones? What other "birth of an era" types of moments can you identify?

Changes in the Roman Empire

The Ostrogoths had settled in Roman Empire of the East, but in 493 their king Theodoric led them to Italy, where they settled. Theodoric settled in the coastal town of Ravenna, where he built beautiful churches.

From 527 onwards, Constantinople was ruled by Justinian, an emperor who wished to recover the whole of the old Roman Empire and unite it under his rule. His court was splendid and luxurious; both Justinian and his wife Theodora wore great ropes of pearls around their necks. (Gombrich 108)

5. What is the name of the large church Emperor Justinian built in Constantinople?

Justinian built the Hagia Sophia, a gigantic church in Constantinople, during the years 532 – 537. At one point it was converted to a mosque, but today it is a museum.

6. Name the laws Justinian collected.

The Pandects of Justinian is the name of all the great Roman laws Justinian collected.

Chapter 19: The Starry Night Begins (AD 586)

1. What is signified by the term “Dark Ages”?

The Dark Ages is a name given to the period which followed the collapse of the Roman Empire. Very few people could read or write and hardly anyone knew what was going on in the world. The streets and highways the Romans built had fallen into disrepair, and their camps and cities were now overgrown ruins. The good Roman laws were forgotten and the Greek statues were smashed – all a result of the Migrations. People believed that God had given them souls and all men were equal in God's eyes, but God's wrath was truly feared, and people were quite superstitious.

2. Who was Benedict?

Benedict (about 480 - 547) was a monk who lived in the western part of Italy and who preached that man must “pray and work,” and do good deeds. He is best known for establishing the “Rule,” rules for monks to live by. The monks in the Order of the Benedictines live in monasteries, where they vow to possess nothing, to remain unmarried, remain silent, and to obey the abbot in charge of the monastery.

3. What did the Benedictines do?

The Benedictines read the ancient scrolls and manuscripts, and they copied them for others to read. They copied bibles, lives of the saints,

ancient Greek and Latin, works on the natural sciences and agriculture. They learned to cultivate the land properly and grow grains to make breads, and they taught others how to do it. The monks educated the village children, and "these few scattered monasteries were the only places in those days where learning and the handing down of knowledge went on, and where all memory of Greek and Roman thought was not extinguished" (Gombrich 112).

4. Were any monasteries built on the British Isles?

Many of the earliest monasteries were built on the British Isles, in Ireland and England, places that had suffered less damage during the Migrations. Germanic tribes had settled there too, and Christianity had taken root early on. (Gombrich 113)

5. What did the monks teach the people in Germany how to do?

The monks taught them how to grow fruit and vines, proving to the barbarian warriors that there was more to life than brute force and deeds of valor. In 496 the king of the Franks, Clovis, was baptized. Monks frequently acted as advisors to the Christian kings of the Franks at the Merovingian court, and they also wrote down laws and did all the king's written work.

6. What does Gombrich mean when he states that the "the work of writing was also that of ruling"?

The monks did all the kings' correspondence: they composed letters to other kings and kept in touch with the pope in Rome. This means that "beneath their plain hooded cloaks those monks were the real masters of the still very disorderly kingdom of the Franks" (Gombrich 113).

7. Was paganism still practiced?

Yes Paganism was still practiced by peoples in northern Germania, in what we know today as the Netherlands. These people worshipped Odin, the god of Battle, beneath sacred trees. The monk Boniface converted some to Christianity, but he was killed in 754.

Chapter 20: There is No God but Allah, and Muhammad is his Prophet

Around the year 600, when the monks were preaching to the Germans, the Arabs lived simply in the desert, worshipping the stars, like the ancient Babylonians. The Shrine of Kaaba in the oasis town of Mecca was their holy site.

1. Who was Muhammad?

Muhammad was the Prophet, who after a vision, realized that God would speak through his mouth to make known his wishes for mankind. People laughed at him, and the leading tribesmen thought he was dangerous enemy. People were forbidden to do business with Muhammad's family, but he continued to preach, and had a following.

2. What is Muhammad's Emigration?

In 622, assassins were sent to kill Muhammad, but he escaped to Medina; his flight is called the Emigration. In Medina, Muhammad was able to preach freely, and he taught that everyone must surrender to God's Will. "The word 'submission to the will of God' is the Arabic word 'Islam,' so Muhammad called his teaching Islam. He told his followers that to kill an unbeliever who refuses to recognize him as the Prophet is no sin" (Gombrich 118).

3. What is the Islam paradise like?

Muhammad's description of paradise, of believers lying on cushions and being waited on by immortal youths, made quite an affect on the poor desert people who heard his words. Muhammad urged his followers to pray 5 times a day, facing Mecca, to drink no wine, and to be brave. Muhammad died in 632.

4. What is the Koran? What does it teach?

The Koran, the Arabic bible, preaches "Fight the infidel," and "slay the idolatrous." 119. The Arabs obeyed the Prophet's words and attacked Palestine, Persia, Egypt and the great city of Alexandria, destroying everything.

5. Challenge: Muslim terrorists attacked the USA on September 11, 2001. The terrorists are said to have taken Muhammad's words as absolute truths – that to kill is no sin, and heaven is a luxurious paradise awaiting anyone who kills "infidels." What does this tell you about "blind belief" and religion? Explore religious extremism in other parts of the world, and in other religions.

6. The Arabs attacked Cyprus, Sicily, Africa, and Spain, and in 670 the city of Constantinople withstood a seven year siege. Did the Arabs preserve the Greek scrolls, as Alexander did?

No, they destroyed everything. Their leader, Omar, told his men to burn everything in the Alexandria library because none of it was in the Koran. A precious collection of "700,000 scrolls by Greek poets, writers and philosophers" were destroyed (Gombrich 120).

7. Who finally defeated the Arabs?

In 732, one hundred years after the Prophet's death, the Arabs were defeated by Charles Martel, or Charles the Hammer, the leader of the Franks. Gombrich writes: "If Charles Martel had lost those battles at Tours and Poitiers in the southern kingdom of the Franks, the Arabs would surely have conquered all of what is now France and Germany, and destroyed the monasteries. In which case, we might all be Muslims, like so many of the peoples of the world today" (Gombrich 121).

8. Were the Arabs interested in other cultures?

Not at first, but eventually the Arabs began to learn from the people they conquered. They particularly liked the writings of Aristotle, Alexander's teacher. Many words we use, names like chemistry and algebra, come from Arabic. Once the Arabs stopped burning and destroying everything, they brought together all the discoveries that they learned from their conquests over the Persians, Greeks, Indians and Chinese. (Gombrich 121 – 122)

9. What did the Arabs invent?

The numbers we use today are Arabic numerals. They invented the place value, "the value given to the numbers on account of its position" (Gombrich 122).

Chapter 21: A Conqueror who Knows How to Rule

Years ago there was no mail and therefore little communication between one village and the next. Most people did not know what was happening in places just a few days' journey from where they lived.

1. Who was Charlemagne? What does his name mean?

Charlemagne, the leaders of the Franks, was a "great" ruler – the Latin word "magnus" means "great." He became king in 768. Charlemagne was a grandson of Charles Martel, the commander who drove the Arabs out of the Merovingian kingdom of the Franks. His kingdom covered roughly the western half of what is now Germany, and the eastern part of France, but his was not a well-organized kingdom; it was not like the Roman Empire at all. There were many tribes, and they spoke different dialects and had different customs. The tribal chieftains were known as dukes, and their lands were known as duchies.

2. What was Charlemagne's goal? How did he go about it?

Charlemagne wanted to forge the various Germanic tribes and duchies into one people, under his rule. He recorded laws, appointed judges and worked tirelessly to unite all Germans. He conquered France, and then

marched over the Alps to conquer Italy, where the Lombards had settled after the Migrations. He drove out the king of the Lombards, and gave control of those lands to the Pope, whose protector he would be throughout his life. He fought the Arabs in Spain, the Avars in Austria, and the Slavs and, in the Eastern half of Germany, the pagan Saxons. (Gombrich 125 -126)

3. Was Charlemagne interested in education?

Yes, he established schools to educate his people.

Charlemagne as the new Roman Emperor

On Christmas Eve in the year 800, the pope crowned Charlemagne the new Roman Emperor, a surprise move that made him the first German emperor of the Holy Roman Empire, as it later was known. Envoys from all over the world paid homage to him. The pope in Rome regarded Charlemagne as the defender of all Christians.

4. What happened to his kingdom after Charlemagne died in 814?

The empire was soon parceled out amongst his three grandsons in the form of three separate kingdoms: Germany, France and Italy. But before the century was over, "Charlemagne's great achievement, the Holy Roman Empire of the German Nation, was no more," not even in name (Gombrich 129). The Vikings (Danes and Normans from the north), pillaged and plundered coastal cities in their Viking ships. Normandy, in France, still bears their name.

