

CHAPTER 1 – THE BIRTH OF CIVILIZATION

IDENTIFICATION QUESTIONS

culture	cuneiform	Vedas
Aryans	Brahman	Olmecs
oracle bones	pharaoh	Sargon
Harappan	civilization	Neolithic Revolution
<i>Book of the Dead</i>	Hittites	Assyrians
hieroglyphs	Mandate of Heaven	Code of Hammurabi
Mesopotamia	Bronze Age	chattel slavery
Upanishads	Mohenjo-Daro	<i>Mahabharata</i>
<i>Ramayana</i>	Mesoamerica	diffusion
Indo-European	Paleolithic Age	raja

MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS

1. Anthropologists designate early human cultures by their
 - a. writing.
 - b. clothing.
 - c. tools.
 - d. food.

Answer: c
Page: 5
Factual
2. The Paleolithic Age is characterized by
 - a. domestication of animals.
 - b. the beginning of agriculture.
 - c. a hunting and gathering existence.
 - d. the invention of writing.

Answer: c
Page: 5
Conceptual
3. In the Paleolithic Age's division of labor by gender, it was probably primarily women who were responsible for
 - a. gathering wild grain and berries.
 - b. making tools.
 - c. hunting and fishing.
 - d. protecting the family with war skills.

Answer: a
Page: 5
Conceptual
4. The Neolithic Revolution is characterized by
 - a. the development of urban-based civilizations.
 - b. the domestication of animals and the start of agriculture.
 - c. dependence on hunting and gathering techniques.
 - d. the manufacture and use of iron tools.

Answer: b
Pages: 5–6
Conceptual
5. In which area did the earliest Neolithic societies appear?
 - a. Near East
 - b. China
 - c. India
 - d. Mexico

Answer: a
Page: 6
Factual

6. The development of writing first occurred during the
- a. Paleolithic Era.
 - b. Neolithic Era.
 - c. Bronze Age.
 - d. Iron Age.

Answer: c

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Factual

7. The first metal developed to replace stone in the making of tools was
- a. bronze.
 - b. iron.
 - c. aluminum.
 - d. tin.

Answer: a

Page: 7

Factual

8. Which of the following shows the correct chronological sequence of historical eras?
- a. Neolithic, Bronze, Paleolithic, Iron
 - b. Bronze, Iron, Paleolithic, Neolithic
 - c. Paleolithic, Neolithic, Bronze, Iron
 - d. Paleolithic, Neolithic, Iron, Bronze

Answer: c

Pages: 5–27

Factual

9. Who developed the form of writing called cuneiform?
- a. the Assyrians
 - b. the Egyptians
 - c. the Babylonians
 - d. the Sumerians

Answer: d

Page: 8

Factual

10. What does the Babylonian World Map shown in your text (p. 10) tell us about how Babylonians viewed their place in the world?
- a. They believed that the earth was round.
 - b. They believed that their progress was inhibited by geographical barriers.
 - c. They believed that their destinies were controlled by the gods.
 - d. They believed that they were the most important civilization on earth.

Answer: d

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Conceptual

11. Which group was the first to unify much of Mesopotamia and create a true empire?
- a. the Akkadians
 - b. the Egyptians
 - c. the Sumerians
 - d. the Eridu

Answer: a

Page: 8

Factual

12. The Mesopotamians constructed lofty towers, perhaps symbolizing mountains, called
- a. pyramids.
 - b. ziggurats.
 - c. basilicas.
 - d. temples.

Answer: b

Pages: 11

Factual

13. Mathematics could not develop until
- a. the Sumerian sexagesimal system was adopted.
 - b. the time of Hammurabi, when mathematics developed alongside astronomy.
 - c. an independent concept of number was established.
 - d. All of these answers are correct.

Answer: c

Pages: 9

Conceptual

14. The Epic of Gilgamesh includes the story of
- a. a hero-king's search for eternal life.
 - b. a young noble's search for love.
 - c. a great victory of the Egyptians over the Hittites.
 - d. the travels of an ambassador through Mesopotamia.

Answer: a

Page: 11

Factual

15. According to the excerpt from the Code of Hammurabi, women in Babylonian society
- a. were primarily supposed to be good homemakers.
 - b. were eligible to own their own businesses.
 - c. were used as collateral for loans.
 - d. All of these answers are correct.

Answer: d

Pages: 10, 11

Conceptual

16. In the Sumerian religion, gods
- a. lived in temples that were run like houses.
 - b. did not resemble humans in their appearance or actions.
 - c. represented emotional concepts such as evil, hope, or envy.
 - d. All of these answers are correct.

Answer: a

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Factual

17. Slavery in Mesopotamia took the forms of
- a. debt slavery and labor slavery.
 - b. chattel slavery and labor slavery.
 - c. chattel slavery and debt slavery.
 - d. debt slavery, labor slavery, and chattel slavery.

Answer: c

Page: 11

Factual

18. Looking at Map 1-2, what area or areas do you think were most likely to be fought over between the four Near Eastern empires around 1400 B.C.E.?
- a. the towns near the Mediterranean coast, such as Tarsus and Tyre
 - b. the deserts of southern Arabia, especially near the Red Sea
 - c. the islands near Greece, including Crete and Cyprus
 - d. the mountainous plateaus of Armenia, with trade links to the east

Answer: a

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Conceptual

19. Egypt's "black land" was
- a. the dark fertile fields along the Nile.
 - b. the highlands.
 - c. found only in the south.
 - d. another term for Lower Egypt.

Answer: a

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Factual

20. Egyptian hieroglyphs first appear
- a. in Greece.
 - b. around 3000 B.C.E.
 - c. during the Middle Kingdom.
 - d. in women's texts.

Answer: b

Page: 14

Factual

21. The Old Kingdom of Egypt collapsed
- a. and gave way to the First Intermediate Period's disorder.
 - b. because of Hyksos invasions.
 - c. and was followed by the period in which the great pyramids were constructed.
 - d. because of drought.

Answer: a

Page: 13

Factual

22. The New Kingdom was different from earlier periods of Egyptian history because
- a. Egypt was ruled by foreign-born pharaohs.
 - b. Egypt shrank in size and was limited mainly to Upper Egypt.
 - c. Egyptian rulers pursued foreign expansion and created a large empire.
 - d. Egyptians abandoned their old gods for new ones from Greece.

Answer: c

Pages: 14

Factual

23. In ancient Egypt, *maat* was
- a. the legendary creator god who had blessed Egypt.
 - b. the pharaoh's chief advisor.
 - c. the highest virtue combining the ideas of truth, justice, and order.
 - d. the name for all areas outside of Egypt.

Answer: c

Page: 12

Factual

24. What does the scene from the *Book of the Dead* shown in your text (p. 15) say about Egyptian views of the afterlife?
- a. The afterworld was a gloomy and dark place.
 - b. The path to the afterlife was filled with trials and tests.
 - c. Everyone passed into the afterlife forever.
 - d. The gods of the dead resembled humans.

Answer: b

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Conceptual

25. Slaves in ancient Egypt
- a. were always black Africans.
 - b. could expect to eventually be assimilated into the general population.
 - c. performed society's heavy labors.
 - d. All of these answers are correct.

Answer: b

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Factual

26. The Hittites

- a. were innovators and helped bridge cultures.
- b. were isolationist.
- c. lacked strong central government.
- d. were pacifists.

Answer: a

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Conceptual

27. The Assyrians were famous for their

- a. fierce and well-disciplined military.
- b. delicate bronze and copper artwork.
- c. mathematical and astronomical skills.
- d. limitation on the power of their kings.

Answer: a

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Conceptual

28. Compare Maps 1-1 (p. 9) and 1-3 (p. 20). What geographical characteristics do these early civilizations have in common?

- a. rivers, which provide fertile land for agriculture
- b. mountains, which provide natural barriers against invasion
- c. deserts, which provide isolation from hostile neighbors
- d. All of these answers are correct.

Answer: d

Pages: 9–20

Conceptual

29. The earliest literate, urban civilization in the Indus valley is known as

- a. Punjab.
- b. Kashmir.
- c. Harappan.
- d. Aryan.

Answer: c

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Factual

30. Not much is known about the Indus River valley civilization because

- a. modern political upheaval hinders archaeological excavation.
- b. the culture was destroyed around 1800 B.C.E.
- c. they did not develop a system of writing.
- d. it disappeared before 1500 B.C.E. and its writing is still undeciphered.

Answer: d

Pages: 18–19

Factual

31. The Vedas contain the earliest beliefs of Hinduism and originated with

- a. Harappan priests at Mohenjo-Daro.
- b. Davidian mystics who migrated from southern India.
- c. Aryans who moved into the Ganges area.
- d. Alexander the Great, who introduced Greek philosophy.

Answer: c

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Factual

32. India's Late Vedic Age is also called the Epic Age because it is the setting for

- a. the *Bharat* and the *Mahabharata*.
- b. the *Bharat* and the *Brahman*.
- c. the *Brahman* and the *Mahabharata*.
- d. the *Mahabharata* and the *Ramayana*.

Answer: d

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Factual

33. Looking at Map 1-4 (p. 27), which political and geographic features are typical of Iron Age China?
- a. China was a large, unified empire.
 - b. China consisted of many independent kingdoms by the sea.
 - c. China consisted of several independent kingdoms along rivers.
 - d. China was a powerful state divided into many provinces.

Answer: c

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Conceptual

34. Bronze Age China lacked the type of monumental architecture common in the ancient Near East because
- a. no stone is found in the area.
 - b. the Chinese were technologically inferior.
 - c. the Shang capital moved frequently.
 - d. the Chinese lacked the manpower to erect such structures.

