

WHAT IS THE BEST WAY TO GET STARTED?

Different historians approach world history using different methodology —some look at it as Chronological (the order in which events happened); some look at it as interregional (comparing what happened in Place A with happened in Place B); and some look at it as thematic (what happened everywhere). We will take a somewhat different approach by “learning to think the world.” World History, if it truly is World History, centers itself not on a “particular spot on the globe”, but encompasses “the world as a whole.” Our challenge lies in thinking about our history in an interconnected, global way.

Did you notice that key word: GLOBAL. Understanding global connections requires knowing the globe. To quote Shakespeare, “All the world’s a stage; the men and women merely players.” That means maps become necessary tools to studying history by putting people and places in perspective based on location. It is also important to have perspective in relation to time; our tool for this is the timeline.



As we study the world this year, remember to think BIG: big history and big geography. To gain the greatest benefit from your study you must put people, events, and ideas into contextual relationship.

¹ Adapted from “Critical Thinking in History”, Social Studies School Services, Culver City, CA, 2004

² “National Standards for Social Studies Teachers,” National Council for the Social Studies, 2006.

³ <http://claesjohnsonmathscience.files.wordpress.com/2011/12/science.jpg>

⁴ http://curezone.com/upload/Members/WhistlingBooger/Blind_Men_And_Elephant.jpg

⁵ “World History for Us All” (<http://worldhistoryforusall.sdsu.edu/>)

⁶ Adapted from the National Center for History in the Schools (<http://www.nchs.ucla.edu/Standards/world-history-standards>).

⁷ Adapted from “World History for Us All” (<http://worldhistoryforusall.sdsu.edu/>)