CHAPTER 1: The Ancient Greek City-States

By 500 BCE, there were dozens of Greek city-states.

Map of Ancient Greece, 500 BCE

**Big Question:** What different forms of government were adopted by various city-states?
Chapter 2: Athens

Big Question: In what ways was Athenian democracy limited?
CHAPTER 2: Athens

The tales contained in the epic poems the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey* are said to have been created by the Greek poet Homer, around the 700s BCE.

**Big Question:** In what ways was Athenian democracy limited?
The city-state of Sparta emphasized highly disciplined military training.

**Big Question:** Why were Spartan children, especially boys, treated so harshly?
The Olympic Games began as a festival honoring the god Zeus. In 776 BCE, a footrace was added, followed by other competitions in later years.

**Big Question:** What were the Olympic Games?
The Spartans joined the Athenians to defeat the Persians in battles at Thermopylae (480 BCE), Salamis (480 BCE), and Plataea (479 BCE).

**Big Question:** Why do you think the Spartans and the Athenians joined together to fight the Persians in the later battles of the Persian Wars?
Under Pericles’s leadership, the Parthenon was built as part of the Acropolis on a hill in Athens to honor the goddess Athena. Construction lasted from 447 BCE to 438 BCE.

**Big Question:** What were some of the cultural achievements during the Golden Age of Athens?
Sparta and Athens battled one another for more than twenty-five years during the Peloponnesian War, from 431–404 BCE.

**Big Question:** What events brought about an end to the Golden Age of Athens?
Socrates, found guilty of misleading the young men of Athens, was sentenced to death in 399 BCE.

**Big Question:** How was Socrates different from earlier Greek philosophers?
The writings of Plato and his student, Aristotle, are still read and studied today.

**Big Question:** What role did philosophers play in ancient Greece, and what were their long-term contributions?
CHAPTER 10: Alexander and the Hellenistic Period

This famous painting of the Battle of Issus by the German artist Albrecht Altdorfer shows Alexander the Great’s victory in battle over the Persians in 333 BCE.

**Big Question:** How did the success of Alexander the Great as a great military leader contribute to the expansion and influence of Greek culture?
Greek culture spread during the Hellenistic Period after Alexander’s death, as evidenced by the library in Alexandria, founded in 288 BCE.

**Big Question:** How did the success of Alexander the Great as a great military leader contribute to the expansion and influence of Greek culture?
Around 400 BCE, Rome consisted of a few thousand farmers living beside the Tiber River.

**Big Question:** Why was the success of Rome and its lands dependent on the success of the Roman army?
The Roman army conquered all of Italy. By 275 BCE, the city of Rome governed all of Italy.

**Big Question:** Why was the success of Rome and its lands dependent on the success of the Roman army?
CHAPTER 12: The Punic Wars

In the First Punic War, Rome prevented Carthage from taking over Sicily.

**Big Question:** What were the Punic Wars, and what was the end result?
During the Second Punic War (218–201 BCE), Hannibal and his army crossed the Alps into Italy but were defeated by the Romans.

**Big Question:** What were the Punic Wars, and what was the end result?
In the Third Punic War, from 149–146 BCE, the Roman army destroyed the city of Carthage and enslaved the survivors.

Big Question: What were the Punic Wars, and what was the end result?
CHAPTER 13: Julius Caesar: A Great Roman

From 58–51 BCE, Julius Caesar led the Roman armies in conquering Gaul, the area we now know as France.

**Big Question:** How would you describe the character of Julius Caesar, and what brought about his fall from power?
CHAPTER 13: Julius Caesar: A Great Roman

After Caesar crossed the Rubicon in 49 BCE, civil war broke out, with Caesar fighting his former ally, Pompey.

Big Question: How would you describe the character of Julius Caesar, and what brought about his fall from power?
Although Caesar had the Roman Senate make him dictator for life, he had many enemies and was assassinated in 44 BCE.

Big Question: How would you describe the character of Julius Caesar, and what brought about his fall from power?
Octavian, who became known as Caesar Augustus, became the first Roman emperor in 27 BCE.

**Big Question:** Why might Augustus have wanted to glorify Rome?
CHAPTER 15: Rome and Christianity

Christians were killed by wild animals or were forced to fight for their lives.

**Big Question:** Why was the growth of Christianity originally considered a threat to the Roman Empire?
Roman emperor Constantine converted to Christianity and declared Christianity a legal religion in Rome.

**Big Question:** Why was the growth of Christianity originally considered a threat to the Roman Empire?
CHAPTER 16: The Fall of the Roman Empire

The Visigoths attacked and plundered Rome.

**Big Question:** What caused the decline and fall of the western Roman Empire?