

Chapter 01 - The Ancient Near East: The First Civilizations

Essay

1. In what ways would the transition from hunting and gathering to a settled, agricultural society have improved people's lives, and in what ways would the transition have decreased the quality of life?

ANSWER: Answers will vary.

2. Compare the development of Mesopotamian and Egyptian societies. In what ways do they develop along similar lines? In what ways is their development markedly different?

ANSWER: Answers will vary.

3. Discuss the importance of rivers and water to the development of civilization in general, and specifically to the civilizations of Mesopotamia and Egypt.

ANSWER: Answers will vary.

4. Compare and contrast the role of women and families in Mesopotamian and Egyptian societies.

ANSWER: Answers will vary.

5. In the modern Western world, we often draw a distinction between religion and secular society. Would this distinction have made sense to the peoples of ancient Mesopotamia and Egypt? Explain.

ANSWER: Answers will vary.

6. Discuss some of the similarities and the differences between the religions and religious practices of the Mesopotamian region with those of Egyptian civilization.

ANSWER: Answers will vary.

7. The Code of Hammurabi was one of the first of all ancient legal codes. In what ways was it "modern"? How was it different from modern day Western legal codes? What do you believe constituted "justice" for the inhabitants of Mesopotamian city-states?

ANSWER: Answers will vary.

8. Discuss the Old, Middle and New Kingdoms in Egypt. What changes are apparent in each in terms of the role of leaders in relationship to the people?

ANSWER: Answers will vary.

9. Why begin the history of Western Civilization with a study of ancient societies in Mesopotamia and Egypt?

ANSWER: Answers will vary.

10. Discuss the possible reasons why early Mesopotamia saw so many different civilizations and empires, from the Sumerians to the Akkadians and the Babylonians, while civilization in the Nile Valley remained essentially unchanged for three millennia.

ANSWER: Answers will vary.

11. What were the causes and the consequences of the migration of Indo-European speakers into the Near East during the second millennium B.C.E.?

ANSWER: Answers will vary.

12. Define the differences between the terms "society" and "civilization."

ANSWER: Answers will vary.

13. The Code of Hammurabi was one of the first of all ancient legal codes. In what ways was it "modern"? How was it different from modern day Western legal codes? What do you believe constituted "justice" for the inhabitants of Mesopotamian city-states?

ANSWER: Answers will vary.

14. Please discuss the military and political relations between the Egyptian Empire and the Hittite New Kingdom.

ANSWER: Answers will vary.

Subjective Short Answer

15. For each historical identification question, define the term and briefly describe its historical significance. Homo sapiens sapiens

ANSWER: Answers will vary.

16. For each historical identification question, define the term and briefly describe its historical significance. Paleolithic Age

ANSWER: Answers will vary.

17. For each historical identification question, define the term and briefly describe its historical significance. Bronze Age

ANSWER: Answers will vary.

18. For each historical identification question, define the term and briefly describe its historical significance. Mesopotamia

ANSWER: Answers will vary.

19. For each historical identification question, define the term and briefly describe its historical significance. Sumerians

ANSWER: Answers will vary.

20. For each historical identification question, define the term and briefly describe its historical significance. Tigris and Euphrates Rivers

ANSWER: Answers will vary.

21. For each historical identification question, define the term and briefly describe its historical significance. Agricultural Revolution

ANSWER: Answers will vary.

22. For each historical identification question, define the term and briefly describe its historical significance. Eridu, Ur, Uruk, and Lagash

ANSWER: Answers will vary.

23. For each historical identification question, define the term and briefly describe its historical significance. Sargon of Akkad

ANSWER: Answers will vary.

24. For each historical identification question, define the term and briefly describe its historical significance. Code of Hammurabi

ANSWER: Answers will vary.

25. For each historical identification question, define the term and briefly describe its historical significance. cuneiform

ANSWER: Answers will vary.

26. For each historical identification question, define the term and briefly describe its historical significance. The Epic of Gilgamesh

ANSWER: Answers will vary.

27. For each historical identification question, define the term and briefly describe its historical significance. Menes

ANSWER: Answers will vary.

28. For each historical identification question, define the term and briefly describe its historical significance. divination

ANSWER: Answers will vary.

29. For each historical identification question, define the term and briefly describe its

historical significance. Old Kingdom

ANSWER: Answers will vary.

30. For each historical identification question, define the term and briefly describe its historical significance. Middle Kingdom

ANSWER: Answers will vary.

31. For each historical identification question, define the term and briefly describe its historical significance. polytheistic

ANSWER: Answers will vary.

32. For each historical identification question, define the term and briefly describe its historical significance. Ma'at

ANSWER: Answers will vary.

