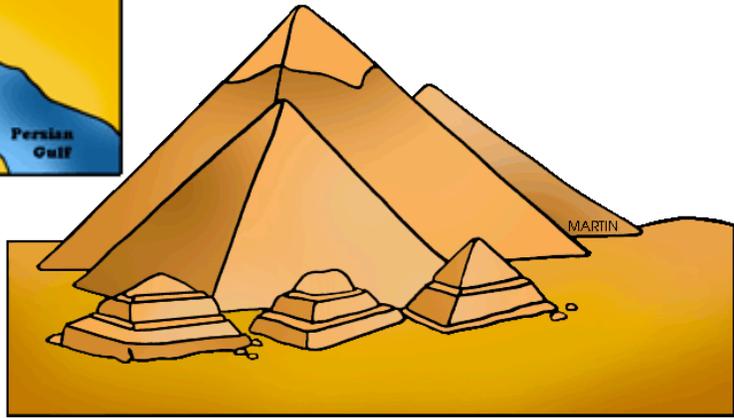
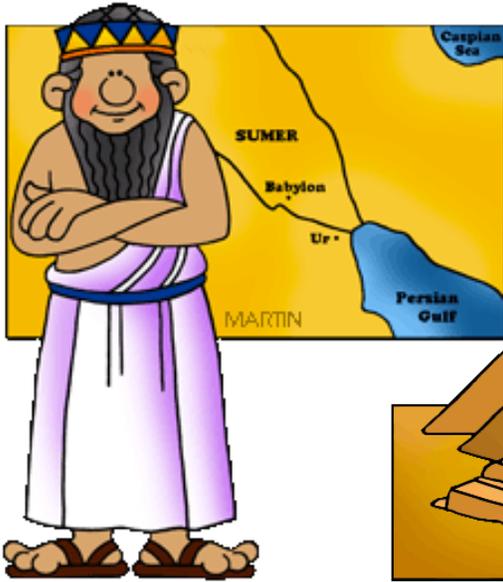


EARLY CIVILIZATIONS IN THE EASTERN HEMISPHERE



READING STUDY GUIDE

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INTRODUCTION TO EARLY CIVILIZATIONS IN THE EASTERN HEMISPHERE

Learning Targets

- I can describe the influence of geography on the development of unique civilizations in India, Egypt, China and Mesopotamia.
- I can describe the governments, cultures, economic systems, technologies and agricultural practices and products of early civilizations and their enduring influence in the Eastern Hemisphere today.



The study of ancient civilizations and people raises some important questions: Who are humans? Where did we come from? Where are we going?

The eight features of civilizations include cities, organized central governments, complex religions, job specialization, social classes, arts and architecture, public works and writing. Early peoples developed unique civilizations. Several civilizations established empires with legacies influencing later peoples.



Early civilizations in India, Egypt, China and Mesopotamia had unique governments, economic systems, social structures, religions, technologies and agriculture. These civilizations grew because of good geographic features. River valleys provided sources of water, habitats for plants and animals, ways of transportation, protection from invasions, and access to natural resources. The cultural practices and products of these early civilizations can be used to help understand the Eastern Hemisphere today.

As you investigate early civilizations in the Eastern Hemisphere, see if you can make sense of this statement from author William Faulkner: "The past is never dead. It's not even past." It may help you see where you are going.

CHAPTER 1. ANCIENT MESOPOTAMIA

Learning Targets

- I can describe the influence of geography on the development of ancient Mesopotamia.
- I can describe the government, culture, economic system, technology and agricultural practices and products of ancient Mesopotamia and its enduring influence in the Eastern Hemisphere today.



Terms to Know:

- fertile
- silt
- fertilizer
- surplus
- irrigation
- city-state
- polytheistic
- ziggurat
- cuneiform
- empire



Preview Activity

How has each of the following innovations influenced world history?



sailboat



writing system



wheel

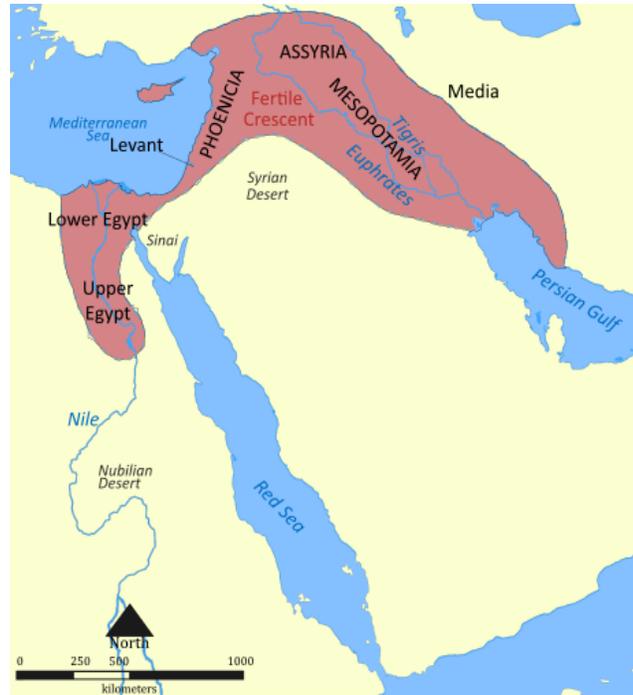


literature

Historians often refer to the ancient Near East as the “The cradle of civilization.” Many great civilizations rose and fell here. The religions of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam began in this area.

The Fertile Crescent is the region in which humans first began farming and herding around 8,000 B.C.E. This change from hunting and gathering allowed early humans to settle into permanent villages and to produce a surplus of food.

The area of Mesopotamia (modern-day Iraq) within the Fertile Crescent gave rise to the region’s most powerful empires and greatest cities. Mesopotamia was the land between the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers.



With a surplus of food, people could focus on developing the skills needed for civilization. Some people became priests, scribes, merchants, artists, teachers, and government officials. They began to build cities and establish empires.

Sumerian City-States (4,000 B.C.E. – 2,000 B.C.E)

Geography and Agriculture – The Sumerians settled in Mesopotamia around 4000 B.C.E. They lived in independent, walled city-states.

The climate was very dry. There was very little natural vegetation, and palm trees were the only trees that grew there. The rivers flooded in the spring, and deposited a rich layer of silt on the surrounding floodplain. This silt provided fertilizer for growing crops. Sumerians farmers build large irrigation systems of canals and dams. Before long, the desert was blooming with a surplus of barley, dates, and other crops. They were also the first people to use the plow to lift the silt-rich soil of their crop fields.

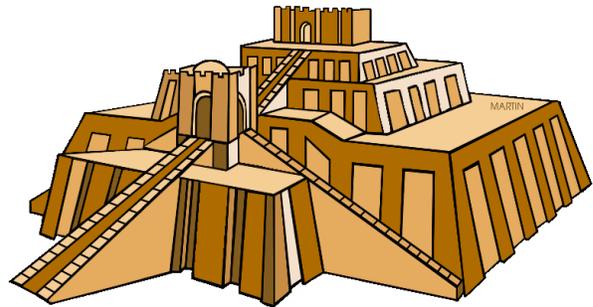
Economy – This surplus allowed many people to specialize in jobs other than farming. People became artisans, merchants, and craftspeople. They helped build cities and increase the wealth of the city-states through trade with neighboring societies.

The land of Mesopotamia did not have a lot of natural resources, so they had to trade to get the items they needed. Docks were built along the sides of the rivers so that ships could unload their trade goods. The merchants traded food, clothing, jewelry, wine and other goods between the cities.

To buy or trade these goods, Sumerians used a system of barter. They used barley for local trade. Because barley was heavy, they used lead, copper, bronze, tin, silver and gold to buy things away from their local area.

Government – The Sumerians built the first cities and established the first monarchies. The city was ruled by the gods through the king, who exercised divine authority. Under the king were priests who surveyed land, ran the irrigation system, and distributed the harvest.

Technology – Sumerians learned to build with clay bricks made from the mud and were skilled metalworkers. They also invented the wheel (around 3500 B.C.E.), and the sailboat, and created the first lunar calendar.



Because of the surplus grain, the government could grow in size to support many officials and priests. It could also pay thousands of workers with barley while they were building canals, city walls, and ziggurats or while they were fighting to defend their city-state.

Religion – Sumerians were polytheistic, which means belief in many gods. They believed in as many as 3,000 – 4,000 gods. Ziggurats were believed to be dwelling places for the gods. Each city had its own god. Only priests were allowed inside the ziggurat. It was their responsibility to care for needs of the gods.

Writing – As the government and economy grew, officials and merchants needed a writing system to record information. Developed between 3500 B.C.E. and 3000 B.C.E., the writing system, called cuneiform, consisted of wedged-shaped characters. Sumerians wrote on clay tablets, using a reed pen called a stylus. The world's oldest book is *The Epic of Gilgamesh*, a collection of stories about a Sumerian hero.



Babylonian Empire (1792 B.C.E. – 1595 B.C.E.)

As many Sumerian city-states grew weak from outside invasions and military conflict, the city-state of Babylon took over and established an empire in Mesopotamia. Babylonian rulers constructed temples, roads, and an extensive canal system. They also organized laws.

Technology – Nebuchadnezzar built the Hanging Gardens of Babylon, one of the Seven Wonders of the World. Babylon received little rain, and there were few stone slabs needed to hold terraces in place in the region. Engineers devised a chain pump that brought water from the Euphrates River to irrigate the gardens. The gardens were a lush mountain of vegetation in the middle of a flat, dry desert.

Government and Law – Hammurabi came to power in 1792 B.C.E., and is the best known of all Mesopotamian kings. As he conquered city-states and his empire grew, he wanted one set of laws for all of the diverse peoples he conquered. He sent legal experts throughout his kingdom to gather existing laws. Some were changed or removed before compiling the final list of 282 laws, known as the Code of Hammurabi.



The phrase "an eye for an eye" represents what many people view as a harsh sense of justice based on revenge. The entire code, however, is much more complex than that one phrase. The code outlines rules for witnesses and those making accusations of crimes. It details how theft or destruction of property should be handled and gives guidelines for dealing with trade and business problems.

The code also gives rules for family matters, such as marriage, divorce, and adoption. Payment amounts for the work of doctors and other professionals are outlined. The Code covers all types of issues related to farming and herding animals, and it also lays out rules on the ownership and sale of slaves.

Babylonians did not believe all people were equal. The code treated slaves, commoners, and nobles differently. Women had some rights, including the ability to buy and sell property and to obtain a divorce.

Assyrian Empire (1365 B.C.E. – 609 B.C.E.)

Assyria was located in the middle and northern part of Mesopotamia. While Babylonia is best remembered for its contributions in literature, architecture, and the law, Assyria is remembered for its military strength, advances in weapons, and conquests. In its time, the Assyrian Empire was the greatest the world had ever seen. Their armies were highly trained and professional. And their troops had a great deal of experience in battle.



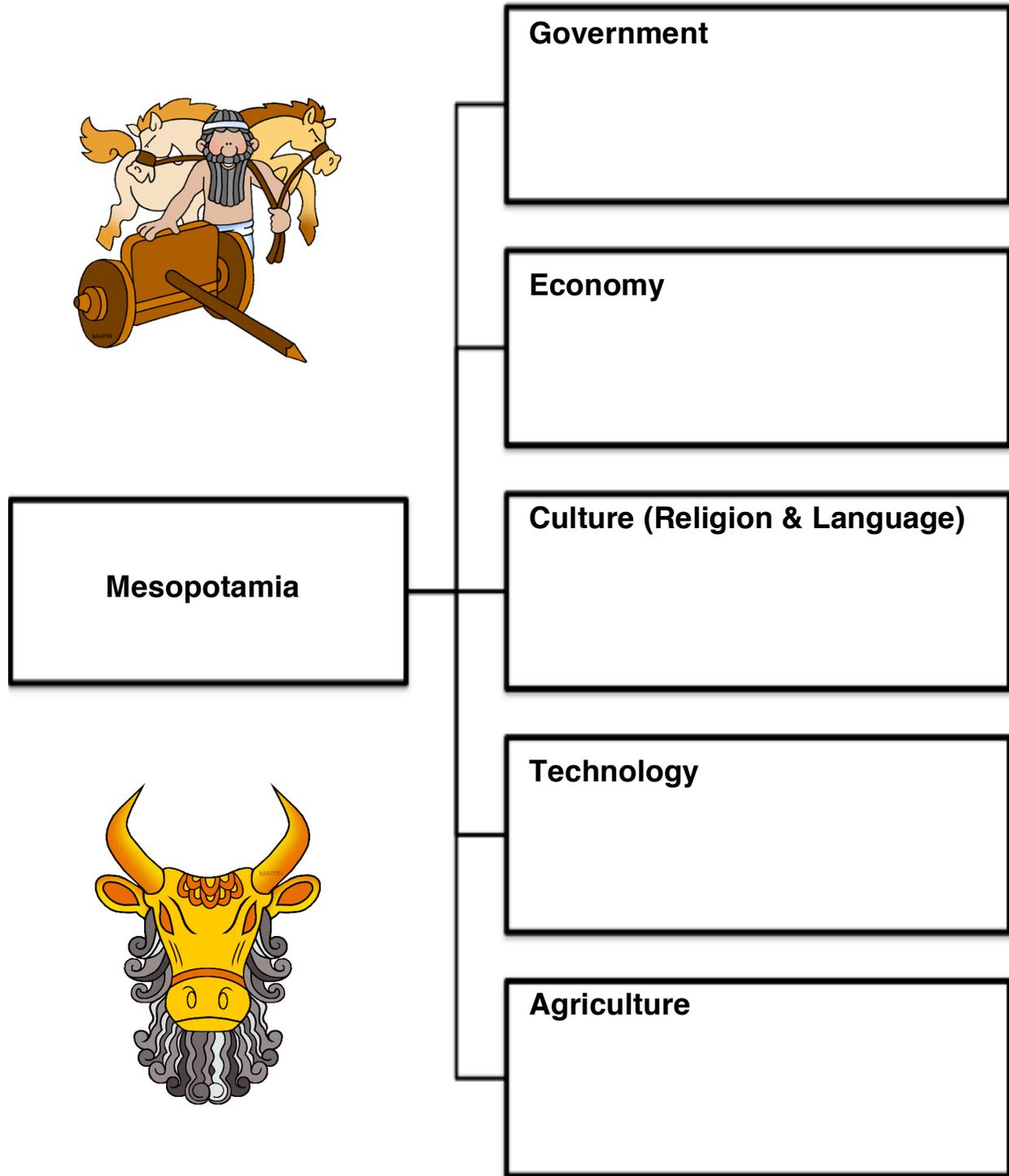
Assyrian armies used movable towers and iron-headed battering rams for sieges on walled towns. Soldiers used iron weapons, which were much stronger than the bronze weapons of some of their foes. The Assyrians also built roads for quick and easy movement of troops, so that conquered rebelling kingdoms could easily be brought back under control.

With the wealth they obtained, the Assyrian kings built well-fortified and beautiful cities. In these cities they placed their grand palaces, some of which spanned several acres.

The first glassmaking, the invention of backgammon, the early version of the lock and key, even the massage, are believed to be Assyrian inventions.

