

Chapter 01

Multiple Choice

1. Western civilization began in approximately 8000 B.C.E. in which region?

- a. Mesopotamia
- b. Africa
- c. Asia
- d. Latin America
- e. Western Europe

ANSWER: a

2. How do we know how Stone Age civilizations functioned?

- a. Through written records.
- b. Studying material culture.
- c. Carbon dating.
- d. Via general anthropological theory.
- e. By educated guesses.

ANSWER: b

3. What was the earliest human population in Africa called?

- a. Homo habilis.
- b. Homo erectus.
- c. Austroleptichans humanis.
- d. Homo sapiens.
- e. Neanderthal man.

ANSWER: a

4. Early human food supply came from

- a. hunting and gathering.
- b. domesticated agriculture.
- c. organized social labor for procurement.
- d. trade with other tribes.
- e. conquering areas with greater food production.

ANSWER: a

5. Early homo sapiens sapiens began to demonstrate progress through all of the following except

- a. using resin to bond pieces of stone for sickles.
- b. exploration of religion and supernatural worlds.
- c. cave paintings.
- d. fertility rituals.
- e. human sacrifice.

ANSWER: e

6. Which of the following was NOT considered "women's work" in the gendered division of labor?

- a. manufacturing tools
- b. childcare
- c. preserving or preparing food
- d. scraping animal skins
- e. gathering agriculture

ANSWER: a

7. What caused the disappearance of Neanderthals?

- a. assimilation by homo sapiens sapiens
- b. evolutionary failure
- c. the cause is unknown
- d. starvation from lack of adaptation to agricultural methods
- e. killed off by clan warfare

ANSWER: c

8. How did early humans believe they could influence the supernatural world?

- a. By constructing temples.
- b. Through religious rituals.
- c. By hunting and gathering only in areas specified by priests.
- d. Writing the names of their gods on cave walls.
- e. None of the above.

ANSWER: b

9. Stone Age art devoted to fertility rituals indicate that, in some cases, society may have been

- a. organized around gender division of labor.
- b. patriarchal.
- c. matriarchal.
- d. promiscuous.
- e. monogamous.

ANSWER: c

10. Which of the following was the most important characteristic in allowing humankind to settle in an area?

- a. mineral deposits
- b. temperate climate
- c. proximity to water
- d. abundant food supply
- e. access to trade routes

ANSWER: c

11. The presence of monoliths such as Stonehenge demonstrate all of the following in Neolithic society except

- a. divisions of labor.
- b. defined religious ritual space.
- c. elementary knowledge of astronomy.
- d. social hierarchy.
- e. mobilization of manpower.

ANSWER: b

12. The two major revolutions in food supply circa 8000 B.C.E. included

- a. domestication of animals and large-scale fishing.
- b. pastoralism and cooking with fire.
- c. domestication of agriculture and use of stone tools.
- d. domestication of animals and pastoralism.
- e. None of these.

ANSWER: d

13. One of the reasons for the spread of agriculture throughout the world is thought to be

- a. cultural materialism.
- b. cultural assimilation.
- c. cultural trade and transmission.
- d. material dissemination.
- e. divine revelation.

ANSWER: b

14. What is the single most important technological achievement of Mesopotamia?

- a. bronze.
- b. pottery wheels.
- c. multicolored pottery.
- d. weaving of wool for clothing.
- e. wheeled vehicles.

ANSWER: a

15. The defining characteristics of civilization include all of the following except

- a. writing.
- b. economies based on agriculture.
- c. different social classes.
- d. metal technology.
- e. fortified cities.

ANSWER: e

16. What began civilization as we understand it?

- a. The Bronze Age.
- b. Written language.
- c. The rise of homo sapiens.
- d. The organization into city-states.
- e. The discovery of fire.

ANSWER: a

17. The varied uses of bronze as a new metal technology were applied to all of the following except

- a. jewelry and weapons.
- b. household items.
- c. farm implements.
- d. all of these.
- e. b and c.

ANSWER: e

18. Domestication of animals is primarily found in which area?

- a. Africa
- b. Western Europe
- c. Latin America
- d. Middle East and Asia
- e. the Russian steppe

ANSWER: d

19. What factor most likely led to social differentiation?

- a. Surplus agriculture created wealth for some agricultural communities.
- b. The transition to roving hunting communities.
- c. Massive food shortages in pastoral communities..
- d. The rise of organized religion. .
- e. The development of the military. .

