

# **GRAPES: The Big Ideas of Social Studies**

## **Geography:** *How climate and landscape affect lifestyle*

- What were some of the key geographical features or landforms in this area?
- What resources were available for clothing, building and trade?
- Was the civilization isolated, or was it open to cultural exchange or invasion?
- How were people affected by the environment, and how did they shape the environment?

## **Religion:** *Society's beliefs about morals and the afterlife*

- What were the rules people believed they should live by?
- What factors contributed to the development of this religion or belief system?
- How did these religious ideas affect different aspects of daily life?

## **Achievements** *The lasting works of a society*

- What things were created to last?
- What was the significance of these achievements?
- Which ideas, if any, still affect our lives today?

## **Political System:** *Who runs a society, and how do they do it?*

- Who had power, and how was it used?
- How did those with power keep it or lose it?
- How are the political structures of today similar or different from those of this civilization?

## **Economics:** *How a society uses its scarce resources*

- What were the most valuable resources in the society?
- How were those resources distributed? (What type of economic system was in place?)
- What were the key products that this civilization created, grew, or traded?
- To what extent was the economy local? Global?

## **Social Structure:** *The different levels or classes in a society*

- Who were the "most important" people in the society? What did they do?
- Who was at the bottom of the heap? Why?