5. What happened to his schools?

The schools Charlemagne founded crumbled, and reading and writing was soon lost to all but a handful of monks in far-flung monasteries.

Chapter 22: A Struggle to Become Lord of Christendom

Chinese civilization:

In the year 800 the Chinese empire was well protected, and truly a world apart from Europe. While pagans warred in Germany, Chinese poets were writing poems in elegant handwriting on silk. China was a powerful and well-organized state, with prosperous cities, and refined living in the Imperial court.

Meanwhile, in Europe, the independent tribes in chose the Duke of Saxony as their King Henry, in 919. In 995, his successor, King Otto, fought the Magyars, forcing them back into Hungary, where they remain today. Otto II bestowed the Magyars' lands (present-day lower Austria) upon

Leopold, a member of the Babenberg family. In 976, Leopold built himself a castle and ruled over the land.

1. Were the German peasants who worked the fields at this time free men? What were they called?

Most peasants at this time belonged to the land owned by the nobleman, like the sheep or goats that grazed there. They were called serfs and had to cultivate the nobleman's lands, and send up regular shipments of bread and meat to his castle.

2. How were the noblemen granted their land? Could a peasant own land?

The king bestowed land upon the nobleman, who could spend his time hunting on it, while his serfs worked. In return for this land, the nobleman was bound to follow the king into battle, bringing with him all his serfs as soldiers. When the nobleman died, his eldest son would inherit the land, and so on. Most of Germany had been granted to different lords in this way, as it was in France and in England. There was no way for a peasant to own anything at this time.

In 962 Otto was crowned Roman Emperor by the pope, like Charlemagne was in the year 800. So once again, Germans became Roman emperors, the protectors of Christendom.

The Investiture Controversy: An argument between the pope and the emperor ensued over whether who should appoint bishops – the pope or the emperor? The pope regarded these appointments as religious ones, but the emperor maintained that it was for him to decide who was to be a lord in his land. (Gombrich 133) This controversy is known as the Investiture Controversy, and it led to a stand off between Pope Gregory VII and Henry IV of Germany. In 1073, Pope Gregory VII was Pope in Rome; meanwhile Henry IV was king in Germany. Pope Gregory excommunicated Henry IV, meaning he could not take communion, and Henry's princes did not want anything to do with an excommunicated king.

3. Why did Henry IV of Germany have to "go to Canossa"? What does it mean today when someone says he has to "go to Canossa"?

Henry traveled to the town of Canossa to beg the Pope to lift the excommunication. It was finally decided bishops were to be chosen by the Church, and the emperor was allowed to say if he agreed or not. Even today a person might say he is "going to Canossa" when he has to humble himself before an adversary.

4. What happened in 1066?

In 1066 William the Conqueror from Normandy, a country along the coast of France (part of Charlemagne's Empire), crossed the English Channel and defeated the English King at the Battle of Hastings. The English nobility were now Normans, and because the Normans spoke French, the English language is a mixture of words from Old German and Romance languages.

Chapter 23: Chivalrous Knights

1. What does the word "chivalry" mean?

The word "chivalry" comes from the French word "chevalier" meaning horsemen, and it was with horsemen that chivalry began. Chivalrous behavior in a knight meant kindness to women, fairness in battle, and loyalty to one's lord. "When a knight loved a lady, he did battle in her honor and went in search of adventures to win fame for his beloved. He pronounced her name with reverence and did everything she asked" (Gombrich 140).

2. Does chivalrous behavior exist today?

Yes, it does, in the good manners and kind behavior. Letting a lady (or an older person) go through the door first is chivalrous or polite behavior, as is bending down to pick up what she dropped.

3. How did one become a knight?

In the beginning, anyone who could afford a good horse on which to ride to battle was a knight, and anyone on foot was not a knight. Knights were often the steward of a nobleman's land, overseeing the serfs. A knight's son could become a knight – but a serf never could. It was like India's caste system.

4. Explain the steps for becoming a knight.

When he was about seven years old, a knight's son would be sent away to learn to be a page in another knight's castle. A page served the ladies, carried their trains, read aloud to them. Once a page was 14 years old, he would become a squire and was allowed to accompany the knight when he was hunting or going to war. A loyal squire could be dubbed a knight at age 21.

5. What was it like to be a knight?

Being a knight was like being a member of an order, like a monk. "A knight served God through his strength, and it was his duty to protect the

weak and defenseless, women and the poor, widows and orphans. He must be neither brutal nor cruel, and in battle must only fight man to man, never two against one. A vanquished opponent must never be humiliated. We still call this sort of behavior chivalrous, because it conforms to the knights' ideal" (Gombrich 140. A knight avoided coarse behavior and curse words.

6. Describe a medieval castle.

In the year 1000, around the time of Emperor Henry IV of Germany, noblemen began building castles and fortresses intended to be secure against assault. Moats were built around the castles for further protection. The castle walls had small slits in them so men could shoot arrows through them, and there were holes for pouring boiling pitch down upon the enemy. Within this brick wall there might be two or even three more brick walls before one reached the castle courtyard. There were towers and pillars, and dungeons too.

7. Research medieval castles. How many of these fortresses are still standing? Where?

8. Describe a medieval tournament. If you have artistic talent, draw a picture of one.

A medieval tournament was war gaming in times of peace, and the celebration could last for days. Knights from all over would compete against each other by jousting. "Dressed in full armor they galloped towards one another at full tilt, each doing his best to unhorse the other with his blunted lance" (Gombrich 141). Pennants would fly in the breeze, food would be sold, minstrels would sing, children would play games – it was a carnival atmosphere, enjoyed by many, and it brought great honor to the host and hostess.

9. What were the Crusades? Who was Godfrey of Bouillon?

Crusades were when groups of Christian knights decided to travel to Palestine to pay homage to Christ's tomb. These knights wore red crosses sewn on their clothing and were called "crusaders." Godfrey of Bouillon was a French Crusader Knight. In 1096 Crusader knights decided to free Christ's Tomb in Jerusalem from the control of Arab unbelievers. Under the leadership of Godfrey, a great army set off along the Danube towards Palestine. Gombrich writes: "Once inside Jerusalem, Godfrey and his men behaved neither like knights nor like Christians. They massacred all the Muslims and then did penance" (Gombrich 142).

The little state of Jerusalem was forever under attack from Arab warriors, meaning that back in England, France, and Germany, priests were constantly urging knights to go on crusades.

Christians and Arab Culture: It was during the crusades that the Christians discovered Arab culture – their buildings, their sense of beauty, and most of all, the writings of Aristotle, which had been translated into Arabic. They brought Aristotle's writings back with them, "surprised to find out how similar many of his teachings were to those of the Church. All that the Arabs had learned and experienced in the course of their conquests around the world was now brought back to Europe by the crusaders" (Gombrich 143).

Chapter 24: Emperors in the Age of Chivalry

1. Who was the German emperor with the fiery red beard?

The Emperor Frederick Barbarossa, a German who was crowned in 1152.

2. Most towns were still not using money at this time because there was no need. But in Italy there were cities, and in cities people need money. Why do people in cities need money?

Most Germans relied upon the barter system to get what they needed – bread, leather for shoes, flax for weaving -- whereas in Italy money had been in use since Roman times. Money was rare in most places, but not in Italian cities like Venice (a cluster of islands where the inhabitants had taken refuge from the Huns), or in harbor towns such as Genoa and Pisa, whose ships sailed across the seas and came back from the Orient with fine cloth, rare spices and weapons of great value; inland cities like Florence, Milan, Verona – these towns and cities used money and had for a long time. Money was made out of metal, something people could carry around with them. (Gombrich 146)

Burghers and Bourgeoisie:

People in towns were not serfs or peasants, but they weren't lords either; they were citizens, "burghers" in Germany and "bourgeoisie" in France.

Barbarossa in Italy:

In 1158 Barbarossa traveled to Italy where he declared that as Holy Roman Emperor he had all the rights his successors did; he demanded money, but the Italian cities refused to pay him, even after he attacked. (Gombrich 147)

3. Describe the dubbing feast of Mainz.

In Mainz in 1181 Barbarossa held a feast to celebrate his sons, who were dubbed knights. Forty thousand people were invited – tents were set up, whole animals were roasted, people were everywhere, minstrels, jugglers, acrobats – a huge carnival type atmosphere but with lavish trappings that went on for days.

4. During the Third Crusade, three kings traveled to Jerusalem. Barbarossa was one king; who were the other two?

In 1189 Barbarossa, King Richard the Lionheart of England and the French King Philip all went on the Third Crusade. They went by sea, but Barbarossa went by land and was drowned in a river in Asia Minor.

