These cards are for potential essay questions that haven’t yet been on our exams. Lists of things, and/or things TestPrep specifically said could be on exam.

They have slide numbers on them that match with the information on the World and US History PowerPoint.

Also useful to put them in the correct chronological order.
Why did Civilizations arise along rivers?

Slide 4

Why did Civilizations arise along rivers? FARMING: Rivers provided water for farming. 1) people stayed in 1 place rather than being Hunters and Gatherers that moved around to find food. They had time to build large structures such as Great Wall of China and pyramids of Egypt. 2) It allowed for specialization. When they were Hunter Gatherers, everyone was involved in obtaining food. One farm family (agrarian based) could feed 20 other families, so the others could be blacksmiths, artists, government leaders. Transition from being Hunter Gatherers to Farming is called the Neolithic Revolution. It happened separately in Mesopotamia, Egypt, China, India.
Three 3 important religions of China:

- **Buddhism** – emphasized middle path and release of all cares as a route to Nirvana. Path thru life of self denial, live simple basic life, avoid excess. Created by prince lived in palace until 17th birthday. Went to see world and saw poverty and suffering. To overcome suffering. Sat under bodi tree and received enlightenment. Means enlightened one. Release all worldly cares to transcend suffering. Achieve perfect bliss, nirvana. Rotund associated with wealthy and prosperity. Early was not rotund.

- **Taoism** (or Daoism, same thing), emphasize natural way of living and connectedness to universe. Lao Tsu was famous teacher in China. Everything in universe is connected to earth, land, nature, like Thoreau. Was going to leave China. Stopped at border. Could not leave until he wrote book about beliefs. Douda ching – short collection of poems about how to live life. Basis of Taoism.

- **Confucianism** social doctrine taught by Confucious. Foundation of Chinese culture and politics. Importance of people's roles in society. Relationship of father to son. Older friend to younger friend. Ruler to ruled. Each a person of learning who was to show respect to teacher or mentor. Other person to care for learner. Roles of people in society. If ruler didn’t care for subjects, they had a right to overthrow him. Reciprocity Golden Rule. Do unto others as would have them do unto you.
Discuss the religion (or mythology) of Ancient Greece.

(Video said this could be an essay question)

Slide 28

Video said there could be an essay question on mythology. If so, mention several different gods by name to show depth of knowledge.

The Greeks religion was polytheistic (they believed in many gods). This was the basis of Greek Mythology. Olympian gods lived on Mount Olympus. Before the Olympian gods, the earth was ruled by gods called Titans. Titans were defeated by the Olympian gods and that was followed by the high era of ancient Greece. Zeus (seated on throne) was king of the gods. He was god of thunder and lightning. His son and daughter were Apollo and Athena (goddess of wisdom). Aphrodite was goddess of love. Hades (god of the underworld), Ares was the god of war. Gods symbolized different aspects of life and natural phenomena. Gods were petty and human. Fought with each other and made deals behind each other’s backs.
Greek's valued learning. They had famous philosophers: Socrates, Plato, Aristotle.

Socrates was the teacher of Plato. Plato taught Aristotle. Aristotle taught Alexander the Great.

Socrates idea was the “dialectics” that you can arrive at truth by debating different viewpoints.

Plato gave us the idea of “forms.” There is a perfect form for each thing. To understand a thing you have to understand how it compares to the perfect form.

Aristotle gave us the “poetics”. This was how to write a play that still influences writing today. Also the idea of the final cause. To understand something you have to understand what it was intended for, what its final purpose was.
One of important influences of Hinduism on Indian society is that it led to the caste system. The caste system is a very rigid social structure that divided the population into 4 distinct castes believed to have emerged from the varnas or arms of the underlying god force Purusha.

These 4 castes are: 1) Brahman caste at the top was made up of teachers and priests (also called clerics),

2) Next caste down was the rulers and the warriors.

3) below that were merchants (transacted business) and artisans (crafts).

4) Peasants.

Another group of people were born outside of the 4 castes and were ostracized (not welcome in society). These people were considered outcasts. Also called pariahs’ or untouchables. These people were either born to people who were not part of a caste, or were people who were thrown out of a caste because they committed a crime or did something objectionable to society. Only 2 jobs untouchables could have: 1) work in sanitation system, 2) handle the dead. Both were dirty, demeaning jobs.
Discuss why the Mongols were able to conquer a large area of Asia in the 1200s AD

Two reasons they were able to conquer this large area: 1) Advanced military technology that made them very effective warriors, they fired a bow and arrow from horseback. Mounted cavalry with bow and arrow. 2) The way they governed the regions they conquered. Instead of installing their own governments, which would be expensive and difficult, they let the existing rulers continue to rule if they acknowledged authority of the Mongols, and paid tribute (a significant tax). The tax funded the continued military campaigns of the Mongols.
Name and discuss 4 basic economic systems.

