



Exhibit Overviews: Ancient Civilizations

The following will help you understand how the Museum of World Treasures relates to Common Core Standards. Every ancient civilization exhibit is included. Please note that if you have been coming to the Museum for years, the exhibits and artifacts are subject to change and new research reveals new insights. Follow this guide so you are presenting correct information to your classes.

If you have registered for a guided tour, our trained guides will take you on a tour of the exhibits, but please keep in mind that if you are on such a tour you will not see every exhibit. This information is useful for small, self-guided groups as this is the same information our tour guides present. All of these exhibits are on the first floor.

Ancient Near East (Grades 1, 2, 6, 7)

Ancient Near Eastern/Mesopotamian cultures have impacted our lives and future in a dramatic change of events historians call the Neolithic Revolution.

-Neolithic Revolution: when peoples stopped following animal herds and made permanent settlements for the first time.

How has this choice impacted our lives? Allowed for the evolution of:

1. Farming
2. Domesticated Animals
3. Community
4. Permanent Cities
5. Laws
6. Written Word
7. Tools & Weapons
8. Warfare
9. Government
10. Economy

1. Farming was a major cause of the Neolithic Revolution. People planted crops and harvested them, which encouraged them to stay in one area. Foraging was no longer necessary. The development of crops, utilization of fertile soil around rivers, and ways to store surplus grain was a major reason people stopped moving and built permanent homes.

2. Domesticated animals made life easier for people because they no longer had to follow herds to get meat, milk, and fur. With the addition of domestic dogs, sheep, and goats, people found no reason to travel long distances following food sources. The crops they planted helped feed their animals and form their own herds, which they could control with the help of dogs.



3. The introduction of community came with settlement. Before the Neolithic Revolution, family units travelled together following their food sources which included wild plants and animal herds. When they stopped following the herds, different family units had to find a way to coexist together in the first communities.
4. Permanent cities started to form around river valleys that provided silt from rivers to fertilize crops. Cities provided a platform for developing communities, laws, and advanced food storage abilities, which in turn led to advancements in technology, writing, and government.
5. Laws became increasingly important as communities formed permanent cities because leaders had to have ways to keep the order. Construction of major projects like irrigation for rivers and permanent houses required leadership, which most historians believe was the first reason to have government and laws.
6. In order to share laws with people, barter, and keep track of one's possessions, written word was necessary. It started as pictures that represented an object like a sheep or a bundle of grain, but soon evolved so that leaders could share laws with their peoples and dedicate temples to gods.
7. People developed advanced technical skills that allowed for tools and weaponry to become more advanced. Crops called for new tools, and so did living in a permanent home. People who made these new tools and weapons helped create a division of labor in which people who were not needed on a farm could develop the skills to become artisans.
8. As tools and weaponry became more advanced and different communities saw fit to defend their crops, animals, and peoples, warfare evolved. People had time to train, practice, and use weapons as tools of warfare.
9. Because peoples had so much to look after now and their livelihood and entire lives were in one place, defending themselves became crucial. In order to protect themselves and their communities, they relied on leaders who set forth rules for their protection and projects that could make their lives better like major irrigation projects. These leaders were an early form of government.
10. The economy evolved when people had surplus grain, livestock, and tools. They could barter or trade for things they needed or had too much of in exchange for goods or services. Previously, there was no real system for trade or the economy.

Questions for Discussion/Relation to Standards:

Standard 1:

What did the peoples of Mesopotamia and other Ancient River Valley Civilizations gain by choosing to settle permanently? What did they gain from developing farming/animal husbandry/community/permanent cities/laws/written words/tools and weaponry/warfare/government/economy?

What did they lose by choosing these paths?



What motivated these people to settle permanently? Or develop farming/animal husbandry/community/permanent cities/laws/written words/tools and weaponry/warfare/government/economy?

What goals did they have in mind?

Standard 2:

What responsibilities did people have for the first time in history?

What rights did people have in these new communities?

Standard 3:

What beliefs or ideas shaped this new society?

How do you think people adjusted to living in communities for the first time?

