

Appendix A: Song Lyrics

Unit I Song: The Late Bronze Age

Chorus

Armies marching up and down,
Armies marching town to town.
Who will lose and who will win?
Who will rise to fight again?

(Introduction Part II) The Late Bronze Age, when the world opened wide:
By land and by sea, people traded goods with pride!
Weapons and jewelry made from bronze polished bright
Shone throughout the Near East—oh, what a sight!

(Chapter 1) Egypt's Middle Kingdom saw peace in the land,
With fortresses well built and totally manned.
Nomarchs were weaker, the pharaoh was strong,
And trade was so busy—what could go wrong?

(Chapter 1) Then came a time when things seemed a mess:
The Nile's floods changed; strangers invaded with success.
The Hyksos came in with chariots and bows.
At last, Ahmose I came forth and said, "Hyksos, now go!"

(Chapter 2) With the Hyksos gone, Egypt once more was free!
The kingdom expanded as much as could be.
New pharaohs were ruling, like Hatshepsut—oh my!
A woman as pharaoh instead of a guy?

(Chapter 2) Akhenaten "the rebel" believed in only Aten.
Egypt worshipped just one god, and then many again.
King Tut died so young and wasn't very well known,
Till his tomb was uncovered full of riches he'd owned.

Chorus

(Chapter 3) With an interesting language and gods all their own,
In the north the Hurrians came to the throne.
Their Kingdom of Mittani—a strong, mighty force
As they hurried in their chariots, each pulled by a horse.

(Chapter 3) To the west, Hittite chariots rumbled along.
They invaded and conquered grand Babylon,
Then attacked Egypt and said they had won!
But with trouble at home, their end had begun . . .

(Chapter 3) The Hittites left Babylon, and the Kassites moved in.
Oh, how they loved the ancient culture within.
The Kassites ruled Babylon for 400 years,
And then, like the others, they too disappeared.

Chorus

(Chapter 4) Assyria arose; Shamshi-Adad I was king.
The "king of the universe" thought he ruled everything.

Another harsh ruler, Ashur-Uballit I his name,
Defeated the Mittani, his claim to fame.

(Chapter 4) Next Tiglath-Pileser I: a great ruler was he.
He stretched Assyria's borders almost to the sea!
He traveled many times all the way to the coast.
A leader of warriors—that was his boast.

(Chapter 4) Then the Elamites entered, ready to fight,
Drove out the Kassites, and used cuneiform to write.
They were rivals of many, till along came Babylon.
Yet their cities of Anshan and Susa lived on!

Chorus

(Chapter 5) The Minoans were happy on the island of Crete,
Where their palaces were large, like cities complete!
We remember them for their swift ships and trade,
And the legend of the Minotaur has yet to fade.

(Chapter 5) The fierce Mycenaeans sailed over from Greece.
With fine weapons of bronze, they did not keep the peace.
Their Linear B writings tell of gods and kings,
But discovering what happened—well, that job might be yours!

The Late Bronze Age lasted around 400 years,
But by 1200 BC, the Iron Age neared.
For small kingdoms and great empires, many changes lay ahead,
And of their deeds and inventions, you'll find much to be said!

Chorus

Unit II Song: The Iron Age

Sing the song of history of so long ago.
How much of the tale do you already know?
Kings and armies, peacetime and war:
Sing the song of the Iron Age, and you will learn much more!

(Unit II Intro) New progress was coming: a very good sign!
The people discovered iron was easy to mine.
With very hot ovens, the metal was shaped into tools and blades;
And with mighty new weapons, many kingdoms were remade.

(Chapter 7) Sea Peoples came from lands across the sea,
Sailing and marching—oh calamity!¹
Ramses III stopped them, drove them away.
Some landed in the Levant, settled there to stay.

(Chapter 7) Their descendants, the Philistines, gave Israel such grief.
They had strong iron weapons and polytheistic beliefs.
The twelve tribes of Israel made a promise with Yahweh
To worship one god only—and many still do today!

