INTRODUCTION

Mankind The Story of All of Us™ is an epic 12-hour series that tells the story of humanity for a new generation of viewers. At the heart of this series is the story of how humans have used our defining powers to learn, innovate and adapt, from the birth of our planet through today. How did Mankind overcome the possibility of extinction, growing from just a few thousand people to the billions in our world today? The series covers major world history milestones including the Ice Age, the advent of farming, the growth of cities, nations and empires, the rise of trade networks, the Industrial Revolution, major wars, disease and modern medicine, technology, space travel and more.

This series provides an exciting new way for students to learn about our world. This series interweaves history with science, allowing students to see how human actions have been shaped by the natural world and the ways humans have harnessed the resources of our planet to achieve progress. Critical turning points and advances are explained through a series of “keys” that humans have used to advance forward. These keys provide a road map for understanding the history of our world, and how we became the people we are today. Highly ambitious in scale and with cutting-edge CGI – this is the story of all of us.

CURRICULUM LINKS

Mankind The Story of All of Us is an excellent companion for global history, world history, social studies and science and technology courses. It is recommended for sixth grade students and above. Due to some intense content, we recommend that teachers and parents watch this program before recommending it to younger students. Note: Visit www.history.com/classroom each week for individual episode guides for this series.

TERMS TO DEFINE

As they are watching, ask students to keep a list of terms from each episode to define. There are also suggested terms to define in the episode section of this guide. Students can find definitions for these terms, using the dictionary or another source. These terms help students understand some of the concepts explored in this series.
KEYS TO HISTORY

From the first uses of fire to the development of the alphabet, humans have discovered and created important tools for survival and advancement. Each episode in this series traces these keys, which are found in surprising places:

THEY ARE IN THE PLANET ITSELF: Humans have learned how to navigate oceans, use tools to create monuments and have mastered the use of silver, bronze and other materials.

THEY ARE IN OUR BODIES: Humans have learned how to fight disease and use medical technology to save lives.

THEY ARE IN THINGS WE USE EVERY DAY: Pepper, salt, sugar, ice and other commodities have been cultivated and exchanged through trade networks, enriching our lives and fueling economies.

THEY ARE IN MONUMENTS AND STRUCTURES STILL LEFT ON EARTH: We have created stunning structures such as the Pyramids, the Great Wall and World Heritage Sites throughout the world.

THEY ARE DEEP IN THE UNIVERSE: Humans have learned how to use the Earth’s natural resources to harness energy and power machines.

THEY ARE IN THE SECRETS OF HOW THINGS WORK: We have worked to develop increasingly complex forms of technology and build infrastructure including highways and rail systems.
EPISODE 1: INVENTORS
On an extraordinary planet, an extraordinary species emerges. Liquid water and fire, known to exist only on Earth, allow mankind to thrive. Threatened by extinction, we use our defining powers to innovate. Farming is invented, animals are domesticated, small towns and cities emerge and networks of trade and communication blossom. The written word enables new advances in technology and engineering, including stunning structures and monuments such as the Pyramids and Stonehenge. Yet disease and warfare also emerge, creating enormous challenges even as the population continues to grow.

Keys Include: Fire, Water, Domestication of Animals, Farming, Writing, Trade
Terms to define: agriculture, domesticate, entrepreneur, fertile, flourish, olfactory, stereoscopic, dexterous, micro-climate

EPISODE 2: IRON MEN
Rogue pirates plunder the Mediterranean coast, signaling on-going conflict between newly emerging societies. But the discovery of iron and its incredible uses helps mankind create new ways of life. Armed with metal tools, humans construct new societies and amazing vessels. Early forms of government, including democracy in Athens, help guide us. Humans develop monotheistic religions including Judaism, Christianity and Islam. People power shapes the world, as warfare continues to divide us.

Keys Include: Alphabet, Iron, Democracy, Monotheism, Ship building
Terms to define: city-state, coagulate, democracy, progress, magnetic field, nomadic, self-determination, tyranny, phalanx, immortal, cosmopolitan

EPISODE 3: EMPIRES
Huge engineering projects help spark intricate cities that transform the lives of millions of people. The spread of Christianity and other religions reveals the increasing interconnectedness of mankind. The greatest mega-city on earth, Rome, becomes an engine of expansion while China builds an empire on the other side of the world. A vast network of roads and shipping lanes allows goods and ideas to flow across three continents. Mankind is connected like never before—this is the birth of globalization.

