

AP THEMES INTRODUCTION

Preparation

- Download “Barkus Aurelius and the Canines”
- Download “Peter the Pup and the Canine Kingdom”

Purpose

This activity uses a fun fable to introduce you to the AP themes that you’ll focus on in later units. By using the story as a mnemonic device (a mnemonic device is a strategy that helps you remember something), you’ll be able to recall the meaning of the themes, which will prepare you to address them throughout the course, and ultimately on the AP® World History: Modern exam.

Process

In this activity, you’re introduced to the themes you’ll explore throughout the course. After reading a fun story that incorporates each of the themes, you’ll identify each one within the story.

Your teacher will kick things off by reading either “Barkus Aurelius and the Canines” or “Peter the Pup and the Canine Kingdom” to you (or will ask you to read one of the stories individually). There are six themes hidden in the story, and along with your class, you’re going to find them all. These six themes are the ones used in the AP® World History: Modern course. They’re designed to help you make connections among historical developments throughout time. The history of the world is no small thing, and these themes help us focus on aspects of this vast history.

Take out the AP Themes PIECES chart and review each theme with your class. As you go, try to come up with examples from the story that connect to each theme. Fill out the AP Themes Intro worksheet so you have examples to reference as needed.

AP THEMES INTRODUCTION

Name:

Date:

Directions: Provide an example for each category from the story you read.

Theme	Example
P olitical: Governance, leadership, order	
I nnovation: Technology, agriculture, human development	
E nvironment: Humans and their relationship to the environment	
C ulture: Cultural developments and interactions, ideas, beliefs	
E conomy: Ways humans produce, exchange, and distribute goods and services	
S ocial: Social interactions and organization, how societies form groups, hierarchies	

“PIECES” Themes Chart

THEMES		UNIT 1	UNIT 2	UNIT 3	UNIT 4	UNIT 5	UNIT 6	UNIT 7	UNIT 8	UNIT 9
P	P olitical – governance, leadership, order	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
I	I nnovation – technology, agriculture, human development	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓		✓
E	E nvironment – humans and their relationship with the environment		✓		✓	✓	✓			✓
C	C ulture – cultural developments and interactions, ideas, beliefs	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
E	E conomy – ways humans produce, exchange, and distribute goods and services	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
S	S ocial – social interactions and organization, how societies form groups, hierarchies	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