Exercise 1.1 Mesopotamian Civilization Graphic Organizer

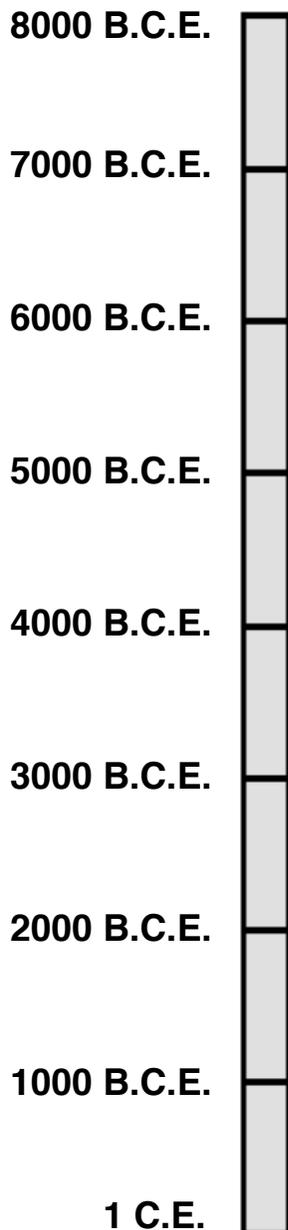
Complete the graphic organizer below by recording key information on the features of Mesopotamian civilization.



Exercise 1.2 Mesopotamia Timeline

Use the information from the chapter to place the following events on the timeline below.

- Farming begins in the Fertile Crescent
- Sumerians first settle in Mesopotamia
- Sumerians invent the wheel
- Sumerians create cuneiform writing system
- Hammurabi comes to power in Babylon
- Assyrian Empire begins



Chapter 1. Ancient Mesopotamia Assessment

1. What was one reason for the development of an early civilization in the Tigris-Euphrates river valleys?
 - A. The location protected the people from land invasion.
 - B. Flooding left rich soil, which was ideal for farming.
 - C. The rivers provided a direct trade route between Europe and Asia.
 - D. These rivers flowed into the Mediterranean Sea.

2. How did the Code of Hammurabi have an enduring influence on the development of the Eastern Hemisphere?
 - A. It created a written set of laws for all to see.
 - B. It regulated trade between kings.
 - C. It divided government into three branches.
 - D. It ended the practice of slavery.

3. Read the passage below from the Code of Hammurabi.

If a noble has knocked out the tooth of a noble of his own rank, they shall knock out his tooth. But if he has knocked out a commoner's tooth, he shall pay one-third mina of silver.

- Code of Hammurabi

Which idea of Babylonian society does this portion of the Code of Hammurabi show?

- A. All people were equal under the law.
- B. Fines were preferred to corporal punishment.
- C. Divisions existed between social classes.
- D. Violence was always punished with violence.

4. Describe two features of the economy in Sumerian city-states.

5. Identify two developments in technology in ancient Mesopotamia.
Explain how each development had an enduring influence in the Eastern Hemisphere.

CHAPTER 2. ANCIENT EGYPT

Learning Targets

- I can describe the influence of geography on the development of ancient Egypt.
- I can describe the government, culture, economic system, technology and agricultural practices and products of ancient Egypt and its enduring influence in the Eastern Hemisphere today.



Key Terms to Know

- fertile
- silt
- irrigation
- surplus
- papyrus
- artisans
- hieroglyphics
- pharaohs
- dynasties



Preview Activity: K-W-L Chart

Before you read, complete the **Know** and **Want to Know** columns on the chart below. As you read, complete the **Learned** column.

What I <u>K</u> now about Ancient Egypt	What I <u>W</u> ant to Know about Ancient Egypt	What I <u>L</u> earned about Ancient Egypt

The sands of the Nile River Valley hold many clues about one of the most mysterious, and artistic ancient civilizations. A great deal of evidence survives about how the ancient Egyptians lived, but questions remain.

Geography

In 3,000 B.C.E., Egypt's geography looked similar to the way it looks today. The country was mostly covered by desert. But along the Nile River was a fertile land that was (and remains today) a life source for many people. None of the achievements of ancient Egypt would have been possible without the Nile River. There is always a connection between land and how a civilization develops.

The Nile is the longest river in the world. It flows north for nearly 4,200 miles. In ancient times, crops could be grown only along a narrow, 12-mile stretch of land that borders the river. Along the river were fruit trees, and fish swam in the Nile in great numbers.



Agriculture

At the same time each year, the Nile flooded for about six months. This flooding left a rich layer of silt that was fit for growing wheat, beans, barley, or even cotton. Farmers learned to dig short canals leading to fields near the Nile. This provided fresh water for irrigation all year. By planting right after a flood, the Egyptians could have harvests before the next year's flood.

Egyptians needed to track days so they would know when to plant. They developed an accurate calendar based on the flooding of the Nile. It

contained a year of 365 days divided into 12 months of 30 days each. The five extra days fell at the end of the year.

Economy and Technology

Farmers began producing surplus crops that allowed people to have other jobs, such as trade or skilled craftwork.

Egyptian artisans created copper tools such as chisels and needles that allowed them to make jewelry. Artisans also discovered how to make bronze by mixing copper and tin, which marked the beginning of the Bronze Age.

Evidence suggests that ancient Egyptians invented the potter's wheel. This tool made it easier to create pots and jars for storage, cooking, religious needs, and decoration.

Writing also set the Egyptians apart from some of their neighbors. Egyptians used hieroglyphics or pictures to represent words or sounds.

Large reeds called papyrus grew wild along the Nile. Egyptians turned these reeds into material that could be written on (also called papyrus). The English word paper comes from the word papyrus. Calendars were one of the first things written on papyrus.

Papyrus had many other uses. Boats were made by binding the reeds together in bundles. Baskets, mats, rope, and sandals were also created from papyrus.



Hieroglyphics,
Cartouge of Cleopatra.
<http://etc.usf.edu/clipart>

Religion and Social Structure

Egyptian society was organized like a pyramid. The gods were at the top. Egyptians believed that the gods controlled the universe. Therefore, it was important to keep them happy. They could make the Nile overflow, cause famine, or even bring death.

Egyptian rulers, pharaohs, were believed to be gods in human form. They had total power over people. The pharaoh was responsible for protection and directed the army in case of a foreign threat or conflict. All laws were passed at the will of the pharaoh.

Nobles and Priests were right below the pharaoh in status. Only nobles could hold government posts. They grew wealthy from tributes paid to the pharaoh. Priests were responsible for pleasing the gods.

Soldiers fought in wars or put down uprisings within Egypt.

During long periods of peace, soldiers also supervised peasants, farmers, and slaves who built as pyramids and palaces.

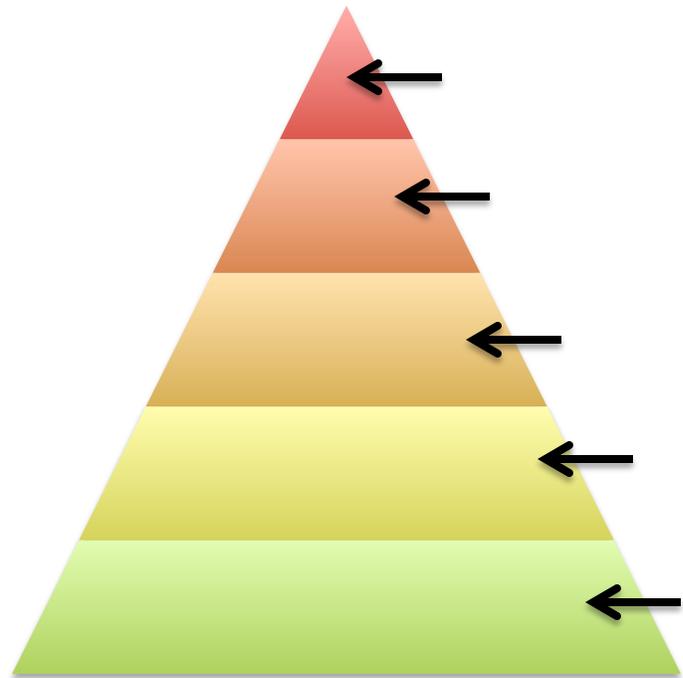
Skilled workers such as physicians and craftspersons made up the middle class. Merchants and storekeepers sold goods to the public.

