**Chapter 7 Reading Guide: Empires of Persia.** Directions: As you read pages 134-150, answer the following questions thoroughly.

**Terms:**

Cyrus:

Cambyses:

Darius:

Persepolis:

Achaemenid Empire:

Satrap:

Xerxes:

Persian Wars:

Seleucid Empire:

Parthian Empire:

Sasanid Empire:

Qanat:

Zarathustra:

Zoroastrianism:

Magi:

**Reading Guide:**

Who are the Persians?

How was Cyrus the Achaemenid able to conquer such a large territory?

What did Cambyses accomplish?

How did each of the following allow for the efficient and effective administration of the Achaemenid Empire under Darius?

-Persepolis

-Satrapies

-Taxes

-Coins

-Laws

-Roads/Communication

What is the significance of the Persian Royal Road?

Describe how each of the following contributed to the decline and fall of the Achaemenid empire?

-Xerxes

-Persian Wars

-Alexander of Macedon

What are the major characteristics of the Seleucid, Parthian, and Sasanid Empires?

-Seleucid:

-Parthian:

-Sasanid:

Describe the structure of Persian society.

What were the conditions and roles of slaves in Persia?

What conditions allowed for increased trade in this region?

Describe the Zoroastrian faith.

Why did Zoroastrianism decline?

What other faiths were practiced in Persia?

How has Zoroastrianism been influential?

**Big Picture Questions (Answer in 3-4 sentences for each question)**

1. What is an “empire,” and what were empires’ common characteristics during the Classical Era?
2. What techniques did Persian empires create to administer their territories?
3. What new political methods were created by Persia in order to rule their larger empire?
4. How did imperial governments of Persia let their population know that the government was “in charge?”
5. What role did trade play in creating and maintaining empires in Persia?
6. What unique social and economic characteristics existed in Persia?
7. What function did imperial cities perform in Persia?
8. What labor systems provided the workers for Persia?
9. Describe the gender and family structures of Persia.
10. What caused Persia to decline, collapse, or transform into something else?
11. What were the environmental and social weaknesses of Persia?
12. How did trade and communication networks develop in Persia?
13. How did religion in Persia help strengthen political, economic, and cultural ties?
14. How did religion in Persia promote a sense of unity?
15. How did humans’ reliance on the natural world influence religion in Persia?