(Chapter 8) In Egypt, a time of separation came once more.
Rule by the Libyans and Shoshenq I was in store.

1. "Calamity" is another word for a disaster or misfortune.

Then from a land to the south, a place filled with gold,
Came King Piye and the Nubians, so it's been told.

(Chapter 8) Next the Assyrians, then Egyptians back in place!
The Late Period pharaohs ruled in the city of Sais.
The Persians came conquering for two centuries long.
Till Alexander replaced them—Egypt's story will go on!

(Chapter 9) Selling bright purple dye and sweet cedarwood,
The brave Phoenicians sailed as far as they could.
They spread a simple alphabet from land to land,
With twenty-two letters that were easy to write by hand.

(Chapter 9) Aramean merchants led their long caravans
As their donkeys and camels plodded overland.
Their language was used by all the empires around;
Soon Aramaic was spoken from town to town!

Chant 4x: Neo-Assyria awoke, strong and mighty Iron Age empire

(Chapter 10) Neo-Assyria awoke, an Iron Age empire,
With professional soldiers (men who were hired).
The empire was large—how it grew and it grew,
Capturing Babylonia, Israel, then Egypt too.

Interlude: Shalmaneser V and, Ashurbanipal:
—wow, what names for Assyrian kings!

Can you say those names five times fast? (*Repeat 5x*) Shalmaneser V, Ashurbanipal . . .

(Chapter 10) Shalmaneser V and Ashurbanipal:
The Assyrian kings were the most feared of all!
Ashurbanipal was also a scholar with a royal library
Of literature and records on medicine and history.

Chant: Mighty Babylon, mighty Babylon, mighty Babylon, mighty Babylon!

(Chapter 11) Next Babylonia rose up, put Assyria down.
Nabopolassar was the new king in town!
Nebuchadnezzar II conquered Judah, alas.
For Jerusalem's people, a long exile would pass.

(Chapter 11) Babylon was the capital, and greatly revered.²
Its Hanging Gardens and temples were known far and near.
Prosperous, wealthy, and politically strong:
Mighty Babylonia lasted seventy-three years long.

(Chapter 12) But Babylonia, like Assyria, also disappeared.
Now Persia's the empire that others would fear!
From Egypt, through Mesopotamia, to eastern India's gate
Marched Cyrus II, Cambyses II, and Darius the Great!

(Chapter 12) Of Persia's Royal Cities, Persepolis is best known,
And lovely Pasargadae, where gardens were grown.
But even the strong Persian Empire, there's no debate,
Wasn't a match for mighty Alexander the Great!

2. "Revered" is another way of saying that something is deeply admired or respected.

(*Outro*) Stop and take a breath! The Iron Age is done,
And we've had some fun.
Stop and take a breath! The Iron Age is done,
And we've had some fun.
Of a great many kingdoms and peoples we've sung,
But our tale of history's not over—it's only just begun!

Unit III Song: The Far East

(*Unit III Intro*) Far to the east flow the Indus, Yellow, and Yangtze:
Three more great rivers that shaped history.
Along their banks ancient India and China grew,
But of these early civilizations, not many people knew!

Chant: Eastern cultures, history,
Ancient wisdom, mystery . . .

(*Chapter 14*) The Harappans settled by the Indus River long ago:
First hunters and gatherers, then farmers who sowed.
Harappa and Mohenjo-daro revealed drains and wells,
And crisscrossing streets that were planned, we can tell!

(*Chapter 14*) Next came the Indo-Aryans, with tribes and rajas.
They valued their cattle and prayed to many gods, such as Indra.
The Vedas texts told the people what they ought to do,
And were the first sacred writings for the ancient Hindus.

(*Chapter 15*) By the Yellow River, civilization dawned
Yet records from China's earliest years are mostly gone.
Of the Xia dynasty and its kings there's not much we can know,
Though legends say Yu the Great built canals so crops would grow.

