

“Ancient Middle Eastern Civilizations”

1. Read pp. 27-32 in your textbook and answer the following questions:

- A. How did geography affect the cultural development of the Fertile Crescent?
- B. How did the Sumerians overcome their lack of resources?
- C. Create a simple hierarchical chart to show the class structure created by the Sumerians.
- D. What are the characteristics of a city-state? How did monarchs gain power in the early city-states of Mesopotamia?
- E. How does an empire differ from a city-state?
- F. How did Hammurabi's law code advance civilization?

TERMS TO KNOW: Fertile Crescent city-state dynasty polytheism
cuneiform Hammurabi's Code

2. Read pp. 33-39 in your textbook and answer the following questions:

- A. How did geography affect the development of ancient Egyptian culture? Why was Egypt called “the gift of the Nile?”
- B. What was the importance of the pharaohs, pyramids, and trade in the Old Kingdom?
- C. Why were Egypt's pharaohs unusually powerful rulers?
- D. Why did the Egyptians use mummification? How does it reflect their religious beliefs?
- E. Why were the scribes and the priests such an important and powerful group in ancient Egyptian society?
- F. What were the similarities and/or differences between the Mesopotamian and ancient Egyptian systems of writing?
- G. How did a flexible class structure allow Egyptians in the lower classes to gain social status?
- H. How was the status of women similar in Egypt and Sumeria?
- I. List the main achievements of the ancient Egyptians.

TERMS TO KNOW: delta Menes pharaoh theocracy *Book of the Dead*
hieroglyphics Rosetta Stone Jean Champollion Howard Carter

3. Read pp. 57 to the middle of pg. 59; middle of pp. 68-71 and pp. 88-91 in your textbook and answer the following questions:

- A. List three reasons that historians give to explain why Indo-Europeans migrated.
- B. How did environmental features in Anatolia help the Hittites advance technologically?
- C. What two technologies helped the Hittites build their empire?
- D. List some of the achievements of the Phoenicians.
- E. Why do you think they were called the “Transmitters of Civilization?”
- F. Explain the advantages that the Phoenician alphabet had over cuneiform.
- G. What methods were used by the Assyrians to rule their empire?
- H. What were some of the achievements of the Chaldeans in the time of Nebuchadnezzar II?

TERMS TO KNOW: Indo-Europeans Hattusas Anatolia Punic
Hanging Gardens of Babylon

4. Read pp. 72 - 76 in your textbook and answer the following questions:

- A. What makes ancient Palestine the crossroads of this region?
- B. What was Canaan? Why was it called “The land of milk and honey?”
- C. Why is Abraham such an important religious figure in the early history of the Jewish people?
- D. What did God and the Hebrews promise each other when they made a “covenant?”
- E. How did the religion of the Hebrews differ from many of the religions of their neighbors? Why was it so revolutionary for its time?

- F. What does Hebrew law require of believers?
- G. What is ethical monotheism? Why is it important?
- H. Fill out the "World Religions" chart on Judaism.
- I. What role did King David play in Israel's early history?
- J. What caused the division of Solomon's Kingdom?
- K. The Temple was rebuilt before the walls of Jerusalem. What does this fact indicate about the Jews after the Babylonian Captivity?

TERMS TO KNOW: Yahweh Judah Canaan covenant Abraham
 Moses exodus *Torah* monotheism Diaspora
 Babylonian Captivity

5. Read pp. 153-159 in your textbook and answer the following questions:
- A. How did the Jews come under Roman rule?
 - B. Fill out the "World Religions" chart on Christianity.
 - C. Why did the followers of Jesus think he was the Messiah?
 - D. How did conditions in the Roman Empire contribute to the spread of Christianity?
 - E. How did the apostle Paul encourage the spread of Christianity?
 - F. Why were the citizens of the Roman Empire so receptive to a new religion at the time?
 - G. Why did the Roman Emperors persecute the Christians?
 - H. How did the early Christian church organize itself?

TERMS TO KNOW: Gospel apostle Jesus messiah Beatitudes
 St. Paul Gentiles

6. Read pp. 92-96 in your textbook and answer the following questions:
- A. Why can it be said that the ancient Persians prospered from a wealth of minerals? How can the same be said of modern Iran?
 - B. What are some examples of Cyrus the Great's tolerant method of governing?
 - C. How was Darius able to rule such a large empire with absolute power?
 - D. How did Darius' methods of administration give stability to his empire?
 - E. Fill out the "World Religions" chart on Zoroastrianism.
 - F. What ideas and world view did Zoroastrianism share with other religions?

TERMS TO KNOW: satrap Royal Road Cyrus the Great Darius the Great
 Zoroaster Ahura-Mazda *Zend-Avesta* Magi
 "King's Eyes & Ears"

7. Read "Byzantium: The New Rome" and answer the following questions:
- A. Why was Byzantium called "the New Rome?"
 - B. How did the Byzantine Empire carry on many of the traditions of ancient Rome?
 - C. What were the Emperor Justinian's military goals? How successful was he in achieving them?
 - D. Identify the Greek characteristics of the Byzantine Empire.
 - E. Why do you think Justinian decided in the late 520s that it was the right time to reform Roman law?
 - F. What legal reforms did Justinian actually make?
 - G. What were the geographic advantages of Constantinople's location?
 - H. Why did Justinian build Hagia Sophia?

TERMS TO KNOW: "New Rome" *Justinian's Code* Hagia Sophia Theodora
 Golden Horn Constantinople Byzantium