Keys Include: Roads, Concrete, Trade, Silk, Communication
Terms to define: allegiance, amphibious, conquest, convert, dissident, imperial, merchant, provincial
**EPISODE 4: WARRIORS**
By the 5th century AD the Roman Empire disintegrates, leaving a power vacuum in Europe. Barbarians destroy towns and cities; Europe has entered the Dark Ages. But elsewhere in the world, humans achieve progress. In the Arabian dessert, the discovery of gold helps ignite new innovations in engineering and technology. Vikings open up new links. Mankind continues to clash in wars over religion and territory.

**Keys Include:** Gold, Astronomy, Viking Longship

**Terms to define:** abundant, apocalyptic, ecological, metropolis, remnant, repudiate, revert, stealth, vanguard

**EPISODE 5: THE PLAGUE**
Mankind has made incredible strides. The Inca Empire rises in the Americas. Led by Genghis Khan, the Mongols use novel military strategies to conquer vast lands. But humans are also severely tested by one of the deadliest diseases the world has known—the Plague. Mankind is ravaged by this disease in Europe and parts of Asia. In the Americas, new farming techniques and the use of maize help propel mankind forward. Amazing monuments such as Machu Picchu showcase mankind’s architectural advances.

**Keys Include Solar Flares/Climate Change, Communication, Bacteria, Maize**

**Terms to define:** biological warfare, cavalry, cultivate, infinite, ultimatum, micro-organisms, pandemic, vulnerable

**EPISODE 6: SURVIVORS**
Gold and salt in Africa lead to a vibrant trade between continents. Europe is reborn. Money flows into Venice creating new opportunities for entrepreneurs willing to take risks. In China, a new weapon – the gun allows a peasant uprising to unify the country. Chinese innovations inspire Europe, leading to the printing press. Millions of books are printed, one of which will inspire a journey to the New World. Armed with new ideas and technologies, Europeans set their sights on conquering new lands.

**Keys Include Printing Press, Salt, Gunpowder, Gold**

**Terms to define:** analogy, aristocrat, capitalism, commodity, elixir, industrial, nomad, prototype, renaissance
EPISODE 7: NEW WORLD
The Americas develop rapidly as the Aztecs build the biggest city on the planet. On the other side of the world, a Turkish sultan uses cannons to conquer Constantinople. The East feeds Europe with spices; explorers are driven to find new commodities and new lands. Columbus, Cortez and others reach the Americas, starting a battle for that continent. The consequences are dire for indigenous peoples.

Keys Include: Cannons, Maize, Pepper, Compasses, Ocean Gyres
Terms to define: abundance, artillery, compulsory, conquistadores, ecosystem, empire, gyre, immunity, obsidian, sovereignty

EPISODE 8: TREASURE
Silver flows out of the mines of the Americas, helping spur new empires and global links. The growth of trade doesn’t just include products, it includes people. The brutal trans-Atlantic slave trade becomes an enormous human trafficking system, leading to enslavement of tens of millions of Africans. Pilgrims, searching for religious freedom, travel to the New World. Mankind is becoming increasingly connected, with transformative consequences.

Keys Include: Silver, Trade, Slavery
Terms to define: catalyst, commodity, cultivate, encroachment, galleon, helm, iconic, incapacitated, pilgrim, reprisal

EPISODE 9: PIONEERS
Mankind continues to advance technologically, learning how to master nature. In North America, Siberia and Australia, ancient traditions are swept away in the name of trade, commerce and science. Within a hundred years, the irrational fear that produced a witch trial in Salem gives way to a very rational cry for freedom. American revolutionaries confront a mighty empire. The battle for the modern world begins.

Keys Include: Fur, Electricity, Lumber
Terms to define: aboriginal, botany, commerce, dialect, maritime, organism, palpable, superstition
EPISODE 10: REVOLUTIONS

The thirst for freedom, equality and political liberty drives the Age of Revolutions. Mechanization of cloth and harnessing of coal fuels the Industrial Revolution. Cholera and other diseases devastate many nations, but mankind responds by developing clean water systems and new medical procedures. British control of the opium trade in China proves just how connected the world has become. Civil War rages in the United States. The struggle for equal rights and citizenship continues in places throughout the globe.

**Keys Include:** Coal, Railroads, Modern Medicine, Factory

**Terms to define:** agrarian, capitalism, colonial, consecrate, consumer, demographic, hinterland, profound, regime, seismic, tycoon, virulent

EPISODE 11: SPEED

Mankind mobilizes toward modernity. In places like Japan, ancient traditions merge with newfound technologies. Some nations emerge as superpowers, amassing military might. From steamships such as the Titanic to skyscrapers like the Empire State Building, humans create infrastructure and vast communications networks. But progress has its dark side. The demand for rubber devastates Africa; warfare and poverty continue to threaten human survival and longevity.