33. For each historical identification question, define the term and briefly describe its historical significance. theocracy

ANSWER: Answers will vary.

34. For each historical identification question, define the term and briefly describe its historical significance. hieroglyphics

ANSWER: Answers will vary.

35. For each historical identification question, define the term and briefly describe its historical significance. Hyksos

ANSWER: Answers will vary.

36. For each historical identification question, define the term and briefly describe its historical significance. New Kingdom

ANSWER: Answers will vary.

37. For each historical identification question, define the term and briefly describe its historical significance. Civilization

ANSWER: Answers will vary.

38. For each historical identification question, define the term and briefly describe its historical significance. Akhenaten

ANSWER: Answers will vary.

39. For each historical identification question, define the term and briefly describe its historical significance. Hatshepsut

ANSWER: Answers will vary.

40. For each historical identification question, define the term and briefly describe its historical significance. Ramesses II

ANSWER: Answers will vary.

41. For each historical identification question, define the term and briefly describe its historical significance. Sea Peoples

ANSWER: Answers will vary.

Multiple Choice

42. Three to four million years ago, hominids lived in

- a. Europe.
- b. Asia.
- c. Africa.
- d. South America.
- e. North America.

ANSWER: c

43. Homo sapiens sapiens

- a. first appeared in Africa between 200,000 and 150,000 years ago.
- b. developed the bow and arrow.
- c. lived mostly in small groups near the sea.
- d. mastered the art of making bronze tools and weapons.
- e. appeared in Europe about one million years ago.

ANSWER: a

44. Which cave in southern France, discovered in 1994, contains three hundred paintings of animals?

- a. Lascaux
- b. Chauvet
- c. Andalusia
- d. Pyrenees
- e. Poitiers

ANSWER: b

45. Which of these developments emerged during the Paleolithic Age?

- a. The ability to grow crops
- b. The knowledge of how to raise animals for farming
- c. The invention of such tools as the spear and bow and arrow
- d. The rise of patriarchy
- e. The regular production of food through agriculture

ANSWER: c

46. Which of the following was a development of the Neolithic era?

- a. A shift from hunting and gathering to an agricultural society
- b. The appearance of cities and urban life
- c. The domestication of the horse in ancient Egypt
- d. The smelting of iron
- e. The invention of the bow and arrow

ANSWER: a

47. As a result of the Agricultural Revolution, people

- a. found food supplies less reliable, more dependent on weather conditions.
- b. embraced a nomadic existence.
- c. enjoyed a steady source of meat and milk.
- d. recognized the inability of humans to control nature.
- e. abandoned the cultivation of regional plants.

ANSWER: c

48. When did systematic agriculture most likely develop?

- a. Between 10,000 and 4000 B.C.E.
- b. Between 9000 and 8000 B.C.E.
- c. Between 8000 and 7000 C.E.
- d. Between 6000 and 5000 C.E.
- e. Between 8000 and 7000 B.C.E.

ANSWER: e

49. Which statement best describes the ancient city of Çatal Huyuk?

- a. Çatal Huyuk was a farming community located in Greece.
- b. Çatal Huyuk was a Neolithic walled community in which people traded with each other.
- c. Çatal Huyuk was a large city with an elaborate water and sewer system.
- d. Çatal Huyuk was an autocracy in which ruling religious elders exercise all political power.
- e. Çatal Huyuk was the capitol of Egypt during the Old Kingdom.

ANSWER: b

50. Why did bronze replace copper in ancient civilizations?

- a. Bronze was harder and more durable.
- b. Bronze was prettier and therefore made prettier jewelry.
- c. Bronze took less time to smelt.
- d. Bronze ore was easier to find.
- e. Copper tools and weapons became too soft because of the hot Middle East climate.

ANSWER: a

51. What is one of the features of a human society's "civilization"?

- a. An urban focus and a distinct religious structure

- b. Art and music
- c. Economic support through trading and manufacturing
- d. Living in peace with neighbors
- e. Giving up religion and adopting rational thinking

ANSWER: a

52. Paleolithic peoples survived by

- a. hunting animals and gathering plants, nuts, and berries for food.
- b. raising some animals and gathering nuts, plants and berries.
- c. growing some small crops and hunting buffalo and other animals for meat.
- d. planting some crops, gathering nuts and berries and fishing.
- e. growing crops and raising farm animals.

ANSWER: a

53. How did the shift to an agricultural society during the Neolithic Age affect relationships between men and women?

- a. Farming required both sexes to do the same types of work.
- b. Men's work took them further away from home; women's work increasingly confined them to household labor.
- c. Women produced small gardens and surplus foods that could be traded; men hunted and raised crops for survival.
- d. Men's lives became nomadic; women's lives became sedentary.
- e. Women grew and stored food; men hunted for meat and gathered berries and other plants to supplement their diet.

ANSWER: b

54. What happened to the Sumerian states and city-states as they expanded?

- a. They defeated the Hittites in 2600 B.C.E.
- b. They were plagued by wars as they fought for control of land and water.
- c. They developed a complicated religion with a sophisticated belief in life after death.
- d. They became warriors who instituted totalitarian government.
- e. They built dams and irrigation canals along the Indus River.

ANSWER: b

55. According to the Sumerians, who owned the cities?

- a. The kings
- b. The nobles and other elites
- c. The priests
- d. The gods and goddesses
- e. The people

ANSWER: d

56. Where did Sumerian kings derive their authority to rule?

- a. The will of the people
- b. The parliamentary councils of the city-states

- c. Success in athletic tournaments
- d. The gods
- e. Their military victories over the "barbarians"

ANSWER: d

57. Why were temples important in Sumerian cities?

- a. They demonstrated the equality of humans and the gods.
- b. Their construction provided numerous opportunities for work.
- c. They served as the center of Sumerian political and spiritual life.
- d. They provided concrete locations for city-wide entertainment.
- e. They helped to create equality among Sumerians.

ANSWER: c

58. The written script of the Sumerians is known as

- a. cuneiform.
- b. alphabetic.
- c. phonogram.
- d. hieroglyphs.
- e. Cyrillic.

ANSWER: a

59. The vast majority of the population in Sumerian city-states worked as

- a. farmers.
- b. merchants.
- c. textile-makers.
- d. royal officials.
- e. priests.

ANSWER: a

60. Historians theorize that early civilizations developed as a result of

- a. ongoing wars and the need for unified defense.
- b. the rise of food surpluses and labor specialization, which led to the creation of large communities.
- c. the emergence of new ideas and systems of equality.
- d. the rise of an organized aristocracy and nobility.
- e. the development of new technologies such as tools and metalwork.

ANSWER: b

61. Which river runs through the valley in Mesopotamia?

- a. Indus River
- b. Danube River
- c. Tigris River
- d. Nile River
- e. Po River

ANSWER: c

62. What was the basic unit of early Mesopotamian civilization?

- a. City-state
- b. Village
- c. County
- d. Land one man could plough in a day
- e. Empire

ANSWER: a

63. What made Sumerians feel a deep sense of despair?

- a. The conquest of Sargon and the end of his empire
- b. Religious beliefs that focused on the anger of the gods
- c. Ongoing wars and the burning of cities
- d. Flooding of nearby rivers that put food supplies at risk
- e. Harshness of the legal code established by Hammurabi

ANSWER: c

64. Mesopotamia means the land “between the ____.”

- a. valleys
- b. mountains
- c. rivers
- d. deserts
- e. plains

ANSWER: c

65. Which statement best describes Mesopotamian religion?

- a. Mesopotamian religion was monotheistic.
- b. Mesopotamian religion was simple with few rules and tenets.
- c. Mesopotamian religion was severely critical of cultures that practiced divination.
- d. Mesopotamian religion had many gods and people were created to do manual labor for the gods.
- e. Mesopotamian religion stressed the power of humans over supernatural forces. .

ANSWER: d

66. Why didn't the ancient Egyptians have a word for “religion”?

- a. Language was still new and not all words had been invented yet.
- b. They used the word “worship” instead.
- c. They didn't see religion as separate from the rest of human experience.
- d. They focused on the names of individual gods.
- e. All Egyptians shared the same beliefs, so they didn't need a separate word to describe different faiths.

ANSWER: c

67. What did The Epic of Gilgamesh teach?

- a. The gods are benevolent and care greatly for their people.
- b. A wish fulfilled is not always a good thing.
- c. Human life is fleeting; people are powerless against the supernatural.
- d. A periodic flood is necessary to cleanse the world.
- e. Immortality is guaranteed for the believing worshippers.

ANSWER: c

68. Who was the ruler of Akkad who established the first empire in Sumer ca. 2340 B.C.E.?

- a. Cyrus
- b. Naram-Sin
- c. Hammurabi
- d. Uruk
- e. Sargon

ANSWER: e

69. Once systems of writing developed, the Mesopotamians used writing largely for

- a. creating treaties and contracts between rulers.
- b. keeping records and creating documents that might endure.
- c. authoring religious doctrine.
- d. creating texts and schools to educate all people.
- e. designing buildings, legal codes, and outlining farming techniques.

