

# 9-3 Unit 1

Early Civilizations Study Guide  
World History I

Test Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## EARLY CIVILIZATIONS STUDY GUIDE (Ch 1.1, 1.3, 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4 3.4, 4.2, 4.3)

### Terms to Know:

5 Characteristics of a Civilization  
Scribes  
Barter  
Tigris & Euphrates  
Dynasty  
*Epic of Gilgamesh*  
Babylonian Empire  
Egypt  
Theocracy  
Papyrus  
Yellow & Yangtze  
Primary/Secondary Sources  
Monotheism

Specialization  
Cuneiform  
Fertile Crescent  
  
Cultural Diffusion  
  
Hammurabi  
Nile  
Pyramid  
Indus & Ganges  
Oracle Bones  
B.C., A.D., B.C.E., C.E.  
Mandate of Heaven  
Kingdom  
Hunter-Gatherer  
  
Bronze Age  
Babylonian Captivity

Artisans  
Ziggurat  
Mesopotamia  
City-States  
Polytheism  
  
Hammurabi's Code  
Pharaohs  
Hieroglyphics  
China  
Dynastic Cycle  
Humanities  
Agricultural Revolution

2000s R2

Guns, Germs, and Steel  
Caste System

### Key Concepts:

- ❖ Explain the five (5) characteristics of a civilization.
- ❖ Describe the similarities and differences between the four river valley civilizations of Mesopotamia, Egypt, Indus Valley and China.
- ❖ Explain the significance of belief systems and the similarities and differences among the various belief systems of early civilizations.
- ❖ Why are writing systems important characteristics of civilizations? Be sure to support your answer with specific examples from the civilizations discussed in this unit.
- ❖ Explain the evolution of civilizations (later empires) within Mesopotamia and their contributions and advancements.
- ❖ Explain the arguments made by Jared Diamond in *Guns, Germs and Steel*.

(1) 5

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Viewing Guide: Teacher's Answer Key**  
**Guns, Germs, and Steel: Episode 1**

**Directions:** Before viewing the film, read each question below so you know what information and ideas you should be looking for as you watch Episode 1. Record your answers to each question by providing as many facts, details, and examples as possible to answer each question. Be prepared to discuss your answers with the class and to use them as you work on a project.

1. According to Jared Diamond, what are the three major elements that separate the world's "haves" from the "have nots"?
2. Jared Diamond refers to the people of New Guinea as "among the world's most culturally diverse and adaptable people in the world", yet they have much less than modern Americans. Diamond has developed a theory about what has caused these huge discrepancies among different countries, and he says it boils down to geographic luck. Give several examples from the film to support Diamond's theory.
3. For thousands of years, people have been cultivating crops. Describe the process used to domesticate crops and create plants that yielded bigger, tastier harvests.
4. According to Diamond, livestock also plays a significant role in a civilization's ability to become rich and powerful. How did the domestication of animals help people? Give several examples.

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For more GUNS, GERMS, AND STEEL lesson plans...go to: [www.pbs.org/gunsgermsteel/](http://www.pbs.org/gunsgermsteel/)

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

## WHAT ARE PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SOURCES?

A **primary source** is something written or created by a person who witnessed a historical event. Primary sources include letters, diaries, eyewitness articles, videotapes, speeches, and photographs. Artifacts are also primary sources. Historians use primary sources to learn about past events.

**Secondary sources** are written after a historical event by people who did not witness the event. Books, paintings, and media reports that are based on primary sources and appear after an event are all secondary sources. Sometimes secondary sources are the only ones that are available. They can sometimes provide more balanced views of an event than primary sources.

**Directions:** Read the following examples of sources. Write "P" if it is a primary source on the provided line. If it is a secondary source, write "S" on the provided line.

