

HISTORY NORLD INTWO HOURS

istory of the World in Two Hours gives viewers a rapid-fire history of our world, from the Big Bang to the world as we know it today. This program gives students a framework for understanding major transformations in the history of the universe through a "big picture" chronology that traces key turning points in the development of our planet. By providing a framework for the history of the universe, this special presentation allows students to put historical eras and changes into a broader context through compelling visuals and engaging explanations. From basic concepts such as the interaction of matter and energy to specific historical changes that took place during the Stone Age, the Industrial Revolution and in modern world history, this program helps students make connections between the past and present. From the role of hydrogen in our universe through the rise of the urban metropolis, this program provides an exciting way to explore interactions between humans and the natural world over the course of time. Teachers may want to use segments from this program as a visual companion to course units and lectures on a range of world history topics.



Curriculum Links

This program would be useful for World History, Global Studies, Social Studies and Earth Sciences courses. It is appropriate for seventh-grade students and above.

Terms to Define

Ask students to define the terms below before or after watching this program. They can also write down a list of their own words to define while watching this documentary.

- Cargo
- Convergence
- Dispersal
- Geography
- Gravitational Pull
- Hierarchy

- Hominid
- Innovation
- Logistics
- Nummulite
- Silicone
- Simultaneous

Learn more at HISTORY.com/classroom





Discussion Questions

1. What role does hydrogen play in the universe? Why is it such an important element?

2. What processes take place inside stars? When did stars first appear in our universe?

3. Which six elements combine to make DNA and human life?

4. When do scientists in this documentary say life on Earth first appeared?

5. What was the Cambrian explosion?

6. What are some of the reasons dinosaurs became extinct, and what was the result for humankind?

7. How did the ability to sustain fire help humans thrive?

8. Why were donkey caravans so important?

9. What is the concept of "dispersal" explained in this documentary?

10. What effect did the first Ice Age have on our planet?

11. What were some of the consequences of the mass production of sugar as a commodity?

12. What were the most important developments of the 20th century?

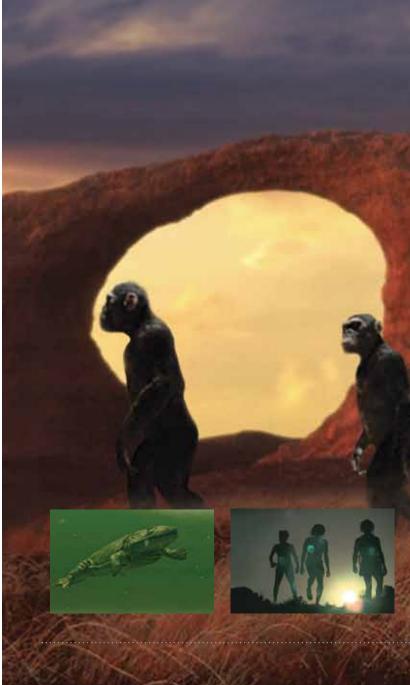


Viewing Chart

During or after viewing this program, ask students to fill out the chart below, which will help provide a broad context for their world history studies. Dates do not need to be exact. Students can also fill out these charts in small groups and discuss together.

Key Event	When did this change take place?	What was the result?
"Big Bang"		
Stars Are Formed		
Dinosaurs Become Extinct		
Early Humans Walk on Two Feet		
Humans Start to Use Tools		
Humans Use Fire		
Humans Expand to Europe		
Major Rivers Emerge		
Humans Start to Plant Seeds		
Humans Domesticate Animals		
First Cities Emerge		
Humans Form Armies and Governments		
Humans Trade Goods and Form Networks		
Humans Cross the Bering Land Bridge		
Empires Emerge		
Monotheism Spreads		
Humans Develop Gunpowder/Guns		
Age of Exploration		
Columbus Explores the New World		
The Industrial Revolution		
Combustion Engines and Electricity Are Developed		
Automobiles Are Mass Produced		
Modern Warfare Develops		
World Population Explodes to 7 Billion		

EVERYTHING IS CONNECTED AND THE PATH LEADS TO YOU



Additional Activities

1. The Top Ten. This program explores many key turning points in the history of the universe. Ask students to create a "Top Ten" list of the most important transformations or inventions in the history of the universe. Students can present these lists in bullet point, essay, or PowerPoint format, and should discuss their choices with the larger class or group.

2. Turning Points. This program explores many key turning points in the development of our universe. Ask students to choose one of these turning points (example: domestication of animals) and write a short essay about the importance of this transformation in world history.

3. Charting Time. Working in small groups, ask students to create an illustrated timeline of major events in world history, from the Big Bang through today. These timelines can be in PowerPoint format, in bullet-point form, on posters, or another format.

Additional Resources

Websites

Learn more about the history of the universe on History.com: www.history.com/shows/the-universe

Learn more about Big History: www.bighistoryproject.com/

View a related lecture by David Christian: www.ted.com/talks/david_christian_big_history.html

Primary sources from the Internet History Sourcebooks Project: www.fordham.edu/halsall/

Books

Brown, Cynthia Stokes. *Big History: From the Big Bang to the Present*. (New Press, 2008).

Christian, David. *Maps of Time: An Introduction to Big History.* (University of California Press, 2005).

Diamond, Jared. *Collapse: How Societies Choose to Fail or Succeed*. (Penguin, 2011).

Hakim, Joy. *The Story of Science: Aristotle Leads the Way.* (Smithsonian, 2004).



The Idea Book for Educators 21