Ancient Civilizations

Mesopotamia (pp. 37-40),
Egypt (pp. 45-49),
Harappa (pp. 71-73),
Minoan (pp. 109-111)
Objectives

- Summarize how geography affected cultural development
- Describe city-states
- Describe early religious beliefs, social structure, and technology
- Explain the influence of ancient civilizations on later civilizations
Key Terms

• Theocracy
• Monarchy
• City-state
• Empire
• Dynasty
• Patriarchal
• Polytheistic
• Bureaucracy
• Mesopotamia
• Harappa
• Minoans
• Egypt
Ancient Civilizations
(3000 – 2000 BC)

• 4 Major Civilizations grow around 3000 BC
  – Mesopotamia
  – Harappa
  – Minoans
  – Egypt

• Why civilization developed?
  – Challenges (environmental and people)
  – Increase of food supply brought specialization of labor
  – Religion brought people together with a common identity
Bronze Age

• Ancient civilizations generally grew around water sources
  – Why?
    • Water provided source for food

• The first forms of government were thought to be **theocracy** and **monarchy**
  – Theocracy is government by religion, while monarchy is government by a king or queen
  – Why would theocracy be one of the first forms of government?
    • Ancient civilizations thought that gods controlled natural occurrences
Bronze Age

• Initially, **city-states** emerged from the Neolithic age
  – City-State: A city and the area nearby which is controlled by it

• These grew into **empires** as city-states began to dominate those around them
  – Empire: An area dominated by another

• **Dynasties** of ruling families dominated early monarchial governments
  – Dynasty: A ruling family which passes its power from generation to generation
Bronze Age

- As a government grew, normally a **bureaucracy** would be established to help the ruler run the government
  - Bureaucracy: A group of unelected officials who help run the government
- Most of the early societies developed into **patriarchal** societies
  - Patriarchal: Male-dominated
- Most also had **polytheistic** religions
  - Polytheistic: Having more than one god
Mesopotamia
Mesopotamian Geography

- The land between the **Tigris** and **Euphrates** Rivers is called **Mesopotamia**.

- It is a part of what is called the **Fertile Crescent**.

- The silt from flooding made it very good for farming.

- However, floods were unpredictable which made farming difficult.
Mesopotamian Development

• As villages grew into cities, such as Uruk, societies changed into civilizations

• In Mesopotamia, the cities were independent and fought with each other

• Kings and priests vied for control within the cities
Age of the Empire

- **Sargon** of Akkad
  - Around 2350 BC, Sargon defeated all the city-states of Sumer
  - Though they spoke differently, the Akkadians adapted many of the Sumerians ways of living
  - By controlling all of Mesopotamia, Sargon created the first **empire**
  - It lasted 200 years but had constant internal fighting and famine
Life in Sumerian Society

• The Sumerians social classes
  – Kings and priests
  – Wealthy merchants
  – Normal Sumerians
  – Slaves

• Women could have the same jobs as men and could join the priesthood but could not be educated

• Culturally the greatest epic written during this time was the story of **Gilgamesh**
Mesopotamian Religion

• Mesopotamians believed their god lived within their city
  – Ziggurats were built as homes

• They believed their gods were all powerful but with human failings
  – Humans existed to please the gods
Sumerian Technology

- Sumerians invented many things
  - Cuneiform
    - Used mainly for record keeping
  - Wheel
  - Plow
  - Sundial
  - Arch
  - Bronze
  - 60 base system of math (time measurements)
3000 BC TO 1000 BC

- Egypt’s Old Kingdom
- Harappa Civilization
- Xia
- Shang Dynasty
- Aryan Civilization
- Egypt’s Middle Kingdom
- Egypt’s New Kingdom
- Babylon
- Hittite
- Phoenicia
- Mycenae