- \_\_\_\_ 1. Diary kept by John Smith, a soldier in the Confederate Army, published in a collection of Alabama papers
- \_\_\_\_ 2. Photograph of Dr. George Washington Carver taken in 1898
- \_\_\_\_ 3. Biography of George Washington
- \_\_\_\_ 4. Newspaper article about the assassination of President Kennedy written on November 23, 1963
- \_\_\_\_ 5. Television mini-series about President Franklin Roosevelt's life
- \_\_\_\_ 6. Scrapbook kept by Mrs. Mary Smith in 1883 with copies of recipes and household hints
- \_\_\_\_ 7. Photograph album containing pictures of classmates at Tuskegee Institute in 1923
- \_\_\_\_ 8. Letter written by Emily Smith to her friend Pamela Jones, May 3, 1826, describing her trip by wagon from North Carolina to Huntsville, Alabama and the log cabin her father was building for the family.
- \_\_\_\_ 9. Article about Martin Luther King, Jr. in *People Magazine*, 1988
- \_\_\_\_ 10. Information about Creek Indians in *World Book Encyclopedia*
- \_\_\_\_ 11. Cassette tape of an interview with Dr. James Lee describing his life as a doctor in Montgomery County during the 1920s
- \_\_\_\_ 12. *The Story of Alabama*, a textbook by Virginia Van der Veer Hamilton
- \_\_\_\_ 13. Matthew Mason's will, 1896
- \_\_\_\_ 14. 2007 Apple iPhone discovered during an archeological dig in Hingham in the year 2179.



WORLD HISTORY 1  
Mr. George

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Block \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

### WORDS TO DESCRIBE THE PAST

There are many different words that we use to describe the past. It is important that we understand these words if we are to become good historians.

**Directions:** For each word, draw a line to match the correct definition

Word	Definition
Century	"Anno Domini" - These Latin words mean "Year of our Lord" (after Christ)
B.C.	One Thousand Years
Decade	Separate Division of Time
A.D.	Before Christ
Period	One Hundred Years
Millennium	Every Ten Years

Determining which year is in which century can be a tricky business. The easiest way to decide is to cover the last two numbers and add one. For example:

1459 is in the Fifteenth Century ( $1459 + 1 = 15$ )

Answer the following:

- The year 1584 is in the \_\_\_\_\_ Century.
- The year 1275 is in the \_\_\_\_\_ Century.
- The year 2001 is in the \_\_\_\_\_ Century.
- The year 1899 is in the \_\_\_\_\_ Century.
- The year 654 is in the \_\_\_\_\_ Century.

5     ~~15~~     ~~19~~

B

# Chapter 2

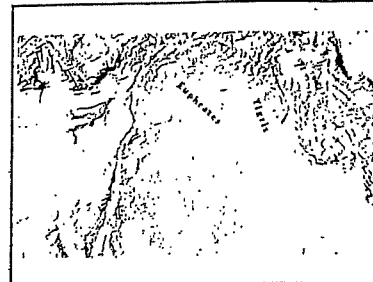
## Mesopotamia

### Study Guide

#### Mesopotamia

#### Geography

- ▶ Mesopotamia – "The land between the Rivers"
  - Tigris and Euphrates
- ▶ Little rain – very dry
- ▶ Mesopotamia is an open plain with few barriers
- ▶ The nearby rivers make soil very fertile
- ▶ Rivers often overflow
- ▶ At other times, there's not enough water – famine
- ▶ These geographical conditions mean that farming can only occur when people control the flow of rivers.
  - Result – irrigation and drainage systems



#### How has the geography of Mesopotamia influenced its development?

- ▶ Creating an irrigation system requires cooperation
- ▶ Organized government emerges to supervise irrigation systems
- ▶ The result is an abundance of food, which results in division of labor

#### Sumerian Society

- ▶ Three main social groups
  - Nobles/Priests
    - ▶ Priests hold a privileged place in Mesopotamian society – they control a lot of wealths and are very powerful
  - Commoners
  - Slaves
  - 90% of the population are farmers
- ▶ Patriarchal
  - Women had few rights, their place was in the home, if she did not fulfill responsibilities, her husband could divorce her

#### Politics

- ▶ City-states
  - An independent, self-governing city that incorporates the surrounding territory, including smaller towns and villages
  - Eridu, Ur, Uruk
- ▶ Theocracy (A government or state ruled by or subject to religious authority)

#### To the north of the Sumerian city-states were the Akkadians.

- ▶ Overran the Sumerian city-states around 2340 BC
  - empire
- ▶ The Akkadian Empire fell around 2100 BC.

