HISTORY · ANCIENT & MEDIEVAL · QUICK REFERENCE

Western Civilization (World History 1)

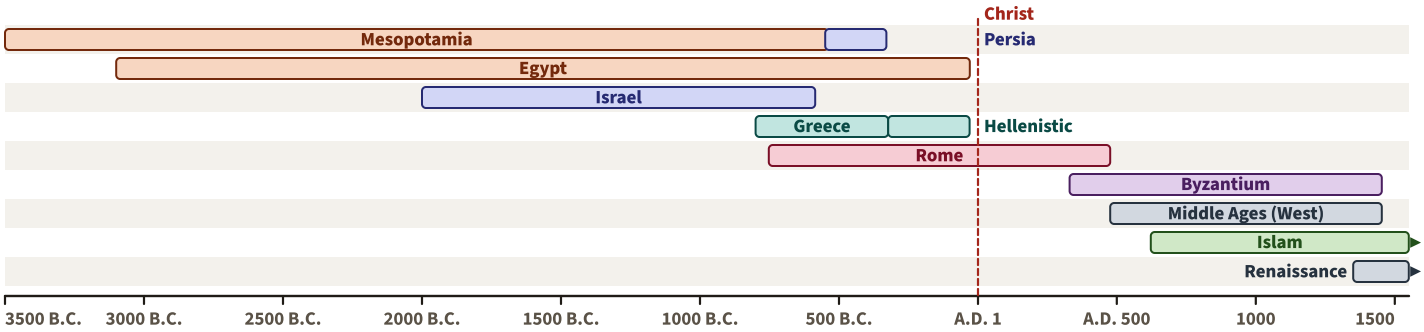
Grades 9–12 · 8 pages

Ancient times to 1500: Sumer, Egypt and Israel through Persia, Greece and Rome, the rise of Christianity, Byzantium, Islam and medieval Christendom to the Renaissance: eras, maps, people, battles and great books. Every date is checked in code.

1 The ages · 2 Mesopotamia · 3 Egypt · 4 Israel · 5 Assyria & Persia · 6 Greek polis · 7 Persian Wars · 8 Philosophy · 9 Alexander · 10 Republic · 11 Empire · 12 Christianity · 13 Fall of the West · 14 Byzantium · 15 Islam · 16 Medieval Church · 17 Charlemagne · 18 Feudalism · 19 Crusades · 20 High Middle Ages · 21 Late Middle Ages · 22 Renaissance · 23 Who's who · 24 Battles · 25 Great books

1 THE AGES AT A GLANCE

from Sumer to Florence



Five thousand years on one line. Bars show when each power or age flourished; the long bars overlap because history is not a relay race.

The ages

Age	Dates	Hallmarks	Age	Dates	Hallmarks
Ancient Near East	c. 3100–539 B.C.	first cities, writing, law codes, empires	Early Middle Ages	A.D. 476–1000	monks, missions, Charlemagne
Israel	c. 2000–586 B.C.	Abraham to the exile: covenant, Law, kings, prophets	High Middle Ages	1000–1300	crusades, cathedrals, universities
Classical Greece	c. 800–323 B.C.	the polis, democracy, philosophy	Late Middle Ages	1300–1453	plague, war, schism, the fall of Constantinople
Hellenistic world	323–30 B.C.	Greek culture from Egypt to India	Renaissance	c. 1350–1600	humanism, art, printing
Rome	753 B.C.–A.D. 476	Republic, then Empire; law, roads, Latin			

Reading dates

- **B.C.** = before Christ; **A.D.** = *anno Domini*, "in the year of the Lord", written first: A.D. 70.
- There is **no year 0**: 1 B.C. is followed by A.D. 1. From 490 B.C. to A.D. 10 is 499 years; from 4 B.C. to A.D. 30 is 33.
- B.C. years count down: 490 B.C. came **before** 480 B.C. The 5th century B.C. is 500–401 B.C.; the 1200s are the 13th century A.D. **c.** (*circa*) = about.

Reading history

- **Primary source:** made at the time (a law, a letter, a coin). **Secondary:** a later account built from them.
- Test a claim by **corroboration**: do independent witnesses agree?
- Christians read history as the work of **providence**: "he removeth kings, and setteth up kings" (Daniel 2:21, KJV).