ANSWER: b

70. How many laws does the Code of Hammurabi contain?

- a. 50
- b. 282
- c. 1,232
- d. 745
- e. 123

ANSWER: b

71. How was punishment viewed under the Code of Hammurabi?

- a. Punishments were more severe for the upper classes.
- b. The system of justice was based on "an eye for an eye."
- c. The goal of punishment was reform, not retribution.
- d. The upper class was never punished.
- e. Punishments stressed the importance of confession and forgiveness.

ANSWER: b

72. Punishments for crimes under the Code of Hammurabi

- a. were more severe for the lower classes.
- b. did not apply to domestic family concerns.
- c. stressed reform rather than retribution.
- d. were not for the upper class at all.
- e. stressed the importance of confession and forgiveness.

ANSWER: a

73. What was the focus of most laws in the Code of Hammurabi?

- a. Holding the upper classes accountable to the lower classes
- b. Holding the lower classes accountable to the upper classes
- c. The management of the economy
- d. Marriage and family
- e. The behavior of local officials

ANSWER: d

74. In Mesopotamian society, women had the right to

- a. control some of the offices in the priesthood.
- b. engage in sexual relationships outside of marriage.
- c. decide whether to have children or not.
- d. decide which of her sons would receive an inheritance.
- e. refuse to do housework if her husband engaged in an adulterous affair.

ANSWER: d

75. How is the Nile River different from the rivers in Mesopotamia?

- a. It never rises or falls, but flows steadily year-round.
- b. It frequently goes dry, leaving the land barren.
- c. It is subject to violent, unpredictable floods.
- d. It floods predictably at the same time every year.
- e. It was a dry shell for ten months of the year.

ANSWER: d

76. What was the significance of the Nile River for ancient Egyptian society?

- a. It helped Egypt become prosperous thanks to agricultural surpluses.
- b. It provided a means for Egypt's enemies to constantly invade and wage war.
- c. Its treacherous waters made travel difficult.
- d. It fueled rapid urbanization.
- e. It limited the development of trade.

ANSWER: a

77. How did Egyptian society compare to Mesopotamian society?

- a. It was more urban.
- b. It was less dependent on rivers.
- c. It was more rural.
- d. It did not have food surpluses.
- e. It was more literate.

ANSWER: c

78. How many major periods comprise Ancient Egyptian history?

- a. Two

- b. Three
- c. Four
- d. Six
- e. Eight

ANSWER: b

79. According to Egyptian theology, from what source did a king – or pharaoh -- derive his authority?

- a. Democratic elections
- b. The assent of local governors
- c. The fact that he was perceived as a divine instrument of order and harmony
- d. Hereditary descent
- e. Military conquest

ANSWER: c

80. What role did the vizier play in Egyptian government?

- a. He served as a liaison between the king and the people.
- b. He was a diplomat who negotiated with other rulers on the king's behalf.
- c. He was the supreme justice of the legal system, ensuring that people observed the laws and punishing those who did not.
- d. He oversaw various government departments, such as public works and justice.
- e. He was the military attaché for the king.

ANSWER: d

81. The term Ma'at expresses the Egyptian belief in

- a. the inevitability of human suffering and sorrow.
- b. steady progress toward a better future.
- c. the redemption promised to those who believe in the gods.
- d. truth, justice, and order in the universe.
- e. unrelenting chaos.

ANSWER: d

82. After the collapse of the Old Kingdom, which new dynasty began?

- a. The Middle Kingdom
- b. The New Kingdom
- c. The Second Intermediate Period
- d. The first intermediate period
- e. The Early Dynastic Period

ANSWER: a

83. What administrative format was used in the Old Kingdom?

- a. It was divided into provinces called nomes and governed by nomarchs.
- b. It was totally ruled by the pharaoh in all facets of government.
- c. It was divided into military districts directly responsible to an army commander.
- d. It contained a parliamentary government with representatives from each district.

e. It was ruled by hereditary governors.

ANSWER: a

84. Who were the Hyksos?

- a. A Semitic-speaking people who infiltrated Egypt in the seventeenth century B.C.E.
- b. Indo-European peoples who were recruited into the Egyptian military.
- c. Priests/astronomers in Egypt during the Old Kingdom.
- d. People who fought and defeated the Egyptians in the ninth century B.C.E.
- e. People who expelled the Jews from Egypt

ANSWER: a

85. What was the foundation of ancient Egypt's economy?

- a. Foreign trade
- b. Artisans and craftsmen
- c. Slavery
- d. Agriculture
- e. Copper mining

ANSWER: d

86. The Egyptian god Osiris was most closely associated with

- a. the sun, as the source of all life.
- b. rivers and the land.
- c. immortality via the mummification of the dead.
- d. the authority of kings and pharaohs.
- e. the protection of children and future generations.

