

Notes: Unit 2 – Chapter 5: The Rise of River Valley Civilizations**Important Ideas**

- A. The earliest humans survived by _____ their food. They used tools of wood, bone, and _____. They also learned to make _____.
- B. About _____, people in the _____ developed the first agriculture and domesticated animals during the _____.
- C. A _____ is a form of _____ in which some people live in cities, have complex social institutions, use some form of _____, and are skilled at using _____.
- D. The first civilizations arose in _____, where favorable geographic conditions allowed farmers to grow a _____.
- E. The _____ invented the wheel, sailboat and cuneiform writing. The Egyptians developed an advanced civilization along the banks of the _____. They built large stone _____ for the afterlife of their ruler – the _____ – and developed a form of writing known as _____.
- F. Other early civilizations developed along the _____ on the Indian subcontinent and along the _____ (Yellow River) in China.
- G. The earliest civilizations were _____. In a theocracy, religious leaders govern; in a monarchy, a _____ heads the government.
- H. _____, the religion of the ancient Hebrews (Jews), was the first religion to worship only one God.

Early Human Society

- Anthropologists study the _____. Most anthropologists now believe the _____ was the birthplace of humankind. Many scientists believe that human beings as we know them today – _____ – first appeared sometime between 400,000 and 200,000 years ago, during the last _____.

The Importance of Culture

- Human beings had several important advantages over other animals: _____, the use of hands to make tools, and the ability to _____.
- Because human beings had these ways of communicating, remembering and making things, they were able to pass on what they learned and their way of doing things from _____. In this way, the _____.

The Hunter-Gatherers

- People in the earliest human societies were _____. They did not know how to grow their own _____. Instead, they relied on _____. They learned to make fires, to make spears with pieces of _____, and to make canoes and boats out of _____.
- Because these people made tools of stone, historians refer to these early societies as _____. Over thousands of years, Stone Age peoples also learned to make clay pottery and to domesticate (tame) dogs.
- _____ spent most of their time hunting for food. They migrated to areas where food – _____ – could be found. During the Ice Age, people _____ to other parts of the world. Eventually, people even migrated to the _____. Wherever people went, they showed great ingenuity in adapting to local conditions.

The Neolithic Revolution

- About _____, one of the great turning points in history occurred. People began to change from hunters and gatherers to _____. Two important developments brought about this change: people learned how to _____.
- Anthropologists believe this change first occurred in parts of the Middle East, where _____ were plentiful. People noticed they could spread the seeds of these grains to plant and grow their own crops. They also learned how to herd farm animals such as _____. These advances are now referred to as the _____.
- Wherever agriculture was introduced, people no longer had to wander in search of food. Instead, they could build _____ and established a fixed way of life. Populations grew. Although the emergence of agricultural societies is believed to have first occurred in _____, it also took place independently at later times in _____.
- **The Emergence of Social Classes.** The Neolithic Revolution brought both benefits and problems. People could grow more food than they had been able to gather or hunt, but they were also more vulnerable to attack by other peoples. Thus changes in economics – _____ – led to social and political changes.
- The introduction of agriculture and settlements led to the emergence of _____: _____. Defense of the village became a major concern, resulting in the emergence of a warrior class. A priesthood emerged to conduct _____ in order to promote a good harvest and to protect the village from danger.

The Rise of River Valley Civilizations

- As _____ developed and grew, their way of life further changed. Around 3,500 B.C., the first civilizations arose.
- The first civilizations developed in _____. Each of these river valleys offered a _____ and a water highway to other places. Water from the rivers also could be

used for _____. Each of these valleys was also a flood plain where an overflowing river deposited fertile soil. This _____ led to abundant harvests and food surpluses.

Mesopotamia (3500 B.C. – 1700 B.C.)

- Sometime between _____, the first river valley civilization developed in Mesopotamia, the region located between the _____ (in present-day Iraq). Mesopotamia was a Greek term meaning the “_____.”
- **Agriculture.** Although Mesopotamia was hot and dry, people learned how to irrigate the land by diverting water from the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers. _____ allowed _____ to flourish and food supplies to _____. Fewer people were able to produce more food, leading to a surplus. Other people could begin to _____ in activities other than farming. Some became potters, weavers or metal workers. Others became _____.
- **Government.** The people of Mesopotamia built _____. At first, each city-state, such as Uruk, Ur, and Babylon, had its _____. Later, several of these city-states were united together under a _____.
- **Building.** The Mesopotamians were the world’s first city-builders. They lacked _____ to build their cities. Instead, they made their buildings from _____. They built walled cities, temples with arches, and _____ known as _____. Each ziggurat was made of a series of square levels, with each level slightly smaller than the one below it.
- **Cultural and Scientific Contributions.** Some of the most important inventions in history took place in ancient Mesopotamia. The _____ (the people of Sumer) invented the _____. They were able to figure how to reroute some of the water to irrigate fields farther away. They also developed _____. Bronze is made by melting tin and copper together: it is stronger than copper alone.
- **Cultural and Scientific Contributions.** The Sumerians devised a _____, dividing the year into 12 months. Later, the _____ developed a number system based on 60, providing the basis for our _____ today.
- **Cultural and Scientific Contributions.** They also invented the world’s _____, cuneiform, a form of symbol writing on _____. Cuneiform writing used three-dimensional marks by a stylus into clay before it hardened. Only the _____ could read and write in cuneiform. Generally, _____ were the ones who had this knowledge.
- **Legal System.** The Babylonians developed the earliest written law code –the _____. It covered most occurrences in daily life. Its aim was to ensure _____.
- **Women in Mesopotamia.** Most girls _____, where they learned _____. Women were responsible for raising children and crushing the grain. There were enormous variations in the rights enjoyed by women in _____. Wealthier women were able to go to the _____ to buy goods, could complete legal matters in their husband’s absence, and could even _____. These women could engage in business for themselves, and _____. A few women, such as relatives of the ruler, enjoyed even higher status in Mesopotamia society.