2 MESOPOTAMIA

between the rivers

The first civilizations

People	When	Remember
Sumer	c. 3500–2000 B.C.	Ur, Uruk: cities, ziggurats, cuneiform
Akkad	c. 2334 B.C.	Sargon builds the first empire
Old Babylon	d. 1750 B.C.	**Hammurabi's Code**, carved on a stele
Assyria	to 612 B.C.	iron army; Nineveh falls
New Babylon	605–539 B.C.	**Nebuchadnezzar II**: Judah's exile

Gifts of Sumer

- **Cuneiform** ("wedge-shaped") writing on clay, kept by trained scribes.
- The wheel, the plow, irrigation canals, and counting in 60s (our 60 minutes).
- **Ziggurats**: stepped temple towers, like Babel "whose top may reach unto heaven" (Genesis 11:4, KJV).

Law and a call

- Hammurabi's Code set penalties by class: *lex talionis*, "eye for eye".
- Abraham came from Ur: "they went forth with them from Ur of the Chaldees, to go into the land of Canaan" (Genesis 11:31, KJV).

3 EGYPT — the gift of the Nile

The kingdoms

Period	Dates	Highlights	Period	Dates	Highlights
Unification	c. 3100 B.C.	Upper and Lower Egypt united	New Kingdom	c. 1550–1070 B.C.	Ramesses II; Kadesh, 1274 B.C.
Old Kingdom	c. 2700–2200 B.C.	Great Pyramid, c. 2560 B.C.	Later periods	1070–332 B.C.	Persia (525 B.C.), Alexander (332 B.C.)
Middle Kingdom	c. 2040–1780 B.C.	canals, trade, literature	Ptolemies	305–30 B.C.	Greek kings; Cleopatra dies 30 B.C.

Life and belief

- The Nile's yearly **flood** left black silt to farm.
- The **pharaoh** ("great house") was held to be divine and to keep **ma'at**, cosmic order.
- Mummies and the Book of the Dead: hope of life after judgment.

Writing and witness

- **Hieroglyphs** were read again from the **Rosetta Stone** (196 B.C.), in hieroglyphs, Demotic and Greek.
- The **Merneptah Stele** (c. 1208 B.C.) is the oldest outside mention of **Israel**.

4 ISRAEL AND THE HEBREW KINGDOMS — covenant, kings and prophets

The story in dates

Date	Event	Ref.	Date	Event	Ref.
c. 2000 B.C.	God calls **Abraham** from Ur to Canaan	Genesis 12	722 B.C.	**Assyria** takes Samaria	2 Kings 17
c. 1446 B.C.	The **Exodus** from Egypt under Moses	Exodus 12	701 B.C.	**Sennacherib** besieges Jerusalem	2 Kings 19
c. 1050–1010 B.C.	**Saul**, the first king	1 Samuel 10	586 B.C.	**Babylon** destroys the Temple	2 Kings 25
c. 1010–970 B.C.	**David** makes Jerusalem his capital	2 Samuel 5	538 B.C.	**Cyrus** lets the exiles return	Ezra 1
c. 966 B.C.	**Solomon** begins the Temple	1 Kings 6	516 B.C.	The Second Temple is finished	Ezra 6
c. 930 B.C.	Split: **Israel** north, **Judah** south	1 Kings 12			

The Exodus date follows 1 Kings 6:1: Solomon began the Temple "in the four hundred and eightieth year after the children of Israel were come out of the land of Egypt" (1 Kings 6:1, KJV); 480 years before 966 B.C. is 1446 B.C.

Stones that speak

- **Tel Dan Stele** (800s B.C.): "House of David".
- **Taylor Prism**: Sennacherib shut up Hezekiah in Jerusalem but never claims to take it.
- **Cyrus Cylinder** (539 B.C.): Cyrus sends peoples home.

What Israel gave

- One God, Creator and Judge; man made in His image.
- The Law and the prophets: justice for the widow and the stranger.
- The promise of a Messiah from David's line (2 Samuel 7).

