

1—River Valley Civilizations and Southwest Asian Cultures Mesopotamia and Egypt

AKS:

**analyze the origins, structures and interactions of complex societies in the ancient Eastern Mediterranean from 8000 BCE to 500 BCE (GPS)
(SSWH_C2007-30)**

Indicators of Achievement:

30a - summarize the impact of the Neolithic Revolution, 30b - explain how geographic features and cultural diffusion affected the development of ancient Mesopotamia and ancient Egyptian River Valley civilizations, 30c - analyze the development of Mesopotamian societies including religious, cultural, economic, and political facets of society including Hammurabi's Law Code, 30d - describe the relationship of religion and political authority in Ancient Egypt, 30e - explain the development of monotheism including the concepts developed by the ancient Hebrews and Zoroastrians, 30f - identify and examine early trading networks and writing systems existent in the Eastern Mediterranean including those of the Phoenicians, 30g - explain the development and importance of writing systems including cuneiform and the Phoenician alphabet

***Neolithic Revolution:** the beginnings of farming and domestication of animals, allows people to settle into communities / villages and become civilizations. Occurred about 10,000 years ago.*

The Five Traits of Civilization:

Complex Institutions	Organized Government <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Makes money and enforces laws to keep order • Exercises authority over an organized state • Plans, organizes, and directs large projects • Standardizes money system • Collect taxes Organized Religion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formalizes religious beliefs and offers guidance to questions of life, death, nature, and spirit • Selects clergy • Establishes rituals and symbols
Specialized workers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides goods and services • Enables people to develop specialized skills • Promotes a system of social classes
Advanced Cities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A center of trade for a larger area
Record Keeping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides a way to keep accurate records • Serves as a way to pass on knowledge
Advanced Technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creation of new tools and techniques to solve problems as they emerge

Civilizations of Mesopotamia (Tigris and Euphrates River Valleys):

Sumerians:

- First to meet all 5 traits of a civilization
- Developed cuneiform as writing system
- Many inventions such as plow, wheel and weapons
- Built ziggurats to use as temples

The Amorites of Babylon

- Invaded Mesopotamia around 2000 B.C. and later took Babylon as their capital
- Developed Hammurabi's Code: "Eye for an eye" law
- Emphasized that government had responsibility for what happened in society
- Code applied to all, but different standards applied to the rich and poor
- Majority of crimes dealt with marriage, family, or property

Phoenicians:

- 1100 BC, they were the most powerful traders and merchants
- Society was poor in natural resources except for snails and produced purple dye
- Excellent sailors, it is believed that one fleet circled the entire continent of Africa
- Set up trading colonies, most profitable was Carthage
- Because of their extensive travels, they created an alphabet using only 22 symbols

Jews/Hebrews:

- One of the smallest groups of the Fertile Crescent
- Practiced monotheism
- Jews became slaves under the Egyptians and finally fled under the leadership of Moses
- The Ten Commandments is the basis for Jewish beliefs
- The Jews established the kingdom of Israel with Jerusalem as its capitol
- Kings of Israel include Saul, David, and Solomon
- In 922 BC, the kingdom split into two parts, Israel (north) and Judah (south)

Assyrians:

- Came from the northern part of Mesopotamia
- Soldiers carried iron swords and spears
- Most disciplined army, marched and fought in organized columns
- Kings of Assyria conquered Syria, Palestine, and Babylonia
- Ninevah was the main city
- Held the world's largest library of the time
- Conquered by the Chaldeans

Chaldeans:

- After their defeat of the Assyrians, the Chaldeans made Babylon their empire
- King Nebuchadnezzar built the hanging gardens of Babylon which the Greeks named as one of the Seven Wonders of the World
- City walls were so thick that it was said a chariot could wheel around on top
- Highest building in Babylon was a seven tiers ziggurat which was more than 300 feet high
- Believed that the stars determined human destiny
- Studied the constellations and created the zodiac
- Watched the four phases of the moon
- Calculations for months and weeks were within minutes
- Soldiers enslaved 15,000 Jews and made them slaves of Babylon

Persians:

