RIVER VALLEY CIVILIZATIONS
Why were river valleys important?

- **Farming** - large amounts of people could be fed
- **Trade** - goods and ideas to move from place to place.
- **Cities** - grow up in these valleys and became the centers of civilizations.
QUESTIONS TO KEEP IN MIND:

- How did geography impact the first civilizations?
- How did changes in the Neolithic Revolution lead to the development of River Valley Civilizations?
Civilization — form of culture in which some people live in cities and have complex social institutions, use some form of writing, and are skilled in science, art, and technology

Empire — group of territories or nations ruled by a single ruler or government

Theocracy — government headed by religious leaders or a leader regarded as a god

Polytheistic — belief in many gods

Monotheistic — belief in only one god
THE RISE OF CIVILIZATION

- Arose in 4 separate river valleys around 3500 B.C.
- Fertile soil, mild climate, waterway for transportation, water for crops & drinking
- Provided for abundant crops and food surpluses
Mesopotamia

- The Worlds First Civilization
The first major civilization in Mesopotamia was in a region called Sumer.
City-states

Each Sumerian city and the land around it became a separate city-state.

Each city-state had its own government and was not part of any larger unit.
GOVERNMENT-Political

- City-states
- Each had its own government & ruler (also head of religion – theocracy) was not part of any larger unit.
- Were eventually united under single rulers
- King Hammurabi created the first written law code
  - Pertained to all aspects of life
  - Did not apply to all people equally
ECONOMY

• Farming – basis for economy
  – Grew grains, vegetables, dates, flax
  – Domesticated sheep, goats, cows, oxen, and donkeys

• Evidence shows they traded with other civilizations
  – Merchants
  – artisans
RELIGION

• King was the head of the religion, as well as the government
• Each city-state had its own chief deity
• Like most ancient religions, Sumer was polytheistic (believed in as many as 2000 gods)
• Built amazing temples (ziggurats) to honor gods)
Ziggurats

Terraced step pyramids built by the Sumerians, Akkadians, and other ancient Mesopotamian civilizations for religious purposes
- Upper class - kings, priests, warriors, and government officials.
- Middle class - artisans, merchants, farmers, and fishers. These people made up the largest group.
- Lower class - enslaved people who worked on farms or in the temples.

• Women had few legal rights in Sumerian society
INNOVATIONS (Technology)

• Developed the first writing – cuneiform
• Built clay brick structures – ziggurats (temples)
• Developed the arch, ramps, sewers, and the wheel
• Number system based on 60 and algebra
• Had a lunar calendar
The most important invention of the Sumerians was writing. The writing of the Sumerians was called cuneiform.
**Development of Cuneiform, 3000 B.C.–600 B.C.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Ear of Barley</th>
<th>Head and Body of Man</th>
<th>Fish</th>
<th>Bird</th>
<th>Bowl of Food</th>
<th>Stream of Water</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pictographs c. 3000 B.C.</td>
<td><img src="image1.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td><img src="image2.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td><img src="image3.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td><img src="image4.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td><img src="image5.png" alt="Image" /></td>
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<tr>
<td>Rotated Position Pictographs c. 2800 B.C.</td>
<td><img src="image7.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td><img src="image8.png" alt="Image" /></td>
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<td><img src="image10.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td><img src="image11.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td><img src="image12.png" alt="Image" /></td>
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<tr>
<td>Cuneiform Signs c. 600 B.C.</td>
<td><img src="image13.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td><img src="image14.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td><img src="image15.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td><img src="image16.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td><img src="image17.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td><img src="image18.png" alt="Image" /></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Cuneiform alphabet
The Epic of Gilgamesh

The most famous piece of literature from Sumer is the Epic of Gilgamesh. An epic is a long poem that tells the story of a hero. The hero Gilgamesh is a king who travels around the world with a friend and performs great deeds. When his friend dies, Gilgamesh searches for a way to live forever.
Geography (Near)  
MESOPOTAMIA (3500 B.C.E.-1700 B.C.E.)