5 ASSYRIA, BABYLON AND PERSIA — the great eastern empires

Three empires

Empire	Capital	Kings and dates
Assyria	Nineveh	Sennacherib (705–681 B.C.); Nineveh falls 612 B.C.
New Babylon	Babylon	Nebuchadnezzar II; falls to Cyrus in 539 B.C.
Persia	Susa, Persepolis	**Cyrus** (559–530 B.C.), **Darius I** (522–486 B.C.), **Xerxes I** (486–465 B.C.); ends 330 B.C.



The ancient Near East and Alexander's march (simplified). Mesopotamia is the land between the Tigris and Euphrates; ⚔ marks a battle.

How Persia ruled

- Provinces under **satraps**; a **Royal Road** from Susa to Sardis with relay riders.
- Subject peoples kept their customs and gods; the Jews rebuilt the Temple.
- Religion: **Zoroastrianism**, the worship of Ahura Mazda.

Persia in Scripture

- "Thus saith Cyrus king of Persia, The LORD God of heaven hath given me all the kingdoms of the earth" (Ezra 1:2, KJV).
- **Esther** lived under Ahasuerus, that is, Xerxes I.

6 GREECE: HEROES AND THE POLIS

Minos to Solon

Before the polis

- **Minoans** on Crete (c. 2000–1450 B.C.): the palace of Knossos.
- **Mycenaeans** (c. 1600–1100 B.C.): Agamemnon's world, remembered in Homer's *Iliad* and *Odyssey*.
- First recorded **Olympic Games**: 776 B.C. Greek colonies spread from Spain to the Black Sea.

Two city-states

	Sparta	Athens
Government	two kings, five ephors, elders; laws of Lycurgus (in legend)	citizen **assembly**; Solon (594 B.C.), Cleisthenes (508 B.C.)
Training	the **agoge**: army school from age seven	schools, rhetoric, the gymnasium
Strength	**hoplite** phalanx; helots farm the land	the **navy** and trade; arts and drama

A **polis** was a city and its farmland governed by its citizens; only free adult men were citizens.



Greece. ⚔ marks a battle.

7 THE PERSIAN WARS AND THE GOLDEN AGE

Marathon to the Parthenon

Greece against Persia

Battle	Date	What happened
Marathon	490 B.C.	Miltiades' Athenians rout Darius' landing force
Thermopylae	480 B.C.	Leonidas and his 300 Spartans die holding the pass against Xerxes
Salamis	480 B.C.	Themistocles' fleet destroys the Persian navy
Plataea	479 B.C.	the Greek army ends the invasion

The Golden Age of Athens

- **Pericles** (d. 429 B.C.) leads Athens; the **Delian League** (478 B.C.) becomes an Athenian empire.
- The **Parthenon** (447–432 B.C.); the tragedies of Aeschylus and Sophocles.
- **Herodotus**, "father of history", and **Thucydides**, who wrote the war he fought.

The spark

- The **Ionian Revolt** (499 B.C.): Greek cities in Asia rose against Persia, and Athens sent ships.

The Peloponnesian War, 431–404 B.C.

- Athens (sea) against Sparta (land); plague kills Pericles.
- The **Sicilian Expedition** (415–413 B.C.) ruins Athens; Sparta wins in 404 B.C.

8 GREEK PHILOSOPHY

the love of wisdom

Three teachers of the West

Thinker	Dates	Known for	Read
Socrates	d. 399 B.C.	teaches by questions; condemned by Athens and drinks hemlock	*Apology* (by Plato)
Plato	c. 428–348 B.C.	the Forms; founds the **Academy** (c. 387 B.C.)	*Republic*
Aristotle	384–322 B.C.	logic, ethics, politics, biology; the **Lyceum** (335 B.C.); tutors Alexander	*Nicomachean Ethics*

Faith and philosophy

- Paul quoted Greek poets at Athens: "For in him we live, and move, and have our being" (Acts 17:28, KJV).
- The Church Fathers used what was true in the philosophers, and Aquinas later built on Aristotle.

MEMORY TRICK **Socrates, Plato, Aristotle**

Teacher to student, in order: **S-P-A**, like a spa where wisdom is passed down.