#### The next major power to emerge: the Babylonians

- ▶ King Hammurabi gained control of Sumer and Akkad
- ▶ Built temples, defensive walls, and irrigation canals
- ▶ Encouraged trade, brought economic revival

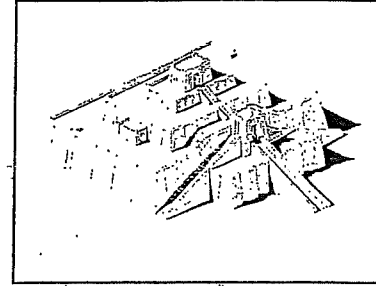
#### The Code of Hammurabi

- ▶ Penalties for criminal offenses were severe
- ▶ Penalties varied according to social class of the victim
- ▶ Took the duties of public officials seriously – officials were expected to catch burglars
  - If they failed to do so, the officials had to replace the lost property
- ▶ Encourages proper performance of work
  - If a house collapsed, the builder was responsible
- ▶ Largest category dealt with marriage and family



## Sumerian Culture

- ▶ Religion
  - Polytheistic
    - ↳ Blame instability on the gods
- ▶ Ziggurat
  - Sumerians believed that gods and goddesses owned the cities, so they devoted a lot of wealth to building temples
  - Historians are not exactly sure what ziggurats were used for, but we can be fairly certain that they were connected with religion.



## Literature

- ▶ The Epic of Gilgamesh
  - Tells the story of a legendary king named Gilgamesh
  - Gilgamesh is wise, strong, and perfect
  - He befriends a beast named Enkidu
  - When Enkidu dies, Gilgamesh begins to search for the secret of immortality
  - However, he remains mortal
  - Immortality is only for the gods

## Intellectual Achievements of the Sumerians

- ▶ Cuneiform
  - Made wedge-shaped impressions on clay tablets, which were then dried in the sun
  - Used primarily for record-keeping
- ▶ Math and Astronomy
  - Used geometry to create large buildings
  - Created a number system based on 60 (why is an hour divided into 60 minutes?)
  - Created a calendar of twelve months

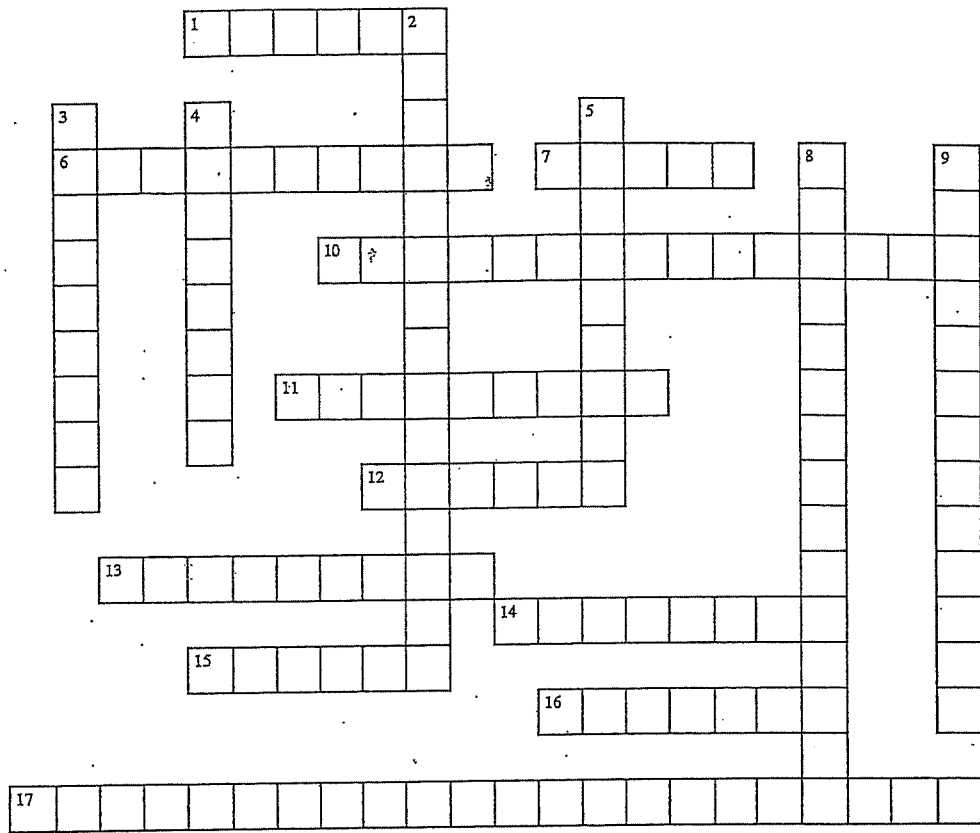


## Economy

- ▶ Based on farming
- ▶ Made woolen textiles, pottery, and metalwork
- ▶ Traded items they grew and made
- ▶ Invention of the wheel, 3000 BC
  - Makes transport of goods easier



