

UNIT 2 STUDY GUIDE: River Valley Civilizations

LESSON 1: How does geography contribute to the development of civilization?

(notes, pp. 33 & 35, timelines handout)

Terms to Learn:

Tigris	Euphrates	Nile
levee	wadi	Jared Diamond

Study Questions:

1. Where were the first river valley civilizations located? Be able to locate them on a map.
2. What geographic challenges did the Mesopotamians need to overcome in order to establish their civilization? How did they overcome these challenges?
3. In what ways were floods beneficial to the Mesopotamian and Egyptian civilizations? Did Egypt have an advantage where Nile flooding was concerned?
4. What were the advantages of being surrounded by deserts for Egypt?
5. What role did rivers play in the development of civilizations in Mesopotamia and Egypt?
6. According to Jared Diamond, why did advanced civilizations develop in some parts of the world but not others?

LESSON 2: How did the Mesopotamian civilization develop? *(timelines handout, pp. 35-38, 45-50)*

Terms to Learn:

Sumerians	ziggurat	city-state
Sargon	Akkadians	Ur-Nammu
Babylonians	Hammurabi	Assyrians

Study Questions:

1. How did civilization in Mesopotamia differ from the way humans had lived before?
2. What encouraged the rise of kingship in Mesopotamia?
3. Describe the rise and fall of the major city-states and empires of Mesopotamia.
4. Describe some of the significant achievements of Mesopotamian civilization.

LESSON 3: How did the Egyptian civilization develop? *(timeline, pp. 59-61, 64, 78-81, video notes)*

Terms to Learn:

Black Land (Kemet)	Red Land (Deshret)	Upper Egypt
Lower Egypt	nation-state	shaduf
Menes	Djoser	Ahmoose
Hatshepsut	Thutmose III	Akhenaton
Tutankhamen	Ramses II	pharaoh
dynasty		

Study Questions:

1. How does a nation-state differ from a city-state? How does living as a nation differ from the way people lived before?
2. Describe the difference between the Black Land and the Red Land. What were the advantages of each area?
3. What periods can Egyptian history be divided into? What is each period known for?
4. Describe the role of the Pharaoh in Egyptian society.
5. Describe the achievements of some of Egypt's great Pharaohs.
6. Who did the pharaoh typically marry?

LESSON 4: What was daily life like in Mesopotamia & Egypt? (*handouts*)*Terms to Learn:*

corvee duty	edubba	ostraca
Kemyt and Miscellanies		

Study Questions:

1. Describe the social structures of Mesopotamia and Egypt. How are they similar and different from one another?
2. How did Sumerians and Assyrians view the role of the king differently? Which view is most similar to the way pharaohs were viewed in Egypt?
3. Describe the roles of men and women in Mesopotamian and Egyptian society. In what ways did women in Mesopotamia have more rights than Egyptian women? In what ways were their rights similar?
4. What was marriage and family life like in Mesopotamia? In Egypt?
5. Describe the education system in Mesopotamia and Egypt. How were children of different social classes educated differently? Why was education important in both civilizations?
6. What was life like in a Mesopotamian or Egyptian city? How was city life different from country life?
7. Describe the designs of various Mesopotamian and Egyptian homes. How were the homes of rich and poor different? How did homes in the city and country differ?
8. What did people eat in ancient Mesopotamia and Egypt? How did the diet of rich and poor differ?
9. Describe Egyptian clothing and cosmetics.

LESSON 5: How did the development of writing impact civilizations? (*notes, handouts*)*Terms to Learn:*

pictograms	cuneiform	scribe
Henry Rawlinson	Behistun Rock	hieroglyphs
ideogram	phonogram	hieratic
demotic	Jean-François Champollion	Rosetta Stone
cartouche	<i>Epic of Gilgamesh</i>	<i>Instructions of Vizier Ptahhotep</i>

Study Questions:

1. How does writing contribute to the advancement of knowledge and the spread of civilization?
2. Why was writing first developed?
3. Discuss the similarities and differences between cuneiform and hieroglyphs.
4. Describe the difference between hieroglyphs and demotic.
5. How were both cuneiform and hieroglyphs decoded?