9 ALEXANDER AND THE HELLENISTIC WORLD

Macedon conquers the East

Alexander the Great (356–323 B.C.)

Date	Event
338 B.C.	Philip II wins at Chaeronea
336 B.C.	Philip murdered; Alexander king at 20
334–331 B.C.	Granicus, Issus, Gaugamela
331 B.C.	Founds Alexandria in Egypt
326 B.C.	Hydaspes (India); the army turns back
323 B.C.	Dies at Babylon, aged 32

After Alexander

- His generals (the **Diadochi**) split the empire: **Ptolemies** in Egypt, **Seleucids** in Asia, **Antigonids** in Macedon.
- Greek became the common tongue; at Alexandria the Old Testament was put into Greek, the **Septuagint**.
- Antiochus IV defiled the Temple (167 B.C.); the **Maccabees** revolted. Rome took Greece in 146 B.C.

Foretold

- "And the rough goat is the king of Grecia: and the great horn that is between his eyes is the first king" (Daniel 8:21, KJV).

10 THE ROMAN REPUBLIC

509–27 B.C.

A mixed constitution

- Founded 753 B.C. (by tradition); the kings expelled about 509 B.C.
- Two **consuls** elected yearly; the **Senate** of former magistrates; assemblies of citizens.
- **Tribunes** could veto acts against the plebeians. The **Twelve Tables** (400s B.C.) put the law in writing.
- Virtues: *pietas*, *gravitas*, duty to gods, family and Rome.

The Punic Wars against Carthage

War	What happened
First, 264–241 B.C.	Rome builds a navy and wins Sicily
Second, 218–201 B.C.	**Hannibal** crosses the Alps; wins at **Cannae** (216); **Scipio** beats him at **Zama** (202)
Third, 149–146 B.C.	Carthage is destroyed

Date	The Republic dies
133 B.C.	Tribune Tiberius Gracchus killed
73–71 B.C.	Spartacus' slave revolt
60 B.C.	Caesar, Pompey, Crassus ally
52 B.C.	Alesia: Caesar wins Gaul
49 B.C.	Caesar crosses the **Rubicon**: civil war
44 B.C.	Caesar murdered on the **Ides of March**
31 B.C.	**Actium**: Octavian wins

11 THE ROMAN EMPIRE

Augustus to Theodosius

Emperors to know

Emperor	Reigned	Remember	Emperor	Reigned	Remember
Augustus	27 B.C.–A.D. 14	first emperor; Christ is born in his reign	Hadrian	A.D. 117–138	Hadrian's Wall in Britain (begun A.D. 122)
Tiberius	A.D. 14–37	Christ crucified under Pontius Pilate	Marcus Aurelius	A.D. 161–180	Stoic emperor; the Pax Romana ends
Claudius	A.D. 41–54	conquest of Britain (A.D. 43)	Diocletian	A.D. 284–305	four co-emperors; the Great Persecution
Nero	A.D. 54–68	Great Fire (A.D. 64); first persecution	Constantine	A.D. 306–337	first Christian emperor; founds Constantinople
Vespasian	A.D. 69–79	his son Titus takes Jerusalem (A.D. 70); the Colosseum	Theodosius I	A.D. 379–395	last to rule the whole Empire
Trajan	A.D. 98–117	the Empire at its largest			



The Roman world in the A.D. 100s. The red line marks the Rhine–Danube frontier and Hadrian's Wall; ⚔ marks a battle.

Peace and crisis

- The **Pax Romana**: two centuries of peace, Augustus to Marcus Aurelius.
- The **Crisis of the Third Century** (235–284): civil wars, invasions, plague, debased coins.

What Rome built

- **Law**: citizens' rights, natural law (Cicero), later Justinian's Code.
- Roads, aqueducts, concrete, the arch and dome; Latin, mother of the Romance languages.

Ready for the Gospel

- One empire, one peace, Roman roads and a common Greek let the apostles travel: "when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son" (Galatians 4:4, KJV).