# MESOPOTAMIA CROSSWORD



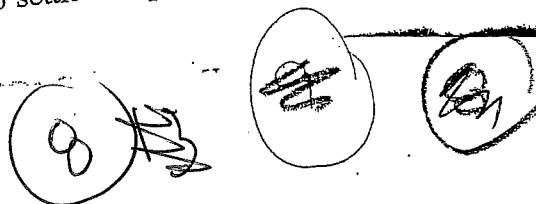
### ACROSS

- 1 One of two Mesopotamia rivers providing the region with fertile soil and a means of trade.
- 6 A method of watering an area by digging ditches, channels, etc.
- 7 The first ancient civilization in southern Mesopotamia.
- 10 Set of 282 laws declared by Babylonian ruler. They were chiseled into a black pillar for all people to see.
- 11 An independent city and its surrounding areas.
- 12 People who wander from place to place, with no permanent home.
- 13 Early form of wedged pictographs

### DOWN

- 2 Something written after a historical event by people who did not witness the event (books, paintings, articles, encyclopedias, etc).
- 3 A system of ranks.
- 4 Pyramid-temple built by the Sumerians.
- 5 One of two Mesopotamia rivers providing the region with fertile soil and a means of trade.
- 8 A nickname of Mesopotamia referring to the uniquely-shaped area of rich soil and plentiful harvests.
- 9 Something written or created by a person who witnessed a historical event (letters, diaries, photos, speeches, videos, etc).

- 14 Skilled craftworkers.
- 15 A person who can read and write.
- 16 The entire way of life of a people.
- 17 The development of farming that allowed nomadic peoples to settle into permanent villages and cities.





CHAPTER  
**2**

## Section 1

PRIMARY SOURCE from *The Code of Hammurabi*

*More than 3,500 years ago, Hammurabi, king of the Babylonian Empire, ordered scribes to chisel a code of 282 laws onto a tall column of black stone. The column also featured an introduction explaining the intent of the code and a summary of Hammurabi's kingly deeds. As you read these laws from the code, think about how Mesopotamians defined crimes and how criminals were punished.*

Before this portrait let every man who has a legal dispute come forward, read this text, and heed its precious words. The stone tablet will enlighten him in his trouble, and thus may he find justice and breathe easier in his heart, speaking these words: "Hammurabi is a king who cares for his people like a loving father."

1

If a man bring an accusation against a man, and charge him with a capital crime, but cannot prove it, he, the accuser, shall be put to death.

48

If a man owe a debt and Adad inundate his field and carry away the produce, or, through lack of water, grain have not grown in the field, in that year he shall not make any return of grain to the creditor, he shall alter his contract-tablet and he shall not pay the interest for that entire year.

53

If a man neglect to strengthen his dike and do not strengthen it, and a break be made in his dike and the water carry away the farm-land, the man in whose dike the break has been made shall restore the grain which he has damaged.

54

If he be not able to restore the grain, they shall sell him and his goods, and the farmers whose grain the water has carried away shall share the results of the sale.

113

If a man hold a debt of grain or money against a man, and if he take grain without the consent of the owner from the heap or the granary, they shall call that man to account for taking grain without the consent of the owner from the heap or the granary, and he shall return as much grain as he took, and he shall forfeit all that he has lent, whatever it be.

148

If a man take a wife and she become afflicted with disease, and if he set his face to take another, he may. His wife, who is afflicted with disease, he shall not put away. She shall remain in the house which he has built and he shall maintain her as long as she lives.

149

If that woman do not elect to remain in her husband's house, he shall make good to her the dowry which she brought from her father's house and she may go.

153

If a woman bring about the death of her husband for the sake of another man, they shall impale her.

195

If a son strike his father, they shall cut off his fingers.

196

If a man destroy the eye of another man, they shall destroy his eye.

197

If one break a man's bone, they shall break his bone.

200

If a man knock out a tooth of a man of his own rank, they shall knock out his tooth.

216

If he be a freeman, he (the physician) shall receive five shekels.

218

If a physician operate on a man for a severe wound with a bronze lancet (surgical knife) and cause the man's death, or open an abscess (in the eye) of a man with a bronze lancet and destroy the man's eye, they shall cut off his fingers.

9