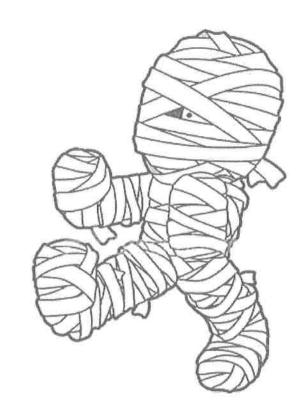
# The First Civilizations

Ancient China, Egypt, India, Mesopotamia



Nam	ne:
Per:	
Due	Date:

# Early Civilizations Vocabulary

# Egypt

Silt	
Delta	
Pharaoh	
Mummification	
Hieroglyphics	
Fertile Crescent	Mesopotamia
Tertile ereseent	
Ziggurat	
Cuneiform	
Criminal Law	
Civil Law	
Tolerance	

# **India**Subcontinent

Caste System

Monsoon

# China

Oracle Bones

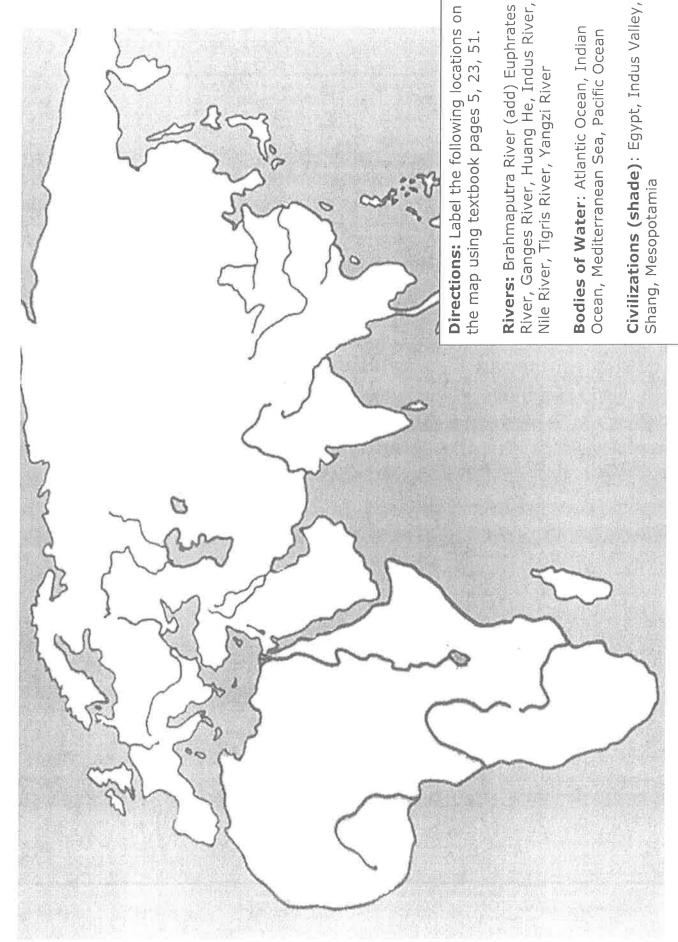
Calligraphy

Dynastic Cycle

Mandate of Heaven

# First Civilizations

Locations



# Early Civilizations Fill-In

		M		
Location and Page # in Text	Major Rivers	Name or Different Kingdoms and Societies	Characteristics of Civilization	Achievements
			- Annual floods soaked the lands leaving behind a layer of (pg 24)	- The Egyptians built (pg 26) or tombs for eternity for their pharaohs.
		The Old Kingdom (2700-2200 BC)	- Egyptian Rulers were called (pg 25) and they were considered a	- Egyptians perfected skills in (pg 26)
Egypt (pgs. 24-33)	- River (pg 24)	The Middle Kingdom (2050-1800 BC)	god Egyptians were polytheistic and believed in many gods. List three Egyptian gods:	- Developed a form of picture writing called (pg 32) - made paperlike writing material from
		New Kingdom (1570-1070 BC)	(pg 28) (pg 28) (pg 28)	(pg 32)
		Nubia (Kush) (2000 BC-350 AD)	- Most Egyptians were peasant (pg 31)	( <del>+</del> )
			- Peasant men served the pharaoh by [pg 31] [pg 31] [pg 31]	- developed a calendar

Achievements	- wrote the poem  (pg 34)  which tells of a great flood  - built pyramid temples or  (pg 36)  - earliest known form of  writing was  (pg 36)	- remarkable set of laws known as (pg 38)	- Iron working	- encouraged well ordered society	- Common weights and measures - Developed by Darius  [pg 43] linked the empire economically	- Set up colonies around the (pg 44) - Created an (pg 44) using letters to represent sounds.
Characteristics of Civilization	- Sumerian ruler responsible for maintaining (pg 35)  - a majority of Sumerians were (pg 35)  - Sumerians were (pg 35)  - Sumerians were (pg 36)	- A society with laws to "cause justice to prevail, To destroy wicked and evil, The strong may not oppress the weak.	- Brought new skills to the region	- Warfare central to society	- Persian kings practiced  (pg 42) or acceptance of conquered peoples	- Made of sailors and sea traders - Best known for manufacturing and trade
Name of Different Kingdoms and Societies	- Sumer (Sumerians) (3200 BC)	Babylon (1790 BC)	Hittites (1400 BC)	Assyrian Empire (1100 BC)	- Persian Empire (539 BC)	- Phoenicians (700 BC)
Major Rivers		- River and the	River (pg 34)			
Location Page # in Text		Mesopotamia (Land Between the Rivers)	Fertile	(pgs. 34-44)		

Location Page # in Text	Major Rivers	Name of Different Kingdoms and Societies	Characteristics of Civilization	Achievements
L India (pgs. 52-58)	- River and the River and the	Indus Valley Civilization (2500 BC)	- A seasonal wind that brings dry weather in the winter and wet weather in the summer is called a (pg 53) or seasonal wind capitals of the Indus Civilization (pg 53)  - Most people in the Indus Valley Civilization were Valley Civilization were (pg 54)	- Each city in the Indus Valley was laid out in a  (pg. 53)  - Houses in the Indus Valley contained modern (pg 53)
	- River (pg 52)		as they believed in many gods.	
		Aryan Civilization (1500 to 500 BC)	- Most of what we know about this civilization comes from the (pg 55) - Aryans were divided into these three social classes (pg 55) (pg 55)	- Recited two long epic poems (pg 58)  - Aryan religious beliefs evolved into the religions of (pg 58)

Location ge # in Text	Major Rivers	Name of Different Kingdoms and Societies	Characteristics of Civilization	Achievements
China (40gs. 59-65)	- River and	Shang Civilization (1650-1027 BC)	- Groups of families who claimed common ancestry (pg 62) - Most people in Shang (China were (pg 62)) - Chinese believed the universe reflected a balance between forces of (pg 63) (pg 63) and they needed to maintain balance.	- The oldest example of Chinese writing are on (pg 63) - Chinese scholars turned fine handwriting or into an art form.
	River (pg 60)	Zhou Dynasty (1027-256 BC)	- Promoted the idea of  (pg 63) or the divine right to rule - The rise and fall of dynasties is called  -A systems in which local lords governed their own land but owed military service is called  (pg 64)	- discovered how to make  (pg 65)  - The trade route that linked China and the Middle East was eventually called the  (pg 65)  - The Chinese made the first  (pg 65)

# First Civilizations

Social Structures

# China

King and nobles Scholars Peasants Craftsmen Merchants

# Egypt

Nobles, aristocracy, priests
Merchants, craftsmen, wealthy farmers, scribes
Laborers
Slaves

# India

Brahmin – priests, scholars, religious teachers Kshatriyas – kings, warriors, chieftains Vaishyas – merchants, farmers, landowners Shudras – land labourers, craftsmen Outcasts – executioners of criminals, scavengers, people thrown out of cast

# Mesopotamia

King, nobles and rulers
Teachers, laborers and merchants
Slaves and prisoners

# Based on the charts above answer the following questions:

What	do the social structures of these civilizations have in common? (Name 3)
	26
	t.
What	differences do you see between the social structures of these civilizations? (Name 2

# Hieroglyphics

The ancient written language of the Egyptians was called hieroglyphics. It was widely believed that the symbols or pictures stood for words. Many people thought it was a pictographic language. Not until the discovery of the Rosetta Stone by the soldiers of Napoleon about two hundred years ago were scholars able to figure out the real meaning of hieroglyphics.

The Rosetta Stone had an inscription written in three languages: Greek, hieroglyphics and hieratic. European scholars knew the meaning of the Greek words. Comparing names of kings in the three languages, scholars realized that the Stone contained the same inscription in three different languages. By comparing the Greek and the hieroglyphics, scholars began to figure out the mystery of the strange picture language.

The French scholar, Champollion, realized that the Egyptian signs must represent something other than words. There were 486 Greek words on the stone but there were 1,419 hieroglyphic signs. Champollion figured out that the hieroglyphic signs must represent sounds just like our alphabet does. Through a complicated process of comparison and elimination, Champollion found out what sounds the characters represented. The mystery of hieroglyphics was solved.

The hieroglyphic pictures represent both sounds and words. This makes it very confusing to read. Additional symbols, called determinatives, were added to make it clear to the reader. Also adding to the difficulty of figuring out the language was that scholars couldn't tell which way it should be read: right to left or left to right. They realized that the clue was in the way the characters faced. If they face to the left then it is to be read from left to right.

The Egyptians did not have characters for all of the sounds that we use. "O", "U", and "W" are not represented. Nor is "E" or "I". Scholars translating hieroglyphics had to add these sounds.

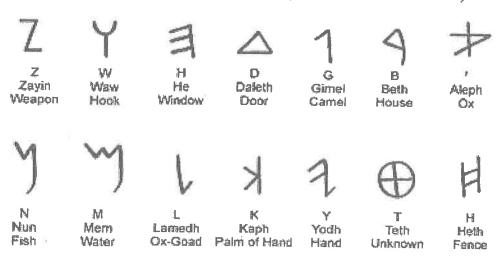
On the next page is the hieroglyphic alphabet and an exercise in using it. Remember in translating the hieroglyphics that Egyptian words for objects and actions were different from ours. The Egyptian word for cat, for example, was "mau."

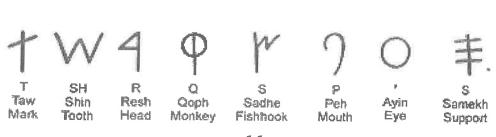


Ugaritic Alphabet - (developed in Syria, Cuneiform)

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'a	b	g	¥ b	d	h
W	¥ z	ļ.	₽¥∢ t	<b>₹</b> y	k
<b>⟨₹</b> />š	1	m	₫	<b>⊳&gt;&gt;</b> n	Ž.
s	∢ .	p	a:	<b>▶</b> ⊸∢	r
<u>\$</u>	ġ	<b>▶</b> —	i i	'n	<b>会</b> 会 S <sub>2</sub>

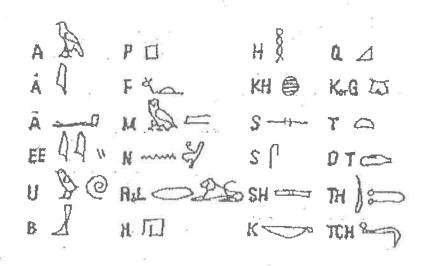
# Phoenician Alphabet - (developed in Mediterranean)





Station 2 - Hieroglyphics: Read the handout and attempt to translate the message written in hieroglyphics.

This is the hieroglyphic alphabet. Remember most of the vowels are missing. Below is a sentence written in hieroglyphics. See if you can figure out what it says. Then try to make your own message and see if someone else can understand it.



What does this say?



Phoenician: Using the Phoenician alphabet provided, write your name using the letters below. You must write your first and last name in the space provided.

# **Sumerian Temples and Homes**

As civilization in Mesopotamia developed, so lid life in the city-states. By 3000 B.C., most of the people in Sumer lived in one of over a dozen such towns. These cities were fiercely independent, each featuring its own type of government ruled by either a king, a class of priests, or some other leader.

The people living in the city-states were divided into three classes, or groups. The most important class in status consisted of the nobility and the priests. The nobility were privileged land-owners. The next class was made up of the commoners—those who labored in the fields of the nobility or worked in the cities as artisans, craftsmen, or unskilled workers. The lowest class of Sumerians was made up of slaves.

Just as a king might occupy the most important position in his city-state, so did a special type of building in Mesopotamia. Rising high above the streets of a typical city was a special temple called a ziggurat, from an Assyrian word ziqquratu, meaning "mountain top."

Similar to the massive stone pyramids constructed by ancient Egyptians, the Mesopotamians built multi-leveled complexes of baked mud bricks. The typical ziggurat had three long staircases leading to the top of the structure—a height of perhaps 80 feet. These great temples were massive, often measuring 700 feet around the base.

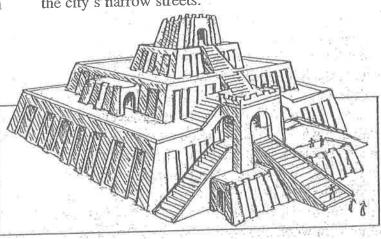
The ziggurat was important to the Mesopotamians and their religion. The height of the temple symbolized the human desire to connect with heaven. Each ziggurat was dedicated to a special god. The stairs were an invitation to their god to come and visit them.

Unlike the typical Egyptian pyramid which featured smooth, sloping sides, the ziggurat had several flat terraces which were places of constant activity where everyone—from slave to king—gathered to worship.

Inside the ziggurat were special rooms and chambers, some serving as living quarters for temple priests. Other rooms were kept as sacred shrines and storage rooms.

While ziggurats dominated the skyline of the Sumerian city-states, the people lived in much smaller homes. The Mesopotamians recognized the

right of private ownership of property and the typical commoner lived in a one-story mud-brick home. Such houses were often crowded together and lined the city's narrow streets.



A ziggurat from Ur-Nammu, built around 2000 B.C.

Wealthy citizens might live in larger, two-story houses, complete with bedrooms, a kitchen, bathrooms, an inside courtyard, and storage rooms. Underground cellars might also be part of the home, where certain household goods, including foods, were kept cool. Such homes commonly included a family chapel for private worship, as well as a family burial plot where the tombs of deceased family members served as a constant reminder of the family's past.

# Review and Write

1. What are some of the important buildings	in	your
town or neighborhood? List them below.		

2. Why do you think the Mesopotamians considered their ziggurats to be such important buildings?



# LITERATURE SELECTION from The Epic of Gilgamesh

Archaeologists excavated 12 cuneiform tablets containing the story of Gilgamesh, a cruel and powerful king in ancient Sumer. One of the world's oldest epics, this poem centers around Gilgamesh's heroic yet fruitless quest to achieve immortality. In this excerpt from Tablet XI, Per-napishtim, a man who was granted immortality because he saved humankind from a great flood, explains to Gilgamesh how he prepared for the deluge brought about by angry gods. As you read, think about the steps Per-napishtim takes in order to survive the flood.

All that was necessary I collected together.
On the fifth day I drew its design;
In its middle part its sides were ten gar high;
Ten gar also was the extent of its deck;

5 I added a front-roof to it and closed it in.

I built it in six stories,

thus making seven floors in all;

The interior of each I divided again into nine partitions.

Beaks for water within I cut out.

Three (variant, five) shar of pitch I smeared on its outside; three shar of asphalt I used for the inside (so as to make it water-tight).

The ship sank into water two thirds of its height.

With all that I possessed I filled it;

is with all the silver I had I filled it;

with all the gold I had I filled it;

with living creatures of every kind I filled it.

Then I embarked also all my family and my relatives,

cattle of the field, beasts of the field, and the uprighteous people—all them I embarked.

**20** A time had Shamash appointed, (namely):

When the rulers of darkness send at eventide a destructive rain,

then enter into the ship and shut its door.'

This very sign came to pass, and

The rulers of darkness sent a destructive rain at eventide.

**25** I saw the approach of the storm,

and I was afraid to witness the storm;

I entered the ship and shut the door.

I intrusted the guidance of the ship to Purur-bel, the boatman,

the great house, and the contents thereof.

30 As soon as early dawn appeared,

there rose up from the horizon a black cloud,

within which the weather god (Adad) thundered,

and Nabu and the king of the gods (Marduk) went before.

The destroyers passed across mountain and dale (literally, country).

35 Dibbara, the great, tore loose the anchor-cable (?).

There went Ninib and he caused the banks to overflow;

the Anunnaki lifted on high (their) torches,

and with the brightness thereof they illuminated the universe.

The storm brought on by Adad swept even up to the heavens,





8

40 and all light was turned into darkness....

Six days and nights

The wind blew, and storm and tempest overwhelmed the country. When the seventh day drew night he tempest, the storm, the battle which they had waged like a great host began to moderate.

The sea quieted down; hurricane and storm ceased.
I looked out upon the sea and raised loud my voice,
But all mankind had turned back into clay.
Like the surrounding field had become the bed of the rivers.

I opened the air-hole and light fell upon my cheek.

50 Dumfounded I sank backward, and sat weeping, while over my cheek flowed the tears.

I looked in every direction, and behold, all was sea.

Now after twolve (days?) there rose (out of the water)

Now, after twelve (days?) there rose (out of the water) a strip of land.

To Mount Nisir the ship drifted.

65 On Mount Nisir the boat stuck fast and it did not slip away.

The first day, the second day, Mount Nisir held the ship fast, and did not let it slip away.

The third day, the fourth day, Mount Nisir held the ship fast, and did not let it slip away.

The fifth day, the sixth day, Mount Nisir held the ship fast, and did not let it slip away.

When the seventh day drew nigh

60 I sent out a dove, and let her go.

The dove flew hither and thither,
but as there was no resting-place for her, she returned.

Then I sent out a swallow, and let her go.

The swallow flew hither and thither,

65 but as there was no resting-place for her she also returned. Then I sent out a raven, and let her go.

The raven flew away and saw the abatement of the waters. She settled down to feed, went away, and returned no more.

Then I let everything go out unto the four winds, and I offered a sacrifice.

70 I poured out a libation upon the peak of the mountain.

I placed the censers seven and seven,
and poured into them calamus, cedar-wood, and sweet-incense.
The gods smelt the savour;
yea, the gods smelt the sweet savour;

75 the gods gathered like flies around the sacrificer.

Directions: On a separate sheet of paper answer the following questions.

1) What is the man in the story building? (13)

2) What did he take with him into the ship? (15-19)

3) What was the sign that it was time to go in the ship? (21)

4) What did the storm cause? (36)

5) Where did the ship come to a stop? (55)

6) What are the three birds he sent out? (60-66)

7) When did he open the doors to the ship? (68-69)

8) What modern story is this like?




# 8 THINGS YOU MAY NOT KNOW ABOUT HAMMURABI'S CODE

Find out more about the fascinating history behind one of antiquity's most important legal codes.

### IT'S NOT THE EARLIEST KNOWN CODE OF LAWS.

Hammurabi's dictates are often cited as the oldest written laws on record, but they were predated by at least two other ancient codes of conduct from the Middle East. The earliest, created by the Sumerian ruler Ur-Nammu of the city of Ur, dates all the way back to the 21st century B.C., and evidence also shows that the Sumerian Code of Lipit-Ishtar of Isin was drawn up nearly two centuries before Hammurabi came to power. These earlier codes both bear a striking resemblance to Hammurabi's commands in their style and content, suggesting they may have influenced one another or perhaps even derived from a similar source.

# THE CODE INCLUDED MANY BIZARRE AND GRUESOME FORMS OF PUNISHMENT.

Hammurabi's Code is one of the most famous examples of the ancient precept of "lex talionis," or law of retribution, a form of retaliatory justice commonly associated with the saying "an eye for an eye." Under this system, if a man broke the bone of one his equals, his own bone would be broken in return. Capital crimes, meanwhile, were often met with their own unique and grisly death penalties. If a son and mother were caught committing incest, they were burned to death; if a pair of scheming lovers conspired to murder their spouses, both were impaled. Even a relatively minor crime could earn the offender a horrific fate. For example, if a son hit his father, the Code demanded the boy's hands be "hewn off."