12 THE RISE OF CHRISTIANITY

the fulness of the time

From Bethlehem to Nicaea

Date	Event	Date	Event
c. 6–4 B.C.	Jesus born in Bethlehem, before Herod's death (4 B.C.)	A.D. 303	Diocletian's Great Persecution
c. A.D. 30	Crucified under Pilate; risen the third day	A.D. 312–313	Constantine wins at the **Milvian Bridge**; Edict of Milan grants toleration
c. A.D. 49	Council of Jerusalem: Gentiles welcome	A.D. 325	**Council of Nicaea**: the Son is "of one substance" with the Father
A.D. 64	Nero blames Christians for the fire; Peter and Paul martyred	A.D. 380	Theodosius makes Nicene Christianity the state religion
A.D. 250	Decius demands sacrifice from all		

Witnesses outside the Bible

- **Tacitus** (*Annals* 15.44): "Christus" was executed under Pilate.
- **Josephus** names "James, the brother of Jesus".
- **Pliny the Younger** (c. A.D. 112): Christians sang hymns to Christ "as to a god".

Why it spread

- The witness of the resurrection: "he was buried, and that he rose again the third day" (1 Corinthians 15:4, KJV).
- Care for the sick, the poor and exposed infants; courage under persecution.
- Fathers: **Athanasius**, **Jerome** (the Latin **Vulgate**), **Augustine** (*Confessions*, *City of God*).

Councils and creeds

- **Nicaea** (325) against Arius: the Son is truly God; the creed was completed at **Constantinople** (381).
- **Chalcedon** (451): Christ is one person, truly God and truly man.
- The faith was defined, not invented: the councils guarded what the apostles taught.

13 THE FALL OF THE WEST

A.D. 376–476

A century of invasions

Date	Event
A.D. 376	Goths, fleeing the Huns, cross the Danube
A.D. 378	**Adrianople**: Goths kill Emperor Valens
A.D. 395	Empire divided for good between Theodosius' sons
A.D. 410	**Alaric** the Visigoth sacks Rome
A.D. 439	Vandals take Carthage
A.D. 451	Attila checked at the Catalaunian Plains
A.D. 455	Vandals sack Rome
A.D. 476	**Odoacer** deposes Romulus Augustulus, the last emperor in the West

Why Rome fell

- From within: civil wars, heavy taxes, debased money, shrinking cities, armies loyal to their generals.
- From without: Goths, Vandals and Huns pressing on a long frontier.
- The East, richer and better defended, lived on for a thousand years as **Byzantium** (§14).

Augustine's answer

- Pagans blamed the Christians for the sack of 410. In **The City of God** Augustine replied that every earthly city passes, but the city of God endures.

14 BYZANTIUM

Rome in the East, 330–1453

A thousand years of the Eastern Empire

Date	Event	Date	Event
A.D. 330	Constantine dedicates **Constantinople**, the "New Rome"	1054	**Great Schism**: Rome and Constantinople part
A.D. 527–565	**Justinian**: the *Corpus Juris Civilis* (529–534); **Hagia Sophia** (537); Italy and Africa retaken	1071	Seljuk Turks win at **Manzikert** and take Asia Minor
A.D. 726–843	**Iconoclasm**: the war over images, settled for icons	1204	The Fourth Crusade sacks the city
A.D. 863	Cyril and Methodius take the Gospel to the Slavs	1453	Mehmed II takes Constantinople; the last emperor dies on the walls

What Byzantium kept

- Its people called themselves **Romans**; Greek replaced Latin.
- It saved Greek learning and Roman law, and shielded Europe from the East.
- The **Orthodox** Church; Cyrillic letters and the faith for Russia, baptized with Vladimir (988).
- Its walls and **Greek fire** held off Arab sieges for centuries.
- Its scholars kept Plato, Aristotle and the Greek Fathers, and later brought them to Italy (§22).