Slaves and farmers were at the bottom of the social structure pyramid. Slaves were captured as prisoners of war. They were forced to work on building projects. Farmers paid taxes in the form of grain that could be as much as 60 percent of their yearly harvest.

A small number of peasants and farmers moved up the social pyramid. Families saved money to send their sons to village schools to learn trades.

Government

There were more than 30 dynasties in Egyptian history. Dynasties were powerful groups or families that ruled Egypt for a number of years. Dynasties helped keep Egypt united. This was a difficult task. Leaders



Complete the Egyptian Social Structure Pyramid by listing the groups from the most powerful at the top to the least powerful at the bottom.

faced periods of turmoil, rivals within Egypt, and foreign groups who wanted to conquer the region.

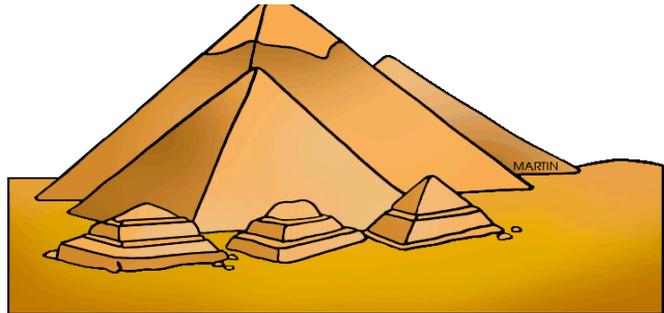
Most of the pharaohs who ruled Egypt for about 3,000 years were considered strong military leaders, successful traders, and overseers of great building projects.

Pharaohs could not manage all these duties without assistance. The pharaoh appointed a chief minister called a vizier as a supervisor. The vizier ensured that taxes were collected.

Working with the vizier were scribes who kept government records. Scribes had mastered a rare skill in ancient Egypt — they could read and write.

After pharaohs died, huge stone pyramids were built as their tombs. Pharaohs were buried in chambers within the pyramids. For centuries, they were the tallest structures in the world.

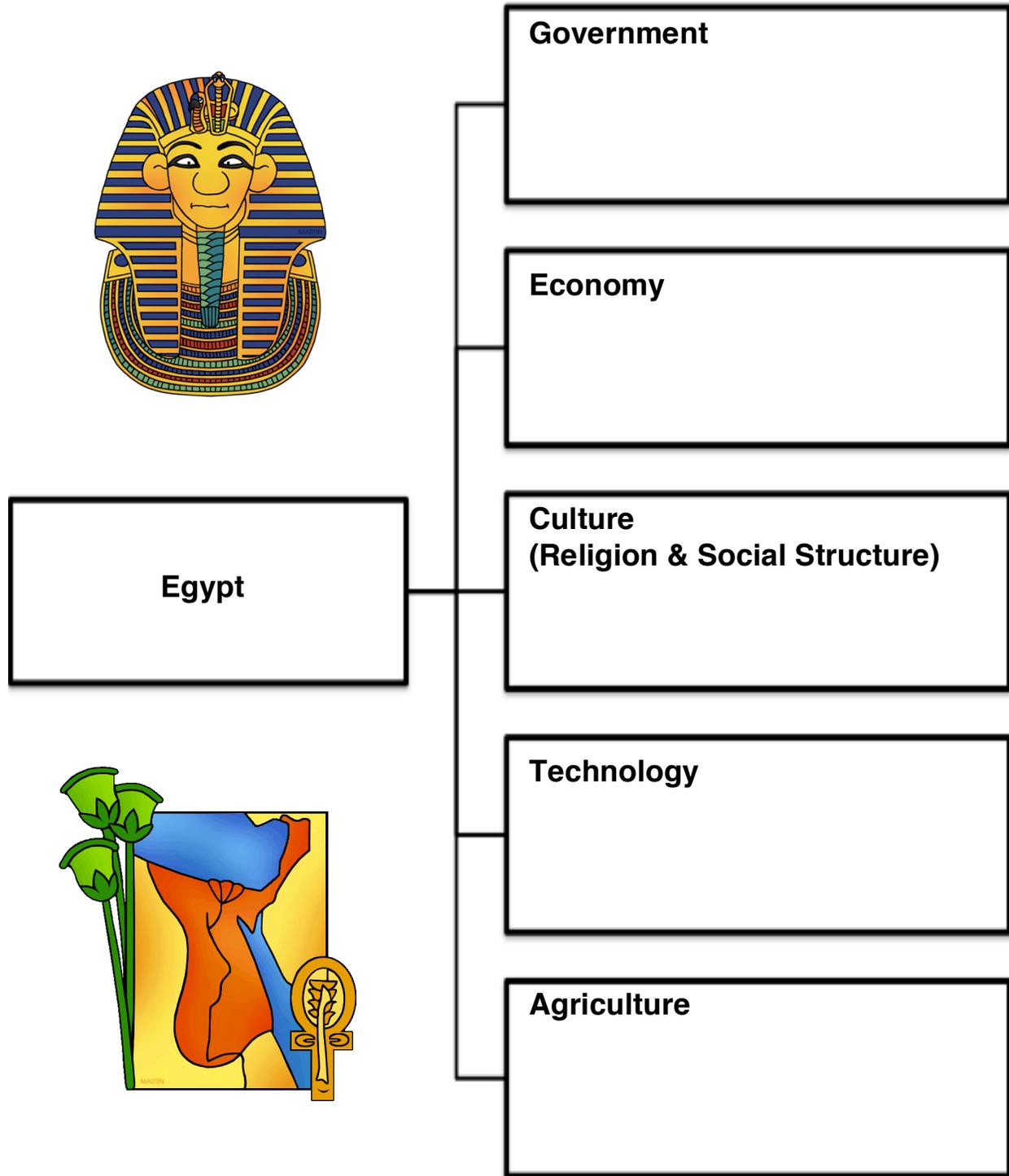
Pyramids are one of the Seven Wonders of the World. Pyramids were built for religious purposes. Egyptians believed that when the physical body expired, the ka (soul) enjoyed eternal life. Those who passed the test of Osiris wanted to be comfortable in their lives beyond earth. The Great Pyramids were simply grand tombs of powerful pharaohs.



Ancient Egyptian civilization lasted for several thousand years. Many of its discoveries and practices have survived an even greater test of time.

Exercise 2. Egyptian Civilization Graphic Organizer

Complete the graphic organizer below by recording key information on the features of Egyptian civilization.



Chapter 2. Ancient Egypt Assessment

1. Which important contribution to the advancement of civilization was developed in ancient Egypt between 3000 B.C. and 2500 B.C.?
 - A. a system for smelting iron
 - B. a system for using horse-drawn chariots in warfare
 - C. a system for electing government officials
 - D. a system of written communication

2. Read the passage below.

Hymn the Nile, c. 2100 B.C.

Hail to thee, O Nile!

Thou showiest thyself in this land,

Coming in Peace, giving life to Egypt:

O Ammon, though leanest night unto day,

A leading that rejoices the heart!

Overflowing the gardens created by Ra.

Giving life to all animals;

Watering the land without ceasing:

The way of heaven descending: Lover of food, bestower of corn

Bringer of food! Great Lord of provisions!

Creator of all good things! ...

He produceth grass for the oxen...

He filleth the granaries, enricheth the store...

What does this hymn show about belief systems in ancient Egypt?

