

Ch 01: The Ancient Near East: The First Civilizations

1. On which continent did hominids exist as long as 3–4 million years ago?

- a. Europe
- b. Asia
- c. Africa
- d. Australia

ANSWER:

c

2. Which of the following best describes the first anatomically modern humans, known as *Homo sapiens sapiens*?

- a. They first appeared in Africa between 200,000 and 150,000 years ago.
- b. They were skilled hunters who had mastered the bow and arrow.
- c. They lived mostly in small groups near the sea.
- d. They began to spread outside Asia around 70,000 years ago.

ANSWER:

a

3. Which of the following was a development of the Paleolithic Age?

- a. Domestication of animals
- b. Regular production of food through agriculture
- c. Social system with rough gender equality
- d. Invention of writing

ANSWER:

c

4. In ancient civilizations, why did bronze replace copper?

- a. Bronze could not rust.
- b. Bronze created more aesthetically pleasing jewelry.
- c. Bronze took less time to smelt.
- d. Bronze was harder and more durable.

ANSWER:

d

5. What significant development occurred during the early Neolithic era?

- a. The slow transition from hunting and gathering to an agricultural society
- b. The appearance of Neanderthals
- c. The use of fire and cooking food
- d. The emergence of cultural creativity, such as creating cave paintings

ANSWER:

a

6. Which best describes what historians refer to as the agricultural revolution?

- a. The gathering of nearby food plants and hunting of wild animals
- b. Trends in Asia that spread to other regions
- c. The growing of crops and the taming of food-producing animals
- d. Ending of trade and specialization of labor

ANSWER:

c

7. Which of the following best describes Çatal Hüyük?

Ch 01: The Ancient Near East: The First Civilizations

- a. A farming community that grew millet and yams
- b. A Neolithic walled community sustained by food surpluses
- c. A Paleolithic city with an elaborate water and sewer system
- d. A nomadic civilization that followed animal migrations

ANSWER:

b

8. Which of the following is one basic characteristic of a civilization?

- a. Rural focus
- b. Distinct religious structure
- c. Use of metal tools
- d. Social structure based on loose equality

ANSWER:

b

9. Why do historians have limited knowledge about early Indus River valley civilizations like Harappa and Mohenjo-Daro?

- a. The ruling aristocratic class destroyed all evidence when the cities fell.
- b. These civilizations never grew to be very big or important.
- c. More people lived in rural areas rather than in cities.
- d. Although written records exist, the language has not yet been deciphered.

ANSWER:

d

10. Which of the following is most true about the Sumerian government?

- a. Kings were seen as divine, acting as agents of their gods.
- b. Various city-states erected different types of governments.
- c. It was a theocracy in which the priest ruled.
- d. Queens were the dominant royal figure.

ANSWER:

a

11. In what way did the Akkadian leader Sargon use religion?

- a. To divide his opponents and subdue them
- b. To bring unification and stability to the empire
- c. To end the enslavement of people within cities
- d. To destroy the massive ziggurat at Ur

ANSWER:

b

12. What was the primary occupation for most people in Sumerian city-states?

- a. Farmers
- b. Merchants
- c. Textilemakers
- d. Artisans

ANSWER:

a

13. Which of the following best describes a ziggurat?

Ch 01: The Ancient Near East: The First Civilizations

- a. A valley located between two rivers, good for raising crops through irrigation
- b. A supervisor of hundreds of workers and organizer of religious festivals
- c. A government in power through divine authority
- d. A temple dedicated to a god or goddess, built upon a stepped tower

ANSWER:

d

14. Which of the following was the written script of the Sumerians?

- a. Pictographic Signs
- b. Cuneiform
- c. Alphabetic
- d. Numeric

ANSWER:

b

15. How can *The Epic of Gilgamesh* be compared to the Hebrew Bible?

- a. Both explain the importance of the Nile River.
- b. Both relate accounts of a great flood.
- c. Both glorify one of India's greatest rulers, Ashoka.
- d. Both document a public law code.

ANSWER:

b

16. How are punishments for crimes under the Code of Hammurabi best described?

- a. They were more severe for the lower classes.
- b. They did not apply to domestic family concerns.
- c. They stressed reform rather than retribution.
- d. They demonstrated a matriarchal society.

ANSWER:

a

17. Which of the following statements best applies to the status of women in Mesopotamian society?

- a. Punishments for adultery were light compared to those for men.
- b. Women were banned from all work outside the home.
- c. Divorce laws applied equally to men and women.
- d. The woman's role was to be in the home and subservient to her husband.

