

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 *oce*a____ 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?