- Sumerian
- Akkadian
- Minoan
- India
- Mesopotamia
- Egypt
- Greece

- Bronze Age
- Civilizations
- Timeline
- Projects

Previous
The Land of Africa

- Africa is the second largest continent
- It has several distinct zones
  - Sahara
  - The “hump” of Africa
  - Great Rift Valley
  - Congo River Basin
  - Kalahari
The Climate of Africa

- Africa has four distinct climate zones
  - North and southern coasts are mild
  - Deserts
  - Rain Forest
  - Savannas
Shepherd and his sheep on the banks of the Nile River
Key Terms

- Savanna
- Nile
- Lower Egypt
- Upper Egypt
- Old Kingdom
- Intermediate Period
- Menes
- Dynasty
- Mummification
- Hieroglyphics
- Papyrus
- Hieratic Script
Egypt
Egypt

Mediterranean Sea

Lower Nile

Red Sea

Upper Nile
Impact of Geography

• Egyptian history begins with the **Nile** River.

• Egypt is split into to parts:
  – **Lower Egypt** (near the Mediterranean Sea)
  – **Upper Egypt** (Southern part)

• Like Mesopotamia, the **Nile River** flooded yearly

• Unlike Mesopotamia it was predictable
  – Flood, plant, harvest; flood, plant, harvest

• The Nile was worshipped as a God
Environmental Changes

- Living off the Nile could be dangerous
  - If it flooded not enough, the harvest would be reduced
  - If it flooded too much, mud buildings could be destroyed
  - Wildlife could be brought upriver

- However, the desert and seas isolated early Egyptians from warfare in the Fertile Crescent
The Course of Egyptian History

- Ancient Egyptian history is divided into three parts:
  - **Old Kingdom**
  - **Middle Kingdom**
  - **New Kingdom**

- The time between each one is called the intermediate period.
Egypt Unites Into a Kingdom

- According to legend, **Menes** united all of Egypt
- He created a double crown to show his control of all Egypt
- Egypt would eventually have 31 dynasties spanning 2,600 years
- A **dynasty** is a family of rulers, who’s right to rule’s past down the family.
The Old Kingdom

- The Old Kingdom lasted from 2700 to 2200 BC.

- The ruler of Egypt is known as the **Pharaoh**, and was considered a god.

- The Pharaoh had absolute power, but ruled through a bureaucracy.

- The Pharaoh was also the head of the religion so the government was a form of **theocracy and monarchy**
Builders of Pyramids

- Egyptians were fascinated with the afterlife
- The Pharaohs built huge tombs to hold the things they would use in the afterlife
- These generally took the shape of a pyramid in the Old Kingdom period
The end of the Old Kingdom

- Power of the Pharaohs declined in 2180 BC
- Regional governors began to grow in power and civil wars broke out
- When a severe drought broke out around, the Old Kingdom ended and the first intermediate period began
Life in Egyptian Society

- Pharaoh at the top
- Wealthy landowners, military commanders, government officials
- “Normal” Egyptians
- Slaves
- Women had many of the same rights as men
Religion and Life

• Egyptians were polytheistic
  – Ra – Sun God
  – Horus – God of Light
  – Isis – Motherhood

• Believed that Osiris (God of the dead) would judge them by weighing their heart against a feather

• People were embalmed by mummification
Egyptian Writing

• While Mesopotamia used cuneiform, Egyptians used hieroglyphics
  – Pictures as opposed to symbols
  – Pictures could represent sounds as well as ideas
  – From this a simplified form called Hieratic script came into being.

• Egyptians used \textit{papyrus}, a reed that when dried out became a paper-like sheet
Art and Architecture

- Obviously the pyramids and temples are examples of great architecture.
- The Egyptians also started a new style of two-dimensional painting.
- They had advanced mathematics, a 365 day lunar calendar, and medical techniques.
Krishna supporting Mount Govardhana
Key Terms

- Monsoon
- Himalayan
- Indian Subcontinent
- Ganges
- Indus
- Deccan
- Mesopotamia
- Egypt
- Harappa
- Persian Gulf
India
Rivers, Mountains and Monsoons

- The area of India is called the Indian Subcontinent.