ANSWER:

d

18. Unlike the rivers in Mesopotamia, how is the Nile River best described?

- a. It does not need any irrigation for farming.
- b. It floods predictably at the same time every year.
- c. It frequently goes dry, leaving the land barren.
- d. It is subject to violent, unpredictable floods.

ANSWER:

b

19. In comparison to Mesopotamian society, how is Egyptian society best described?

- a. More urban

Ch 01: The Ancient Near East: The First Civilizations

- b. Less dependent on rivers
- c. More rural
- d. Disrupted by constant invasion

ANSWER:

c

20. According to Egyptian theology, the pharaoh derived his authority from which of the following?

- a. Hereditary succession
- b. The assent of local governors
- c. The perception that he was a divine instrument of order and harmony
- d. Elections held once per year, run by the vizier

ANSWER:

c

21. Which of the following best describes Lower Egypt?

- a. The land at the end of the Nile River that forms a wide delta
- b. The fertile river valley of the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers
- c. The upstream land along the Nile River and much of southern Egypt
- d. The land on either side of the Red Sea

ANSWER:

a

22. Which of the following helped contribute to the end of Egypt's Old Kingdom?

- a. Foreign invasion
- b. Drought caused by low levels of the Nile
- c. Increased centralized authority
- d. Too much rainfall

ANSWER:

b

23. For administrative purposes in the Old Kingdom, Egypt was governed in which of the following ways?

- a. Divided into provinces called nomes and governed by nomarchs
- b. Totally ruled by the pharaoh in all facets of government
- c. Divided into military districts directly responsible to an army commander
- d. Totally ruled by the vizier in all facets of government

ANSWER:

a

24. How are the Hyksos best described?

- a. They were overseers of pyramid builders in Middle Kingdom Egypt.
- b. They were a Semitic-speaking people who infiltrated Egypt in the seventeenth century BCE.
- c. They were Indo-European peoples who were recruited into the Egyptian military.
- d. They were priests/astronomers in Egypt during the Old Kingdom.

ANSWER:

b

25. In what way were the common people of Mesopotamia and Egypt alike?

- a. Most thought rivers were life-threatening.
- b. Most worked the land.

Ch 01: The Ancient Near East: The First Civilizations

- c. Most owned serfs.
- d. Most wrote in cuneiform.

ANSWER:

b

26. Which of the following best describes what Egyptians believed about mummification of the dead?
- a. If the body was destroyed through fire, the spiritual body was at peace.
 - b. Mummification could be performed only on royalty.
 - c. If the body was preserved, the spiritual body continued living.
 - d. Only mummified bodies were allowed in tombs.

ANSWER:

c

27. Originally, the Osiris cult was reserved for which of the following?
- a. The wealthy, who could afford preservation of the body
 - b. Priests who knew religious secrets
 - c. The poor who lived by the Nile River
 - d. Serfs who had been freed

ANSWER:

a

28. Which of the following best describes the Egyptian pyramids?
- 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. Created to celebrate Egyptian expansion into new territory

ANSWER:

c

29. Which of the following best describes Egyptian art?
- a. It was largely individually expressive.
 - b. It was not created to be functional.
 - c. It was highly stylized and formulaic.
 - d. It was produced by many identifiable, named artists.

ANSWER:

c

30. Amenhotep IV is best known for which of the following?
- a. Destroying the city of Akhetaten
 - b. The temporary installation of the god of the sun disk in Egyptian culture
 - c. Expelling the Hyksos and leading Egypt along an imperialistic path
 - d. Increasing the power of the Amon-Re priesthood

ANSWER:

b

31. Which of the following best describes Egyptian social life?
- a. Women had many rights, as they could divorce or inherit property.
 - b. Marriages were based on love and personal attraction.
 - c. The lower classes devoted much time to entertainment.

Ch 01: The Ancient Near East: The First Civilizations

- d. Medical care was equal for the upper and lower classes.