5. Barbarossa's grandson Frederick II of Hohnestaufen had a rather famous guardian. Can you name him? *Frederick II's guardian was Pope Innocent III, one of the most important men in history. Innocent III was lord of all Christendom.*

6. What was the Magna Carta?

In 1215 King John of England put his seal on the Magna Carta, the Great Charter in which he granted his barons a whole host of rights which English citizens hold to this day. (Gombrich 149)

7. As German Emperor Frederick II was a highly likable fellow and everywhere he went he won over the local princes – he did this in Sicily, and in Germany. How did he win over so many different people?

Frederick II understood many languages and cultures. He studied various branches of knowledge, he wrote poetry and he hunted; he even wrote a book on falconry, the art of hunting with hawks. He studied religions, and he enjoyed intellectual discussions with Muslims and Christians alike.

Pope Gregory accused Frederick II of being a Muslim, forcing him to make a pilgrimage to Jerusalem, which he did. But instead of killing the Muslims guarding the gates, Frederick sat down with the sultan who ruled there and they came to agreement which allowed the Christians access to Christ's tomb. (Gombrich 150) Gombrich writes: "Frederick was so different from everyone else around him that nobody understood what he was trying to achieve, least of all, Pope Gregory, who called him the Antichrist; others praised him, calling him *stupor mundi*, which means "the wonder of the world" (Gombrich 151). Even his own son turned against him. Frederick died 1250.

8. Who was Genghis Khan?

Genghis Khan was the leader of the fearsome Mongols, hordes of mounted warriors from Asia. Genghis Khan united many of the nomadic

tribes of northeast Asia. They sacked and looted with appalling savagery. (Gombrich 151) The Great Wall of China (Shih Huang-ti's wall) could not restrain the Mongols. Genghis Khan and his warriors conquered China and Persia, and then headed towards Europe in the path of the Huns, the Avars, and the Magyars. In 1241 the Mongols reached Hungary, then Poland; they burned the town of Breslau, Germany, to the ground. No one was spared, from Peking to Breslau (refer to map on pages 152 and 153).

More change:

In 1273, the Germans elected Rudolf Hapsburg, from Hapsburg Castle (Hawks nest) in Switzerland to be king. He was poor, but he was very intelligent. He defeated King Otakar of Bohemia, and in 1282 he bestowed the lands (Austria) to his sons. The Habsburgs were able to increase their power this way, through marriage and inheritance, until they had become of the most esteemed and wealthy families in Europe.

Chapter 25: Cities and Towns

Things began to change for Germany during these 100 years between the deaths of Frederick Barbarossa in 1190 and Rudolf I of Habsburg in 1291. At the time of Barbarossa, Germany was mainly a land of knights, monks and peasants, while in France there were cities and churches – two different worlds. By 1300, people began to use money, and having money meant there were market places, usually near the castle, in a permanent place. Anyone who “set up a stall and traded, was no longer a serf bound to a landowner” (Gombrich 156).

1. Describe “life in a town or city” in the Middle Ages around the year 1300. *Life in a town in the Middle Ages is nothing like it is today: the streets were narrow, crooked, and filled with trash. Merchants and craftsmen and their families were crowded into small houses.*

2. Craftsmen such as tailors, shoemakers, drapers, bakers, locksmiths, painters, stonemasons all belonged to guilds, or associations. Guilds were difficult to enter and had strict rules. Explain the career path of a craftsman.

Not just anyone could become a master-tailor, for example – first you were an apprentice, then a journeyman, where a young man would travel to many places to perfect his craft. Only then could he ply his trade, and it was often difficult to set up shop in a town and begin.

3. How were large churches or cathedrals conceived and built?

Craftsmen and burghers were at the forefront of any movement to build a church in their town. Towns with churches became more prosperous, and towns would compete to build the best cathedral or church.

Competitions were held for the design of the church. Master-builders would design the church; stonemasons would cut the thousands of stones needed, as well as create stone statues. Stained-glass windows were cut, painters were hired. The new cathedral had to be bigger and more magnificent than any building the neighboring towns. (Gombrich 158) The whole town shared in this ambition, and when the cathedral was completed, it was the work of the whole town, and everyone was very proud.

4. Research and name some of the magnificent cathedrals in Europe. Choose one country, and find pictures online of the various churches.

5. How did the Jewish people fare in these European medieval towns?

The Jews were the only tribe from antiquity left in Europe, and they were hated. They were forbidden to be craftsmen, knights, or to own land, and so they became merchants. In time some were able to earn a lot of money which the knights and burghers borrowed and were often unable to pay. This made the Jews even more hated; they were attacked, and no one would take their side.

6. What are some of the differences between how people lived in France and how they lived in Germany?

France had cities and churches long before there were any in Germany. By 1300 the French kings were very wealthy because they owned land, and land meant serfs, soldiers and power. In 1300 Rudolf of Habsburg in Germany began giving land to his relatives, which in time made them wealthy landowners.

7. What does the term "Babylonian captivity of the Popes" refer to?

In 1309 the French had so much power that they convinced the Pope to leave Rome, and take up residence in Avignon, France, where they could keep a close watch on him. The term refers to the Babylonian captivity of the Jews, in 597 – 538 BC, when they were enslaved. From 1305 to 1376 the Pope was effectively a prisoner, even though he lived lavishly in Avignon. It was called the Babylonian Captivity of the Popes.

8. Which countries fought in the Hundred Years War?

The Hundred Years War was between England and France, and began in 1337. The Norman family ruled in England ever since they conquered the island in 1066. This made them nominally French, and subjects of the French king, who could claim sovereignty over France and England. But

when no heir was born to the French king, the kings of England decided that they should rule over England and France. As the war progressed, the English, under the leadership of King Edward III, won more and more land for themselves.

9. Who was Joan of Arc? How does she fit into the Hundred Years War?

In 1431 a French shepherd girl named Joan of Arc had a vision in which God told her to lead the French army. She did, and the French won many battles under her unlikely command. She was eventually captured by the English and burned at the stake as a witch.

Even though the Hundred Years War waged on, time in the towns of Italy (and in Flanders and Brabant, now Belgium) life was truly magnificent. There were prosperous towns, trading in precious cloths, feasts, flower gardens, great halls and music. The women wore splendid clothing, and pointed hats with fine veils attached to them. Tapestries hung from the walls of the castles, reading and writing was done not only by monks but by tradesmen – it became a necessity.

10. Were there any universities at this time?

The University of Paris was created soon after the 1200 and students from all over studied there. In England, University of Cambridge was established around 1209; Oxford University's roots date to about the same time. In 1348 Charles IV of Bohemia founded the first German university, Charles University in Prague, now in the Czech Republic.

Town life in Germany

Town life had finally reached Germany, in 1310, when the leading family was the Luxembourgs, and they lived in Prague. The Luxembourg's land was Bohemia, and Charles IV lived in Prague since 1347. Rudolf IV, the "Founder," was Charles' son-in-law, and he ruled in Vienna. These rulers all lived in the center of town, in a castle – rulers no longer lived in lonely fortresses. (Gombrich 162)

Chapter 26: A New Age

In 1400 the cities of Italy -- Florence in particular -- were thriving, prosperous towns. Florentine burghers were free men, they were wealthy, and they thought about things a little differently. As Gombrich writes, suddenly what "mattered was to be someone in your own right, to think and judge for yourself, to act on your own authority. Independence, ability, intellect, knowledge and skill were what counted" (Gombrich 164).

1. What was the Renaissance?

The Renaissance occurred around the year 1420 when the Florentines became interested in antiquity. They learned Latin and Greek, and read about the Athenians and Pericles. They were interested in Alexander, Charlemagne – all Greek and Roman culture. “This period in time became known as the Renaissance, the “Rinascimento,” the rebirth, and Florentines were determined to do all they could to revive the spirit of antiquity” (Gombrich 165). The painters and sculptors of this time created a style that was full of color and vitality, yet drawn accurately and true-to-life. This time in Florence was a “bright new dawn” (Gombrich 171).

2. Who was Leonardo da Vinci? What did he do that was so daring?

Leonardo da Vinci lived from 1452 to 1519 in Florence. He was a scientist, mathematician, engineer, inventor, anatomist, painter, sculptor, architect, botanist, musician and writer – the archetype of the Renaissance man (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leonardo_da_vinci). Leonardo studied people, and his works of art are magnificent. He dissected and explored humans and animals in order to learn how they worked. Leonardo was the “first person to investigate the secrets of nature by means of experiments,” very daring work (Gombrich 166). He discovered that the earth goes around the sun; that the sun does not circle the earth each day, as it had been believed. He was careful his ideas were not circulated because it was considered heresy, and he could be burned at the stake for his belief.

3. Research Leonardo da Vinci. Become an expert on three experiments he conducted, or analyze three of his art works that appeal to you. Learn which museums house his works.

4. Leonardo is one of three Italian artists who are traditionally considered the masters of the Renaissance. Name the other two. Research their most famous works.

Raphael Sanzio (known by his first name alone), Michelangelo di Lodovico Buonarroti Simoni (also known by only his first name), and Leonardo da Vinci are the best known artists of the Renaissance.

5. Who were the Medici Family?

The Medici Family was the most powerful family in Florence during 1400 – 1500. They were wool merchants and bankers and they became very powerful. When a Medici became a pope, he would bring Italy’s greatest artists to Rome, where they would create wonderful works of art. “Popes of this period were not so much priests as magnificent princes, who lavished colossal sums of money on glorious works of art for their capital city” (Gombrich 168).

6. Did an Italian invent the printing press?

No, in 1450 a German named Gutenberg invented the printing press. Gutenberg made single letters out of metal, which were lined up and held in a frame and then printed from as many times as one wished. Soon there was printing of Bibles and other writings in Germany, Italy and elsewhere.

9. Around 1300 something was invented that changed warfare. What was it?

Around 1300 gunpowder was developed. It was probably first created by the Chinese, but they used it for fireworks and now it was used for warfare. Firepower changed warfare for "a good English Bowman could release 180 arrows in fifteen minutes, which was roughly the time it took for a soldier to load his thunder box, set a slow-match to the charge and fire it once. After 1400 gun use was widespread" (Gombrich 169). Guns also changed what men wore into battle – chain mail was abandoned in favor of heavy iron armor to protect oneself from bullets.

10. Who was the so-called "Last Knight"?

The German Emperor Maximilian was known as the Last Knight. He ruled around 1500, but "with the arrival of money and cities and gun power, the granting of land with bonded peasants in return for military service had become as outdated as chivalry" (Gombrich 170). Maximilian had to take mercenaries, paid soldiers instead of his vassals, when he went to fight the French king. But mercenaries had to be paid, and so someone like Maximilian had to borrow from wealthy town merchants to pay the soldiers. It was not a good situation and it did not last long.

Chapter 27: A New World

North and South America were beyond the great beyond – far out across the unknown and possibly never-ending ocean. Vikings were intrepid mariners, but they attacked the coasts of the British Isles, France and Spain, rather than venture into the mysterious and great beyond. The compass, invented by the Chinese as early as 1200, was rarely used, except perhaps by the Arabs; people were afraid of it.

1. What did Christopher Columbus long to do?

Christopher Columbus, from Genoa, Italy, was obsessed with knowing what would happen if a ship sailed westwards – he wanted to sail west to see what he would find

2. Christopher Columbus was Italian, but which queen gave him ships?

Queen Isabella of Spain in 1479.

3. How many ships did Queen Isabella give Columbus for his expedition West?

Columbus was given two old ships; he rented the third.

4. What land did he discover?

On August 3, 1492 he left Spain and on October 11, 1492 he spotted land. It wasn't the Indies, but we now call the island the "West Indies," and for many years we called the native inhabitants of America "Indians." Columbus was at least 2 months from his goal, but it is likely he and his crew would have perished if they had kept going west.

5. What happened to Columbus?

Columbus was given a hero's welcome upon his return from his first journey, but during his later voyages his pride, ambition, greed and his wild imaginings made him so unpopular that the king had him arrested and brought home from the West Indies in chains. (Gombrich 176)

6. What was the goal of the Spanish conquistadores?

The Spanish were also explorers, but their goal was gold and to find the fabled land of Eldorado. The conquistadores were really little better than pirates – they exploited the local inhabitants and stole whatever they could from them, and yet as Gombrich writes, these men "always maintained that the atrocities they committed were done for Christendom" (Gombrich 199).

7. What is a hypocrite? What is a religious hypocrite? Do people still act this way? Give examples.

8. Who was Hernando Cortez? What did he do?

Hernando Cortez was determined to get all the gold he could, and he killed and destroyed with impunity along the way.

9. Who was Montezuma? What happened when Montezuma and Cortez met?

Montezuma was a king of what is now Mexico. In 1519 Cortez marched into Mexico, burning villages and taking all the gold he could. Montezuma begged him to turn back, and gave him treasures of gold, but Cortez just pushed on. When he reached Montezuma's city, he was amazed: it was simply splendid. At a welcoming feast in his honor, Cortez and his men attacked the Mexican nobility, knowing they would be unarmed. Montezuma was wounded by his own people, and Cortez and

his men escaped. But they returned with fresh troops, and burned and destroyed the entire beautiful city.

Gombrich writes "and that was only the beginning. In other parts of America, the Spaniards proceeded to exterminate the ancient, cultivated Indian peoples in the most horrendous way" – it is an appalling and shameful chapter in European history (Gombrich 179).

Chapter 28: A New Faith

1. The two Medici popes in Italy were different than other popes. Were they interested in the word of God and salvation?

Popes like the two Medici popes were more interested in prestige and power than their roles as priest. They commissioned the beautiful churches in Florence, and were "responsible for the magnificent buildings that rose into the skies above Rome" (Gombrich 180). The Medici popes rebuilt St. Peter's Church, the church thought to have been founded by Constantine the Great, into a much grander building. Raphael oversaw the construction of the church cathedral.

2. How did the Medici popes raise the money needed to rebuild St. Peter's Church, in Rome?

They raised money raised by "selling indulgences," a practice in which the faithful had to pay for the forgiveness of their sins. This practice was clearly against Church teaching; the Church taught that sinners who repent would be forgiven – nothing about money is mentioned. (Gombrich 180-181)

3. Who was Martin Luther? What did he become angry about? How did the printing press help his cause?

In 1517, in Germany, a monk named Martin Luther became quite angry when he learned about the selling of indulgences; he became "determined to draw attention to this irreligious way of raising funds." Luther was not the first man to teach that selling indulgences was wrong, but he was the first man to do so in the modern age of the printing press. Luther published and distributed his writings throughout Germany. They were written in a style that was vigorous and rousing, and he won over many people with his arguments. (Gombrich 181-182).

4. What is the Reformation?

Luther broke away from the church, and established his own; this movement is called the Reformation. The pope threatened to excommunicate Luther, but Luther burned the pope's letter in public, unafraid of the pope. Many Germans sided with Luther, for "the luxury-

loving pope, with all his wealth, was unpopular in Germany" (Gombrich 182).

Charles V of Germany and Luther:

At about this time 1519 Maximilian, the "Last Knight" died, and his grandson the Habsburg Charles V, took the throne. Charles V ruled over Germany, Belgium, Holland, and Spain, too, for he was a stepson of Queen Isabella of Spain. He also ruled over America, where Cortez had recently made all his conquests.

5. What happened in Worms, Germany?

In 1521 Luther was summoned to Worms, Germany, to appear before Charles V. Charles V was going to have Luther killed, but Frederick, Duke of Saxony, the Prince of Wittenberg, would not allow it. Known as Frederick the Wise, he saved Luther's life and became his protector. Luther was declared an outlaw, but he was kidnapped by Frederick the Wise. He secretly took him to Wartburg, his castle, where Luther worked on translating the Bible into a language the Germans could read. (Bavarians wrote in Bavarian; Saxons in Saxon.)

Soon the Lutheran followers became more and more zealous – they threw paintings out of churches, and denounced childhood baptisms. People called them Iconoclasts and Anabaptists – destroyers of images and re-baptizers. Others, mostly the peasant class, took literally what Luther wrote about each man obeying his own conscience. They had an uprising against their landlords, and attacked many. Luther became angry at these Anabaptist followers. Eventually, Luther and his followers broke away from the Church and began their own brand of Christianity, Lutheranism.

Back in Germany Charles V spent all his time fighting: against religion, against German princes who were followers of Luther, against the pope, against the kings of England and France. In 1453 the Turks had conquered Constantinople, capital of the Roman Empire of the East. They laid waste to Hungary and in 1529 they reached the gates of Vienna, capital of Austria. By 1556 Charles V had given his kingdom away, and withdrew to a monastery, where it is said he repaired clocks.

6. What did England's King Henry VIII do that has made him famous for all time?

King Henry VIII had 6 wives; all of but two he had killed.

7. What did Henry VIII's marital problems have to do with religion?

Henry VIII wanted to divorce his first wife, Catherine of Aragon, (aunt of the emperor Charles V), so he could marry her lady-in-waiting, Anne Boleyn. However divorce was against Catholic law. So in 1533 Henry VIII withdrew his country from the Roman Catholic Church and created a church of his own, the Church of England, which he decreed allowed divorces. Henry beheaded Anne, married again 11 days later, but that wife died. He divorced the 4th, married a 5th, whom he also beheaded, and the 6th wife outlived him.

Chapter 29: The Church at War

1. Ignatius of Loyola was a Spanish knight who was wounded in one of the wars between Charles V and Francis I. After he recovered, he devoted his life to the Catholic Church. What Christian society did he found?

Ignatius founded the Society of Jesus. Jesuits are known as scholars; several colleges in the United States are considered "Jesuit" universities.

2. What reforms did the Jesuits wish to achieve during the Council in Trent?

The Jesuits met in Trent, in Southern Tirol, during the years 1545 – 1563 to discuss reforms that would enhance the power and dignity of the Catholic Church. They decreed that priests should be priests, not princes living in splendor, and the Church should educate its people. It was through their work as teachers that the influence of the Jesuits spread. This movement is often called the "Counter-Revolution" because it challenges Luther's Reformation. (Gombrich 188)

Counter-Revolution: During the Counter-Revolution, the delight that Florentines took in splendor and lavish trappings ended. People started to wear black and somber clothing. It was a dangerous time, however, for neighbors accused neighbors of heresy and the punishment was severe.

3. What did King Philip II of Spain do to people accused of heresy?

King Philip II of Spain, son of the emperor Charles V, was the most severe. Philip II had thousands of people burned at the stake for heresy: Protestants, Jews, and Muslims. He aligned himself with the Venetians, and attacked the Turks at sea, crushing them at Lepanto, in 1571. Philip II sent an icy Spanish man named the Duke of Alba to be the governor of the Low Countries (Belgium and Holland). The Duke of Alba was annoyed by all the Protestant burghers who would not heed the new rules, and he had many hung. But the people rebelled; in 1579 the people expelled the Spanish troops and became free and independent once again.

4. Describe the fight for power between England's Queen Elizabeth I and Mary, Queen of Scots.

In England Queen Elizabeth I, Henry VIII's daughter, was on the throne. Elizabeth was clever, but also cruel, and she wanted to defend her Protestant (Church of England) country against the Catholics still living there. Elizabeth's cousin Mary, the Catholic Queen of Scotland, also believed she had right to the English throne. Elizabeth had her imprisoned in the Tower of London, and eventually beheaded in 1567. Elizabeth aided the Protestant burghers in the Low Countries in their war against Philip of Spain in 1579.

5. Spain's King Philip II retaliated against Queen Elizabeth and England with what famous navy?

The Invincible Spanish Armada. King Philip's fleet of 130 great sailing ships with 2000 cannons and 20,000 men sailed towards England in 1588. The English fleet was much smaller, yet the powerful Spanish ships were heavily laden and very difficult to maneuver. The English ships darted in and out amongst the larger Spanish ones. The English launched fire ships, which forced the Spanish to scatter, and the English won the war; not one Spanish ship reached the shores of England. (Gombrich 191)

The English began to attack Spanish merchant ships off America and India, and together with the Dutch, they soon supplanted the Spanish in many of their rich trading ports. This is the beginning of the English Empire.

A New World in America: Many Englishmen and women who had been persecuted or banished during conflicts of religion went to America to find freedom. These English and Dutch trading ports were governed by the merchant society known as the East India Companies. They hired soldiers and killed unfriendly local inhabitants. Soon the people of North America and India were speaking English, and a new world empire was taking shape.

Chapter 30: Terrible Times

1. The Defenestration of Prague began when what happened?

The Defenestration of Prague occurred in 1618, when discontented Protestants threw three of the emperor's Catholic councilors out the window. (They landed on a large pile of manure in a dry moat and survived. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Defenestration_of_Prague) This event was central to the start of the Thirty Years War.

2. Challenge: Describe the Thirty Years War.

The Thirty Years War was originally a war between Catholics and Protestant, but the war turned into a dreadful massacre and was no longer about Catholics versus Protestants; soon various countries were warring to get whatever lands they could from each other. A Catholic commander named Wallenstein led Bohemian troops into northern Germany, but by then Sweden and its Protestant ruler, Gustavus Adolphus, entered the conflict. In 1632, year 14 of the war, Gustavus Adolphus died. Catholic France then joined the war, but sided with the Protestants because "the war had long stopped being about religion" (Gombrich 194). In 1634, with so many people killed and villages destroyed, crops ruined and livestock dead, the various rulers agreed on peace. What had been Protestant would remain Protestant. The lands the Habsburg emperor controlled – Austria, Hungary, and Bohemia – would remain Catholic. Germany was devastated. Barely half the population survived; many left and traveled to America.

3, Fear of witches and witchcraft then spread through much of Europe. What happened to the women accused of being witches?

"In Catholic and Protestant districts alike, thousands and thousands of people were burned. The few Jesuits priests who protested against this madness were powerless to stop it" (Gombrich 197).

4. The Laws of Nature were just being understood and explored. Name the Italian man who first applied mathematic calculations to things in nature.

Galileo Galilei (1564-1642) was the first man to apply mathematical calculations to things in nature. He observed and analyzed things in nature, but he got himself into serious trouble when he stated that the sun does not move. Since this is not what the Bible says, it was considered heretical and anyone accused of heresy could be burned alive. Galileo was denounced for writing exactly what Leonardo had observed, but not explained. This discovery had already been made by Copernicus, a Polish scholar, and was published in 1543, but the theory had been denounced as un-Christian and heretical by Catholic and Protestant priests alike" (Gombrich 198).

Galileo was nearly 70 years old when he was called to appear before the Inquisition, a religious tribunal. He was asked to renounce his theory, or be burned alive. Galileo asked for forgiveness, but it is said he muttered under his breath "And yet it moves."

Even though Galileo almost lost his life, people were influenced by his ideas and discoveries. As Gombrich points out, today we have telephones, airplanes, computers and modern technology, thanks to

mathematical formulas and because scientists like Galileo investigated their ideas, even when it was truly life-threatening to do so. (Gombrich 199).

Chapter 31: An Unlucky King and a Lucky King

England in the 1600s: During the Thirty Years War the English kept to themselves. In 1215 King John signed the Magna Carta, promising that he and his successors would never act without first consulting the nobility. But 400 years later, in the 1600s, the English King Charles I, grandson of the beheaded Mary Stuart, did not wish to abide by the Magna Carta. The English people were angry with their king. Many of them were strict and zealous Protestants, or Puritans, and they had a deep loathing for all forms of wealth and display. Oliver Cromwell, a member of Parliament became the leader of the Puritans, known as the Roundheads because they wore their hair close-cropped, unlike the long-hair loyalists known as the Cavaliers. (Gombrich 201)

1. What did the English do to their king, Charles I?

Charles I was taken prisoner and beheaded in 1649.

2. Did a king rule after Charles I?

No Cromwell ruled England as 'Lord Protector of the Commonwealth,' and "he devoted himself to increasing England's power – through her colonies in America and trading settlements in India, and by building a strong fleet and expanding sea trade" (Gombrich 201).

3. Cromwell died in 1658. The Royalists returned to power, and put Charles II on the throne. What was this time called?

This is the English Restoration, which began in 1660, and marks when the English, Scottish and Irish monarchies were all restored to power.

4. France became the dominant country after the Thirty Years War. How did this occur?

France was a prosperous, well-populated country. Cardinal Richelieu was the real ruler of France during the Thirty Year War, not the king. The German emperor was weakened during the Thirty Year War, Spain was reduced to poverty, and Italy dismembered so France became the dominant country in Europe. Richelieu died in 1643.

5. Which French king called himself the "Sun King"?

In 1643 King Louis XIV ascended the throne even though he was only 4 years old, and he ruled for 72 years, until 1715. Louis XIV was an amazing

king – and he played the role of king with dignity and ceremony to the end. He called himself the le Roi Soleil – the Sun King -- as if he were an Egyptian pharaoh.

6. Louis XIV took all the powers the Richelieu, leaving his noblemen little to do. What did he command them to do?

Louis XIV insisted that his noblemen watch him perform his role as king. This solemn performance – the so-called lever – began early, at 8:00 in the morning, when he woke up. The king invited certain noblemen of the highest ranks, dukes, to gaze with admiration as he got dressed...and as he did everything else, throughout the day (Gombrich 202). Louis XIV regulated everything right down to the last detail, and for him, everything was a ceremonious, well-rehearsed performance which he starred in, and greatly enjoyed. Louis XIV did do some real work too because he had personal control over all affairs of the state; he enjoyed this work as much as he did the hunting, balls, and plays.