- The Land between the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers  
  - Also called The Fertile Crescent  
  - First civilization was SUMER
The fertile crescent

In the spring, the rivers often flooded, leaving behind rich soil for farming. The problem was that the flooding was very unpredictable. It might flood one year, but not the next. Every year, farmers worried about their crops. They developed irrigation systems to control the flow of water.
Over time, the farmers learned to build dams and channels to control the seasonal floods. They also built walls, waterways, and ditches to bring water to their fields. This way of watering crops is called irrigation. Irrigation allowed the farmers to grow plenty of food and support a large population.
Assignment:

- Write a summary on your Cornell notes
- Begin your comparison chart of ancient civilizations
- Reading assignment for homework
  - The Fertile Crescent
ANCIENT EGYPT

• Gift of the Nile
POLITICS

• Ruled by dynasties (ruling families)
• King was called “pharaoh”, (monarchy)
  – Controlled army & defended Egypt from invasion
  – Owned all the land and made all the laws
• Eventually created empires by uniting sections of Egypt
• There were even some women pharaohs
  (Hatshepsut was the 1st woman ruler in the world)
ECONOMY

- The pharaoh controlled the economy
- Nearly everyone was involved in agriculture
- Some were merchants and craftsmen
- Trade was prominent throughout the kingdom and with other civilizations
RELIGION

- Polytheistic
- Believed in a specific afterlife
- Mummified bodies
- Believed pharaoh was a "god-king"
SOCIETY

• Pharaoh was at the center of Egyptian society

• Social classes
  – Ruling family and nobility (including priests and scribes)
  – Farmers, merchants, artisans, warriors
  – Peasants & Slaves

• Women had some legal rights, but were still considered less than equal to men
INNOVATIONS

- Number system based on 10, as well as geometry
- Great astronomers
- Excellent irrigation systems
- Mummification
- Hieroglyphic writing
THE ARTS

• Built huge temples and pyramids
• Sphinx, obelisks
• Decorated tombs and temples with drawings and hieroglyphics that recorded history and depicted everyday life, as well as the pharaohs and their families
GEOGRAPHY (NEAR)

- Located in the Nile River Valley in North Africa
- Fertile soil
- Yearly floods
- Building resources
- Natural protection from invasion
Assignment

• Write a summary on your Cornell notes for Egypt
• Add to your PERSIA Chart
• Reading for homework – Complete Ancient Egypt Map
Observe the picture

Look at all the Parts

Think of a Title
(write it down)

What can you Infer?
(write it down)

Write your Conclusion
INDUS RIVER VALLEY

The Harappan Civilization
POLITICAL STRUCTURE

- The center of government was the citadel
- The Harappan’s had a strong and well-organized central government
- We are unsure of the exact political structure
- There were “twin” capitals at Harappa and Mohenjo-Daro
- Eventually, the Arayans took control
ECONOMY

- People who lived in the towns and cities were mostly merchants and craftsmen.
- People who lived in areas outside the cities were farmers and herders.
- The Harappans invented the first system of weights and measures for trade.
- They traded as far away as ancient Sumer where they imported textiles and food in exchange for copper, lumber, precious stones, cotton, and luxury goods.
RELIGION

- Polytheistic
- Originally, probably an animistic religion
- Rulers probably ruled by divine right
- Eventually developed the Hindu religion when the Arayans brought their ideas
SOCIETY

• More people involved in trade and craftsmanship than other civilizations
• Little evidence to suggest what their class system was like
• Women had no legal rights and were considered the property of their husbands
• As the Arayan influence spread, a caste system developed
INNOVATIONS

- Well-planned cities (streets at 90° angles)
- Sewer systems and garbage bins
- Private and public baths
- Kilns for baking bricks
- Public wells provided water
- Written language (mostly pictographic)

[The Arayans brought the Sanskrit language when they took over]
Arts

- Tools were made of steatite and lime.
- They have fine art, sculptures, and pottery
- Had bronze tool and steal weapons
GEOGRAPHY (Near)

- Located in the Indus River Valley on the Indian subcontinent
- Yearly floods deposit fertile soil in the region
- Weather is influenced by yearly monsoons
- The Kyber Pass thru the Hindu Kush mountains allow people to cross into the Indus River Valley
THE END OF HARAPPAN CIVILIZATION

- No one really knows what happened to the Harappans
- Theories
  - Natural disaster (earthquake, floods) destroyed the cities and the people migrated to other areas
  - They were conquered by other people
  - They moved from the region for some other reason
THE ARAYANS (FYI)

• Nomadic people from the Caspian and Black Sea region
• Patriarchal tribes of herders
• Did not associate with the natives of India which they conquered
• Did not build large cities or permanent settlements
• Influenced modern social structure and religion of India
Ancient China