Standard 4:

How did the Ancient Near East change over time?

How have parts of Ancient Mesopotamian cultures stayed the same?

Standard 5:

How did relationships develop and change in Ancient Mesopotamia?

Notable Artifacts:

Cuneiform cones: represent first form of writing.

Cones were carved with cuneiform inscriptions dictated by rulers of the Neo-Sumerian period commemorating the construction of a building (usually a temple). Prayers or dedications were written on clay in the form of thick cones, also called “nails” because of their flat heads. Multiples were produced with identical inscriptions and were embedded into the walls of the new buildings they memorialize.

Cuneiform Tablet: One of two known that mentions the Storm God Ishkur. Dr. Gonzalo Rubio of Penn State translated this tablet for us. The translation can be found in the case. It is from approximately 2100 BC.

Bronze Weaponry: Before bronze, smelted metal was not strong enough to make weapons. The development of metal and bronze allowed for daggers and eventually swords to be made, changing warfare forever.



Jay Gluck Amlash Rhytons: Dr. Jay Gluck was a famous archaeologist and historian. These three Rhytons were believed to be used in funerary practices, which explains their fantastic condition. CA 1400-1100 BC.

Lydian Coins: According to the Greek historian Herodotus, Lydians were the first people to use gold and silver coinage. They are most likely a natural mixture of gold and silver called electrum.

Rome (Grades 1, 2, 6, 7, 10) *Please note that Rome is scheduled renovation after 2015

Ancient Rome is popular because of its successful, long running empire.

Romans are known for their:

1. Long running empire
2. Extent of owned lands
3. Myths and legends
4. Powerful army
5. Military tactics
6. Architecture & engineering
7. Food & Beverage
8. Temples to Gods and Goddesses
9. Arts & Culture
10. Wide-spread influence

1. According to legend, the Roman Empire started around 753 BC by Romulus. It grew into a prosperous city and eventually empire in the next few hundred years. The united empire lasted 426 years. The Western Empire lasted a further 81 years, for a total of 507 years. The Eastern Empire lasted a further 1058 years after the split, for a total of 1484 years.

2. At its height under Emperor Trajan in 117 AD, the Roman Empire held all of the lands that touched the Mediterranean Sea, Great Britain, and the majority of Western Europe.

3. Roman myths were borrowed and changed from Greek and Etruscan religions but still color our world today. There were 12 major gods called the Dii Consentes: Juno, Vesta, Minerva, Ceres, Diana, Venus, Mars, Mercury, Jupiter, Neptune, Vulcan, and Apollo.

4. Originally warfare existed in short spurts of plundering, and once again the Romans borrowed their tactics from Greeks and Etruscans. Eventually a professional trained army was put in place. They used spears, swords, shields, and armor effectively.

5. Romans built such a large empire that their standing army had to be just as large: it could march up to 40km a day. Participants usually volunteered for a minimum of 20 years. Specialist functions emerged like archers, light cavalry, and slingers.



6. Thanks to the wide knowledge provided by the Etruscans, Romans knew how to build incredible structures like arches and domed ceilings. They are credited with aqueducts, indoor baths, plumbing, and decent sanitation. Many structures still stand today.
7. Romans had four meals a day, the largest of which was the cena, a meal of several courses that typically lasted hours. Beer was known but considered vulgar. Wine was kept in large amphorae and diluted with water.
8. Roman architecture included immense and elaborate temples dedicated to gods and goddess. We take influence from their columns in American architecture. Dozens of temples still stand.
9. Roman art and culture was influenced by many ethnic and cultural groups, as the prominent Egyptian, Greek, and Etruscan styles were popular. Art included sculpture, painting, mosaics, metal work, engraving, gem art, jewelry, and more. Culture in Rome was diverse; most popularly Rome was known for “bread and circuses” in which the common peoples were entertained to keep them happy. Gladiators, wild animals, chariot races, battle reenactments, and plays were just a few things that were popular. There was a distinct social class ranking comprised of: Patricians, Plebeians, and Slaves, and several more.
10. Because the Roman Empire lasted for so long, its influence is seen today. We celebrate similar holidays, wear similar clothing (socks!), and took much influence from their political and governmental styles.

Questions for Discussion/Relation to Standards:

Standard 1: What consequences did the Romans face by holding so much land? What did the people gain by being part of such a large empire?

Standard 2: What rights and responsibilities did Roman citizens have? What were the qualifications to become a Roman citizen? What about Roman slaves or plebeians?

Standard 3: The diversity of Rome is apparent based on the map. How did the civilization grow from diversity? What beliefs/ideas did it borrow from others?

Standard 4: How did Rome change over hundreds of years, and how did it remain the same?

Standard 5: How did Rome’s relationship with its neighbors influence the Empire?

Notable Artifacts:

Etruscan artifacts: Romans borrowed many of their ideas and cultural influences from the Etruscans, which is clearly seen if art and sculpture are compared. Also in this case is an Etruscan skull.



Amphorae: Romans mixed their wine in large and small amphorae. Vessels like this were used in the elaborate dinners.

Fitted rings: Romans were one of the first civilizations to figure out how to make rings fitted to specific fingers. They loved wearing high quality gemstones.

Surgical tools: Ancient Roman medicine was comparable to that of the 19th century. Cornelius Celsus was a surgeon who took on the task of performing neurosurgery, as noted by Dr. John R. Mangiardi. In "The History of Brain Surgery," Mangiardi states that Celsus, who lived around the time of Christ, was a surgeon who expanded on the work done by Hippocrates, and took the art of brain surgery to a new level. Celsus performed neurosurgery on depressed skull fractures, something done by no other physician until then. Celsus was also known as the first important writer of medical history. His book, *On Medicine*, was so good that physicians used it for more than 1700 years.

Glass bottles: Glass was influenced by Hellenistic techniques and used widely in the Roman Empire because of its beauty and functionality. Makeup bottles were common and most glass was made in Alexandria. It is thought that Romans attempted to copy Chinese porcelain but failed, resulting in their own unique glassware.

Greece (Grades 1, 2, 6, 7, 10) *Please note that Greece is scheduled for renovation after 2015.

Grecians are known for their:

1. Advanced culture including the Olympics
2. Early start by the Mycenaeans
3. Legends and myths
4. City-States
5. Artwork & Sculpture
6. Economy
7. Theatre
8. Political System
9. Famous citizens
10. Academics

1. Ancient Greece's warlike nature stopped during the time of the Olympics so that people could safely travel to Olympia and compete. Of course, we still host Olympics today in the fashion of the Greeks.

2. Mycenaeans are credited with having an advanced culture based on war-like tendencies. It ended around 1100 BC.



3. Greek mythology is still popular today and stems from the polytheistic beliefs of gods and goddesses based on the nature of the world. The myths directly contribute to Grecian culture, art, and architecture as temples, sculptures, and daily life among the Grecians were based on their religion.
4. City-states had independent governments and cultural aspects, but it was widely accepted that the hundreds of city-states were all Grecian. This fragmented society was peculiar and city-states warred against each other. The city-states never attempted to unify. Two of the most popular are Athens and Sparta, which have a great number of differences among them. Athens was more democratic but not as progressive in women's rights as Sparta. Sparta was seen as a military city-state, but women of Sparta had surprising rights (land ownership, trade rights, etc.)
5. Artwork and sculpture was derived of myths and legends, some of the most famous depict Zeus and Athena. Their architecture still influences work today.
6. Greece's economy was widely based on the ability of maritime trade. Wheat, grapes, and olives became huge trade sources for the Grecians, as did crafts, pottery, and metalworking. Grecian coins were used as currency and can be found in abundance today.
7. Theatre in Greece was mostly based in Athens. Tragedy and comedy were both popular, and theatre festivals were held a few times a year. Huge ancient theatres were built and are still representative of stadium seating used today. The art of theatre and acting was said to be born in Greece.
8. After tyranny took Athens, Athenians saw democracy as a way of reform. After the rise of democracy in Athens, other city-states took the same practices. Not all people could vote or were citizens, however. A system of checks-and-balances was put into place. Sparta was an exception to democracy in Greece, as it was ran by two hereditary monarchs.
9. Some important Ancient Greeks include Homer (author), Herodotus (historian), Hippocrates (physician), Phidias (sculptor), Leonidas (warrior), Archimedes (astronomer, scientist, inventor), Pericles (statesman), Plato (mathematician, philosopher), Aristotle (student of Plato, philosopher), Socrates (philosopher), Alexander the Great (commander).
10. Philosophy, academia, mathematics, writing, and science made leaps forward during the time of Ancient Greece. Astronomical tools, philosophical ideals, and much more were made during this time. The influence of Grecian academics is still very much prominent today.

