

Scaffolding Big Ideas in Global History and Geography

Ancient Cities

Topic Other notes

6. Some consequences of the big idea

Empires started at specific latitudes.

Trade routes connected specific parts of the world.

1. The Big Idea
What, where, when, and so what?

The geographic pattern of cities reveals a lot about the people who built them. (e.g., They wanted to live in a mild climate.)

2. Geographic generalizations that add up to the big idea

The ancient cities "fill" a tiny fraction of the earth surface.

The ancient cities have a spatial pattern - a fairly thin line.

The ancient cities are between the cold and very hot areas.

Upon closer examination, the cities are all associated with rivers or seacoasts.

5. Mode of spatial thinking

Region

Pattern

Transition

3. Thematic map that supports the generaliation

Symbols show locations of cities at a given time.

Latitude lines help us describe the pattern.

Colors show areas with low or high average temperatures.

Different modes of spatial reasoning

4. Map skills needed to read the map

Draw a line around a region of cities.

Identify the orientation of a line pattern.

Making/interpreting a shaded-area map