LESSON 6: Writing Stations Activity**LESSON 7: How did the Mesopotamians & Egyptians answer life's big questions? (handouts)***Terms to Learn:*

anthropomorphic	polytheistic	Enlil/Marduk
An/Anu	Enki	Ninhursag
Ashur	Ishtar	ziggurat
oracles	liver divination	Amon-Re/Aten
Osiris	Isis	Anubis
Khnum	ka	ba
embalmer	natron	amulet
canopic jars	sarcophagus	funeral mask
akh		

Study Questions:

1. In what ways were the gods of Mesopotamia and Egypt similar? In what ways were they different?
2. Describe a religious festival celebrated in Mesopotamia. Describe a festival celebrated in Egypt.
3. In what ways were Mesopotamian beliefs about the afterlife similar to Egyptian beliefs about the afterlife? In what ways were they different?
4. Describe how a Mesopotamian king would have been buried. In what ways would it be similar to an Egyptian burial?
5. Why were many Egyptian deities associated with animals or given animal characteristics?
6. Why was the preservation of the body after death so important to Egyptians? Describe the process of mummification and how it developed over time.
7. Describe the influence of religious cults on Egyptian faith.

LESSON 8: What advances in architecture occurred in Mesopotamia & Egypt? (notes)*Terms to Learn:*

ziggurat	mud brick	mastaba
pyramid	stone	Djoser
Imhotep	Sesostris III	Akhenaten
Akhetaten/Amarna	talatat	Ramses II
Abu Simbel		

Study Questions:

1. Describe some of the achievements of Mesopotamian architecture.
2. What building materials were commonly used in Mesopotamia?
3. In what ways were architectural developments in Mesopotamia and Egypt similar? In what ways were they different?
4. Why was the world's first dam constructed?
5. Why was Djoser's burial complex so revolutionary?
6. Describe how a pyramid would have been built.
7. Why were Sesostris' forts such important achievements of engineering?
8. How did a modern feat of engineering (the construction of the Aswan Dam) contribute to the loss and near loss of two of ancient Egypt's great architectural achievements?

LESSON 9: How did the governments of early civilizations establish power, authority and order?*(notes, handouts)**Terms to Learn:*

lugal	theocracy	ensi
pharaoh	vizier	nome
nomarch	Hammurabi's Code	

Study Questions:

1. Describe the early governments of Sumer. How did the role of king come to be established?
2. What were the king's main responsibilities in Sumer?
3. How did the Sumerians run their empire? How was their management style similar/different from that of the Assyrians?
4. What were an Assyrian king's main responsibilities?
5. What was the lasting impact of Hammurabi's code?
6. How did the Egyptians run their empire? How does their management style compare with the Mesopotamian approach to running an empire?
7. Compare the legal systems of Mesopotamia and Egypt.
8. Describe how the court system worked in Egypt.

LESSON 10: What discoveries were made by early civilizations & what impact did they have? *(notes)**Terms to Learn:*

wheel	plough	bronze
shaduf		

Study Questions:

1. What were the major contributions to the advancement of science and ideas at this time?
2. What inventions may the Mesopotamians be credited with?
3. What inventions may the Egyptians be credited with?
4. Did all the inventions from this time period have a positive impact on human society?
5. What aspects of Mesopotamian and Egyptian culture may have influenced their scientific discoveries?

LESSON 11: What activities drove the economies of Mesopotamia & Egypt? *(handouts)**Terms to Learn:*

barter system	coins
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Study Questions:

1. What activity was most important to both the economy of Mesopotamia and the economy of Egypt?
2. Explain how land ownership worked in Egypt and Mesopotamia.
3. Where did most craftspeople sell their goods in Mesopotamia and Egypt? Why do you think they chose these locations?
4. What parts of the world did Mesopotamia and Egypt trade with? What sorts of products did they exchange?
5. What kinds of products were grown and produced in Egypt and Mesopotamia?

LESSON 12: How had art helped us understand the cultures of early civilizations? (notes)

Terms to Learn:

mosaic

relief carving

false transparency

Study Questions:

1. What were the main subjects of Mesopotamian sculpture?
2. What information about Mesopotamian/Egyptian society can we learn from their art?
3. What types of art did Mesopotamia and Egypt produce? What materials did they use?
4. How did the subject matter of Mesopotamian art change under the Assyrians?
5. What were some of the conventions of Mesopotamian sculpture? Of two-dimensional art?
6. What was the main purpose of Egyptian art?
7. What three key factors influenced Egyptian art?
8. How did the purpose or function of art in Mesopotamia and Egypt influence the art that was produced?
9. Would art from this period be considered realistic? Why or why not?
10. Give some examples of famous works of Mesopotamian and Egyptian art.