

Dear 7th (and 8th!) grade Social Studies Friends--

This list of questions will help you prepare for our virtual feast and “Jeopardy” style game on March 1st.

Covering 1000 years of history (and some science, too) over the entire world is a BIG job, so these are mostly BIG PICTURE questions with a few fun details thrown in. It is a very incomplete look at Medieval world history, and yet it’s a start. Our hope is that this “handshake” with history will inspire you to keep reading, watching, asking questions, and making connections for a lifetime. Have fun!!

- 1. What was one major cause of the fall of the Roman Empire?**
- 2. It is argued that the Roman Empire didn’t fall, its center merely shifted. To where did it shift?**
- 3. What made Constantinople hard to attack / easy to defend?**
- 4. Roman Emperor Constantine made it possible to practice what religion without it being a criminal act?**
- 5. What engineering feat brought fresh water to the citizens of Rome?**
- 6. Meanwhile in Saudi Arabia, the prophet Muhammed began the teaching of what religion, tracing its roots back to Abraham?**
- 7. What places of worship might have minarets, domes, and arches?**
- 8. Meanwhile, in Africa, the mining of what two materials was becoming very important?**
- 9. Trade routes across this largest desert in the world brought riches to many parts of Africa. Name the desert.**
- 10. The language of scholars in Africa was _____ ?**
- 11. One requirement of Islam was that its followers had to travel to where, if possible? Or, tell what this journey was called.**
- 12. What African King spent so much of his gold in Cairo that he crashed the local economy?**
- 13. A storyteller in Africa was called a _____ .**
- 14. The _____ people migrated from west to east Africa, bringing tools and weapons made of iron.**
- 15. Why was salt important in regard to food?**
- 16. Why is salt important in regard to bodily health?**
- 17. Meanwhile, in Meso and North America: What group of people was living in the Andes in Peru, farming at high altitudes and using llamas for food, pack animals, and wool?**

18. What group of people in Guatemala and southern Mexico were building possibly the largest pyramids in the world, by volume?
19. What group of people, led by Moctezuma, drained swampland to create a beautiful city in what is now Mexico City?
20. What disease made it easier for European *conquistadores* to conquer all three major Mesoamerican civilizations?
21. What animal was most important to the Native Americans living on the Great Plains of North America?
22. The giant trees of the North American Coast were carved by the Tlingit tribes into tall pillars called _____ .
23. What was the name of the trade route connecting China with the Middle East and Europe?
24. In addition to traveling the Silk Road, the Medieval Chinese used what vessels for trade?
25. The improved production of what grain caused a population increase in China?
26. Genghis Khan and Kublai Khan were leaders of what powerful nomadic tribe?
27. Besides the stars, the Chinese used what for navigation while at sea?
28. Meanwhile, in Japan, Prince Shotoku united many different clans under what religion?
29. What social system was developed in Japan as a response to the need for protection against barbaric invaders?
30. A “knight” in Japanese Feudalism was known as a _____ ?
31. “The Way of the Warrior” is known as the _____ Code, in Japan.
32. Back to Europe: What’s one reason feudalism developed in medieval Europe?
33. Put in order from most powerful to least in feudal society: knight, king, serf
34. Which ruler was crowned Holy Roman Emperor and united Europe under Christianity in the 700’s?
35. What two rulers and/or countries clashed in the Battle of Hastings?
36. What important document did barons force King John to sign in 1215?
37. Give one reason why a Medieval European might want to go on Crusade. Also, what members of the population might have gone on such an adventure?
38. What percentage of Europeans were lost during the peak years of the Black Plague?
39. What caused the plague?
40. What major social changes came about, in part, because of the plague?