ANSWER: a

20. All of the following technologies were found in river valleys prior to 3000 B.C.E. except

- a. wheeled vehicles.
- b. wool weaving.
- c. multicolored pottery.
- d. writing.
- e. metal technology.

ANSWER: d

21. What river valley(s) were settled by the Sumerians?

- a. Indus
- b. Nile
- c. Mississippi
- d. Tigris and Euphrates
- e. Tiber and Po

ANSWER: d

22. Sumerian writing uses which form?

- a. hieroglyphics
- b. cuneiform tablets
- c. the Phoenician alphabet
- d. etchings on tortoise shells
- e. calligraphy

ANSWER: b

23. The practice of interpreting the intentions of the gods by reading signs was called

- a. soothsaying.
- b. prophecy.
- c. oracle reading.
- d. divination.
- e. dreamquesting.

ANSWER: d

24. The gods in Sumeria were characterized by

- a. numeric rank.
- b. nature elements.
- c. alphabetical order.
- d. both numeric rank and nature elements.
- e. none of these.

ANSWER: d

25. What best describes the political organization of Mesopotamian city-states?

- a. It was religious.
- b. It was linguistic.
- c. It was military.
- d. It was democratic.
- e. It was nonexistent.

ANSWER: e

26. Which term best describes Sumerian social organization?

- a. hierarchical
- b. matriarchal
- c. patriarchal
- d. oligarchical
- e. monarchical

ANSWER: a

27. Farmers in Sumerian civilization had higher social status than

- a. war captives.
- b. merchants.
- c. priests.
- d. soldiers.

e. artisans.

ANSWER: a

28. Organization of work forces in Sumeria was the responsibility of

a. priest-kings.

b. viziers.

c. civil administrators.

d. military commanders.

e. slave owners.

ANSWER: a

29. Mesopotamians regularly ate and drank all of the following except

a. lettuce.

b. fish.

c. beer.

d. lentils.

e. pork.

ANSWER: e

30. The first leader to unify Mesopotamia as an empire was

a. Gilgamesh of Uruk.

b. Ur-Nammu of Ur.

c. Sargon the Akkadian.

d. Hammurabi of Babylon.

e. Amen-hotep IV.

ANSWER: c

31. Semitic people of the coastal regions of the near East were bound to a sense of shared identity by which factor?

a. religion

b. trade

c. language

d. geopolitical organization

e. being enemies of Sumeria

ANSWER: c

32. The infant set adrift in a basket in the river by his mother, who went on to form an empire, was

a. Sargon.

b. Moses.

c. Ramses II.

d. Ashurbanipal.

e. Hammurabi.

ANSWER: a

33. The first Indo-Europeans to invade Mesopotamia were the

- a. Hittites.
- b. Hyksos.
- c. Aryans.
- d. Balkans.
- e. Minoans.

ANSWER: a

34. The most significant accomplishment of Hammurabi's reign was

- a. his law code.
- b. the implementation of weights and measures.
- c. religious tolerance throughout his empire.
- d. the use of horses and iron weapons in his army.
- e. the advancement in Babylonian math and science.

ANSWER: a

35. The most common punishment for breaking the Law Code of Hammurabi was

- a. paying a fine.
- b. being sent to jail.
- c. having a body part cut off.
- d. being exiled.
- e. death.

ANSWER: e

36. One reason that the Egyptians had a more optimistic outlook than the Sumerians was

- a. They had more gold than Sumeria.
- b. They developed writing earlier than the Sumerians.
- c. Their afterlife was open to all Egyptians, even slaves.
- d. The weather was extremely predictable.
- e. Their agriculture was more extensive.

ANSWER: d

37. Which of the following did the Egyptians not have in common with Mesopotamians?

- a. writing
- b. metallurgy
- c. hierarchical organization
- d. polytheism
- e. rulers who were living gods

ANSWER: e

38. Women in Egyptian society had all of the following rights except

- a. arranging her marriage.
- b. owning property.

- c. divorce.
- d. inheritance.
- e. asserting legal rights in court.

ANSWER: a

39. The first woman to rule in Egypt was

- a. Hatshepsut.
- b. Innana.
- c. Nitocris.
- d. Cleopatra.
- e. Nefertiti.

ANSWER: c

40. The growth in importance of the nobility in Old Kingdom Egypt was a problem because

- a. it signified a decrease in the importance of the pharaoh.
- b. its members were exempt from taxes, leaving the burden on free citizens.
- c. the priestly castes were jealous of the influence of its members on the pharaoh.
- d. its members demanded special benefits and trade rights.
- e. its members raised armed revolts and overthrew pharaohs they didn't like.

ANSWER: a

41. Which of the following is not characteristic of Middle Kingdom Egypt?

- a. The afterlife was available to everyone, not just pharaohs.
- b. There was a new god, Amon, as well as Ra.
- c. There was an invasion by the Hyksos that pushed them into the second intermediate period.
- d. The Egyptian Book of the Dead was written.
- e. There was a switch to monotheism under Akhenaton.

ANSWER: e

42. The most significant feature of the New Kingdom was

- a. militarization and empire.
- b. isolation and introspection.
- c. conquest of Nubia.
- d. a female ruler for the first time, Hatshepsut.
- e. widespread use of diplomacy with Asia and Africa.

ANSWER: a

43. What was Akhenaton's most significant contribution to the New Kingdom in Egypt?

- a. surrendering to the Hyksos.
- b. forming an alliance with Assyria.
- c. capturing Nubia and integrating it into the Egyptian Empire.
- d. revising the religion of Egypt to focus only on one god.
- e. declaring war on Sumeria.

ANSWER: d

44. The main emphasis of Minoan economy was

- a. conquest.
- b. trade.
- c. hiring out their ships.
- d. pastoralism.
- e. agriculture.

ANSWER: b

45. Most of the Minoan records in Linear A are what type of documents?

- a. inventories.
- b. law codes
- c. religious texts
- d. poetry
- e. genealogies.

ANSWER: a

46. Minoan religion differs from Mesopotamian by its use of

- a. human sacrifice.
- b. cult objects.
- c. strict separation of church and state.
- d. anthropomorphic gods.
- e. public rituals expected of all society.

ANSWER: b

47. Which form of writing was found in Crete until approximately 1400 B.C.E.?

- a. linear B
- b. linear A
- c. ogan
- d. hieroglyphics
- e. cuneiform

ANSWER: b

48. Minoan civilization was destroyed around 1400 B.C.E. by

- a. volcanic activity.
- b. a tidal wave that swallowed the island, giving rise to the Atlantis legend.
- c. an invasion by the Sea Peoples.
- d. probable conquest by the mainland Greeks.
- e. the plague.

ANSWER: d

49. Which is not characteristic of Mycenaean civilization?

- a. linear B

- b. fortified cities
- c. limited agriculture because of geographic conditioning
- d. economy based on trade
- e. iron metal technology

ANSWER: e

50. The Sea Peoples were originally from

- a. Troy.
- b. Germany.
- c. Egypt
- d. Crete.
- e. the central Asian steppes.

ANSWER: e

51. Homer's epic poem The Iliad describes

- a. the fall of Pharaoh Ramses II of Egypt at the hands of the Mycenaeans.
- b. a battle between Crete and Mycenaea.
- c. Gilgamesh's journey to find the secret of eternal life in Uruk.
- d. a war between the Trojans and the Greeks.
- e. the defeat of the Hittite Empire by the Sea Peoples.

ANSWER: d

52. According to historical sources, the Sea Peoples were defeated by

- a. King Minos of Crete.
- b. Ramses II of Egypt.
- c. King Ammurapi of the Hittite Empire.
- d. the Aryan king of Iran.
- e. King Zardoz of the Pyrenees.

ANSWER: b

Essay

53. What is the importance of geography in establishing civilizations?

ANSWER: Students should analyze the emergence of early civilizations as first occurring in proximity to water and survival resources. The earliest civilizations grew in river valley areas, which subsequently allowed for domestication of the environment and development of settled agriculture. To facilitate the growth of permanent settlements, survival was ensured by proximity to water for drinking, agriculture, and transportation. Geographic differences also provided a substantial difference in shaping the culture of a region; for example, Mesopotamia and Egypt can both be used for a study in contrasts. Answers will vary.

54. How can historians put together the picture of early civilizations in the absence of writing/written history?

ANSWER: Students should be able to discuss the importance of archeological evidence as

well as anthropologic studies to ascertain patterns of human settlement and development. For example, burial rituals, early buildings, artifacts of technology, and art such as cave paintings and human figurines all allow a moderate degree of insight into preliterate human history. Answers will vary.