Questions for Discussion/Relation to Standards:

Standard 1: What challenges did Greek city-states have ruling individually? What benefits did they have ruling individually?

Standard 2: What different groups of society had more rights than others? Who was on top, and who was on bottom? What responsibilities did those groups have?



Standard 3: What beliefs and ideas shaped the advanced Grecian culture?

Standard 4: How did Greece change over time? What continuous ideas do we still use today from Greece?

Standard 5: What kind of relationship did the Grecians have to be able to join together for events like the Olympics? What kind of trade was possible because of their relationship with their environment?

Notable artifacts: Pottery was used for both decorative and practical purposes. Our pottery features typical design and painting for the time, and usually tells a story.

Bronze Greaves: These pieces of leg armor were used by the warring city-states' soldiers to defend themselves. Bronze was poured into a mold to be shaped.

Xerxes I coin: Xerxes I fought against Greek city-states for land and power. This coin is a good representation of propaganda put forth by governments to represent leaders and their power.

Tetra drachma Athena Coin Replicas: Greece's economy was very strong and coins often featured gods or goddesses. These particular owl coins represent Athena and her companion, Glaukus. The coins represent Athens but were accepted in many other city-states.

Volcanic rock from Thera: the eruption of a volcano on the island of Thera in 1627-1600 BC essentially destroyed half the island. The destruction of the city of Akrotiri on the island is said to have began the myth of Atlantis. The volcano threw ash visible as far away as Egypt and China, and set a volcanic winter on the latter. It is believed that people were evacuated before the eruption took many lives, as artifacts but no bodies were found in the ash.

Egypt (Grades 2, 6, 7, 10) *Please note that Egypt is scheduled for renovation after 2015.

Ancient Egypt is known for:

1. Art & Architecture
2. Religion
3. Culture
4. Funerary Practices
5. Government
6. Farming techniques
7. Longevity



8. Personal Adornment
9. Gender Equality

1. Egyptian sculpture, architecture, and other art like painting and jewelry were mostly based on religion and superstition. Egyptians honored their pharaohs like they were gods, wore good-luck amulets, and created enormous tombs to help the transition to the afterlife. The distinctive style of King Tut's funeral mask demonstrates the typical Egyptian features: bold eye makeup, wigs, false beards, and beautiful ornamentation.

2. Religion was complicated and extremely important in Ancient Egypt. Almost everything they did was based on the belief of an afterlife: good luck amulets warded off bad things, animals were sacrificed to gods and goddesses, leaders were considered sacred and treated thusly, a plethora of gods and goddesses existed that controlled everything from the sun to the flooding of the Nile.

3. Culture was mostly based on religion, and included making sacrifices, adorning oneself with beautiful jewelry and makeup, participating in fun and games (like Senet), and playing music. Personal hygiene was important and men and women shaved their body hair, adorned themselves with oils and perfumes, and took great care to look their best.

4. Egyptian funerary practices are seen in the most iconic symbol of Egypt: the pyramids. Large tombs, mummies, and myths were all a part of the afterlife. The elaborate set of burial customs put in place is why we have Egyptian mummies to study. It is estimated that over 3,000 years, 70 million mummies were made. Egyptians were buried with large quantities of precious pieces of artwork, jewelry, and common items to help them in the afterlife. Because some of these tombs were well-preserved, we have a good idea of what was important in their culture.