- A. Egyptians believed all animals should be worshipped.
 - B. Egyptians believed the gods were on their side in war.
 - C. Egyptians believed religion and government should be separate.
 - D. Egyptians believed in a connection between religion and nature.
3. Which farming activity contributed most to the expansion of farmland along the Nile River?
 - A. plowing
 - B. harvesting
 - C. irrigation
 - D. mining

4. Identify and describe two characteristics of government in ancient Egypt.

5. Explain four ways that ancient Egypt benefitted from the Nile River.

CHAPTER 3. ANCIENT INDIA

Learning Targets

- I can describe the influence of geography on the development of ancient India.
- I can describe the government, culture, economic system, technology and agricultural practices and products of ancient India and its enduring influence in the Eastern Hemisphere today.



Key Terms to Know

- Indus River
- monsoon
- Harappa
- Hinduism
- Brahman
- reincarnation
- caste system
- varnas
- untouchables



Preview Activity

Archaeologists use artifacts to draw conclusions about civilizations where written records may not exist.

What type of artifacts would you expect to find in a city that was engaged in trade with other civilizations? List some of these artifacts on the lines below.

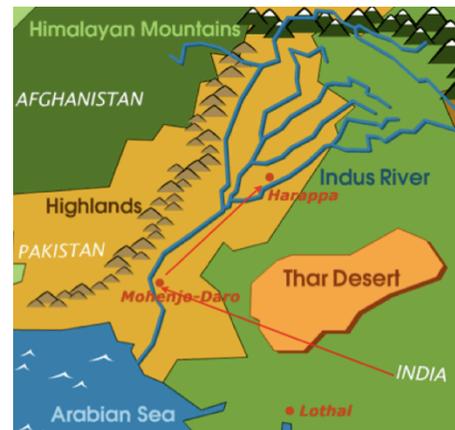


In the 1920s, archaeologists discovered the remains of a 4,600 year-old city in the Indus River valley (in modern-day Pakistan and western India). A successful civilization with large cities had existed at the same time as Egyptian and Mesopotamian civilizations — in an area twice as large as each. The early civilization in India is also called the Harappan civilization because Harappa was one of the largest cities.

The remains of the Indus Valley cities continue to be discovered and interpreted today. With each new artifact, we learn more about the history and enduring influence of ancient India.

Geography and Agriculture

Many rivers flowed through ancient India, making the land fertile. The Indus River flows from the Himalayan Mountains southward into the Arabian Sea. Monsoon rains and winter run-off from the mountains feed the Indus River. It was on the banks of the Indus River that early civilization flourished for nearly one thousand years.



Indus Valley farmers grew large amounts of food. They worked large fields using wooden ploughs pulled by oxen. Farmers made good use of water from the rivers. They sowed seeds after the rivers had flooded the fields, as floodwater made the soil rich. They planted different crops for winter (which was mild and wet) and summer (which was hot and dry). They were probably the first farmers to take water from underground wells. They may have used river water to irrigate their fields. Farmers mainly grew wheat, barley, rice, dates, and peas.

At Harappa, evidence shows that about half the animal bones came from cattle. Farmers kept cows for milk and meat, and also used their skins for making leather. They also had sheep, goats, pigs, chickens and possibly donkeys and camels.

Culture

Ancient India was unique. The people of ancient India did not build large

monuments, or bury riches among their dead in golden tombs. They did believe in an afterlife and they had a system of social classes.

The remains of civilization in India provide us with clues about culture. Clay figurines of goddesses, for example, indicate that religion was important. Stone seals with different animal symbols and writings have been found throughout Harappa. The evidence suggests these seals were part of the same language system.



The blending of ideas and beliefs from various groups created the religion of Hinduism in ancient India. Hinduism believes in many gods and goddesses. However, they believe in one spiritual power called Brahman. The Upanishads are one of the sacred religious texts of Hinduism. The belief in reincarnation (rebirth of the soul) is an important idea in the Upanishads. Hinduism teaches that when a person dies, the soul is reborn in the body of another living thing. The actions of a person in this life affect his or her position in the next life.

Social Structure

By 500 B.C.E., there was a strict social class system in India. A person's social class was determined by birth. Historians refer to this as the caste system. Caste members lived, ate, married, and worked with their own group. A person born into one caste rarely changed castes or mixed with members of other castes.

Classes ranked by job were referred to as *varnas*. Four *varna* categories were created to organize society along economic lines. Spiritual leaders and teachers were called *Brahmins*. Warriors and nobility were called *Kshatriyas*. Merchants and producers were called *Vaishyas*. Laborers were called *Sudras*.

Outcasts were called *untouchables* because they carried out the miserable tasks associated with disease and pollution, such as cleaning up after funerals, dealing with sewage, and working with animal skin.

The caste system was part of the enduring influence of ancient India, remaining strong until the second half of the twentieth century. In 1949, the

Constitution of India created a legal basis for the emancipation of untouchables and for the equality of all citizens.

Government

Little is known about the government of ancient India. There were no emperors and each city was likely governed by separate leaders. Ancient Indian civilization appears to have been a peaceful one. Very few weapons have been found and no evidence of an army has been discovered. Unearthed human bones show no signs of violence, and building remains show no sign of battle.

Technology and Economics

Archaeologists have uncovered evidence that cities were well organized and sanitary. For protection from floods and polluted waters, the settlements were built on giant platforms and higher grounds. Streets were laid out in neat patterns of straight lines and right angles. The buildings along the roads were all made of bricks that were identical in size.

The brick houses of all city residents had bathing areas supplied with water from neighborhood wells. Complex drainage systems throughout the city carried dirty water and sewage outside of living spaces.

Indus Valley smiths worked with copper and bronze to make ornaments, fishhooks, and spears. Merchants and farmers transported goods in wheeled carts drawn by bullocks.



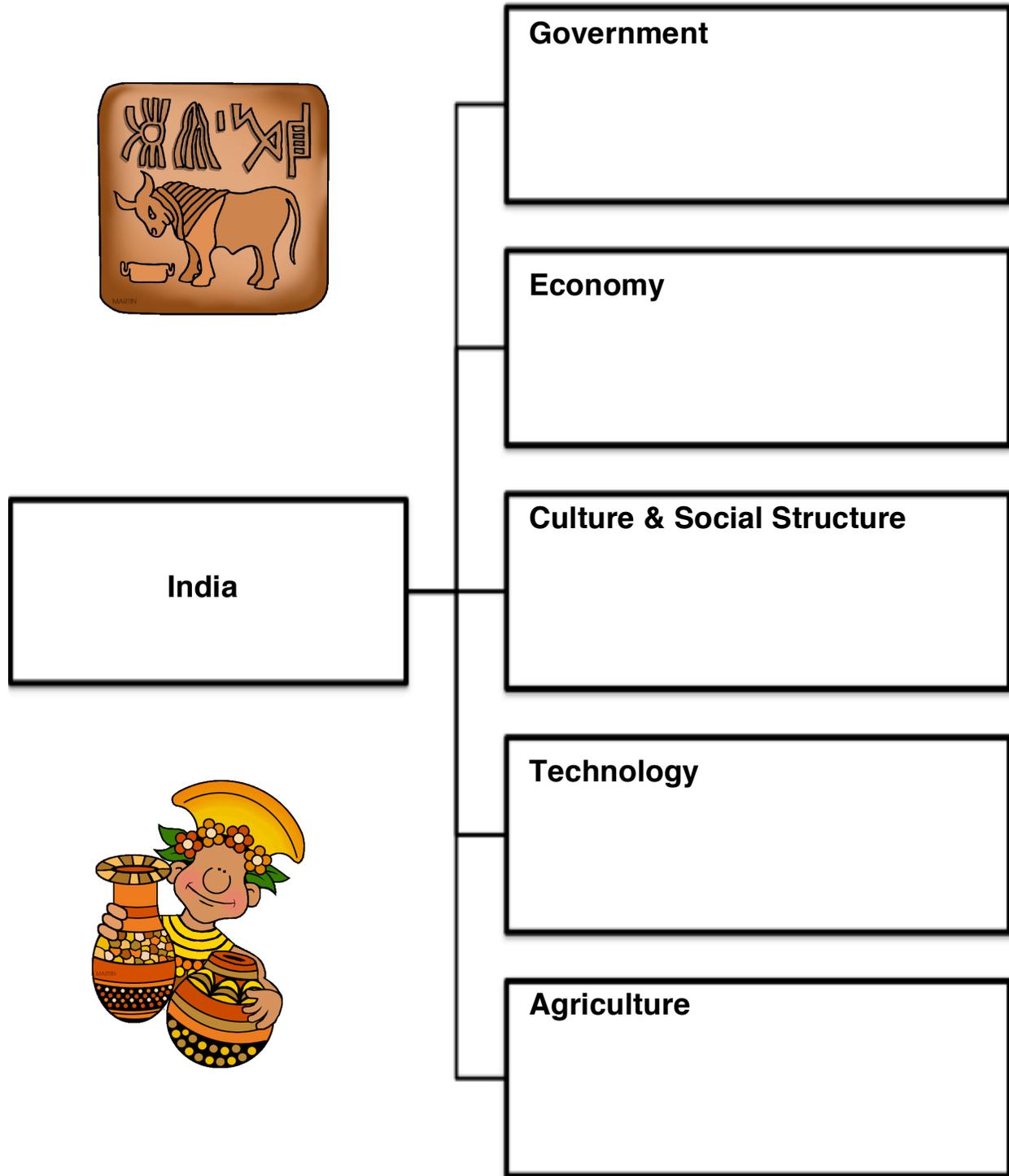
Pottery, textiles, and beads are evidence of skilled craftsmanship and successful trade.

Their excellent craftsmanship and trade allowed the Harappan culture to spread widely and prosper. Each time goods were traded or neighbors entered the gates of the cities to barter, Indian culture was spread.

To ensure fair trade practices, artisans and merchants developed a uniform system of weights and measures. They determined the weight of goods using balance scales with weights of various sizes. They measured each with a ruler marked at exactly .66 centimeters (.264 inches).

Exercise 3. Ancient India Graphic Organizer

Complete the graphic organizer below by recording key information on the features of civilization in India.



Chapter 3. Ancient India Assessment

1. Archaeologists have uncovered evidence that cities in ancient India were well organized and sanitary. Which statements below support this claim? Mark all the correct answers.

- Streets were laid out in straight lines and right angles.
- Social classes were determined by birth.
- Buildings were all made of bricks that were identical in size.
- Farmers grew wheat, barley, rice, dates, and peas.
- Drainage systems carried dirty water outside of living spaces.

2. Describe two agricultural practices of ancient civilization in India.

3. Why was the Indus River important to early civilization in India?
- A. Water was needed for the construction of large monuments.
 - B. The flooding of the river created rich soil for farming.
 - C. The social class system was based on how close people lived to the river.
 - D. The river was essential for moving armies into battle.

4. Which statement describes the caste system of ancient India?
- A. The caste system was only in existence for a few hundred years.
 - B. Spiritual leaders, called Brahmins, made up the lowest caste.
 - C. A person born into one caste rarely changed castes or mixed with members of other castes.
 - D. Outcasts could easily move up to another caste by working hard.
5. Use the picture and information below to answer the question.



The ancient civilization in Harappa created a uniform system of weights of measures. How did these weights and measures contribute to trading practices in this civilization?

CHAPTER 4. ANCIENT CHINA

Learning Targets

- I can describe the influence of geography on the development of ancient China.
- I can describe the government, culture, economic system, technology and agricultural practices and products of ancient China and its enduring influence in the Eastern Hemisphere today.



Key Terms to Know

- Huang He River
- Yangtze River
- millet
- dike
- dynasty
- emperor
- Han Dynasty
- oracle bones
- Silk Road
- export
- import



philipmartin.info

Preview Activity

Think about a time in your life when you made a trade. What was the purpose of the trade? What was the impact? How is this similar to the reasons that early civilizations engaged in trade? How did trade between civilizations have an enduring impact on the world?

Geography and Agriculture

China is separated from the rest of Asia and the world by natural barriers. The Pacific Ocean is the eastern border. The Himalayan Mountains create a boundary to the south. The Gobi and Taklimakan deserts form the northern and western borders.

The Huang He (Yellow) and Yangtze Rivers flow through China. China's first farming villages developed along these rivers. The rivers overflowed their banks each spring, which brought fertile soil. Civilization began along the Huang He River and spread south to wetter land along the Yangtze River. The flooding of the Huang He River has created a fertile area in the North China Plain. The thick layer of fertile soil allowed farmers to grow a grain called millet, which has been an important food source in China for thousands of years. Other crops grown in ancient China included wheat, rice, and barley. Hunting was also common. Domesticated animals raised included pigs, dogs, sheep, oxen, and even silkworms. To control the flooding, ancient Chinese civilization created dikes (protective walls) to hold back flood waters.



Government

In the earliest years of civilization, China was not unified into a single country. There were small villages, each run by a chieftain. China had organized into dynasties by the time the Shang Dynasty began (around 1600 B.C.E to 1046 B.C.E). A dynasty is a line of rulers from the same family. Each ruler is a direct descendent from the last ruler. During Qin Dynasty (221 B.C.E to 206 B.C.E), the title rulers of the dynasty began using the title “emperor.”



Kings (or emperors) defended their right to rule by claiming to be appointed by the gods. This appointment was called the Mandate of Heaven. If the emperor was ineffective, the gods could take away the Mandate of Heaven and give it to a different family. Once a new family gained power, all the

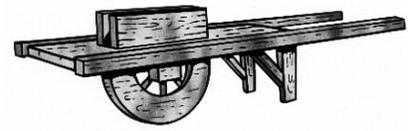
nobles in the old dynasty agreed to stop fighting, because the new family had received the Mandate of Heaven and had the right to rule. This was part of the dynastic cycle.

Technology

Recorded history in China begins with the Shang dynasty. The Shang were skilled workers in bone, jade, ceramics, stone, wood, shells, and bronze. The people of the Shang dynasty lived off of the land, and settled permanently on farms instead of wandering as nomads.

It was during the Shang dynasty that bronze working became common. Bronze vessels for drinking were used in ceremonies. Bronze chariots and axes were used in battle. The tombs of Shang kings contained hundreds of small bronze objects.

The enduring influence of China is evident in the many Chinese inventions that are used by people today. These include paper, silk, gunpowder, the compass, the crossbow, printing, matches, wheelbarrows, the decimal system, the sundial, astronomy, porcelain, lacquer, pottery wheel, fireworks, paper money, seismograph, medicines, dominoes, jump ropes, kites, umbrellas, ink, calligraphy, animal harness, the abacus, and more.



Religion, Culture, and Social Structure

Like most ancient civilizations, the Chinese saw natural events as the work of the gods. They also practiced ancestor worship. The ancient Chinese believed that after someone died, his or her spirit lived on in the afterworld. The spirits of family members, who had died, watched over you. These spirits of your ancestors had magical powers. They could help you or hurt you. Family spirits included all of your ancestors, going back hundreds of years, any of one of whom could help or hinder.

The most important place in each ancient Chinese home was a shrine they used to honor their ancestors. They also brought gifts of food and wine to their temples, to honor the spirits of their ancestors. Celebrations were held

to honor their ancestors. Ancestor worship was the Chinese way of keeping their ancestors happy.