15 THE RISE OF ISLAM

Arabia, conquest and caliphate

From Mecca to Baghdad

Date (A.D.)	Event	Date (A.D.)	Event
c. 570	**Muhammad** born at Mecca	636–651	**Yarmuk** won; Jerusalem (638), Egypt, Persia taken
c. 610	Says the angel Gabriel brings him revelations (later the **Qur'an**)	661–750	**Umayyad** caliphs at Damascus; Spain conquered from 711
622	The **Hijra** to Medina: year 1 of the Muslim calendar	732	**Charles Martel** stops a Muslim army near **Tours**
630–632	Mecca submits; Arabia united by his death (632)	750–1258	**Abbasid** caliphs; Baghdad (762), sacked 1258

Beliefs

- **Islam** means "submission"; the **Five Pillars**: creed, prayer, alms, the Ramadan fast, the pilgrimage to Mecca.
- It honors Jesus as a prophet but denies the Trinity, His divinity and His crucifixion.
- **Sunni** and **Shia** split over who should succeed Muhammad.

Under the caliphs

- Christians and Jews became **dhimmis**: protected but subordinate, paying the **jizya** tax.
- Baghdad's **House of Wisdom** put Greek works into Arabic, often through Christian translators such as **Hunayn ibn Ishaq**.
- Numerals from India reached Europe through Arabic books.

16 THE MEDIEVAL CHURCH

monks, missions and popes

The monks

- **Benedict of Nursia** (d. c. 547) founds **Monte Cassino** (c. 529). His **Rule**: *ora et labora*, pray and work.
- Monks copied books in the **scriptorium**, farmed, taught and cared for travelers.
- Reform: **Cluny** (910); then the **friars**: **Franciscans** (1209) and **Dominicans** (1216) preach among the people.

Missions to the North and East

Missionary	When	To whom
Patrick	400s	Ireland
Columba	563	Iona and the Picts
Augustine of Canterbury	597	the English of Kent
Boniface	c. 723	the Germans: fells the oak of Thor
Cyril and Methodius	863	the Slavs

Popes and people

- **Gregory the Great** (590–604): pastor, missionary, "servant of the servants of God".
- **Bede** (673–735), monk of Jarrow, "father of English history"; the **Synod of Whitby** (664).
- Village life ran by the parish: baptism, Mass, feasts and fasts, tithes.

17 CHARLEMAGNE AND THE NORTHMEN

Franks, Vikings and Alfred

The Carolingians

Date	Event
751	Pepin the Short made king
768	**Charlemagne** king
800	Leo III crowns him emperor
814	Dies at Aachen
843	Treaty of Verdun splits the empire
962	**Otto I**: the Holy Roman Empire

Earlier: **Clovis** (d. 511), Catholic king of the Franks.

The Carolingian Renaissance

- **Alcuin** of York ran the palace school; monks copied Latin classics in clear **Carolingian minuscule**, our lower-case letters.
- The **seven arts**: the trivium (grammar, logic, rhetoric) and the quadrivium (arithmetic, geometry, music, astronomy).
- He was also a hard conqueror: he forced baptism on the Saxons and killed some 4,500 at Verden (782).

The Northmen

- Vikings raid **Lindisfarne** in 793; they reach Russia, Iceland and North America.
- **Alfred the Great** (d. 899) beats the Danes at **Edington** (878) and builds fortified burhs.
- Rollo is granted **Normandy** (911).

18 FEUDALISM AND CHRISTENDOM

lords, vassals and the manor

The feudal bond

Term	Meaning	Term	Meaning
Fief	land granted in return for service	Knight	mounted warrior bound by **chivalry**
Vassal	a free man sworn to serve a lord	Manor	estate: hall, village, fields, mill, church
Homage	the ceremony and oath (fealty)	Serf	peasant bound to the land; not a slave

Three orders: those who **pray**, those who **fight**, those who **work**.

Church and crown

- **1054**: the East–West Schism (the *filioque* and papal authority).
- **Investiture Controversy**: Gregory VII against Henry IV, who stood as a penitent at **Canossa** (1077); settled at Worms (1122).
- The "two swords": spiritual and temporal power, each from God.

1066 and the Normans

- William of Normandy beats Harold at **Hastings** (1066).
- Castles, cathedrals and the **Domesday Book** (1086); Norman French enriches English.

19 THE CRUSADES

armed pilgrimages, 1095–1291



Christendom and Islam, about 1100. The red line traces the First Crusade's march (simplified); ⚔ marks a battle.

Why they came

- Muslim armies had taken the Christian Near East, North Africa and Spain (§15).
- After **Manzikert** (1071) the Byzantine emperor **Alexius I** asked the West for help.
- At **Clermont** (1095) Pope **Urban II** called knights to aid the East and free Jerusalem, under a vow of pilgrimage.

The main crusades

Dates	Crusade
1096–1099	**First**: Jerusalem taken (1099); **Outremer** founded
1147–1149	**Second**: after Edessa fell (1144); fails
1189–1192	**Third**: after **Hattin** (1187); **Richard I** wins pilgrims' access
1202–1204	**Fourth**: sacks Christian Constantinople
1291	Acre, the last crusader city, falls

Judging fairly

- Judge them by Scripture and by their own age, not by modern politics. Many went at great cost from real faith.
- Real crimes: Rhineland Jews massacred in 1096 (some bishops sheltered them); the slaughter at Jerusalem in 1099; the sack of 1204.

Orders and Spain

- **Templars** (c. 1119) and **Hospitallers**: monks who were also knights.
- In Spain the **Reconquista** won at **Las Navas de Tolosa** (1212) and ended at Granada (1492).

20 THE HIGH MIDDLE AGES

cathedrals, universities and law

Christendom at its height, 1000–1300

Topic	Remember
Cathedrals	**Gothic**: pointed arches, rib vaults, flying buttresses, glass; St-Denis (1140–1144), Notre-Dame (begun 1163).
Universities	**Bologna** (1088, law), **Paris** (theology), **Oxford**, Cambridge (1209): guilds of masters and students.
Scholars	**Anselm** (d. 1109): faith seeking understanding. **Thomas Aquinas** (1225–1274): the *Summa Theologica* and the Five Ways.
Law and liberty	**Magna Carta** (1215): the king under the law. Becket murdered (1170); the **Model Parliament** (1295).
The wider world	The Mongols under **Genghis Khan** (d. 1227) build the largest land empire; they sack Baghdad in 1258.

Scholasticism

- The method of the schools: a question, objections, authorities, a reasoned answer, replies.
- It joined faith and reason; it did not set them at war.

Dante

- **Dante Alighieri** (1265–1321): the *Divine Comedy*, a journey through Hell, Purgatory and Paradise, written in Italian.

21 THE BLACK DEATH AND THE LATE MIDDLE AGES

plague, war and schism

A hard century

Date	Event	Date	Event
1347–1351	The **Black Death**: perhaps a third to a half of Europe dies	1309–1377	Popes at **Avignon**; **Great Schism** (1378–1417)
1337–1453	**Hundred Years' War**: Crécy (1346), Agincourt (1415)	1384 · 1415	Wycliffe dies (English Bible); Hus burned at Constance
1381	The English **Peasants' Revolt**	29 May 1453	Constantinople falls to the Ottoman Turks
1429–1431	**Joan of Arc** relieves Orléans; burned in 1431		

The plague

- **Bubonic plague**, a bacterium carried by fleas on rats, came from Asia on trade routes.
- Labor grew scarce and wages rose; serfdom weakened.
- Some fled; many priests and monks stayed to nurse the sick and died with them.

Voices

- **Chaucer** (d. 1400): *The Canterbury Tales*, pilgrims riding to Becket's shrine.
- Wycliffe, "morning star of the Reformation", taught that Scripture is the supreme authority.

22 THE RENAISSANCE

rebirth of classical learning

Makers of the Renaissance

Who	What	Who	What
Petrarch (1304–1374)	"father of humanism": hunts old Latin manuscripts	Gutenberg	movable type; the Bible printed at Mainz (c. 1455)
Cosimo de' Medici (ruled 1434–1464)	banker-patron of Florence	Leonardo (1452–1519)	painter, engineer: *The Last Supper*
Brunelleschi	the dome of Florence Cathedral (finished 1436); linear perspective	Michelangelo (1475–1564)	*David*, the Sistine Chapel ceiling

Humanism

- The study of grammar, rhetoric, history, poetry and moral philosophy from the classics.
- *Ad fontes*, "to the sources": read the originals, Greek and Hebrew included. Greek scholars fleeing the Turks brought manuscripts west.