5. Egyptian government was headed by a pharaoh, an absolute monarch who was believed to be a god. The king (or queen) was in charge of the military, trade, peoples, and lands of Egypt. The kingdom was divided into smaller sections of which viziers and other officials ran in the name of the pharaoh. The nation's wealth was stored in granaries and a money-barter system was in place. Social classes were strongly defined by family. Even low-class peoples (except slaves) were allowed to petition their leaders, and men and women were seen as equals under the law even though women did not often serve in leadership roles.

6. Farming techniques were extremely important as Egyptians based their economy on their grain and crops. The fertile soil of the flooding Nile River provided the basis of their successful agriculture. Emmer wheat and barley were the primary crops and were used to make bread and beer, staples in the diet of Egyptians. The abundance in food allowed Egyptians to have time to develop their advanced culture.

7. Pharaonic Egypt lasted around 3000 years from 3150 BC to 30 BC when it fell to Rome. Its lasting impression is evident in the culture that rose around it and the iconic, instantly recognizable pyramids.

8. Personal adornment represents many of the artifacts left behind by Egyptians. Everything from the oldest known linen garment (dated to 2980 BC) to faience jewelry,



gold headdresses, makeup bottles, amulets, mummy wrappings, or the heady scent of oils still left on mummified Egyptians allow us to have a unique view of this highly advanced fashion culture.

9. Gender equality existed in ancient Egypt in a sense. Although women could rule, like the famous Hatshepsut, Nefertari and Nefertiti, they were not commonly found in these positions. Women could buy and sell land, make contracts, receive inheritance, and go to court. They had the greatest opportunities for advancement out of the Greek, Roman, and Egyptian cultures.

Questions for Discussion/Relation to Standards:

Standard 1: The choice of the Egyptians to use the Nile's annual flooding led to increased crop production. By storing these crops, what could they do in their spare time? What developments stemmed from those choices?

Standard 2: What unique rights and responsibilities did Egyptian women have? What rights did peasants and nobility share?

Standard 3: How did the Egyptians belief in many gods and goddesses affect their society?

Standard 4: Over 3,000 years, how did the Egyptians change styles of mummification? How did they continue the practices?

Standard 5: How was Egypt's relationship with the Nile beneficial? How did it complicate things? How did Egyptians adapt to living in the desert? How did trade benefit them?

Notable artifacts:

Egyptian Mummies: The mummies are named "Baka" and "The Braided Hair Lady" (BHL). It is important to note that we do not know and will never know exactly who these women were. No matter how many guesses we make, we will never know for certain what roles they played in Egypt. We do not know who they were or how they died. Their middle-quality mummification suggests they were not high ranking members of royal families. The fact that their arms are down and not crossed mean they were not royalty. Our experts have told us three things make these mummies unique and indicate they were wealthy: their teeth, hair, and fingernails. Based on examinations, it is estimated they were both between 20-30 years old when they died. Based on their style of mummification, we can guess that Baka is around 4500-4750 years old. BHL is around 3000-3500 years old.



They have good teeth which indicate they had a softer diet and perhaps had meat in their diet. Egyptian's bread was full of sand and grit. The mummies' teeth are not horribly worn, indicating their higher quality diet.

The fact that they have hair is an indication of their wealth – most Egyptians shaved their heads and bodies to avoid lice and fleas. These women could probably afford baths. BHL has ancient hair extensions in and had someone braid her hair for her.

Their fingernails are well manicured and show no signs of manual labor, indicating they had leisurely lives. BHL has henna painted on her nails.

BHL was overweight in her lifetime. Her mummification was hasty and incomplete, she still has organs in her; we don't know why. Baka has a dime-shaped hole in her skull seen on CT scans that may have contributed to her death.

*Note: treat the mummies with respect, as it was the purpose of mummification of Egyptians to be cared for after death. By treating these mummies with the utmost care, we honor their lives. Tell your students the same. No "Ew, gross!" or similarly disrespectful comments will be tolerated.

