## Organizing a Geography/History Class - Regions, Topics, or ???

Here is a question that administrators, assessors, and textbook authors think is very important:

Should a geography/history class be organized regionally (one world area at a time) or topically (an outline of big ideas)?

Successful teachers of geography/history classes, however, rarely think that this question matters much. Here's why:

If you organize a class topically, you need "vignettes" (regional examples) to make the abstract topics seem "real."

If you organize a class regionally, you need "theory boxes" (topical explanations) to keep it from being rote memorization.

Bottom line - teachers should think of a class as a matrix. Checkmarks can identify the conceptual ideas that are most important to help us understand a given region, and/or the world regions where particular concepts are especially easy to teach.

## North Australia South Whole Southwest Russia China South **GLCE** Topics C Asia East Asia Europe Asia World America Oceania America Africa Asia Read to identify when, where, cause, consequence (7H1.2) Use historic/geographic perspectives to study issues (7H1.2) Trace spread of early human population (7W1.1) Explain importance of environment in hunting, farming (7W1.2) Locate river civilizations; contrast two early civillizations (7W2.1) Analyze population growth, resources, sustainability (7G6.1) Define cultural diffusion and provide examples (7W2.1.5) Describe origin and spread of major empires (7W3.1.1-5) Describe trade networks in the classical era (7W3.1.6-7) Compare and contrast Mayan/Inca/Aztec (7W3.1.12-14) Describe origin and spread of 6 world religions (7W3.2, 7W4.2) Explain collapse of ancient empires (7W3.1.8-10, 7W4.1) Describe citizen's roles, how nation-states interact (7C1.1, 3.6) Identify factors that promote conflict or cooperation (7G4.4) Explain impact of laws and treaties through history (7C4.3) Describe interdependence, compare economic systems (7E3.1-3)

## Mark the world region where you would teach about each GLCE topic: