

# Introduction

It is important for students to have a general understanding of how events of the past helped create the world that exists today. Every student should have the opportunity to understand how the countries of our world developed over time. This knowledge expands students' appreciation of the world in which they live.

The stories of world history are fascinating, exciting, and interesting. However, students sometimes get overwhelmed by the volume of information in their textbooks. Unfortunately, some students might “give up” and miss out on significant concepts that are being taught. This book is not intended to replace students' world history texts. Rather, it is meant to complement existing materials.

This unique, reproducible book was designed for students of any age who need help learning the basic concepts covered in world history classes. In order to help struggling readers understand complex historical events and issues, the lessons are written at a 3.0–4.5 reading level. These short, high-interest passages and activities are effective teaching tools for students with learning differences, attention or behavior problems, and limited reading skills. This book is also helpful for at-risk and ESL students.

*World History Shorts 1* features 30 one-page stories, or shorts, followed by activity sheets that reinforce the information. The shorts focus on key historical concepts and may be used in two different ways. You can use each one-page short as an introductory lesson and then use other resources to teach the topic in greater depth. The short can also serve as a brief overview for topics that you need to cover more quickly than others.

Following each short are four activity pages. These activities allow students to practice reading-comprehension skills while answering content-area recall questions; interpreting maps, charts, graphs, and time lines; researching significant historical people, places, and events; and expressing opinions through writing. The activities include multiple-choice questions, crossword puzzles, short-answer questions, and extension activities. Each short is also accompanied by a visual activity, which consists of a map, chart, graph, or time line.

A quiz follows the four activity pages. The one-page quiz tests students' comprehension and knowledge of the most important information in the short and includes questions that are written in standardized-test format.

Each standards-based short covers a significant person, place, or event in world history. Included in this book are lessons on the beginnings of humans, Hammurabi's Code, the pyramids of ancient Egypt, India's caste system, the city-states of ancient Greece, Rome as a republic and an empire, the growth of Christianity and Islam, the growth of the Roman Catholic Church, the political system of feudalism, the Crusades, the Middle Ages and the Black Death, the Hundred Years' War, the Renaissance, Martin Luther and the Protestant Reformation, European exploration and colonization of Asia and the Americas, the Atlantic slave trade, the evolution of Britain's government, the modernization of Russia and Japan, the rise and fall of the Ottoman Empire, and more.