Capitalism is a Laissez Faire System that means non-interference. The idea is that the government has minimal involvement in the economy. The economy will regulate itself based on competition and on the laws of supply and demand. If there is a demand for something, people will start to produce it and compete in its production. Who ever satisfies the demand the best, they will be more successful. Price will come about based on the intersection of supply and demand. If you have a high supply of something, that price will go down. If something is scarce, that price will go up. Likewise, if there is not much demand, the price goes down. If there is high demand, the price goes up. Price point is created where people are both willing to sell and buy. According to Capitalism, we shouldn’t interfere in that. We should let the process happen naturally and freely and have a free market.

Socialism is a social and economic system characterized by social ownership of the means of production and co-operative management of the economy.

Communism is a socioeconomic system structured upon the common ownership of the means of production and characterized by the absence of social classes, money, and the state.

Fascism - a governmental system led by a dictator having complete power, forcibly suppressing opposition and criticism, regimenting all industry, commerce, etc., and emphasizing an aggressive nationalism and often racism.

Slide 62
Name and discuss the regional identities of the 13 British colonies that would become the United States.

Three Major Regions:

New England Colonies to the North which economically were founded in ship building and commerce.

The Middle Colonies which had farming and commerce and grew a lot of food crops.

Southern Colonies grew a lot of cash crops. Tobacco, cotton, indigo. Were sold for profit rather than to eat.
Five Reasons for War of Independence:

1) Tariffs which are taxes on imports coming into the colonies. For example, the Stamp Act taxed printed matter like newspapers. Townsend Acts taxed different goods including tea. Later the Townsend Act was repealed except for the tax on tea. Colonists continued to protest this particular tariff. At Boston Tea Party, they took the taxed tea and dumped it into the Boston Harbor as a protest.

2) Lack of representation: “No taxation without representation” was their slogan. If had to pay tariffs they should have representation in Parliament (the British government).

3) Quartering of British soldiers. Initially quartered because of British expansion as a result of the French and Indian War. They needed to house troops to manage territories. They made the colonists let troops live in their houses.

4) Boston Massacre: Later they sent more troops because the colonists were starting to rebel against the British. In particular they sent troops to New York and to Boston. In Boston, the citizens taunted the troops that then fired on the citizens. Three were killed initially, and wounded 8 others, two died later. Engraving of Boston Massacre by Paul Revere. Because British soldiers had killed Americans, the Americans became very angry.

5) Intolerable Acts: To punish the colonists, the British passed what colonists called the Intolerable Acts. They closed the port of Boston, they increased power to the British Royal Governor of Massachusetts, they expanded requirement for colonists to house and feed soldiers. Fed fires of discontent. Led to Declaration of Independence.
Name and discuss the significance of two battles of the War for Independence.

Slide 78

Two most important battles were Battle of Saratoga and the Battle of Yorktown.

1) Battle of Saratoga was important because the patriots won a victory against the British that convinced the French that the patriots could win. The French wanted to fight with the patriots in order to weaken the British but wanted first to know that the patriots could win. When the patriots won the Battle of Saratoga, the French put economic support behind the patriots and to give them weapons. Historians think that without French aid the patriots might not have won the war.

2) The Battle of Yorktown was where the patriots won a decisive victory that essentially ensured their victory in the war. After this the British surrendered. This victory led to colonies becoming United States of America.
Discuss the need for the Articles of Confederation.

Slide 80

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Articles of Confederation came before the US Constitution.</th>
<th>Confederation means a grouping together of states that used to be the British colonies. Joined together in a loose grouping to fight off the British.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>To do this needed to settle three main issues: 1) Raising an army. Needed to be able to raise and army from among all the states to fight together.</td>
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<td>2) Needed to fund the war effort by printing and borrowing money. Needed a common currency and to collectively borrow money from other countries.</td>
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<td>3) Needed to resolve territorial disputes. Who would get different regions to the west, where would the borders be between the states. Print and borrow money, raise an army, settle territorial disputes. It was a limited document.</td>
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<td>Later looked at having a stronger governing document and this is when they wrote the US Constitution. Has been amended to make different changes. First 10 amendments to the constitution focus on protecting citizens freedoms and rights and are called the Bill of Rights. Want to be familiar with basic system of US government.</td>
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Three Branches to US Government: Legislative, Executive, Judicial

Purpose of Legislative Branch is to make the laws. Legislative Branch is comprised of Congress. Congress is a bicameral (good term to know for exam) legislature. Bicameral means having two houses. Unicameral would be 1 house. We have bicameral because there was conflict between more populous and less populous states. Populous states wanted legislature based on population. Smaller states like Rhode Island wanted each state to have a set number of representatives. Each arguing for what would be best for them. Compromise was they did both. In House of Representatives, representation is based on population. Senate is based on two Senators from each state.