Egypt (3200 B.C. – 500 B.C.)

- Egypt is located in _____. The _____, the Nile, runs through it. Each year, the Nile floods the lands along its banks, _____. With bright sunshine, a long growing season, rich soil, and _____, Egyptian farmers were able to grow large amounts of food. Farmers along the Nile were able to support a large number of _____. Ease of communication along the river encouraged the development of a _____.
- **Government and Society.** The most powerful person in ancient Egypt was the _____. The pharaoh governed Egypt as an _____. The pharaoh owned all the land, commanded the army, _____, controlled _____, and defended Egypt from foreigners. Egyptians considered the pharaoh to be a god.
- Egypt was a monarchy, a _____. Each pharaoh inherited _____ from his father.
- Next in the social order below the pharaoh came the _____. Then came Egypt's _____. At the bottom of society were _____. They spent their time farming, _____, and working on building projects for the pharaohs.
- **Religion.** The ancient Egyptians believed the body should be _____ to participate in the afterlife. When pharaohs died, their bodies were embalmed and buried in a special room under a large _____. Here they were surrounded with gold, jewels, and other precious objects for use in the afterlife, which Egyptians imagined as similar to life before death. _____ have used these artifacts to learn a great deal about ancient Egypt.

India

- More than 5,000 years ago, the _____ became another of the first centers of human civilization. In this region, as in Egypt and Mesopotamia, a _____ over the neighboring plain during its _____.
- **Agriculture and Building.** Farmers grew _____. Food surpluses allowed people to build large cities like Harrappa and Mohenjo-Daro. Each of these cities had more than _____.

- More than 1,000 cities and settlements belonging to the Indus River Valley civilization have already been excavated. The artifacts found in these settlements suggest a _____ walls were present in many of their cities. They were also among the first “urban planners,” with almost all their houses connected to public sewers and a water supply. These people, known as the Harrappans, were also the first people known to make cotton cloth.
- **Trade and Collapse.** _____ was an important part of the Harrappan economy. Many small clay seals, probably used for trading purposes, have been discovered by archaeologists. They have also found kilns for _____ and evidence of the use of metals. The Harappans developed their own form of writing, although _____ are still unable to decipher it. No one knows exactly why this civilization collapsed, but its end occurred suddenly.

China

- About 500 years after the settlement of the Indus River Valley, China’s first civilization emerged in the fertile plains along the _____.
- **Agriculture.** As in the Nile and Indus River Valleys, the fertility of the soil along the Huang He was increased by the _____. Around 4,500 B.C., people along the Huang He began growing millet (a type of grain). Later, they learned to _____.
- **Government.** Around 1700 B.C., a _____, known as the Shang, took power. They built the first Chinese cities and established their capital at Anyang, near the Huang He. The Shang ruled with the help of powerful nobles. Shang kings were _____. They were also high priests who offered sacrifices to their _____.
- **Cultural Contributions.** The people living in the Huang He Valley were _____. Their ability in bronze work can be seen in many objects surviving from this period, including superior weapons and ceremonial vessels. They also were the first to make _____. Finally, they developed a system of writing with _____. Each character represented one word. Their pictorial characteristics, often with only minor modifications, are still used in written Chinese today. Even those speaking different dialects use the same characteristics.

The Ancient Hebrews

- The ancient Hebrews, or _____, lived south of Phoenicia in the area occupied by present-day _____. Because of their location, the Hebrews were deeply influenced by the civilizations of both _____.
- Unlike other ancient peoples, the _____ grew up in Mesopotamia in the city of Ur. Abraham moved to Israel. According to tradition, the forefather of the Hebrews, _____, grew up in Mesopotamia in the city of Ur. Abraham moved to Israel.
- Unlike other ancient peoples, the _____ Instead, they believed in _____, who was both just and all-powerful. This new religion was called _____. Jews did not believe that God had human characteristics or the head or body of an animal, like the _____.
- Jews saw their God as an invisible but powerful force or spirit that created the world and that demanded proper _____. _____, became the basis for several later religions, including both _____.

The Ten Commandments

- The early history of the Hebrews and their relationship with God is told in the first books of the Bible, known as the _____. According to the Bible, the ancient Hebrews migrated to Egypt to escape _____. They remained in Egypt for hundreds of years, where they became _____. Their leader, _____, later took them out of Egypt and freed them from slavery.
- According to the Bible, Moses also _____, which came directly from God. These commandments _____, and other forms of immoral behavior. They also commanded the Hebrews to worship one God and to keep the _____.
- When the Hebrews _____, they found it was occupied by new peoples. This led to a series of wars, ending with the _____. The Hebrews then established their _____, where they built a temple to worship God.