For crimes that could not be proven or disproven with hard evidence (such as claims of sorcery), the Code allowed for a "trial by ordeal"—an unusual practice where the accused was placed in a potentially deadly situation as a way of determining innocence. The Code notes that if an accused man jumps into the river and drowns, his accuser "shall take possession of his house." However, if the gods spared the man and allowed him to escape unhurt, the accuser would be executed, and the man who jumped in the river would receive his house.

## THE LAWS VARIED ACCORDING TO SOCIAL CLASS AND GENDER.

Hammurabi's Code took a brutal approach to justice, but the severity of criminal penalties often depended on the identity of both the lawbreaker and the victim. While one law commanded, "If a man knock out the teeth of his equal, his teeth shall be knocked out," committing the same crime against a

member of a lower class was punished with only a fine. Other rank-based penalties were even more significant. If a man killed a pregnant "maid-servant," he was punished with a monetary fine, but if he killed a "free-born" pregnant woman, his own daughter would be killed as retribution. The Code also listed different punishments for men and women with regard to marital infidelity. Men were allowed to have extramarital relationships with maid-servants and slaves, but philandering women were to be bound and tossed into the Euphrates along with their lovers.

# THE CODE ESTABLISHED A MINIMUM WAGE FOR WORKERS.

Hammurabi's Code was surprisingly ahead of its time when it came to laws addressing subjects like divorce, property rights and the prohibition of incest, but perhaps most progressive of all was a stipulation mandating an ancient form of minimum wage. Several edicts in the Code referenced specific occupations and dictated how much the workers were to be paid. Field laborers and herdsmen were guaranteed a wage of "eight gur of corn per year," and ox drivers and sailors received six gur. Doctors, meanwhile, were entitled to 5 shekels for healing a freeborn man of a broken bone or other injury, but only three shekels for a freed slave and two shekels for a slave.

# THE CODE INCLUDES ONE OF THE EARLIEST EXAMPLES OF THE PRESUMPTION OF INNOCENCE.

While it's notorious for its catalogue of barbaric punishments, Hammurabi's Code also set several valuable legal precedents that have survived to this day. The compendium is among the earliest legal documents to put forth a doctrine of "innocent until proven guilty." In fact, the Code places the burden of proof on the accuser in extreme fashion when it says, "If any one bring an accusation of any crime before the elders, and does not prove what he has charged, he shall, if it be a capital offense charged, be put to death." The Code also includes a modern take on judicial procedures. For example, when two parties had a dispute, legal protocol allowed them to bring their case before a judge and provide evidence and witnesses to back up their claims.

# HISTORIANS ARE STILL UNSURE OF THE ROLE THE CODE PLAYED IN BABYLONIAN CULTURE.

Hammurabi's Code offers a valuable glimpse into what daily life in ancient Babylonia might have been like, but just how the laws functioned in society is still up for debate. The statutes could have been a list of amendments to an even earlier and more expansive set of general laws, but they might also have acted as a set of judicial precedents compiled from real world cases. Some historians have even argued the Code was not a working legal document at all, but rather a piece of royal propaganda created to enshrine Hammurabi as a great and just ruler. However the Code operated, there is little doubt that the pillar itself was intended for public display. In the epilogue to the Code,

Hammurabi boasts that any man involved in a dispute can read his laws to "...find out what is just, and his heart will be glad..."

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# THE LAWS WEREN'T REDISCOVERED UNTIL THE 20TH CENTURY.

Hammurabi's edicts were a fixture of the ancient world, but the laws were later lost to history and weren't rediscovered until 1901, when a team of French archeologists unearthed the famous diorite stele at the ancient city of Susa, Iran, once the seat of the Elamite Empire. Historians believe the Elamite King Shutruk-Nahhunte plundered the four-ton slab during a 12th century B.C. raid on the Babylonian city of Sippar and then brought it to Susa as a treasure of war. Shutruk-Nahhunte is thought to have erased several columns from the monument to make space for his own inscription, but no text was ever added. Today, the pillar is kept on display at the Louvre Museum in Paris.

