

Remember: Refer to *The Social Studies Helper Introduction* for how these lessons work, and how to make follow-up slide shows and questions.

Historical Themes

Historical Themes teach how to think like a historian, to ask the right questions, and to remind us that there are often larger processes occurring during any particular historical event or scenario. I like to do this lesson right at the beginning of the year, then again towards the end, as well as the short 5-10 min. version many times throughout the year. Have these themes prominently posted in your classroom. Always bring them into play. Analyze countries and events around them. Historical Themes are the first of **Three Pillars** for a Social Studies class. Keep them close. Ask questions around them.

Goal: Every student can tell you The 8 Historical Themes.

For the slide shows, find at least one picture that highlights the theme (say Power...), then add several examples of that theme, in this case, some of the many people who have been in power throughout history, and thus have changed it. For Revolutions, for example, you'll want emphasize the general revolutions—Agricultural Revolution, Scientific Revolution, Industrial Revolution, Technological/Information Revolution—while also pointing out smaller, more political but important ones like The American Revolution, French Revolution etc. Enjoy!

Remember: Find the right sized and best pic!! (See Intro—How to Make Slide Shows...)

ANSWER KEY

Main Historical Themes Slide Show Power, Change, power, decisions, resources, information, military, power, power, government, order, keep, lose. Religious, Ethical, Beliefs, Influence, sense, world, around, Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism, followings, spread, contact, beliefs, majority, different, along, react. Revolutions, Blocks, overthrown, revolutions, change, ideas, institutions, overthrown, caused, change, results. Environment Shapes, environment, mountains, rivers, jungle, deserts, oceans, live, survive, develop, environment, adjust, climate, changes, forced, adapt, positive, negative, changes. Economics, influenced, economics, control, resources, control, trade, sell, produce, controls, wealth, resources, obtain. Empires, Spread, Changes, control, control, land, trade, spread, cultures, religions, motivates, conquer, control, govern. Cultures Interact, interact, share, culture, science, architecture, art, food, religion, music, trade, migration, conquest, items, passed, political, economic, religious, ideas, shared, resulted. Science, Technology, understand, technology, learn, control, tools, methods, solve, problems, knowledge, use, inventions, changed.

Historical Themes

1. Power—Those in Po_____ Usually Ch_____ History.

Those in po_____—those who make the *deci*_____, who control the *resour*_____, the flow of *inform*_____, and the *mili*_____—are usually the ones to influence history...

Questions to ask yourself about any given society:

1. Who holds po_____?
2. How did they get po_____?
3. What system of govern_____ provides or_____ in this society?
4. Why are they able to *ke*__ power or why do they *lo*__ it?

2. Religions—Religi_____ and Ethic_____ Bel_____ Often Influ_____ History

People have always tried to make se_____ of the incredible wo_____ aro_____ them; they've always held religious beliefs. Some religions, mainly Budd_____, Chris_____, Hind_____, Isl_____, and Juda_____, have created *vast foll*_____, and made history as they've *spr*_____ and come in *cont*_____ with one another.

Questions to ask yourself about any given society:

1. What beli_____ are held by the *major*_____ of any given society?
2. How are the religions *differ*_____?
3. How do the different religious groups *get alo*_____?
4. How do these religious groups *rea*_____ toward *nonmembers*?

3. Revolutions—Revolu_____ are the Main Building Blo_____ of History

Throughout history, governments, institutions, and ideas have been *overthr*_____. These *revol*_____ create major *cha*_____ in the world around them.

Questions to ask yourself about any given revolution?

1. What long-term ide_____ or *institut*_____ are being *overthr*_____?
2. What cau_____ people to make this *radical cha*_____?
3. What are the *resu*_____ of this change?

4. Environment—Environ_____ Sha_____ Societies

The *enviro*_____—the *mount*_____, the *riv*_____, the *jun*_____, the *des*_____, the *occea*_____ etc.—greatly influences how a society *liv*_____, how its people *surv*_____, how the *economy deve*_____, how the *culture deve*_____. A society is, in many ways, a *product* of its *enviro*_____.

Questions to ask yourself about any given society:

1. How do humans *adju*_____ to the *clima*_____ and *terrain* where they live?
2. How have *chang*_____ in the environment forc_____ these people to *ada*_____?

3. What *positi*___ and *negati*___ *chang*___ have these people made to their environment?

5. Economics—Econ_____ Often Fuels History

History is often *influ*_____ by *econ*_____. Groups fight for cont____ of *resou*_____—*land, oil, diamonds, fishing rights* etc.—and for cont____ of the *tra*____, including a place to *se*___ their produ_____.

Questions to ask yourself about any given society:

1. What *goods* and *services* does a society prod_____?
2. Who cont_____ the *weal*___ and *resou*_____ of a society?
3. How does a society *obta*___ more *goods* and *services*?

6. Empires—As Emp_____ Spr____, the World Changes

Throughout history, societies have sought to *con*_____ those around them, to *con*_____ the *lan*___ and the *tra*____, to *spr*___ their *cultu*___ and their *reli*_____.

Questions to ask yourself about any given empire (An extended country):

1. What *motiv*___ this society to *conqu*___ other lands and peoples?
2. How did this society *gain con*_____ of the others?
3. How does the dominating society *gov*_____ its subjects?

7. Cultural Interaction—As Cult_____ Inter____, the World Chan_____

As cultures *inter*_____ (through *conquest, trade, or migration*) they *sha*___ their *cultu*___—their *scien*___, their *architectu*___, their *ar*___, their *foo*___, their *relig*___, their *mus*___ etc.

Questions to ask yourself when examining cultural interaction:

1. How have these cultures *interacted*? *Tra*___? *Migrati*___? *Conqu*___?
2. What *ite*___ have these cultures *pass on* to one another?
3. What *politi*___, *econo*___, and *religio*___ *ide*___ have these cultures *shar*___?
4. What *positive* and *negative effects* resul_____ from this cultural interaction?

8. Science and Technology—Sci_____ and Tech_____ Drive History

Humans have always sought to *under*_____ the world around them; they have always used whatever *techn*_____ they have to *lea*___ and to maintain *con*_____ over others.

Questions to ask yourself about any given society:

1. What *too*___ and *meth*___ do people use to *sol*___ the various prob_____ they face?
2. How do people *gain know*_____ about their world? How do they *us*___ this knowledge?
3. How do new *discoveries* and *inven*_____ *chan*___ the way people live?