The door to a new age

- 1492: Granada falls and Columbus sails.
- Erasmus' Greek New Testament (1516) feeds the Reformation, where the Early Modern course begins.

23 WHO'S WHO

twenty names to know

Name	Dates	Known for	Name	Dates	Known for
Hammurabi	d. 1750 B.C.	Babylonian king and lawgiver	Justinian	d. A.D. 565	law code; Hagia Sophia
David	r. c. 1010–970 B.C.	shepherd, psalmist, king of Israel	Muhammad	c. 570–632	founder of Islam
Cyrus the Great	r. 559–530 B.C.	founds Persia; frees the exiles	Charlemagne	d. 814	king of the Franks; emperor in 800
Pericles	c. 495–429 B.C.	leader of Athens' Golden Age	Alfred	849–899	saves Wessex from the Danes
Alexander	356–323 B.C.	conquers Persia to India	William I	d. 1087	Norman conqueror of England
Hannibal	247–c. 183 B.C.	Carthage's general; Cannae	Saladin	c. 1138–1193	sultan; retakes Jerusalem
Julius Caesar	100–44 B.C.	conquers Gaul; dictator; murdered	Thomas Aquinas	1225–1274	theologian; *Summa Theologica*
Augustus	63 B.C.–A.D. 14	first emperor; the Pax Romana	Joan of Arc	c. 1412–1431	French heroine; Orléans
Constantine	d. A.D. 337	first Christian emperor	Gutenberg	d. 1468	printing with movable type
Augustine	A.D. 354–430	bishop of Hippo; *City of God*	Leonardo	1452–1519	Renaissance painter and engineer

d. = died; r. = reigned; c. = about.

24 BATTLES THAT TURNED HISTORY

fourteen fields to know

Battle	Date	Winner	Why it mattered	Battle	Date	Winner	Why it mattered
Kadesh	1274 B.C.	neither side	stalemate; a peace treaty later	Adrianople	A.D. 378	Goths	the frontier breaks
Marathon	490 B.C.	Athens	Persia's first invasion fails	Tours	A.D. 732	Charles Martel	Muslim advance halted
Salamis	480 B.C.	Greek fleet	saves Greece from Xerxes	Hastings	1066	William I	Norman England
Gaugamela	331 B.C.	Alexander	the end of the Persian Empire	Manzikert	1071	Seljuk Turks	Asia Minor lost
Zama	202 B.C.	Scipio (Rome)	Rome over Carthage	Hattin	1187	Saladin	the crusaders lose Jerusalem
Actium	31 B.C.	Octavian	one master of the Roman world	Agincourt	1415	Henry V	English longbows triumph
Milvian Bridge	A.D. 312	Constantine	a Christian emperor	Constantinople	1453	Mehmed II	Byzantium ends

25 GREAT BOOKS OF THE ERA

read the sources

Author	Dates	Work	CL	Author	Dates	Work	CL
Homer	c. 750–700 B.C.	*Iliad*, *Odyssey*	✓	Boethius	c. 480–524	*Consolation of Philosophy*	✓
Herodotus	c. 484–425 B.C.	*Histories*		Bede	673–735	*Ecclesiastical History*	
Sophocles	c. 496–406 B.C.	*Theban Plays*	✓	Anonymous	Old English	*Beowulf*	✓
Plato	c. 428–348 B.C.	*Apology*, *Republic*	✓	Anonymous	c. 1100	*Song of Roland*	✓
Aristotle	384–322 B.C.	*Nicomachean Ethics*	✓	Thomas Aquinas	1225–1274	*Summa Theologica*	
Virgil	70–19 B.C.	*Aeneid*	✓	Dante	1265–1321	*Divine Comedy*	✓
Plutarch	c. A.D. 46–120	*Lives*	✓	Chaucer	c. 1343–1400	*Canterbury Tales*	✓
Marcus Aurelius	A.D. 121–180	*Meditations*	✓	Anonymous	late 1300s	*Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*	✓
Augustine	A.D. 354–430	*Confessions*; *City of God*	✓				

CL ✓ = a close reading in the School Launch **Classics Library** (Shelf, Grades 9–12). Dates: the author's life, or when written.