Chant

(*Chapter 15*) Of China's next dynasty, the Shang, we are sure,
For records tell of King Wu Ding, Lady Fu Hao, and more.
They got messages from Heaven through oracle bones:
Advice for the present and the future foreshown.

(*Chapter 16*) Then came the Zhou, with King Wen and King Wu,
Who believed they had the mandate of Heaven to rule.
Goodbye to the Shang, their divine authority lost.
But the Zhou had to lead carefully, or else they'd be tossed!

(*Chapter 16*) The symbols of the Shang and the Zhou are still known
By linguists who study the writings left on bronze and on bone.
Confucius, the wise philosopher, gave the Chinese advice
That many still follow to lead a good life!

Chant

(*Outro*) Many mysteries remain in the lands of the East,
Where surely our discoveries will never cease!
After the Vedics and the Western Zhou, the Classical Age dawned,
But you'll find the cultures of India and China live on!

Top Twelve Things to Remember from *TCH1B*

Lines in bold are repeated.

1. Through the ages of history—
Stone, Bronze, and Iron—
Ancient civilizations moved forward,
Each at its own pace.
2. People first made bronze
From copper and tin,
Then learned new ways to work with
Iron found in the ground.
3. The Hyksos were the first
Foreign rulers of Egypt,
Till Ahmose I drove them out
And the New Kingdom began!

Instrumental refrain

4. In the Late Bronze Age,
Four rivals held power:
The Egyptians, Hittites,
Kingdom of Mittani, and Kassites.
5. Two new civilizations,
The Minoans and Mycenaeans,
Became as wealthy as could be
By trading across the sea!
6. Then the Late Bronze Age ended
And the Iron Age began.
Some kingdoms disappeared
And others rose up once more.
7. Who were the Sea Peoples?
Nobody knows for sure!
But they played some part in
The Bronze Age's fall.

Instrumental refrain

8. The Israelites introduced the worship
Of just one god, and the
Phoenicians and Arameans spread
New ways to communicate.
9. Old, Middle, and New (or Neo)
Kingdoms there were
In Egypt, Assyria,
And Babylonia too.
10. Three mighty empires
Ruled the Near East;
Persia was the largest
And by far the most great!

11. By the Indus and Yellow Rivers,
formed the ancient Far East:
The Harappans and Vedics of India,
The Shang and Zhou of China.

Instrumental refrain

12. Five religions of the past are
Still practiced today.
Christianity, Judaism, Zoroastrianism,
Hinduism, Confucianism:
All have their beginnings in the ancient ways.

Bonus Song: There Was a Man

There was a man, from the city of Ur.
He followed God as a faithful worshipper.
God made a promise to this wandering man,
And throughout his life, he lived by God's plan.
What was his name? His name was Abraham!

There was a man, born when his mother was old:
The long-awaited son that God had foretold.
He too obeyed God, even as a young boy.
His name meant "laughter," and he brought much joy.
What was his name? His name was Isaac!

There was a man (the younger of two),
Deceitful and cunning, but God called him too.
Twelve sons born to him, the covenant renewed:
Though he had troubles, his God he pursued.
What was his name? His name was Jacob!

There was a man, sold as a slave.
Mistreated, imprisoned—could he ever be saved?
This man trusted God; he was faithful and brave.
Ruling in Egypt, the whole land he saved.
What was his name? His name was Joseph!

There was a man, he left Egypt in shame.
One day in the desert, he saw a bush all aflame.
He delivered God's people from a life full of pain,
To a land God had given, as God had ordained.³
What was his name? His name was Moses!

There was a man, God's chosen man.
He led God's people into the new land.
Giants, walled cities—the task was so huge!
But by God's grace, victory ensued.
What was his name? His name was Joshua!

There was a man, anointed⁴ as king.
A giant he killed, with a stone and a sling.
The Savior would come from his line one day;
He trusted that God would do it His way.
What was his name? His name was David!

3. "Ordained" is another way of saying that something or someone is ordered, chosen, or assigned.

4. "Anointed" is another way of saying that someone has been divinely chosen to rule or lead.