

# THE FIRST CIVILIZATIONS

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## WHY

“Civilization” is a cultural development that humans have made in order to survive and thrive. Developing slightly before the civilizations of India and China, the civilizations of Egypt, Mesopotamia, and the Near East formed the foundations of modern European civilization.

## Outcomes: Students will

- A. Comprehend and apply how time is measured in history, including the concepts of BC and AD
- B. Analyze in writing and through oral discussion how geography affected ancient civilizations (1.1, 4.3)
- C. Identify and comprehend the characteristics of a civilization, and apply them to studying different cultures (1.1)
- D. Identify characteristics of polytheistic and monotheistic religions, and how natural factors affected religion
- E. Comprehend the importance of the city state as a form of government
- F. Analyze the connections between trade and the spread of culture
- G. Identify technological achievements of ancient civilizations
- H. Analyze how human activity affected the environment in ancient civilizations
- I. Identify artistic characteristics & achievements of ancient peoples
- J. Identify empires and conquests in these civilizations, and comprehend how technology played a role in conquest
- K. Demonstrate an awareness of current events in classroom discussion (4.6)

## Resources

- A. text
  - 1. Chapter 1, p. 6-17
  - 2. Chapter 2, p. 18-43

## Outline

- I. Pre-History: A Brief “History” of the Universe
  - A. understanding time
    - 1. BC and AD
    - 2. history & prehistory
  - B. Timeline
    - 1. The first humans
    - 2. The agricultural revolution
- II. CIVILIZATION
  - A. characteristics
    - 1. surplus food
    - 2. cities and government
    - 3. division of labor
    - 4. advanced technical skills
    - 5. calendar
    - 6. written language
  - B. First civilizations emerge in river valleys: Mesopotamia, Egypt, China, India
- III. Mesopotamia: The Sumerians, 3000BC
  - A. Geography
  - B. cuneiform writing
  - C. Science & Technology; architecture
  - D. Government: CITY-STATES
  - E. Farming & Trade
  - F. Culture

1. education
2. Religion & Ideology
3. art & literature
- IV. Egypt & the Nile River Valley Civilization
  - A. Geography
    1. Nile River
    2. deserts
  - B. Government: Chronology of Egyptian History
    1. Unification
    2. Old Kingdom
    3. Middle Kingdom
    4. Hyksos invasion
    5. New Kingdom
    6. decline & the Kushite/Nubian dynasty
  - C. Religion & Ideology
  - D. Elements of Culture
    1. Writing
    2. Role of Women
    3. Art & Architecture
  - E. Economic Systems and Factors: Agriculture & Trade
  - F. Science & Technology
- V. Other Peoples of the Levant
  - A. Empires of the Fertile Crescent
    1. Akkadians, 2350 BC
    2. Babylonians, 1700 BC
    3. Hittites (Indo-Europeans)
    4. Assyrians
    5. Chaldeans, 612 BC
    6. Persians, 539 BC
  - B. Peoples of Phoenicia
    1. Phoenicians
    2. Lydians

## Vocabulary

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afterlife	dynasty	Neolithic Agricultural	Cyrus
anthropologist	empire	Revolution	Donald Johanson
arch	Euphrates River	nomads	Gilgamesh
archaeologist	Fertile Crescent	Palestine	Hammurabi
artifacts	hieroglyphics	papyrus	Hatshepsut
artisans	hominids	pharaoh	Imhotep
Asia Minor	Homo sapiens	phonogram	Lucy
barter	hunter-gatherers	pictogram	Mary Leakey
caravan	Hyksos	polytheism	Menes
Catalhuyuk	ideogram	Rosetta Stone	Nebuchadnezzar
city-state	irrigation	scribes	Ramses II
civilization	Levant	silt	Sargon I of Akkad
Cro-Magnons	limited evidence	Tigris River	Thutmose III
cultural diffusion	Lower Egypt	Upper Egypt	Tutankamon
culture	money economy	Ur	Zoroaster
cuneiform	monotheism	ziggurat	
division of labor	mummification		
domestication	Neanderthals	Amenhotep IV	