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Hammurabi's edicts were a fixture of the ancient world, but the laws were later lost to history and weren't rediscovered until 1901, when a team of French archeologists unearthed the famous diorite stele at the ancient city of Susa, Iran, once the seat of the Elamite Empire. Historians believe the Elamite King Shutruk-Nahhunte plundered the four-ton slab during a 12th century B.C. raid on the Babylonian city of Sippar and then brought it to Susa as a treasure of war. Shutruk-Nahhunte is thought to have erased several columns from the monument to make space for his own inscription, but no text was ever added. Today, the pillar is kept on display at the Louvre Museum in Paris.

# Eight Things You May Not Know About Hammurabi's Code

Directions: Using the reading provided, please answer the questions. Answer each question in your own words. Do not copy answers directly from the text of the document.

1.	Is it true that Hammurabi's Code are the oldest written laws on record?
2.	Who created the earliest code?
	When was the Sumerian Code of Lipit-Ishtar drawn up?
4.	What are two possible explanations for the similarity of these codes:
	a
	b
5.	What does "lex talionis" mean?
6.	What saying is this associated with?
7.	Give an example of "lex talionis" (retaliatory justice):
8.	What would happen to a son who hit his father under the code?
Э.	When would trial by ordeal be used?
10.	How was trial by ordeal carried out?

11	. What happens if a man commits a crime against his equal?
12	. What happens if a man commits a crime against a person of lower social rank?
13	. Give an example of how the law treated men and women differently:
14.	Give an example of how Hammurabi's Code addressed minimum wage.
15.	How did Hammurabi's code set the precedent for innocent until proven guilty?
	Do we know for certain how the laws functioned in Babylonian society?
	Who rediscovered Hammurabi's code after it was lost?

	Would you like to live in a society with laws like those found in Hammurabi's code? Explain
•	your answer. Use complete sentences please.
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# Who Were the Phoenicians?

# **CHALLENGE ACTIVITY 25**

Source Reading

Because Phoenicia was a hilly land with poor soil, large scale farming was impossible. The Phoenicians, therefore, turned to the sea and became skilled sailors and successful traders. They developed many trading posts in the Mediterranean and were often referred to as the carriers of civilization to the West. Between 1200 and 500 B.C., the Phoenicians made great advances in the areas of writing and trade. Their colonies, such as Carthage, developed into full-scale states on their own.

In the following selection, historian Will Durant discusses these early traders and their influence on other cultures. Read the excerpt carefully and answer the questions that follow.

# In Their Words

their name is problematical: the *phoinix* from which the Greeks coined it may mean the red dye that Tyrian merchants sold, or a palm tree that flourishes along the Phoenician coast.... They were the busiest merchants of the ancient world; and when they liberated themselves from Egypt they became masters of the Mediterranean. They themselves manufactured various... objects of glass and metal; ... enameled vases, weapons, ornaments and jewelry; they had a monopoly of the purple dye.... These, and the exportable surplus of India and the Near East... they shipped to every city of the Mediterranean far and near...

[They] set a new style of [ship] design, abandoning the inward-curving bow of the Egyptian vessel, and turning it outward into a sharp point for cleaving wind or water, or the ships of the enemy. One large rectangular sail, hoisted on a mast fixed in the keel, helped the galley slaves who provided most of the motive power with their double bank of oars. . . .

They occupied Cyprus, Melos and Rhodes. They took the arts and sciences of Egypt, Crete, and the Near East and spread them in Greece, Africa, Italy, and Spain. They bound together the East and the West in a commercial and cultural web, and began to redeem Europe from barbarism.

It was probably their merchants who taught the ... alphabet to the nations of antiquity. Not ... literature but the needs of commerce brought unity to the peoples of the Mediterranean; nothing could better illustrate a certain . . . relation between commerce and culture. \*\*\*

From Our Oriental Heritage, The Story of Civilization: Part I by Will Durant

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# 5. Why might historians have difficulty learning about the culture of ancient peoples such as the Phoenicians?