55. Describe the development of religion among early humans.

ANSWER: Students should be able to trace the development of religion to the development of technology among Homo sapiens, the appearance and use of fertility statues and cave paintings of hunting.

56. Compare early human perspectives on death and the afterlife. Include preliterate societies, Egypt, and Mesopotamia. How do each of these civilizations conceive of and contextualize death?

ANSWER: Students should be able to discuss the different perspectives on the afterlife in prehistorical societies, such as burial chamber findings, and contrast these with the organized religious perspective of Egypt and Mesopotamia. In Egypt, access to the afterlife was limited, in the Old Kingdom, to the pharaohs and their immediate family; thus, access was an indication of status. Their burial in huge pyramids was also a marker of social importance. The transition or democratization of access to the afterlife in Egypt is noted in the Middle Kingdom. In Mesopotamia, the afterlife was unpleasant for all; they believed that burial goods were stolen by demons on the journey to the underworld, and the dead spent eternity eating dust and weeping. Answers will vary.

57. What led to settled lifestyles of human civilization? What are the consequences of such a lifestyle?

ANSWER: Students should be able to discuss the affect of agriculture on human civilization. Humans transitioned from a hunter-gatherer model to a farming model. Surpluses resulted, which in turn created wealth. Settled lifestyles therefore supported larger populations, the specialization of labor, social differentiation, and the development of religion. Disease also resulted from the close proximity of humans to each other. Answers will vary.

58. What are the two primary ways early communities interacted with each other? Describe in detail examples of each.

ANSWER: Two major avenues for interaction existed among early communities: conquest and trade. Students could look to the empire-building efforts of Sargon of Akkad in conquering the Fertile Crescent area, the Hyksos dominating Egypt in the second intermediate period, or both Thutmose and Ramses' imperial expansions of Egypt. For trade, the city of Babylon and the island of Crete serve as good examples of strategically located places of trade, both serving as intersections of many civilizations for trade of goods and cultural ideas.

59. How did the rise of agriculture impact civilization?

ANSWER: Students should be able to define the transition to sedentary living and domestication of resources through intensive agriculture as the transitional point

between cultures as hunter-gatherers and the fixed growth of civilization. The switch to agriculture instead of pastoralism signified the beginnings of permanence in society and allowed the growth of other infrastructure elements, including metal technology, trade, and organized hierarchy of social structure, necessary to sustain and grow civilization as opposed to society. Answers will vary.

60. What are the technical and cultural hallmarks of the civilizations of the eastern Mediterranean and the Near East?

ANSWER: Answers can vary. Students should be able to identify that writing was one of the major hallmarks of early civilization, which took the form of hieroglyphics in Egypt and cuneiform in Sumeria. The use of bronze in aesthetics, tools, and military equipment is also significant. Building technology in the ziggurats of Mesopotamia and the pyramids of Egypt had both economic and religious significance. Each civilization contributed significantly to science and astronomy. Babylonian math and astronomy worked around a base 60 system, while the Egyptians developed one of the most accurate calendars of the early world by tracking the seasons against the dog-star Sirius. Answers will vary.

61. Which civilization of the Bronze Age was the "most advanced" among those you've read about? Support your answer with historical examples and evidence.

ANSWER: Answers can vary. Students should be able to compare and contrast the accomplishments of Mesopotamia, Egypt, the Near Eastern tribes, Crete, and Mycenaea by using political and military accomplishments such as empires; economic indicators such as trade on an international level; cultural measures such as literature, epics, law codes, and religious texts; religious structures and power within society; and social organization and hierarchy. Answers will vary.

62. Describe the Bronze age. What led to its decline?

ANSWER: Answers can vary, but students should be able to identify the civilizations of Ebla, which was a thriving commercial center, and the site of intersection of many cultures, Canaan cities, who traded and developed an early alphabet, and the Minoans, who developed a complex society on Crete soon after 3000 BCE. These societies were destroyed by the Sea Peoples, who destroyed much of the Mediterranean and caused disruption of trade routes.