Answer: c

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Factual

35. Which of the following was not a characteristic of Shang civilization?
- a. inscriptions on oracle bones
 - b. use of iron weapons
 - c. a rigidly stratified society
 - d. a mastery of bronze technology

Answer: b

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Conceptual

36. What characterized the later phase of the Eastern Zhou (401–256 B.C.E.)?
- a. political fragmentation and frequent warfare between rival states
 - b. the establishment of strong centralized authority
 - c. the beginnings of a primitive democracy as indicated by evidence from religious texts
 - d. None of these answers are correct.

Answer: a

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Conceptual

37. Members of the literate bureaucracy, the scholar-bureaucrats, were called
- a. Mandate of Heaven.
 - b. *shi*.
 - c. hegemony.
 - d. Brahman.

Answer: b

Page: 27

Factual

38. In the Americas, relatively dense Neolithic settlements emerged in all of the following areas except
- a. the Great Plains.
 - b. the Mississippi valley.
 - c. Pacific Northwest/Puget Sound.
 - d. Mesoamerica and South America.

Answer: a

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Factual

39. The first society in the Andes to exert regional cultural influence was that of
- a. Monte Alban.
 - b. Chavín.
 - c. Nazca.
 - d. Moche.

Answer: b

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Conceptual

40. The most important staple food crop for early American cultures was
- potatoes.
 - maize.
 - rice.
 - peppers.

Answer: b

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Factual

41. Mesoamerica is located
- in modern Peru and parts of eastern South America.
 - in modern Mexico and parts of Central America.
 - in the modern United States between California and the Mississippi River.
 - in modern Brazil near the Amazon River basin.

Answer: b

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Factual

42. The agricultural surplus necessary to emerging civilizations in the Andes valleys was based
- primarily on the cultivation of maize (corn).
 - on a combination of agriculture and marine resources.
 - on large-scale irrigation coordinated by a centralized government.
 - All of these answers are correct.

Answer: b

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Factual

ESSAY AND DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What influence did the Neolithic Revolution have on the development of world civilization? What caused the primary changes between the Paleolithic and the Neolithic ages? What is the nature of the evidence we have for these changes?
Conceptual
- Beginning in the Paleolithic Age, a division of labor emerged between men and women. What were the typical responsibilities of women in the Paleolithic, Neolithic, and later ages? How did the different civilizations that emerged view the respective roles of men and women?
Conceptual
- Hammurabi's code reflected the Mesopotamian society of his time. Indicate the major features of this society as they are reflected in the code. What were the advantages and disadvantages of such a code? What do you think the average Babylonian citizen thought of the code?
Conceptual
- Compare and contrast the Sumerian and Egyptian concepts of the afterlife. What aspects of their respective civilizations influenced the development of these religious views?
Conceptual
- What were the major contributions of the small nations of the Middle East (i.e., Kassites, Hittites, etc.) to world civilization before the development of the Assyrian Empire? What were the most important factors in their development?
Conceptual
- Why is little known about the early Indus River valley civilization in relation to other major civilizations of the ancient world? What explanations can you give for the fall of this civilization? What influence did this civilization have on the later Aryan civilizations?
Conceptual
- Imagine that you are an urban citizen living in one of the following cities at the time indicated, and describe your society, your government, and your religious beliefs: Memphis, 2500 B.C.E.; Babylon, 1750 B.C.E.; Harappa, 2000 B.C.E.; Luoyang, 600 B.C.E. In which city would you have most wanted to live? (See Maps 1-1, 1-2, and 1-3.)
Conceptual

8. Compare and contrast the geography of the four major river valley civilizations: Tigris/Euphrates, Indus, Nile, and Yellow. How do geographic factors explain the development of their unique political, economic, social, and cultural characteristics? (See Maps 1-1, 1-2, 1-4, 1-5, and 1-6.)
Conceptual
9. Explain and discuss the concept of diffusion and its effect on ancient civilizations and early cultures. How did these cultures influence one another?
Conceptual
10. How did the cuneiform writing system affect the development and advancement of Sumerian society, especially the lives of common people?
Conceptual
11. Discuss the role of slavery in Babylonian society. How vital were slaves to the economy and how accepted was the practice? Describe the life of a typical slave.
Conceptual
12. Discuss the rise of civilizations in North America. Compared to Africa and Asia, was the food supply more or less abundant? What effect did this have on the people who lived there?
Conceptual
13. In the Iron Age, what three basic changes contributed to the rise of large territorial states in the Eastern Zhou? Which was most important? Why?
Conceptual
14. Compare and contrast the development of Native American civilizations in Mesoamerica to those in North America. What were their main political, social, and economic features? How did religious practices influence their evolution?
Conceptual
15. Compare and contrast the religious practices and beliefs about the afterlife in Egypt to those of India and Shang China.
Conceptual
16. Compare and contrast the role of women in Mesopotamian societies to their roles in Egypt, India, and China.
Conceptual
17. Compare and contrast the political, economic, and social organization of ancient Egypt to that of Shang and Zhou China. What was the role of the king in relation to the nobility and other classes in each civilization?
Conceptual
18. What were the features of and the role played by the pyramids and other monumental structures in ancient Egypt?
Conceptual