Executive branch is the President and his cabinet. Purpose is to enforce the laws.

The Judicial Branch is the Supreme Court and all the lower courts. Purpose is to interpret the laws.

Sovereignty is an important word, it means the authority of a state to govern itself or another state.
Describe the US government’s System of Checks and Balances.

Slide 81

The Founding Fathers had the idea they didn’t want one branch of the government to become too powerful, so they developed a System of Checks and Balances where each branch has a check on the power of the other so that neither can become too strong.

President’s check is the veto against the Legislature’s power. House and Senate pass a bill with a 50% majority, and it then goes to the President. If President signs it, it becomes law. If he doesn’t sign it, he can veto it. If it is vetoed, it goes back and needs a 2/3rd majority to override the President’s veto.

Legislature check over Executive is they can impeach him.

Executive check over judicial is he appoints the judges

If the Legislature doesn’t like someone the President appoints to the Supreme Court, they can decline that nomination.

Legislature check over Judicial is they ratify the appointments.

Judicial check over Executive and Legislature is that if Legislature passes a bill that the President signs into law, they can declare it is not constitutional and throw it out.

Power to declare laws unconstitutional was set up in a Supreme Court decision called Marbury vs Madison. Set up Judicial Power. It is the ability for the Supreme Court to declare a law unconstitutional.
Discuss the causes of the Civil War.

The Civil War stemmed from the South’s resistance to the North’s abolitionist movement. As this movement grew stronger, the South feared the North would abolish slavery in the South. Abolitionists were the people that wanted to abolish (do away with) slavery.

Several things accelerated this: 1) California being admitted to the union as a free state. That shifted a lot of power in Congress towards the abolitionist movement. Compromise of 1850 arose over California coming into the union as a free state. California had lots of people living in it. Over 380,000 people, so it would bring with it many members of the House of Representatives that would give power to the abolitionists. Compromise was that California would be a free state, but when New Mexico and Utah came in they would have a choice about which to be. Also there would be strict laws to capture runaway slaves.

2) The election of President Lincoln who was viewed as an abolitionist president. Election of Abraham Lincoln further inflamed the nation. Initially Lincoln was not strongly abolitionist but his party was and so he grew more abolitionist over time. By the time he was elected, the south felt he would try to end slavery and that pushed the south further towards wanting to secede from the union.
On the exam often ask about important battles of the Civil War, and about strategic aspects and strengths and weaknesses of the North and South.

The North had most of the advantages. 1) Larger population, 2) More developed manufacturing base, so they could produce weapons and good more effectively, 3) More developed transportation network. When war began in 1861, the north had 3 times the amount of railroad tracks as the south.

South advantage was military leadership. They had much more experienced and tactical military leaders. Generals Robert E. Lee and Stonewall Jackson. Because of that experience, the Civil War lasted 4 years, from 1861 to 1865. Based on north advantages it should have only lasted 2 years. But the south made strong tactical maneuvers and the north made blunders.
Name and discuss 5 major battles of the Civil War.

More than 1000 battle in the Civil War.
Five critical battles: 1) **Battle of Fort Sumter** – Not a huge battle, but the first battle. Southern General Beauregard fired on federal fort in Charleston Harbor to start the war. North were so confident they would win that people came out with picnics to watch the battle. The South overran a lot of this region and northerners had to run away.

2) **Battle of Antietum** was the single bloodiest battle of the war in terms of loss of life and injuries. First major attempt by south to surge into the north, under General Robert E. Lee. Northern General McClellan stopped the surge and defeated Robert E. Lee.

3) **Chancellorsville** was a major win for the south. The southern forces defeated General Hooker’s Army of the Potomac which was one of the major northern armies. Defeated by Robert E. Lee. But in this battle a famous southern general Stonewall Jackson was killed. He was charismatic and kind of crazy. He would ride into battle holding his finger up because he thought it was lucky. He was riding back from the battle and his own troops thought he was the enemy and shot him. An emotional loss for the south.

4) **Gettysburg** the most famous battle. It was the second major surge of the south into the north. Again the attempt was thwarted. Pickett’s charge failed and turned the tide and Lee’s forces lose to the northern forces commanded by General Meade. At this point the south is very depleted. The beginning of the end.

5) **Appomattox** was the last major battle. At Appomattox Courthouse Lee’s forces get surrounded by the northern forces and Robert E. Lee surrenders.