

The Beginnings of World History**Lesson 1**

The Study of World History

Key Terms and People

historiography the study and writing of history

civilization a culture with advanced cities, specialized workers, complex institutions, record keeping, and advanced technology

artifacts remains, such as tools, jewelry, and other human-made objects

hominid human or other creature that walks upright

Before You Read

In this lesson, you will read about how and why we study history.

As You Read

Use a diagram to organize the lesson's main ideas and details.

GEOGRAPHY

How does geography affect how a civilization develops?

The people who study history are also the people who write about history. They piece together the information they find in order to understand people from the past. Their field of study is called **historiography**.

Social scientists also use geography to study history. The book *Guns, Germs, and Steel* looks at how geography helped and hurt civilizations in the past. Jared Diamond, the book's author, explained the three factors that helped Eurasian civilizations succeed: good temperatures and locations for agriculture, resistance to certain deadly germs, and the ability to develop technology.

Where a group of people settle can affect how, when, and in what way they

develop. The island nation of Japan was very isolated from the West before the mid-1800s. By the early 1900s, Japanese people were trading with the West and the country was considered a world power. Great Britain, also an island nation, developed much earlier. Britain was part of the Roman Empire. It later joined other European countries to start colonies around the world. The British had to develop a strong navy in order to protect its own empire around the globe.

1. Why did Japan develop later than Great Britain?

Guided Reading Ch 16 World History Answers

Christian Drosten



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