- Around 550 BC, the Persians spread their power from the Indus River to the Nile River and the Black Sea
- 550 BC, Cyrus, the King of Persia, defeated several neighboring kingdoms
- Cyrus believed that it was better to allow local customs and religion than to destroy it
- Governors of Persia known as satraps
- Standardized coinage and a road system to connect the empire was created by Darius
- Zoroaster- believed in heaven and hell – people have choices

Egyptian Civilization: (Nile River Valley)

Ancient Egyptian Summary

Location	The Egyptian civilization was located on the Nile River above the first cataract. There is Upper Egypt, located in the southern region of Egypt & Lower Egypt, which is located to the north and contains the Nile Delta.
Religion	<u>Polytheistic</u> . They believed in many Gods & Goddess. The head of all Gods was <u>Osiris</u> god of the underworld. They believed in life after death and prepared tombs of riches for their afterlife. Egyptians also practiced <u>mummification</u> so that their <u>ka</u> (soul) would have a vessel into the afterlife.
Government	Centralized government led by a <u>pharaoh</u> (king). Succession was through the family. (Father to son). Egyptians believed their pharaohs were god-kings. Ruled by <u>theocracy</u> , or a government where rule is based on religious authority.
Technology Advances	Advances include basin irrigation, a calendar that monitored the flooding of the Nile, pyramid building, mummification, & a writing system (hieroglyphics).
Writing	Hieroglyphics- a system of writing where pictures represent sounds. Was deciphered by Jean Champollion with the use of the Rosette Stone.

Ancient Egyptian Rulers

Ruler	Kingdom	Achievements
Menes	Old	United Upper and Lower Egypt, established a capital at Memphis.
The Hyksos	Middle	Used bronze for weapons and tools, horse drawn chariots, and introduced spinning and weaving.
Ahhotep	Middle	Helped to drive out the Hyksos, became ruler after husband died
Kamose	Middle	Continued to drive out the Hyksos and pursued them into Palestine
Hatshepsut	New	Ruled for 22 years, encouraged trade
Thutmose III	New	Warlike, 15 victorious invasions into Palestine and Syria – returned with thousands of slaves
Ramses II	New	Greatest builder of the New Kingdom, built a temple to Amon and reigned for 7 years
Akhenanton (originally Amenhotep)	New	Attempted to convert Egypt from polytheism to monotheism – wanted people to worship only Amon
Tutankhamon	New	Moved the capitol back to Thebes and restored polytheism

Ancient Civilizations (Mesopotamia and Egypt)

Key Terms:

- City-state- self-ruling state consisting of a city and its surrounding territory
- Ziggurat- a pyramid-like temple with steps to the top, used in ancient Sumer
- Chariot- two-wheeled carts in which two men could stand and that horses pulled
- Satrapies- a s governed providence in ancient Persia
- Polytheism- the belief in more than one God
- Monotheism- the belief in one God
- Pyramid- a huge stone building, with triangle stepped sides, meeting at a point on the top, used as a tomb in ancient Egypt.
- Mummy- body made ready for burial by embalming in ancient Egypt
- Dynasty- a long line of rulers from the same family
- Pharaoh- the name of the Egyptians rulers
- Papyrus- a plant that when cut into strips and pressed together can be written on
- Colonies- a settlement of people governed by a foreign nation
- Desert- an arid, barren area of land where rainfall is less than ten inches per year
- Scribe- a professional writer who reads and copies manuscripts
- Hieroglyphics- the Egyptian form of writing
- Cuneiform- the Sumerian form of writing

Document Practice:

Study the maps of Mesopotamia and Egypt. In a paragraph (5-7 sentences) explain why early societies settled near rivers.

Mesopotamia



<http://earharthistoryday.org/ArendtFiles/LGT%20images/Houghton%20Mifflin%20Maps/map%20of%20Mesopotamia.gif>

Egypt



http://images.google.com/imgres?imgurl=http://www.nile.co.za/Egypt-Map-Adj-fix-copy-net-jpg&imgrefurl=http://www.nile.co.za/services11.htm&usq=__XnsV9zvsnXQG0BF0yflCTOQoKQs=&h=1100&w=690&sz=280&hl=en&start=1&tbnid=BRMRTDMSLAsKbM:&tbnh=150&tbnw=94&prev=/images%3Fq%3Dmap%2Bof%2BEgypt%26bv%3D2%26hl%3Den