Animal mummies: We have animal mummies of a cobra, ibis, and falcon. Animals were representative of certain gods and goddesses. They were given as sacrifices to gods. In some circumstances, hundreds of animal mummies are found in one site.

Sistrum: An ancient Egyptian instrument. It is believed there are only around 15 in existence. It was shaken like a rattle in rituals and for fun.

Coffins: Wooden coffins from tombs have magic spells written on them in hieroglyphs as well as religious symbolism like eyes painted so the inhabitant of the coffin can see his/her journey. Two of our coffins are from 1200 BC and the other is from 2025 BC – 1650 BC.

Canopic Jar: The Canopic jar we have on display is that of Hapi the Baboon-headed god. During mummification, organs were removed for preservation and placed into four jars, each for a different organ (lungs, stomach, intestines, liver). Each jar represented a different son of Horus. Hapi protected the lungs for the afterlife. This particular jar is empty.

Treasures from the Grave: Pre-Hispanic Art & Ritual (Grades 2, 6, 7, 10)

A wide variety of Central and South American cultures are feature in our exhibit. This guide gives a broad overview of the commonalities of those cultures. It is estimated that there are over 55 cultural groups in this area.

Pre-Hispanic Culture:

1. Difficult History to Learn
2. Farming



3. Mathematics & Science
4. Architecture and land use
5. Multiple civilizations
6. Social hierarchies
7. Religion
8. Ritual
9. Art
10. Fate

1. Many cultural groups in Pre-Hispanic America left behind little to no written records of their histories. Because of this, glimpses of their civilizations are known based on archaeological sites and artifacts, which leaves archaeologists to make conclusions based on findings instead of documentation. The Mayans were only one of few groups with a decipherable written language.

2. The agricultural advancements were made in crop production of maize, chocolate, vanilla, melons and pumpkins, potatoes, and berries and a multitude of other crops. Corn was particularly important and cultural groups learned how to develop different varieties of corn. Now, over 2/3 of all food types grown were originally from the Americas.

3. Mayan cultures had advance mathematical and astronomical knowledge. They had a math system based on twenties, and remarkably used the number zero. They built structures based on the alignment of stars and planets and recognized equinoxes. Lunar and solar calendars are correct even today, and their methods for determining the length of moon phases and a full solar year are almost perfect.

4. Pre-Hispanic cultures used geoglyphs, large drawings of animals or people only fully seen from the sky. The most famous of these are the Nazca lines in Peru. Other lines are found in the Amazon and scattered through South America. These cultures made beautiful ball courts, palaces, temples, and pyramid structures throughout Central and South America. The most notable is the pyramid at Chichen Itza, which was designed so that sunlight made carvings look alive. They also made stone roads and arches.

5. Some civilizations were tribal-like and small, and others were large cities of thousands of peoples. Hereditary kingdoms traded with each other and went to war over lands. Certain similar language groups dominated over smaller, less advanced groups.

6. Class and social structure were important and often existed in a hierarchy based on lineage. Independent city-states had courts where people could address their rulers. It is believed Mayans broke their class structure into four: royalty, priests, commoners and slaves. Elites believed crossed eyes, high foreheads, and pointed teeth were beautiful. Scar markings were also popular among elites.

7. Pre-Hispanic groups were polytheistic and created elaborate and sometimes huge temples to honor their gods. They believed in the duality of the soul and animal protectors for the afterlife. They held maize to be sacred and based their religious beliefs on nature, animals, and phenomenon.

8. Rituals were popular in Pre-Hispanic areas and included blood sacrifice, burial rituals, and drug-induced states. Blood letting was particularly important and took place



on every major calendar date. Different rituals and ceremonies corresponded to different practices such as marriage, divination, baptism, rites related to the cycles of the year, cycles of time and ceremonies of sacrifices for the gods. A variety of drugs and alcoholic beverages (Balché) were used in these ceremonies.