**Keys Include:** Steel, Migration, Rubber, Skyscrapers

**Terms to define:** apocalyptic, colonial, liberating, mass production, reformer, rivets, tenement, micro-organisms

EPISODE 12: OBLIVION OR ETERNITY

Mankind builds increasingly complex systems, feeding billions of people, reshaping the landscape and re-engineering the human body. Modern food cultivation enables population explosions while uranium enables incredible destruction. Mankind travels to the moon and performs heart transplants. Globally, people continue to struggle for civil rights, equality and peace. 100,000 years ago there were a few thousand hunter-gatherers on the African savannas. Today there are 7 billion of us in every corner of the globe.

**Keys Include:** Uranium, DNA, Vaccination, Nitrogen, Space Travel

**Terms to define:** ravage, hybrid, tundra, permafrost, integrated, ballistics, cosmic, apocalyptic, pervade, protest, innovation, pandemic
ACTIVITIES

1. **Following the Keys.** *Mankind The Story of All of Us* tells the story of global connections, showing how we became the people we are today. Visit us online at www.History.com/mankind for special online features, videos, an online game and more. During and after watching each episode in the series, have students answer the following questions: What were the major transformations and advances, also known as “keys,” explored in this episode? How did this key advance human progress? Were there any negative consequences of this key? What were the challenges humans faced? How did they overcome these hurdles? Students can also create timelines tracing the eras covered in each episode.

2. **Primary Sources.** Throughout this series, there are great examples of primary sources, from the Lascaux caves to the writings of Ben Franklin to the photographs that captured the Civil Rights era. Encourage students to keep a list of primary sources mentioned or used in each episode and explore them further through research projects. You can also find individual primary sources suggested in the Mankind classroom guides located online at www.history.com/classroom

3. **Top Ten.** Each episode in this series covers many important people, places and events. As they watch, have students make a list of the most significant people, places and events covered in each episode. Then, discuss these with the larger class or group. What major changes took place in this episode? Who were the individuals or groups who helped achieve change?

4. **Explore World Heritage.** HISTORY® has joined with UNESCO’s World Heritage Centre to educate students and the general public about the value of World Heritage Sites. Visit us at www.History.com/classroom to learn about MANKIND CONNECTED: A Global Teach-In focused on World Heritage. This webcast airs live and will be archived for future viewing at the website.

Have students visit whc.unesco.org and answer the following question: What are the criteria for becoming a World Heritage site? Working in small groups, ask students to choose one to three World Heritage Sites and create presentations about the site(s) they chose. Ideally, students will choose sites featured in the series, or sites in their own country. These projects can be presented in PowerPoint format, on poster-board or any other creative medium. Students can include images of their site(s) and basic facts about the site.
ACTIVITIES (CONT)

5. **History Illustrated.** HISTORY® has created a series of graphic novels to accompany the Mankind series. Graphic novels, comics and other visual depictions provide an excellent way for students to explore the past. Ask students to create their own visual illustrations or comics about one segment or scene in the series. These can be compiled together into one novel or into a series that the larger class or group can review and discuss. Visit [www.shopmankind.com](http://www.shopmankind.com) to learn more about the graphic novel series.

6. **The Challenges Ahead.** Despite the major advances made by mankind, our world still faces immense challenges. Working individually or in groups, have students pick one of the challenges in our world today: war, disease, poverty, etc., and write up a plan for addressing this issue. Students can create public service announcements or other multimedia projects that help brainstorm solutions to these issues.

## ADDITIONAL WEBSITES

More HISTORY Resources:

UNESCO World Heritage Sites, interactive map:

World History Resources from the Center of History and New Media:
- [chnm.gmu.edu/worldhistorysources](http://chnm.gmu.edu/worldhistorysources)

World Heritage Sites in the U.S. video:
- [www.youtube.com/watch?v=UySOekRPNfM](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UySOekRPNfM)

## ADDITIONAL READING

- Hakim, Joy. *The Story of Science (series).* (Smithsonian Books, 2005.)
- Stokes-Brown, Cynthia. *Big History: From the Big Bang to the Present.* (New Press, 2004.)
- Toler, Pamela, Ph.D. *Mankind The Story of All of Us.* (Running Press, 2012.)