7. Challenge: Describe life at the court of Louis XIV. Research Versailles, and the clothes the noble people wore.

Everyone at court aimed to imitate the king – to dress like him, sit and move as he did – and all the women wanted to please him. Men and women both wore big wig and powdered their faces and chests. The women wore voluminous gowns, and everyone strove to speak wittily, like the king. Louis XIV's castle outside Paris, Versailles, and it is almost as big as a town. Within there were infinite rooms filled with gold damask, mirrors, and furniture clad in velvet; outside was a beautiful but unnatural park, where nothing was allowed to grow wild; it was all clipped and groomed in a particular fashion. Today it is a museum.

8. Where did Louis XIV get all the money he needed to live so lavishly?

Louis XIV had clever men working for him, who extracted the monies he need to live like this from the peasants, who were crippled by taxes. At court people ate off gold and silver dishes, but the peasants ate scraps and weeds. (Gombrich 204) Louis XIV also waged expensive wars, to increase his wealth and power at the expense of the neighboring states.

Challenge: Gombrich defends Louis XIV because he was “a remarkable mixture of vanity, charm, extravagance, dignity, indifference, frivolity and sheer hard work” (Gombrich 205). He ruled from 1643 to 1715. What do you think of the letter Louis XIV wrote, transcribed below. Is it valid today?

Here is a fragment from a letter Louis XIV wrote to his grandson, who left France to become the king of Spain: *“Never favor those who flatter you most, but hold rather to those who risk your displeasure for your own good. Never neglect business for pleasure, organize your life so that there is time*

in it for relaxation and entertainment. Give the business of government your full attention. Inform yourself as much as you can before taking any decision. Make every effort to get to know men of distinction, so that you may call on them when you need them. Be courteous to all, speak hurtfully to no man" (Gombrich 205).

Chapter 32: Meanwhile, Looking Eastwards

Turkish Conquests: While Louis XIV was holding court in Paris and Versailles, the Turks marched on Germany. In 1453, the Turks had conquered Constantinople, and established the Ottoman Empire, which incorporated Egypt, Palestine, Mesopotamia, Asia Minor and Greece – the whole of the ancient Roman Empire of the East, whose magnificence and splendor the Turks destroyed.

In 1526 the Turks defeated the Hungarian army, killing all the Hungarian noblemen and the king. They did not take Vienna. In 1571 King Philip II of Spain and his Venetian allies destroyed the Turkish fleet, but the Turks were still a powerful state and a Turkish pasha ruled in Budapest. (Gombrich 206)

1. What was the Turkish symbol?

The Turks marched under the crescent moon.

The fight for Vienna:

In 1683 the Hungarians teamed up with the Turks, and they marched on Vienna again. The Austrian emperor retreated when he saw the Turks, leaving Vienna open to attack. But the Viennese fought back for over a month, while disease and cannon balls threatened them. Polish armies arrived to help the Viennese, but at a price: the Polish king Jan Sobieski wanted significant concessions. The Turks fled from the Polish army, leaving rich pickings in their wake, and continued their retreat.

Gombrich states that had the Turks "succeeded in taking Vienna, the situation would have been almost as bad as if the Muslim Arabs had defeated Charles Martel at Tours and Poitiers a thousand years earlier" (Gombrich 208).

2. Which country threatened the Turks?

The Turks were threatened by the Russians, a new and mighty enemy, and their powers begin to decline.

Russia: Russia was a vast wilderness of forests, where landowners ruled the peasants with terrible cruelty, and the sovereign ruled the landowners with even greater cruelty.

3. In 1580 there was a Russian czar who made Nero look mild. Who was it?
Ivan the Terrible.

4. In 1689, six years after the Turkish siege of Vienna, Peter the Great came to the throne as Czar. Peter the Great was barbarous, cruel, fond of drinking and violent, like his predecessors, but he had a goal for Russia. What was it?

Peter the Great was determined to model his empire on the western empires -- France, England, Germany. Up until now the Russians had taken little notice of what was going on in Europe – and Peter the Great wanted to change that. He knew his country needed cities and trade, and he traveled to European countries to study and learn how to create these things. (Gombrich 209)

5. Did Russian have sea ports?

No, Russia did not have any seaports, so Peter the Great had to build them.

6. What was the name of the first sea port he had built?

St. Petersburg. Peter the Great had over 80 thousand peasant laborers working to drain the swamps and drive piles into the ground to create the sea port.

7. What clothing changes did Peter the Great enact?

He wanted to change Russians, telling them to dress like Frenchmen or Germans. He forbade them to dress in their long-skirted kaftans, or grow long hair or beards – anyone who protested was flogged then executed. Even his own son!

Russian (Peter the Great) v. Sweden (Gustavus Adolphus):

Peter the Great attacked Sweden, which had become powerful and rich following the victories of Gustavus Adolphus during the Thirty Years War. The Swedish King was Charles XII, who came to power in 1697. He was an extraordinary adventurer who fought Peter the Great and defeated his army, which was five times as strong as his own. (Gombrich 210) Charles XII beat Russia, conquered Poland, and then marched deeper and deeper into Russia during the bitter biting-cold Russian winter. Then in 1709, only when the Swedish men “were half-dead with hunger, cold and exhaustion did the Russians finally appear and inflict a massive defeat on them” (Gombrich 210). Charles XII fled to Turkey, where he remained for

five years. Peter the Great then called himself Emperor of All the Russians, and increased his empire's might, expanding into Turkey, Persia, and the countries of Asia.

8. In 1714, news reached the Swedish Charles XII in Turkey that his subjects were going to elect a new ruler. Legend has it that he made an extraordinary journey. What was it?

Charles XII disguised himself "as a German officer and with only one attendant, he crossed the Turkish frontier, ... and, riding as fast as he could by day and sleeping in mail coaches by night, [he] raced back to Stralsund in north Germany – in those days part of Sweden – in a mad sixteen-day journal that involved all sorts of perilous adventures as they passed through enemy territory" (Gombrich 212)

Chapter 33: A Truly New Age

1. During the Eighteenth Century, people had views and opinions far different than the ones we have today. Can you name a few differences?

They thought that children should be thrashed, young girls married very young, peasants should toil, beggars should be whipped, thieves hanged, murderers publicly chopped up. And underneath all the finery of a nobleman was a smelly body – people did not believe in washing.

The Age of Reason, the Principle of Tolerance:

Only after 1700 did things change. Gombrich writes: "The widespread and terrible suffering that the Europeans endured during the wretched wars of religion had made some people wonder if it was really right to judge someone by his or her religious belief. Was it not more important to be a good and honest human being? Better if they respected one another and tolerated each other's convictions? This was the first and most important idea that the people who thought about such things now voiced: the principle of tolerance. Only in matters of religion could there be differences of opinion" (Gombrich 214)

2. The principle of tolerance was not widespread, but it was gaining attention. Is tolerance embraced today? How and how not?

The student can research the definition of the word "tolerance." He or she can write about religion; politics; the separation of Church and State in the USA; race relations in the USA today; the Iraqi War; war in Afghanistan; torture.

The Age of Enlightenment started around 1700 in England and later in France. Gombrich points out that it took courage for these thinkers to think the thoughts that we consider 'obvious' today.

3. What are the three fundamental principles of the Enlightenment?

Tolerance, reason, and humanity.

The Enlightenment Movement in Germany (Prussia & Austria):

In 1740 Prussia was under the rule of Frederick II, known as Frederick the Great. He was a very cultivated man, friendly with the French, and a proponent of the Enlightenment movement. Frederick the Great even wrote about the Enlightenment Movement, in French.

4. What did Frederick the Great abolish?

He abolished torture in Prussia.

In 1740, while Frederick the Great was on the throne in Prussia, Maria Theresa was the crowned empress of Austria. She was a formidable opponent of Frederick the Great and she fought his army for many years.

Enlightenment in Austria:

Empress Maria Theresa of Austria had 16 children. She believed in the Enlightenment movement, and she too she abolished torture. She also established education throughout the land. By 1765 Maria Theresa ruled Austria along with her son Joseph, who became Emperor Joseph II after her death. Joseph II abolished the death sentence and peasant serfdom" (Gombrich 218).

5. Challenge: Who was Maria Theresa's most famous daughter?

Maria Antoinette, who became the wife of King Louis XVI in France.

6. During this time in America, the inhabitants of the British colonies were refusing to be British subjects. Who were the leaders in the American fight for freedom?

Benjamin Franklin, John Adams, and George Washington, to name just three. Franklin was an ordinary citizen who studied the natural sciences (he invented the lightning conductor, among other things); John Adams was a lawyer and a proponent of equal rights, and George Washington became the general of the American army. His army drove the British soldiers from American shores, after a long fight.

7. Challenge: Name the "Founding Fathers" of the American Revolution. What did they do for the cause?

8. When was the American Revolutionary War?

1775 – 1783

9. What year did America declare its rights? What are they?

In 1776 America declared the sacred rights of all men to liberty and equality to be the founding principles of their new state. (But, as Gombrich writes, "for Black slaves on their plantations, life simply went on as before" (Gombrich 219).

Chapter 34: A Very Violent Revolution

1. What country did Catherine the Great rule?

She ruled Russia in for 34 years, until her death in 1762.

2. Challenge: Research the reign of Catherine the Great. What reforms did she push? How was she viewed by her subjects?

3. The Sun King's successors, the French Kings Louis XV and Louis XVI, did not subscribe to the Enlightenment. What was life like in the court and in France during the reign of Louis XV (1715 -1774) and Louis XVI (1774-1792)?

Both of these kings were incompetent, content merely to imitate their great predecessor's pomp and show of power," without ruling the people, or even caring about them. The French court continued to spend vast sums on entertainments, parks, swarms of servants. The lords were elegantly dressed, powdered and perfumed, and wore wigs, while their ladies were every bit as elegant in tight-laced corsets and crinoline skirts. Neither Louis XV nor Louis XVI were concerned where the money came from. Their French financial ministers soon became expert swindlers, cheating and extorting on a grand scale. Citizens were forced to pay huge taxes, and the peasants were treated horribly by the landowners, who could have them imprisoned on basically no charges at all. (Gombrich 220).

4. Challenge: Marie Antoinette was only 14 when she became the wife of the king of France, Louis XVI. Research her life – how she go to be the Queen of France, and what she did as the sovereign. Was she aware of what her people suffered? Explore the myths about her and her famous statement – "Let them eat cake!"

5. Challenge: Read Charles Dickens' Tale of Two Cities, or watch the original movie of the same name. Dickens details what life was like for the peasants during the French Revolution.

6. In 1789 the French Bastille, the jail, was stormed. What caused the people to do this?

King Louis XVI finally realized that the court had squandered all the country's wealth – nothing was left. He called a meeting to discuss the economic crisis, but he rejected all their proposals. The bourgeoisie would not leave the chamber, and the king finally had the soldiers brought in. The people of Paris were enraged, stormed the Bastille, and killed the garrison. It was the beginning of the French Revolution. (Gombrich 223)

7. Discuss the French Revolution. Why was it called the "Reign of Terror"?

The people rose up against the king and the aristocrats. They revolted against the laws that gave them no rights at all. Innocent people were thrown in jail and accused of crimes they did not commit. No one knew whom to trust. The Revolutionaries seized all the possessions of the Catholic Church, and confiscated those possessions of the noblemen who had fled abroad in fear of the revolution. It was a terrifying time, when people were afraid of the mob because the mob killed.

8. How did the supporters of the French Revolution dress?

Supporters of the Revolution gave up their wigs and wore red nightcaps on their heads.

9. What was the French Revolution supporters' rallying cry?

" Liberty! Equality! Fraternity!"

10. Who were two leaders of the French Revolution?

Danton and Robespierre were leaders of the Revolution, yet even they did not escape death by the mob.

11. What is a guillotine?

The guillotine is a device that quickly and easily slices off peoples' heads. The Jacobins, the most violent party of the Revolution, beheaded many people with this horrid device. They were not just against the aristocrats, but against anyone who disagreed with them; they beheaded them all. The Revolutionary Tribunal, a special court, sent people to the guillotine by the thousands. (Gombrich 224)

12. When was the Revolutionary Tribunal abolished?

In 1795 the Revolutionary Tribunal was abolished and 5 men were elected to form a Directorate, to rule the country according to its new Constitution. The nobility had either been killed, driven out of France, or opted to become ordinary citizens.

Chapter 35: The Last Conqueror

1. Challenge: Gombrich reminds us that the best part about history is that it is all true – all these amazing things actually happened. Is history interesting to you? Why or why not? How can historical studies be made interesting?

Through seeing and perhaps holding artifacts, by visiting famous historical sites here in the USA and abroad, by reading biographies, by touring museums, by watching historical and not-so-historical films.

2. A famous French general was born in 1769 in Corsica, an island off Italy. Who was he?

Napoleon was born on Corsica, which in 1769 was a French Island. He attended military school in France. He was a poor boy, came to believe that could triumph over anything, if he so desired.

3. Discuss some of Napoleon's early feats.

Napoleon was 25 when he served as a lieutenant against the Revolutionaries in Toulon. He was promoted to general, imprisoned during the Revolution, and then reinstated as a general. He led an army through Italy, and even though his troops were ill-fed and ill-clothed, he inspired them to conquer all of northern Italy, before turning on Britain.

4. Britain was a powerful country, with colonies in America, Africa, India and Australia. Napoleon knew his army was too weak to attack Britain directly. What did he do instead?

Napoleon realized that if he were to occupy Egypt, "he could strike at the sources of Britain's wealth by threatening the route to its colonial possessions in India" (Gombrich 230). In 1798 Napoleon defeated the Egyptian army in a great battle besides the pyramids, for he was a great fighter on land. But at sea, the British navy, led by Admiral Nelson, destroyed the French fleet off Aboukir on the Egyptian coast. In 1799 Napoleon returned to Paris, boldly threw out the elected representatives of the people, and proclaimed himself consul. (Gombrich 230).

5. Challenge: There is a legend that says Napoleon's men used the Sphinx for target practice, shooting off and damaging its nose. Is this true? Research and draw your own conclusions.

6. What is the name of the collection of laws that Napoleon, as Emperor of France, created?

The laws were called the Napoleonic Code, and Napoleon established them to restore order in France.

Emperor of France:

In 1804 Napoleon was Emperor of France, yet 20 years earlier, he was just a poor boy on the island of Corsica. In 1805 he defeated the alliance of Prussia, Austria, Russia and Sweden at Austerlitz, and he gave each of his relatives a kingdom, in name only. (See map on pages 234 and 235.) But the inhabitants of these defeated countries did not enjoy being passed around by the Bonaparte family, and in 1809 a new war broke out. Napoleon's first defeat came at Aspern, Austria, but days later he defeated the Austrian army at Wagram; he was given the hand of Marie-Louise, a member of the Habsburg family.

7. In London there is a famous square named Trafalgar Square. Who does it honor, and why?

The square honors Admiral Nelson who defeated Napoleon and his fleet at the Battle of Trafalgar in 1805.

Napoleon in Russia:

In 1812 Napoleon's troops marched on Russia – half a million soldiers, one of the largest armies the world had ever seen. He marched into Moscow, but the Russian army had retreated, starting fires as they left, forcing Napoleon and his men to flee into the harsh, bitterly cold of Russia. Many men died; fewer than one in twenty survived to reach Germany. (Gombrich 237)

8. Napoleon was not crushed until the famous 1815 Battle of Waterloo. Which army did Napoleon fight this time?

Napoleon fought the Duke of Wellington, of England; his army was made up of English and German soldiers. Napoleon was defeated, and was sent to the island of St. Helena to live out his life.

Chapter 36: Men and Machines

1. Many machines were invented in the mid-Eighteenth century. Who invented the steam engine? When?

In 1769 James Watt, a Scottish engineer, was able to patent a proper steam engine. First it was used to pump water out of mines, but then it

came to be used to drive carriages or ships. (In 1700 a Frenchman named Papin first carried out experiments with the steam engine.)

2. Who invented the steamboat? On what river was it first launched?

In 1803 an American engineer named Robert Fulton launched a steamboat on the River Seine in Paris. In 1807 the first steamship made its way up the Hudson River from New York to Albany. (Gombrich 241)

3. When was the first steam locomotive invented?

In 1803 a usable engine was invented that ran on a cast-iron railway line, and in 1814 George Stephenson built the first effective steam locomotive. "The first railway line was opened in 1825 between the towns of Stockton and Darlington. Within 30 years there were railway lines all over Britain, America, throughout almost all of Europe, and even in India" (Gombrich 242).

4. Who invented the telegraph?

In 1837 an American artist named Samuel Morse succeeded in sending a short telegraph to his friends. Within 10 years, the use of the telegraph was widespread.

5. How did machines change people's lives? Was it a change for the good?

Machines changed people's lives profoundly. The medieval guilds lasted all the way to the French Revolution – and now, they were no longer needed. Gombrich notes that "everything that had taken them years to learn, first as apprentices and then as journeymen, was useless. Machines were faster, better and very much cheaper" (Gombrich 243). Hundreds of people were suddenly out of work and the factory owner only needed to hire a few of them, and he could do so for very little pay because everyone was desperate to work. People were starving, and began to despair. Weavers, blacksmiths, spinners, cabinet-makers all sank into misery, and raged against the machine.