9. Art was detailed pottery, gold jewelry, religious pieces, and trade merchandise. Pottery was painted with elaborate designs depicting important animals like caimans and jaguars, and shaped without the use of a potter's wheel. Bright colors were popular. Jewelry with bone, shell, jade, obsidian, and precious metals were popular.

10. The end-game for many Pre-Hispanic cultures came at the same time Europeans invaded. Disease was the main cause for the fall of cultures, but warfare, slavery, and lack of integrated population also contributed.

Questions for Discussion/Relation to Standards:

Standard 1: By partnering or disallowing the relationship with European invaders, what consequences did Pre-Hispanic peoples face?

Standard 2: What rights did the common people in Pre-Hispanic cultures have?

Standard 3: How did the variety of plants and animal life shape the culture of Pre-Hispanic peoples?

Standard 4: How did trade routes help keep the continuity of the Pre-Hispanic cultures alive?

Standard 5: How did the relationship between Europeans and Pre-Hispanic cultures differ from the relationships with Pre-Hispanic cultures among themselves?

Notable Artifacts: Shrunk Head: Our expert Dr. Hoopes from KU believes this is the head of a European missionary or conquerer because he has facial hair, no piercings, and a strange hair cut for a tribesperson. It is from the Jivaro or Shuar tribe. The proper name for a shrunk head is a tsantsa.

Nazca Trophy Head: Pre-Hispanic cultures believed a person's power and soul were in the head and hair. By taking a person's head, the holder then had the power of their own soul plus that person's. Warriors took heads and strung them from their belts to intimidate people. This naturally mummified head does not smell good. Ancestor heads were also taken by the Nazca to keep their souls in the family. The difference between a trophy head and an ancestor head is the rope in the forehead. Ancestor heads do not have this distinguishing rope.

Periphery Pottery: Mayan pottery was so popular that outlying cultures tried to mimic it for trade purposes. They made knock-offs of pottery that had what are called pseudo-



glyphs on them. They tried to copy the Mayan glyphs but did not do it properly, resulting in contemporary reproductions that indicate the popularity of Mayan pottery.

Gold Jewelry: Pre-Hispanic cultures often saw precious metals as signs of religious importance. Their finely made gold jewelry represents animals like the frogs, flying fish, and birds.

Tairona Burial Urn: Often important people were buried in urns and placed into cave-like tombs. The urns allowed for easy transport from one place to the next. This urn is empty.

Transcend: Royal and Religious Art of Asia (Grades 2, 6, 7, 10)

Hinduism and Buddhism have fundamental similarities and differences. Sometimes, the artwork of these religions including sculpture and paintings are almost impossible to differentiate from one to the other. This exhibit is more religious based than cultural, which means a little more care is needed when giving a tour.

Things to know:

1. Location
2. Illusion of the world
3. Concepts of Karma and reincarnation
4. Peaceful nature
5. Age differences
6. Gods and goddesses
7. Religious texts
8. Physical practices
9. Sacred icons
10. Cultural impacts

1. Hinduism and Buddhism both have their roots in India. Today, they are practiced around the world. Their similar starting place adds to their similarities. The Buddha was brought up in a Hindu family.
2. Both Hinduism and Buddhism emphasize that the world is a grand illusion, and we are bound to this earth by karma and a life and death cycle.
3. Karma is known in both religions and it is believed that acts done while living will enable a person to be reincarnated in a cycle or achieve the ultimate goal, enlightenment. The cycle of a soul's birth and death is believed in both. While both religions believe in this, they also believe differently on how reincarnation and karma work and impact individuals.