ANSWER:

a

32. In general, during the imperialistic New Kingdom, how did the Egyptian government change?

- a. A gradual lessening in the power of pharaohs over their neighbors
- b. A decrease in the size of the royal bureaucracy
- c. A growing poverty and powerlessness of priesthoods
- d. An increase in the power of individual military leaders

ANSWER:

a

33. Which of the following people ended Egyptian power in Canaan through Invasions in the twelfth century?

- a. Sumerians
- b. Sea Peoples
- c. Babylonians
- d. Nubians

ANSWER:

b

34. Akhenaten is best known for his unsuccessful attempt to lessen the power of which group?

- a. Priests
- b. Nobles
- c. Merchants
- d. Nomarchs

ANSWER:

a

35. Who was one of the few women pharaohs?

- a. Ramesses II
- b. Hatshepsut
- c. Menes
- d. Akhenaten

ANSWER:

b

36. In the first century BCE, Egypt became a province of which power?

- a. Rome
- b. Persia
- c. Babylonia
- d. Lybia

ANSWER:

a

37. How are the Hittites best described?

- a. They lived on the Balkan peninsula of Europe.
- b. They were an Indo-European-speaking people.
- c. They were a Semitic-speaking people.
- d. They defeated and destroyed the Egyptians.

Ch 01: The Ancient Near East: The First Civilizations

ANSWER:

b

38. Why did the Hittites play an important role in the history of the Middle East?

- a. They defeated the Egyptians, thus ending Egypt's New Kingdom.
- b. They were conquered by the Assyrians, paving the way for the Assyrian Empire.
- c. They transmitted Mesopotamian culture to the west, especially to the Mycenaean Greeks.
- d. They created hieroglyphics, a writing system that later became an alphabet.

ANSWER:

c

39. Growing appreciation of astronomy among European peoples after 4000 BCE is best seen in which of the following?

- a. Cuneiform star charts
- b. Wall paintings of galaxies
- c. Tomb carvings of the afterlife
- d. Megalithic observatories

ANSWER:

d

40. From where did the original Indo-Europeans possibly come?

- a. Mesopotamian river valley
- b. Black Sea region
- c. The Indus valley
- d. Mediterranean Sea islands

ANSWER:

b

41. Compare the distinguishing features of people in the Paleolithic Age to that of the Neolithic Revolution Age. What were key developments of each group and how did they change the way people lived?

ANSWER:

42. Discuss three of the six basic characteristics of civilization and how they developed in any one of the early civilization, such as in Central Asia, Harappa and Mohenjo-Dara, or Peru.

ANSWER:

43. Describe the relationship between Sumerian trade and the development of cuneiform.

ANSWER:

44. Which had the largest influence on Sumerian society: religion, politics, or economics? Why?

ANSWER:

45. How does *The Epic of Gilgamesh* represent Mesopotamian life? What themes are central to the epic, and how representative are they of Mesopotamian worldviews?

ANSWER:

46. How did the concept of divine authority differ between ancient Egyptian and Mesopotamian rulers?

ANSWER:

47. Describe the important of trade in Egypt.

Ch 01: The Ancient Near East: The First Civilizations

ANSWER:

48. How had Egyptian religion changed from the Old Kingdom to the Middle Kingdom?

ANSWER:

49. What were the motivations of Amenhotep's attempts to restore the Pharaoh cult? What were the results?

ANSWER:

50. What was the significance of the Hittite Empire?

ANSWER:

51. Identify and describe the historical significance of hominids.

ANSWER:

52. Identify and describe the historical significance of the Paleolithic Age.

ANSWER:

53. Identify and describe the historical significance of the Neolithic Revolution.

ANSWER:

54. Identify and describe the historical significance of patriarchy.

ANSWER:

55. Identify and describe the historical significance of early human civilization.

ANSWER:

56. Identify and describe the historical significance of Harappa and Mohenjo-Daro.

ANSWER:

57. Identify and describe the historical significance of Mesopotamia.

ANSWER:

58. Identify and describe the historical significance of a ziggurat.

ANSWER:

59. Identify and describe the historical significance of theocracy.

ANSWER:

60. Identify and describe the historical significance of polytheistic religion.

ANSWER:

61. Identify and describe the historical significance of the Code of Hammurabi.

ANSWER:

62. Identify and describe the historical significance of divination.

ANSWER:

Ch 01: The Ancient Near East: The First Civilizations

63. Identify and describe the historical significance of cuneiform writing.

ANSWER:

64. Identify and describe the historical significance of the decline of Egypt's Old Kingdom and the rise of the Middle Kingdom.

ANSWER:

65. Identify and describe the historical significance of Egyptian pyramid building.

ANSWER:

66. Identify and describe the historical significance of hieroglyphic writing.

ANSWER:

67. Identify and describe the historical significance of the religious reforms of Amenhotep IV.

ANSWER:

68. Identify and describe the historical significance of Ramses II.

ANSWER:

69. Identify and describe the historical significance of the migrations of early Indo-Europeans.

ANSWER:

70. Identify and describe the historical significance of Stonehenge and other megalithic sites.

ANSWER: