



Fifth Grade at Westgate Christian Academy

Ancient Civilizations and the Journey to Greatness



Summary

At the fifth grade level the students study the geography and people in the early civilizations that gained power in the Mediterranean area and Asia. Students will study the religions, governments, trade, philosophies, and art of these civilizations as well as the powerful ideas that arose in the ancient world and shaped the course of world history. These ideas include monotheism, democracy, the rule of law, individual worth, personal responsibility, the alphabetic principle for a writing system, and scientific reasoning.

Concept Statements

1. People of great civilizations were committed to key ideas about greatness.
2. Great civilizations are usually identified with great leaders.
3. Great civilizations developed advanced organizations and technology.
4. Greatness is best described in the Bible.
5. Great civilizations left a legacy of literature, music, art, architecture, and ideologies.
6. Great civilizations are studied in history through a variety of methods.
7. Great civilizations explored new lands and expanded their territory.

Thematic Units

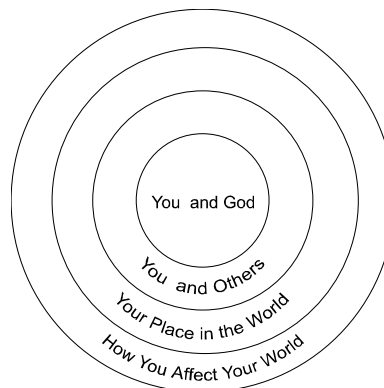
Thematic Units are organized around a particular theme. For the fifth grade this theme is “Ancient Civilizations and the Journey to Greatness.” This theme is then infused into all the basic subjects such as reading and science with hands on exploration. This is based on the idea that children learn best in the context of the “whole,” and when they can connect subjects together with the real world. The culminating unit involves a project that links the units studied to the student’s life. In fifth grade, this unit is “The Journey to Greatness and You.” The thematic units for fifth grade are:

Ancient Egypt	Ancient Greece
Ancient Rome	Middle Ages
Ancient China	Mesopotamia (optional)

The Journey to Greatness and You

The Big Picture

The curriculum can be translated into a visual model that looks like a target. In the center of the target is the child’s relationship with God which is the primary focus. As we move from the center, the child begins to understand how he or she relates to others, how he or she has a place in this world and finally how this world is affected by the child’s actions.



Subject	Curriculum	Projects/Units
History	Ancient Civilizations and the Journey to Greatness	Ancient Egypt Ancient Rome Ancient China (optional) The Journey to Greatness and You Ancient Greece Middle Ages Mesopotamia
Geography	Developed within History	Geography of the Mediterranean area and Asia
Bible	Developed within History	Psalms, Romans, and general epistles
Mathematics	Saxon 54 or 65 (Placement Testing done at beginning of year)	<p><i>Numbers and Operations:</i> Includes comparing and ordering decimals, prime and composite numbers, addition and subtraction of fractions, and percentages</p> <p><i>Patterns, Functions, and Algebra:</i> Includes simplifying expressions, solving for the unknown, and using the coordinate plane</p> <p><i>Geometry, Spatial Sense, and Measurement:</i> Includes identifying radius, diameter, and circumference, using customary and metric units of measurement, and finding perimeter and area</p> <p><i>Data Analysis, Statistics, and Probability:</i> Includes finding the mean, median, mode, and range, and probability of an event</p> <p><i>Representation:</i> Includes organizing information on a chart or table</p> <p><i>Problem Solving and Reasoning:</i> Includes estimation and rounding</p>
Reading	Individual Novel Units	Includes novels such as <i>Golden Goblet</i> , <i>Bronze Bow</i> , and <i>The Shining Sword</i> . Vocabulary and reading comprehension activities are also utilized during the study of the novels
Writing	Write Source 2000 Level 6	<p>Journal Writing Autobiographical Writing Developing a Portfolio Expository Essays Poetry *Grammar is incorporated into the Writer's Express program</p> <p>Friendly Letters Biographical Writing Summaries Research Paper Persuasive Essays</p>
Spelling	Program developed within English	Involves identifying Greek and Latin roots of words and defining words used.
Typing	Mavis Beacon Typing Program	Beginning typing program utilized including posture, key strokes, and drills.
Science	Real Science 5	A course involving life, earth, and physical science with an emphasis on health and the human body.