4. Both teach peace, kindness, and balance in one's life. Compassion for all living creatures and non-violence is extremely important. Charitable acts also resonate through many teachings.
5. Hinduism is around a millennium or two older than Buddhism. As previously stated, the Buddha was a Hindu by birth and after his enlightenment around 450 BC, Buddhism began.
6. There are millions of gods and goddesses in Hinduism and some people choose to honor many, or just one. Devotees to both religions acknowledge different named deities for certain aspects of life, like Saraswati the goddess of knowledge, music, and art; and Shiva, the god of destruction. There are four main sects within Hinduism: Shaivism, in which Shiva is worshipped as the main god; Vaishnavism, in which Vishnu is the main god; Shaktism, in which the female aspect of god is primarily worshipped; and Smartism, in which six main gods are worshipped: Shiva, Vishnu, Shakti, Ganesh, Murugan and Surya. Buddhists acknowledge the existence of gods and goddesses, but give them a subordinate status.
7. For Buddhism, religious texts include the Sutras, Pali canon, and the Tipitaka. For Hinduism, religious texts include the Vedas, Upanishad, Puranas, and Gita.
8. Both practice physical spirituality like meditation, temple worship, and the cultivation of certain states of mind. Yoga is practiced by Hindi peoples for spiritual and physical purposes.
9. Both use sculptures and pictures of gods and goddesses, Buddhas, and other religions icons often. Identifying certain gods and goddesses is difficult because of the very slight differences in art and form. For example, the difference between one god sculpture and another can be as small as what they are holding in their hands. For this reason, it is sometimes difficult to differentiate a Buddhist statue or icon from a Hindu one.
10. Today, Buddhism has over 350 million adherents. Hinduism has over 900 million. Asian cultures have more Hindus and Buddhists than anywhere else, but the religions are found worldwide.

Questions for Discussion/Relation to Standards:

Standard 1: By preaching peace, kindness, and balance, how do Hindus and Buddhist followers deal with conflict? What consequences do they face based on their religious beliefs when they have to deal with it?

Standard 2: What responsibilities do these two religions say we have to our own communities?

Standard 3: How did these two religions shape the societies in which they are most popular?



Standard 4: These old religions offer us a glimpse of life thousands of years ago. How has religion changed? How has it stayed the same?

Standard 5: A peaceful, respectful relationship is important between people in these religions. How has this impacted the Indian Caste system?

Notable artifacts: Marble Buddhas: Mi-lo, the large “laughing Buddha” is portrayed as friendly and benevolent. This particular statue weighs around 2-tons.

You may notice the majority of the white marble Buddhas have traces of paint on them, usually at the bases or in small crevices. We believe they were all brightly colored or gilded at one point in time. These tourist pieces were most likely made for a wealthy person or royalty who used them for decorative and religious pieces. *Please do not allow the students to touch the Buddhas.*

Guardian Dogs: sometimes called Foo Dogs or Chinese guardian lions, were placed at the entrance to temples, homes, palaces, etc., in order to provide protection. In a religious context, they were protectors of Buddha. Like other dogs, these two represent a male and a female. The female has a young cub under her paw and the male has an orb, representing the celestial sphere, under his.

Naga Anataboga: Nagas are half-human, half-serpent creatures or dragon-like beings. The winged deity, with four arms and the body of a serpent, may have originally held or supported some sort of ritual object such as a lamp or finial. This creature is seen in both Hinduism and Buddhism. Nagas are said to dwell in the waters of the underworld, although some may dwell in the upper world. They are generally known as guardians of treasure. In Buddhism, nagas are known as door guardians. In both religions, the nagas could be beneficial, neutral, or hostile toward human beings.

Wooden Garuda and Vishnu statue: Important Hindu gods are associated with animals used as a vehicles or vahanas. In this elaborate wooden statue, the god Vishnu rides his vahana, a bird-like creature called Garuda. Garuda is usually depicted as an eagle-man hybrid and assists Vishnu in surveying his realm. Garuda is also associated with Buddhism as a bird of extreme intelligence. This statue is most likely from Bali.

Thighbone Trumpet: This instrument is a particularly good representation of the mix of religions and cultures that produced Tibetan Buddhism. As a Buddhist symbol, this instrument is meant to be a tool to encourage the believer to overcome his or her fear of death and mortality by making it more familiar and less threatening. It is used by Tibetan shamans and the sound is said to pacify wrathful deities and frighten away evil spirits.

This document was created with Win2PDF available at <http://www.win2pdf.com>.
The unregistered version of Win2PDF is for evaluation or non-commercial use only.
This page will not be added after purchasing Win2PDF.