The Huang He River Valley Civilizations
GEOGRAPHY

- Located in the Huang He River Valley
  - Also called the Yellow River (silt yellowish color)
  - Also called China’s Sorrow (devastating floods)
  - Contained by a system of dikes

- Relatively isolated
  - Surrounded by mountains, desert, and water
  - Little influence from other civilizations
Geography

Panku Creation 1:32
POLITICAL STRUCTURE

• Known for its dynastic cycle (see diagram)
• The first known dynasty was the Shang
  – Built China’s first cities
  – Established a capital at Anyang
• Emperors were military leaders who ruled with the help of powerful nobles
• Principle of government was the Mandate of Heaven (gods approval of the emperor)
• When an emperor lost “Mandate of Heaven” there was an uprising and often a new dynasty would take control
DYNASTIC CYCLE

Old Dynasty
- Taxes people too much
- Stops protecting people

Generations go by a new dynasty becomes

Old Dynasty loses the “Mandate of Heaven”

Problems:
- Floods, earthquakes
- Peasants revolt
- Invaders attack empire
- Bandits raid in

New dynasty
- Brings peace, builds roads and canals, gives land to peasants, protects people

New dynasty claims “Mandate of Heaven”
Shang Dynasty

- Took over China in 1600 BC
- Ruled China for about 700 years
- Took over 1800 city-states......America has 50 states
- They divided their government into little bits controlled by loyal governors (Nobles appointed by the king to perform certain duties & land lords)
Shang Dynasty

King
- Head of political & religious life

Nobles
- Advisors to King
- Government & religious officials
- Land Lords

Warriors leaders
- From the far regions

Artisans
- Pottery
- Clothes
- Tools
- Weapons

Farmers
- Worked long hours
- Little pay
- Over taxed

Slaves
- Lowest rank
- Important labor resource
# Shang Dynasty

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>government</th>
<th>Kings ruled, nobles advised</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>religion</td>
<td>King at center of religion, priests used oracle bones to make predictions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>society</td>
<td>Royal family/nobles at highest level. Artisans at middle level, farmers, slaves at lower levels</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>achievements</td>
<td>Writing system, use of bronze, calendar, ear chariots, and bows</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Advancements

• They farmed millet, wheat, barley, & rice
• They grew silkworms, dogs, pigs, & sheep
• They had accomplished metal metal workers & craftsmen (bronze containers for cooking & religious ceremonies, axes, knives, jade ornaments
• Military developed bronze body armor, powerful bows, & war chariots
• Astrologers created a calendar based on the cycles of the moon
The Legend of Silk

• A 14 year old queen of China supposedly saw a worm spin its cocoon. She then took the cocoon, dropped it in hot water and watched it break up to threads. The thread was the used to sew and create silk garments.

• What is silk?
  – It is secreted from the silk worm’s mouth to make the cocoons.
  – This “spit-up” hardens upon contact with the air.
Chinese Writing System

• More than 2,000 symbols to express words or ideas
• Today’s Chinese symbols are still based on the Shang Dynasty symbols
• Archeologists have found these symbols on cattle bones and turtle shells
• Priests carved questions about the future on the bones & shells, heated them up till they cracked, and then read the oracles or predictions from the cracks
Religion

• Polytheistic

• Top god was Shang Ti- the Founder of the Shang Dynasty

• **Ancestor worship** began in this period, as did the sacrifices to the gods

• When Kings died, thousands of slaves were executed to serve him in the afterlife.

• The kings tomb would be filled with objects and food that he would need in the afterlife- like Egyptians.
Ritual Burial Site
The Zhou Dynasty

• The longest lasting Dynasty in Chinese history - 900 years
• Nomadic farmers settled near the Shang Dynasty’s kingdom
• They were skilled fighters & farmers
• They used iron weapons (stronger than the Shang’s bronze weapons)
Mandate of Heaven

After the Zhou overtook the Shang Dynasty- they had to get the people to accept them as the new kings. They claimed that heaven granted the emperors the right to rule based on their ability to govern well and fairly. The Son of Heaven gives the right to a just ruler. The overthrow of a ruler meant he had lost the Mandate of Heaven because he was no longer worthy of it.
Zhou Government Structure

King gives land to the
Lords
Lords perform military service
Lords protect the
Peasants work the farmland & service
Nobles

King
The king led the government and gave land to lords.