Examples of the early Chinese writing system can be found on oracle bones, another artifact common to the Shang dynasty. Ancient Chinese priests commonly used tortoise shells and cattle bones to answer questions about the future. They interpreted the cracks formed by holes punched in the bones. Oracle bones also served as a way for the priests to write down the history of the dynasty and the timeline of kings. Today, over 150,000 oracle bones have been recovered.



Like many other ancient cultures, the Chinese created a social pyramid, with the king at the top, followed by the military nobility, priests, merchants, and farmers. Burials were one way in which the social classes were distinguished. The elite were buried in elaborate pit tombs with various objects of wealth for a possible use in the afterlife. The lesser classes were buried in pits of varying size based on status.

Trade Along the Silk Road

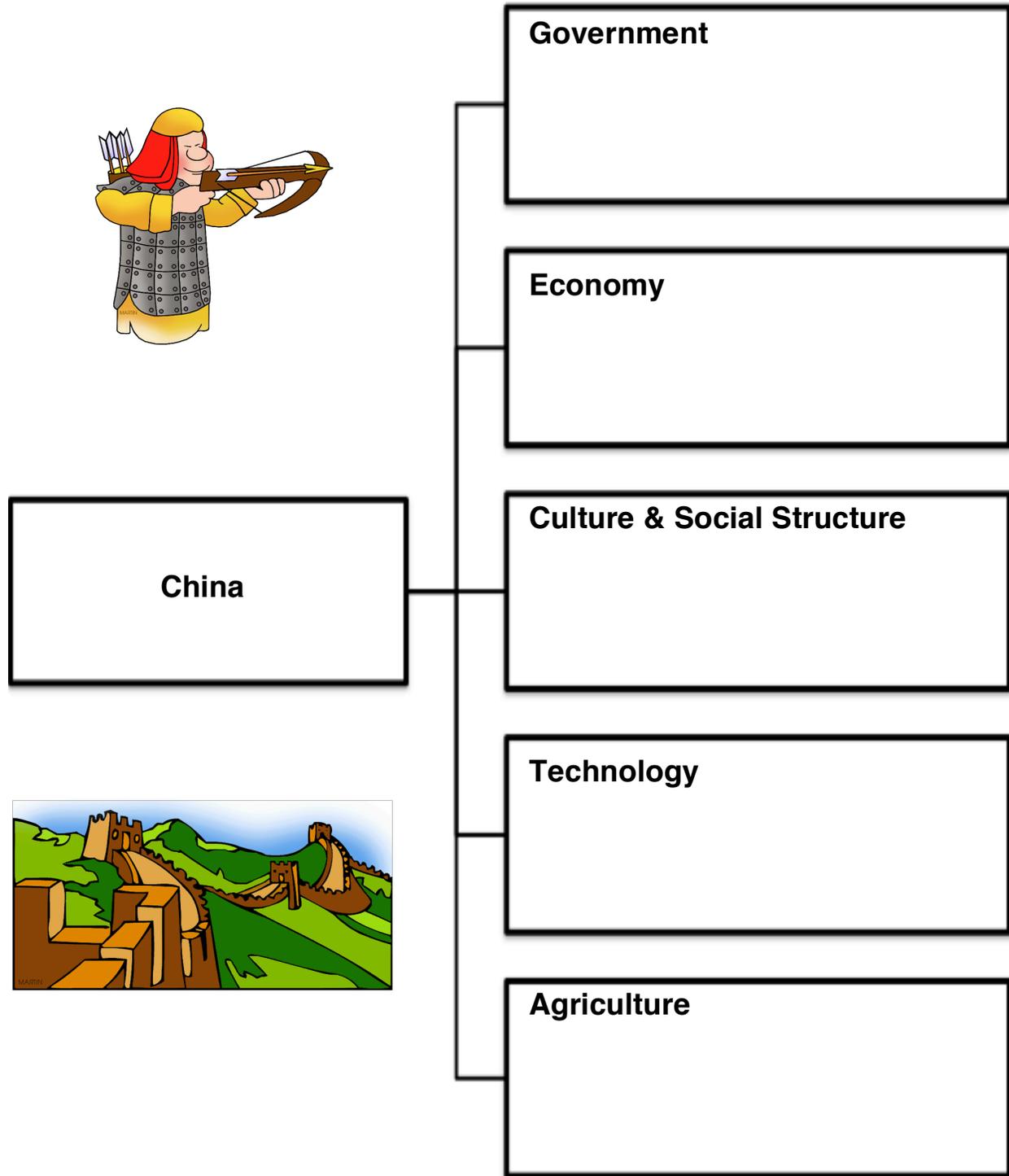
The Silk Road was a trade route that went from China to Eastern Europe. It went along the northern borders of China, India, and Persia and ended up in Eastern Europe. This trade route grew significantly during the Han Dynasty (206 B.C.E to 220 C.E.). It was called the Silk Road because one of the major products traded was silk cloth from China. The Chinese sold silk for thousands of years.



Besides silk, the Chinese also exported tea, salt, sugar, porcelain, and spices. Most of what was traded was expensive luxury goods. They imported, or bought, goods like cotton, ivory, wool, gold, and silver. The Silk Road also contributed to the spread of ideas and cultural practices throughout the Eastern Hemisphere.

Exercise 4.1 Ancient China Graphic Organizer

Complete the graphic organizer below by recording key information on the features of civilization in China.



Exercise 4.2 China Timeline

Use the information from the chapter to place the following dynasties on the timeline below.

- Shang Dynasty
- Qin Dynasty
- Han Dynasty



Chapter 4. Ancient China Assessment

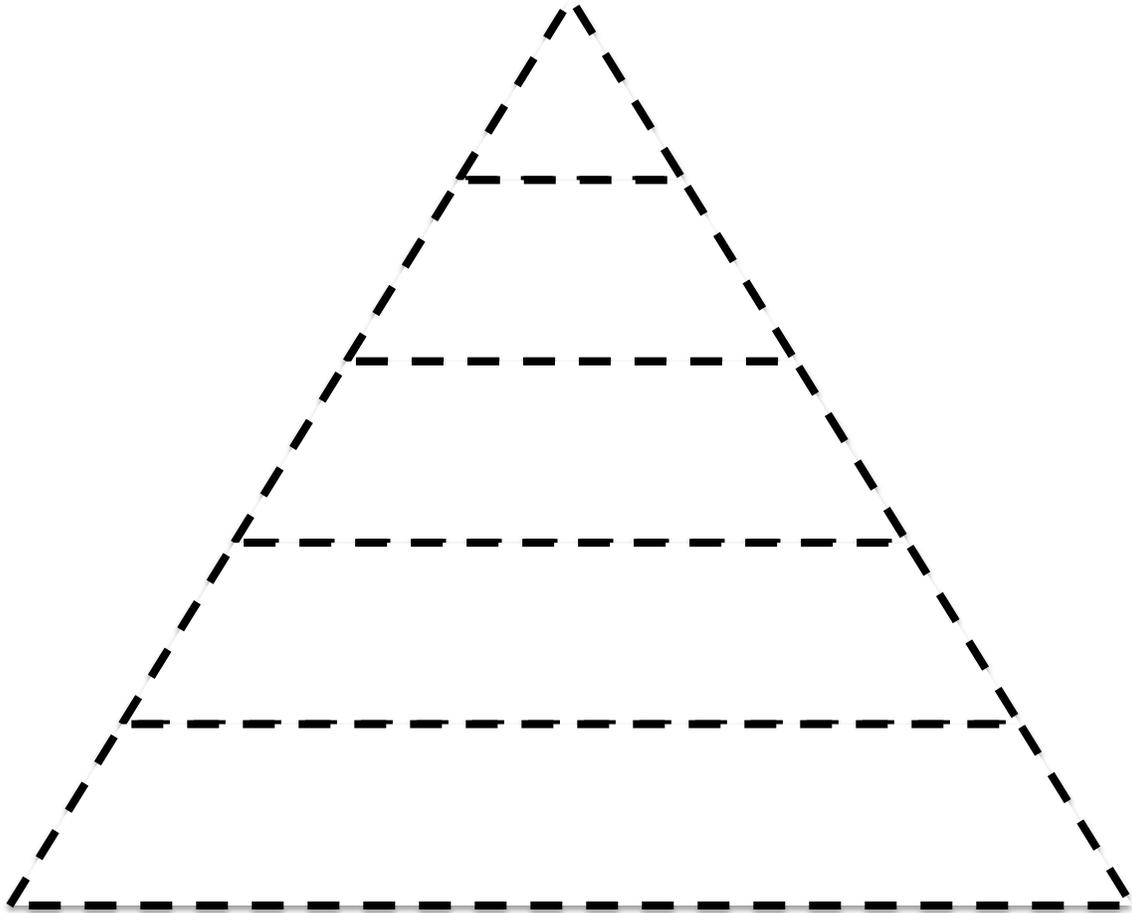
1. What geographic feature allowed the ancient Chinese to grow a grain called millet?
 - A. the natural boundary created by the Himalayan Mountains
 - B. the flooding of the Huang He River
 - C. location close to the Pacific Ocean
 - D. the Gobi Desert in the northwest