- The Himalayan Mountains guard the fertile plain made by the Ganges and Indus Rivers.

- Below it is a subcontinent called the Deccan (a peninsula).

- Seasonal winds called monsoons dominate India’s climate.
Monsoon
Environmental Changes

- The Indus Valley civilization faced many of the same challenges as Egypt and Mesopotamia
  - Yearly floods
  - Floods were unpredictable
- Also, they had deal with the wet and dry seasons brought by the monsoons
- The mountains however gave good protection from invaders
Earliest Arrivals

• By 3200 BC farming villages began to emerge
• Around 2500 BC in the Indus Valley, cities were being built
• This is called the Harappa Civilization
• They used sophisticated city planning
  – Cities were in a grid system
  – Featured citadels in the center
  – Residential areas were separate from commercial
  – Plumbing and sewage systems were emplaced
Culture and Trade

- Housing tended to be uniform
  - Social class differences were not great
- Artifacts such as toys were found
  - Shows prosperous and stable society
- Stamps were used to identify goods
  - Shows they conducted extensive trade
- Trade extended as far as the Persian Gulf
Mysterious End to Indus Valley Culture

• 1750 BC the great cities fall. Why?

  – Indus River changed course
  – Land became overused
  – Invaders or warfare
  – Disease
  – Natural disaster
Key Terms

• Greece
• Anatolia
• Sparta
• Olympus
• Minoan
• Crete
• Knossos
Greece
Geography Shapes Greek Life

• Greece consists of a mountainous peninsula with over 1400 small islands

• It civilization was shaped by the sea
  – Provides transportation
  – Provides food

• Sea travel was also important for trade
The Land

• \( \frac{3}{4} \) of Greece is mountainous
  – Difficult to unite into a country
  – From Sparta, 60 miles from Olympus, it took 6 days to get there

• With this topography, city-states grew in isolated areas

• Only 20% of the land was farmable

• As City-States grew, more land became necessary
  – Colonization began of Anatolia
The Climate

- Climate is mild (48 to 80 degrees)
- This encouraged outdoor activities
- Public life became an integral part of Greece culture
The Minoan Civilization

- By 2800 BC, a civilization grew up on the island of Crete
- A great capital rose in Knossos
- This capital of the Minoans was a great sea trading center
- The civilization was wiped out in 1430 BC by either volcanos, earthquakes or bandits, or all three
Minoan Culture

- Had written language (Linear A) but it has not been deciphered
- Religion was polytheistic and focused mainly on goddesses rather than gods
- A common theme in the culture is the bull and bull jumping
- Minoan Culture is represented in Greek myths such as King Minos and Theseus and the Minotaur
Projects

• Compare and contrast two of the four civilizations discussed. (1)
• Write a fictional story about a person living in the time of one of the civilizations. (1)
• Develop a “newspaper” from the time. (2-4)
• Write a poem about the civilizations. (1)
• Compare and contrast the geography of two or more of the civilizations. (1)
• Develop a travel brochure or guidebook for a time traveler to each civilization. (1)
• Day in the life of a Scribe journal entries – journal/diary entries that describe the daily tasks of a scribe and their civilization. (1)
• Facebook the civilizations or the people in it. (1)
• Make maps and graphs showing the geography and social structures of the civilizations. Include a description of each to point out the significant characteristics. (1-2)
• Use heraldry to develop a “standard” for each civilization. Include a symbol chart to explain each color and figure. (1)
• Develop a picture book covering the important aspects of each civilization. (2-3)
• Design a game based on one of the major civilizations covered. (1-2)
MAPS
Mesopotamia
Mesopotamia

Babylon

Lagesh

uruk

ur
Greece
Greece
India
India

- Indus River
- Ganges River
- Deccan Plateau
- Himalaya Mountains
- Khyber Pass
- Indian Ocean
- Khyber Pass
- Indian Ocean
Timelines