Big History Video Episode 15: H2O

1. Water’s erosive (wearing away) quality allows it to do what to the earth?



1. Water makes up \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_% of the planet and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_% of our bodies.
2. Why is studying the chemical properties of water important for studying history?
3. Why do boats float?
4. What is buoyancy?
5. What is surface tension? What makes water special compared to other liquids?
6. Why did ancient civilizations form near rivers and shores?
7. Why did ancient civilizations develop in isolation?
8. How did trans-oceanic (across the ocean) travel develop? Contributions from -
   1. Ancient Greeks and Arabs:
   2. Chinese:
   3. India:
   4. Europeans:
9. How did water create a power shift from the Middle East to coastal European countries like England and Spain?
10. Why had the Middle East historically been the most important trade area?
11. What percent of the world’s commerce (trade) is done by sea?
12. Water is the only substance on earth that can do what 3 things naturally?



1. What role does gravity play with water and why is it important to us?
2. What is the water wheel?
3. How is the water’s ability to create power connected to the universe and the sun?
4. How does water recirculate waste (get rid of) in nature?
5. Early cities had aqueducts and rivers to bring in water, but what were they missing?
6. What resulted from not having sewer systems?
7. What happened in London in the 19th century in the video?
8. How did this event change the way cities were built?
9. Ultimately, what was the result of these changes for people?
10. Why is Earth so unique in the solar system?
11. Why do we have life on every surface of our planet?
12. Why do we need to study science to understand history?