ANSWER: c

87. The Egyptian pyramids can be best described as

- a. built during the period of the New Kingdom.
- b. part of a large spiritual complex near Alexandria.
- c. conceived and built as tombs for a city of the dead.
- d. dedicated completely to the god Aten.
- e. the final resting places of the pharaohs of the New Kingdom

ANSWER: c

88. Egyptian art can be characterized as

- a. a product of the Old Kingdom.
- b. primarily functional and not intended to add beauty.
- c. governed solely by the creativity of the artist.
- d. not highly stylized.
- e. subtly critical of the pharaohs.

ANSWER: b

89. Amenhotep IV best known for

- a. the temporary installation of the god of the sun disk in Egyptian culture.
- b. expelling the Hyksos and leading Egypt along an imperialistic path.
- c. increasing the power of the Amon-Re priesthood.
- d. combating the invasion of the Sea Peoples.
- e. establishing the worship of Osiris.

ANSWER: a

90. In Egyptian society,

- a. when women married, they turned over control of their property and inheritance to their husbands.
- b. women could operate businesses.
- c. polygamy was the norm.
- d. young people could choose their own mates.
- e. divorce was prohibited.

ANSWER: b

91. Which of the following is NOT true of Egyptian social life?

- a. Women had many equal legal rights with men.
- b. Marriages were based on love and personal attraction.
- c. The upper classes devoted much time to entertainment.
- d. The wife's primary role in the family was to produce children.
- e. Polygamy was the rule.

ANSWER: b

92. How was Egyptian society organized and structured during the Old and Middle Kingdoms?

- a. It was a hierarchy that had kings at the top, followed by nobles and priests, merchants and artisans, and landless workers.
- b. It was a plutocracy with kings at the top, sharing power with nobles and the aristocracy.
- c. It was organized around the king, who retained his power based on the will of the people.
- d. It was a military dictatorship with the king's power maintained by a cadre of warriors.
- e. It was organized around religious authority, with priests selecting and empowering the king.

ANSWER: a

93. Who drove the Egyptians from Canaan in the thirteenth century?

- a. Sumerians.
- b. "Sea Peoples"
- c. Babylonians
- d. Hyksos.
- e. Assyrians.

ANSWER: b

94. What part of Egyptian society did Akhenaten unsuccessfully reform?

- a. Military
- b. Borders.
- c. Marriage customs
- d. Religion
- e. Currency

ANSWER: d

95. Who was one of the few female pharaohs of Egypt?

- a. Ramses
- b. Hatshepsut
- c. Menes
- d. Amenhotep
- e. Isis

ANSWER: b

96. Egypt became a colony of which state in the first century?

- a. Rome
- b. Persia
- c. Babylonia
- d. Mohenjo-Daro
- e. Greece

ANSWER: a

True / False

97. The first hominid to leave Africa and move into Europe and Asia was Homo sapiens.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: False

98. The word "Paleolithic" means "old stone."

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: True

99. The most prominent structure in a Sumerian city was a temple called a ziggurat.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: True

100. A number of Sumerian agricultural and craft terms are not Sumerian in origin, indicating that the Sumerians were not the first peoples in ancient Mesopotamia.

- a. True

b. False

ANSWER: True

101. The earliest of the Mesopotamian empires was founded by Gilgamesh.

a. True

b. False

ANSWER: False

102. Sumerians believed that the gods actually owned the cities.

a. True

b. False

ANSWER: True

103. Each city-state in Mesopotamia was considered sacred.

a. True

b. False

ANSWER: True

104. The word "theocracy" means "rule by the strongest."

a. True

b. False

ANSWER: False

105. The great literary epic of the ancient Sumerians was known as the Book of the Dead.

a. True

b. False

ANSWER: False

106. Ma'at was the belief that the king's power was absolute.

a. True

b. False

ANSWER: False

107. Hieroglyphs were the sole form of writing in ancient Egypt.

a. True

b. False

ANSWER: False

108. During the era of the Middle Kingdom, pharaohs increasingly saw themselves as the shepherds of the people.

a. True

b. False

ANSWER: True

109. Like the peoples of Mesopotamia, the Egyptians had a negative attitude toward daily life.

a. True

b. False

ANSWER: False

110. The Nile River was an essential component of Egyptian culture and society.

a. True

b. False

ANSWER: True

111. The Egyptians fought the Sea Peoples at the Battle of Kadesh.

a. True

b. False

ANSWER: False