63. What were the advantages and disadvantages of pastoralism in supporting human life?

ANSWER: A significant advantage is that pastoralism provides a ready source of food and clothing for those maintaining the herd. It is one of the features that defined early civilizations in the Near East and Asia, as animals such as sheep, pigs, goats and cattle had a "herd" mentality that made them easier to domesticate than larger, more threatening animals in Africa, such as buffalo, gazelles or carnivores. Pastoral animals were not only easier to domesticate, but were generally herbivores and could be pastured while their non-sedentary herders were following a path for hunting and gathering of food resources. A significant disadvantage was that constantly being on the move to locate new food sources meant that pastoralists did not develop a sedentary way of life, and were not fixed in one location, which did not allow for the traditional development of necessary

structures for civilization, such as cities, industry, writing, and more. Answers will vary.

64. Describe the changes in Egyptian religion under the Middle Kingdom?

ANSWER: A significant factor of change in the Middle Kingdom was that the Afterlife became available for everybody, rather than just reserved for the Pharaoh and his family. Anyone who could preserve his body, either by mummification or by burial in the desert (its own form of mummification), was assured access to the Afterlife after the religious mythology was revised to include the never-before-introduced evil brother Set, who murdered Osiris, Set coveted Isis, Osiris' wife, who craftily avoided Set, reassembled Osiris and breathed life into him. The revision of this myth was seen as symbolic of renewed life for all in Egypt. Much of this was detailed in the Book of the Dead. Answers will vary.

65. How did the trade-based economy of the Minoans of Crete differ from other early Mediterranean civilizations?

ANSWER: Because the island of Crete lacked the natural resources, presence in a river valley, and arable land necessary for an agriculturally based economy, Minoans developed a trade-based economy driven by ships sailing the Mediterranean. By trading olive oil, pottery, gemstones and manufactured goods throughout the Mediterranean region, they developed a monopoly on trade and established a very powerful civilization, writing in Linear A, and connections with multiple civilizations. This differed significantly from the self-sustaining agricultural communities that developed trade later, as well as from the maritime nature of Minoan civilization.

True / False

66. People of the Old Stone Age left no written records.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: True

67. Each major early civilization formed in river valleys.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: True

68. Sumerians developed a very optimistic view of their civilization because of geographic stability and wealth of resources.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: False

69. The highest-ranked member of Sumerian society was the priest-king.

- a. True

b. False

ANSWER: True

70. Both the Egyptian and Sumerian calendar of 360 days was based on a lunar calendar.

a. True

b. False

ANSWER: False

71. Sargon defeated the Hyksos.

a. True

b. False

ANSWER: False

72. Urbanization was the main focus of Egyptian living arrangements.

a. True

b. False

ANSWER: False

73. Minoans developed the first alphabet demonstrated in Linear A.

a. True

b. False

ANSWER: False

74. Mycenaeans were better defended than Minoans.

a. True

b. False

ANSWER: True

75. Sea Peoples brought an end to the Bronze Age..

a. True

b. False

ANSWER: True

Subjective Short Answer

76. Instructions Please define the following key terms. Archeology

ANSWER: Scientific study of the remains of past human societies.

77. material culture

ANSWER: Physical remains left by past human societies.

78. cultural assimilation

ANSWER: Acquisition by one group of people of the cultural traits of another people.

79. hunter-gatherer

ANSWER: Someone who acquires food by hunting wild animals and gathering plants.

80. matriarchal

ANSWER: Society in which women have the primary authority.

81. pastoralism

ANSWER: Mobile lifestyle based on keeping flocks and herds..

82. Fertile Crescent

ANSWER: Arc of fertile land running through Egypt, the Levant, and Mesopotamia, in which early agriculture was practiced.

83. Levant

ANSWER: Lands between the eastern coast of the Mediterranean and Mesopotamia, including Palestine, Lebanon, and Syria.

84. polytheism

ANSWER: Belief in the existence of many gods.

85. ziggurat

ANSWER: Step-shaped pyramid serving as the main temple in Mesopotamian cities.

86. city-state

ANSWER: City that is also an independent nation.

87. cuneiform

ANSWER: Mesopotamian writing system that put wedge-shaped indentations on clay tablets.

88. Hammurabi

ANSWER: Mesopotamian ruler who created the Old Babylonian Empire and issued a famous law code around 1760 BCE.

89. Ma'at

ANSWER: Egyptian goddess who represented order, justice, and stability.

90. hieroglyphics

ANSWER: Earliest form of Egyptian writing.