Lords and Warriors
Lords paid taxes to the king and provided warriors to protect his lands.

Peasants
Peasants farmed the nobles’ land.
Zhou Accomplishments

- Huge public works, new dikes, dams and canals, better agriculture, transportation, and communication
- Civilization grew, more people than anywhere else
Road to Chaos

- Invasions from central Asia (Warring States)
- Lords began fighting against each other
- They lacked loyalty to anyone but themselves
- Chaos began to reign
- Ruling system crumbled as the Lords began declaring themselves kings
“Kung Fu-Tzu” or Confucius

- Believed society should be like a family with everyone having roles & responsibilities
  - Wanted a return to **ethics**—moral values of the ancients
- Lords ignored Confucius
- Confucius was a traveling teacher with great respect, sharing his ideas with all
- After Confucius’ death—his students wrote down his proverbs or Analects
Confucianism

• Kung Fu-Tzu lived 551-479 BC
• It is not a religion, but an ethical code of morals for individuals, society, and government
• Primary goals: order, harmony, peace and happiness on earth
• Achieved through education and self-reflection

“Confucius says...”
Confucianism’s Five Relationships

• Most important principles deal with the ideal standard of conduct that controls social action.

1. **Parent-child**: kindness in the father & obedient in the son
2. **Husband-wife**: righteous behavior in the husband & obedience in the wife
3. **Elder sibling-younger sibling**: gentility in the eldest brother & humility and respect in the younger
4. **Elder friend-younger friend**: humane consideration in elders & deference in juniors
5. **Ruler-subject**: benevolence in rulers & loyalty of ministers & subjects
Confucianism Impact

• Initially spread through the Analects after his death by his students
• Later, his students too positions within the government
• Ideals formed the basis for the civil service exam in China
• Became foundation of Chinese education
• Teachings spread to Korea and Japan
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Origins</th>
<th>Founder</th>
<th>Principles</th>
<th>Diffusion</th>
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<tr>
<td>China during the Zhou Dynasty</td>
<td>Kung Fu-Tzu (Confucius) 551-479 BC</td>
<td>Ethical code dealing with moral character of individuals, society, and government</td>
<td>Students/ followers obtained government jobs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Goals: order, harmony, peace, and happiness on earth</td>
<td>Analects of his teachings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Achieved through education, self-effort, and self-achievement</td>
<td>Basis for Chinese Civil Servant Exam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Standard of conduct- Five Relationships</td>
<td>Foundation for Chinese education</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Teachings spread through Korea &amp; Japan</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ECONOMY

• Based on agriculture
• Used mostly barter system of trade
• Though skilled at many crafts, trade was discouraged outside the empire
RELIGION

- Polytheistic (animistic)
- Believed in ancestor worship (think Mulan)
- Shang emperors also served as high priests and often offered sacrifices to their royal ancestors
SOCIETY

• Social structure was based on agricultural society
• Three social classes
  – Emperor/Royal Family/Nobility
  – Warriors
  – Farmers/merchants/craftsmen
• Family was key social unit
• Women had no legal rights
• Arranged marriages
• Extended families lived together
INNOVATIONS

- Skilled metal workers
  - Weapons made of bronze
  - Bronze ceremonial vessels
- Silk
- Mirrors
- Fireworks/gunpowder (later dynasties)
The Arts

- Unique architecture
- Decorated pottery
- Pictographic writing (5000 characters)
FINAL ACTIVITY

• Title your map “River Valley Civilizations”
• Locate the 4 River Valley Civilizations on your map and draw an outline of the civilization (you don’t have to be exact).
• Color each civilization a different color and create a key on the map showing Sumer, Egypt, Indus Valley, and China
OTHER ANCIENT PEOPLES
The Phoenicians

• Seafaring people along the eastern Mediterranean coast
• Traded a number of goods with other people
  • Purple dye
  • Cedar lumber
  • glass
• Established colonies throughout the Mediterranean
• Developed an alphabet of 22 characters
The Hebrews (Israelites) 1200 B.C.E.

- Mostly nomadic herders
- Influenced both Mesopotamia and Egypt due to its geographic location near the eastern Mediterranean
- Developed the first monotheistic religion
  - Ten Commandments
  - Forefathers, Abraham and Moses entered into covenants with God (Yahweh)