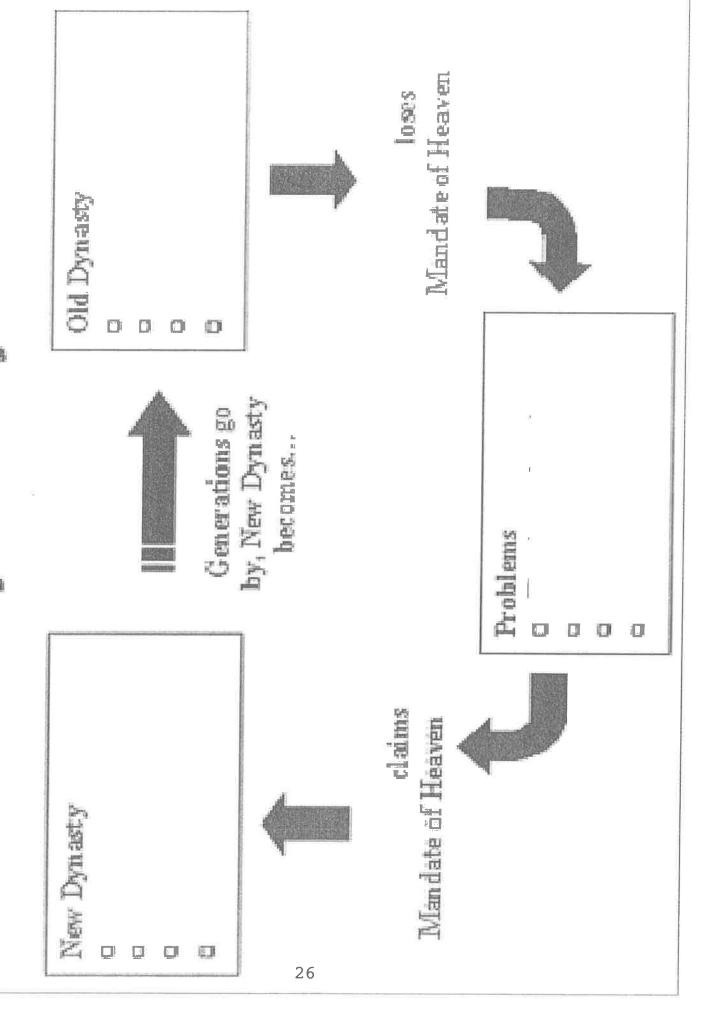
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# The Dynastic Cycle



# **Early Civilizations**

Review Sheet

# Geography

- Early developed in river valleys because Civilizations developed in because periodic flooding left behind rich fertile soil which was good for farming.
- This situation occurred in the first civilizations in Egypt (Nile River), the Tigris-Euphrates River valleys (Mesopotamia or Fertile Crescent), India (Indus River), and China (Huang He)

#### **Achievements**

- The Egyptians (Hieroglyphics), Sumerians (Cuneiform), and the Phoenicians all developed writing systems.
- The Phoenicians also were known as the carriers of civilization because they traded extensively around the Mediterranean region. This helped spread ideas (cultural diffusion)
- Ancient Egyptians mummified their dead rulers and then placed them in a pyramid which was their tomb
- Hammurabi's Code was a record of laws and it was the first set of laws to be written down. It also showed that differences existed between social classes in the Babylonian Empire. It described harsh laws needed to control society.
- In the Indus Valley the cities of Mohenjo-Daro and Harrappa were arranged in a grid like pattern. They also had plumbing systems. These achievements demonstrated that they had an organized government.

### Characteristics

- Egyptians were polytheistic and believed in an afterlife.
- The caste system in India consisted several levels with Brahmins (priests) at the top. There is no social mobility in the caste system until your soul is reborn.
- In China, the Mandate of Heaven (God given right to rule) determined if a ruler could remain in power or being over thrown.
- In China during the Han Dynasty if a person wanted to be part of the government they had to take a civil service test. They had to pass the test before they could get the job.