2. Give two examples of new inventions from ancient China. Explain the enduring influence of each invention.

3. Which statement describes government in ancient China?
 - A. Nobles were selected by religious leaders to rule the country.
 - B. The Mandate of Heaven was used to defend the right of a dynasty to rule.
 - C. All male citizens voted in regular elections to select a new king.
 - D. New emperors were selected by random lottery when a previous emperor died.

4. What is one reason why the Silk Road was important?
 - A. It kept China protected from invasion by foreign armies on all of its borders.
 - B. It allowed Chinese armies to successfully conquer territory in Southwest Asia.
 - C. It contributed to exchange of goods and cultural practices throughout the Eastern Hemisphere.
 - D. It was an example of advanced engineering design that influenced later civilizations.

5. Complete the Chinese social pyramid below by moving the boxes below to the correct space on the pyramid.



Kings

Merchants

Priests

Military Nobles

Farmers

EARLY CIVILIZATIONS IN THE EASTERN HEMISPHERE ASSESSMENT

1. Which feature did early civilizations along the Tigris-Euphrates, Nile, Indus, and Huang He Rivers have in common?
 - A. They believed in one god.
 - B. They had fertile soil for growing crops.
 - C. Their governments were based on voting rights for male citizens.
 - D. Everyone was considered equal in these societies.

2. Geographic characteristics influenced the development of early river civilizations.

Match each geographic characteristic below with its influence. Move the boxes to the correct blank.

How Development was Influenced by Geographic Characteristics	
	civilization was dependent on the Nile River for all water resources
	fertile soil created a crop surplus in Mesopotamia
	Indus River Valley farmers grew large amounts of food.

arid climate in Egypt

monsoon rains and run-off water from Himalayas

flooding of the Tigris and Euphrates in the spring

3. The enduring legacies of early civilizations are reflected in the cultural practices and products of the modern Eastern Hemisphere. Match each contribution below with the correct civilization. Move the boxes to the correct column on the chart.

Mesopotamia	Egypt	India	China

gunpowder

uniform weights and measures

wheel

365-day calendar

4. Which ancient civilization is described in each of the boxes below? Write the name of the civilization the blank box above each description.

Ancient Civilizations		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • well organized cities with complex drainage systems • Hinduism • caste system 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • farmers grew millet • emperors claimed the Mandate of Heaven • traded silk 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • invented the potters wheel • used papyrus reeds to write on • ruled by pharaohs

5. The Silk Road was a trade route that went from China to Eastern Europe. The boxes below show goods that were traded along the Silk Road.

Move the boxes to correct place on the map to show whether the products were exported from China or imported into China.

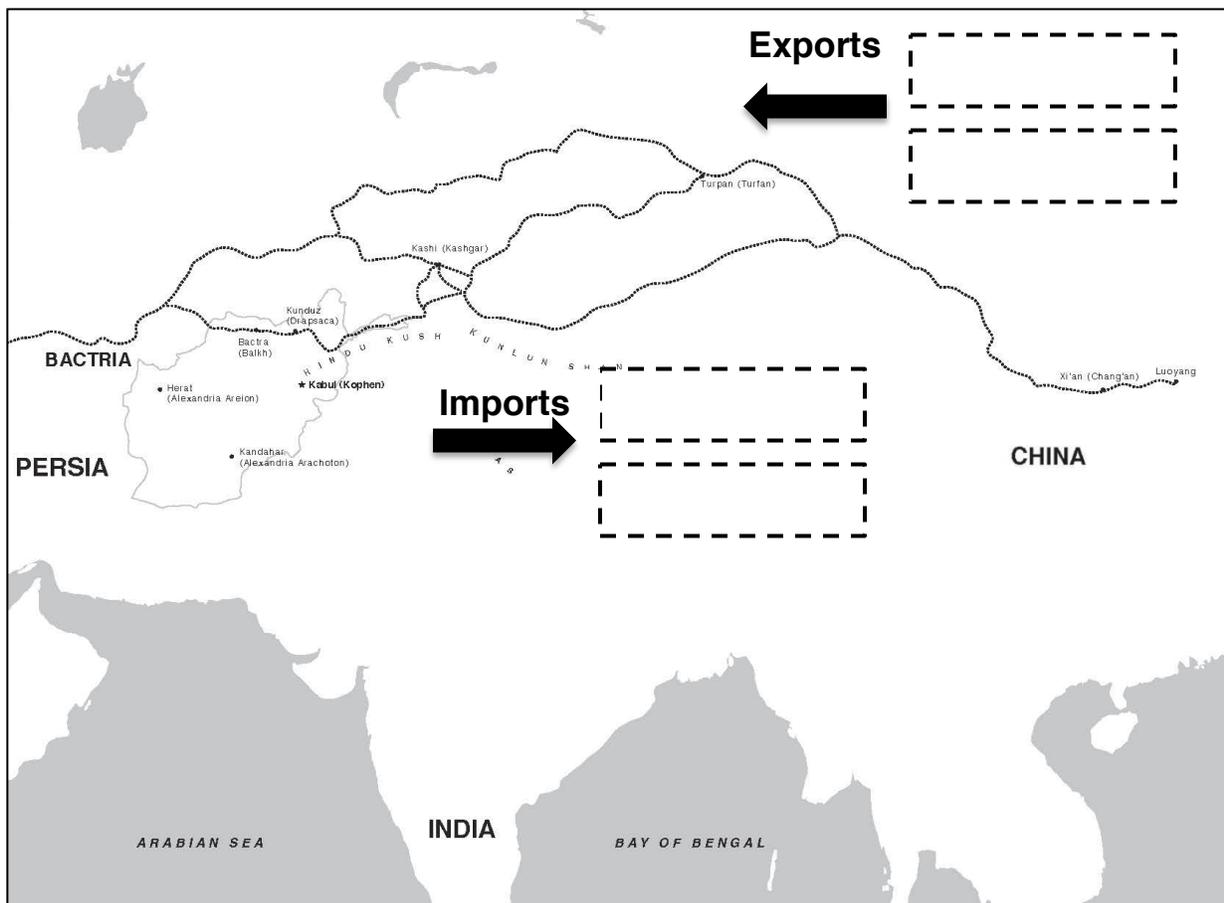
porcelain

ivory

silk

gold

Silk Road Trade



6. Describe the social structure in **two** of the following ancient civilizations:

- Egypt
- India
- China

7. Explain how geography influenced agricultural practices and products in **two** of the following civilizations:

- Mesopotamia
- Egypt
- China

CREDITS

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