6. Challenge: Who was the German, Karl Marx? Research the Socialist Movement.

7. What was Marx' Communist Manifesto?

Marx thought that the workers should uprising against the capitalists and he set forth his great appeal in 1848 in a book called "The Communist Manifesto." Marx termed men either "capitalists" or "proletarians," and the two were in a constant state of war over how much to produce and how much to be paid. (Gombrich 247)

Chapter 37: Across the Seas

Before 1800, China did not change much at all. China was “an orderly, proud, densely populated and largely peaceful land, inhabited by hardworking peasants and citizens, great scholars, poets and thinkers. The unrest, religious wars and endless disturbances which troubled Europe during those years would have seemed alien, barbaric and inconceivable to the Chinese” (Gombrich 248).

The Chinese family of rulers were from inner Asia, the Manchus. Jesuits came and preached to the Chinese about Christianity, and they listened, for the Manchu emperors were interested in learned about Western sciences and beliefs.

1. The British wanted to trade with China. Did China agree to this?

No, the Chinese did not want to trade with Britain. 1793 the English king sent a letter to the Chinese emperor, Ch'ien-Lung, a famous scholar, asking for permission to engage in trade with China. Ch'ien-Lung refused, and the British were stunned. Several decades the British arrived anyway, ready to trade opium with the Chinese. The Chinese authorities realized opium was a dangerous drug, and in 1839 they tried to stamp out the trade. The British returned with cannons, and fired on peaceful towns until the Chinese opened their ports and allowed foreign trade.

2. Challenge: Research the Taiping Rebellion (1850-1864).

3. Why did the Europeans (British and French) attack China?

The Europeans were determined to expand their trading activities, and set up embassies in China's capital, Peking, but the imperial government would not allow it. In 1860 British and French troops together forced their way northwards, bombarding towns until they reached Peking. The British sacked, looted and burned the ancient imperial Summer Palace in Peking and this “thousand-year-old empire had to bow to the demands of the merchants” (Gombrich 25).

4. Why does Gombrich call the Japanese the “best students” in all the history of the world?

Because Japan might have suffered the same fate as China if they had not been so smart. Like China, Japan was not at all affected by Europe and all its wars; it had its own ancient customs, and an elegant way of life. The Europeans and Americans traders who first came to Japan did not know or care about the Japanese customs; they were soon thought of as savages, and were detested. The emperor Mikado wanted to preserve their culture, but first he decided he needed to learn about the west. And

so he invited Westerns into the Japan, but once they had learned "all that Europe could teach them about machines for war and for peace, they politely asked them to leave" (Gombrich 252).

5. What was going on in the United States during this time (1820s)?

Meanwhile, in America, settlers were pushing west, fighting with Indian tribes, setting up trading posts as new states sprung up everywhere. In the southern states, the settlers owned vast tracts of land, plantations, and they bought black Africans over in boats in chains to work their land as slaves. They were very badly treated. Up north, the people did the work themselves and did not have slaves. In 1820 an agreement was reached about which states could have slaves and which ones couldn't.

6. What caused the American Civil War?

In 1861 Abraham Lincoln was elected president, and because he hated slavery, the southern states broke away from the north declaring themselves separate. A war broke out between the northern and the southern states. The Britain supported the south, even though they had abolished slavery in their own colonies. In 1865 the war was over and the North won, but 11 days later, Lincoln was shot while in a theatre. The reunited, free, United States of America soon became the richest and most powerful country in the world. (Gombrich 254)

7. Challenge: Research Abraham Lincoln. Explore his journey from poor boy to President of the United States.

Chapter 38: Two New States in Europe

1. What were the three most powerful countries in Europe after 1848?

After the revolutions in Europe, there were three important powers (other than Britain): Austria (which included a patchwork of lands in Germany, Austria, and Italy), France, and Russia.

Austria: The emperor Franz Josef had ruled Austria from Vienna since 1848. He ruled Austria, Hungary, and many provinces of Italy, and the Croats, Serbs, Czechs, the Slovenes, Slovaks, Poles and others. He also had some power in the German provinces, but it was complicated; an association known as the German Confederation, included Prussia, Bavaria, Saxony, Hanover, Frankfurt, Brunswick and Austria.

France: France became an empire again shortly after the Revolution of 1848. Napoleon III ruled as emperor of France, and France became rich again, with powerful cities.

Russia: Russia was ruled by the tsar, but he was not well-liked at all. Many Russians had by now studied in Europe, and they wanted Russia to catch up to the rest of the world – the officials were still living in the Middle Ages. In 1861 Russian peasants were finally declared free men, but keeping that promise was difficult: anyone who disagreed with the state was sent to Siberia with no hope of return. (Gombrich 258)

2. What about Spain, Turkey and Italy?

Spain had lost its Latin American colonies, and beginning in 1810 it had become weak and powerless. Turkey was considered the 'sick man of Europe'. In Italy, the people, brought closer together by the railroad, were beginning to realize that they weren't simply Florentines or Venetians, but Italians. (Gombrich 258 – 259)

Italy: The only free state in Italy was Piedmont, at the foot of the Alps, and Sardinia, an island. King Victor Emmanuel wanted all Italy to be united. Italy fought two wars with Austria, in 1859 and 1866, and finally the emperor Josef was forced to give up his Italian holdings. By 1866 Italy was unified, thanks to some clever work by a political minister named Camillo Cavour.

Italy v. Austria: Cavour then convinced Bismarck, the Prime Minister of Prussia, to get involved in the Italian struggle. Bismarck attacked Austria from the north in 1866, while Italy attacked it from the south. Bismarck defeated the Austrians at Koniggratz, in Bohemia, forcing Franz Josef and Austria to leave the Confederation.

3. What did Bismarck, as chancellor of the unified German empire, do for Germany?

Bismarck created unions for the factory workers to give them support, even though they still had to work 12 hour shifts, including Sundays. He was a notable diplomat, and with his bushy eyebrows, was a well known man in Europe. In 1878 diplomats met to divide up Europe and Bismarck was in charge. Yet when the new German emperor, William II came to power, he dismissed Bismarck, now an old man.

Chapter 39: Dividing up the World

1. Why did European countries strive to own colonies?

It became vitally important for European countries to own colonies, because of trade – the countries needed to get raw materials so their factories could continue to produce the products that they sold to other countries.

2. How did the Europeans treat the native inhabitants of the colonies?

The native inhabitants were often treated very badly by the European invaders.

3. What colonies did Britain own?

For several centuries, Britain owned India, Australia, and North America. They also had colonies in Africa, and their influence in Egypt was strong.

Conflict was soon on the horizon, especially since all the countries spent time building up their armies.

4. How did World War I get started?

Austria was the only great state in Europe not to have any colonies, and so it tried to acquire lands from Serbs, newly liberated eastern peoples. In 1914 when the heir to the Austrian throne was visiting Sarajevo, in Bosnia, one of the newly conquered regions, he was murdered by a Serb. War was inevitable, but as Austrian troops gathered, Russia was drawn in, as was Germany, Austria's ally.

5. Once Germany was in the war, all ancient enemies were unleashed.

Which countries were known as the "central powers" in WWI?

Germany and Austria. Germany marched on France, their old enemy, and then Britain, fearing a German state, joined in as well. Soon the whole world was at war with Germany and Austria; they were known as the central powers. (Gombrich 267)

6. Describe Trench Warfare.

As the Russian armies pressed forward, the German armies reached the River Marne, not far from Paris. Both sides dug trenches from which to hide from each other. The trenches were their camps, and they huddled in them for days and weeks on end. Gombrich writes: "Imagine barbed wire, blown-up trenches, a scorched and devastated wasteland strewn with corpses" (Gombrich 267). This is what WWI was like.

7. Gas warfare was first introduced during World War I. "The horrors of gas warfare had never been seen on a battlefield until 1915. The Germans have been credited with the first use, but the French and English were not far behind" (<http://www.worldwar1.com/arm006.htm>). The vapors caused men to collapse, not dead, but sort of paralyzed; it was horrendous. Research this horrendous weapon, and trace its use in other wars.

8. Research World War I. When did the various countries get involved? What was gained? Lost? How many people died in World War I?

Chapter 40: The Small Part of the History of the World which I have lived through myself: Looking back

In the last chapter of his book, Gombrich looks back on the events that shaped his lifetime. Research two or more topics from the list below.

- Population growth
- Adolf Hitler
- Art of propaganda
- Incite a mob
- Torture as a painful step backwards
- Schoolchildren as intolerant
- Dec 1941 Pearl Harbor
- Jews
- Normandy Beach 1944
- Atomic Bomb

Below is a list of some world events since Gombrich's death. Research two or more of these topics. You may add a topic or two of your own.

- JFK
- Korean War
- Vietnam War
- Man on the Moon
- Berlin Wall
- Gulf War
- Iraq War
- Afghanistan War
- September 11, 2001
- War on Terror
- Darfur
- World Hunger
- Torture
- Hurricane Katrina
- Natural Disasters
- AIDS
- Immigration