

CHAPTER

2

Ancient Middle East and Egypt

3200 B.C.–500 B.C.



Expanding Empires, Elite Troops

As the world's first civilizations and empires arose, military power became one of the defining aspects of success. The Persian rulers who controlled a vast empire relied on a large army that included a famous and elite branch of troops. The Greek historian Herodotus described these troops as follows:

“This corps was known as the Immortals, because it was invariably kept up to strength; if a man was killed or fell sick, the vacancy he left was filled at once, so that the total strength of the corps was never less—and never more—than 10,000.”

Listen to the Witness History audio to hear more about ancient Persia.

◀ The brightly colored archers that emerge from the walls of the palace of Persian ruler Darius I in Susa are thought to represent the Immortals.



Content Standards

Chapter Focus Question What distinct characteristics did the early civilizations and empires of the Middle East and Egypt develop?

Section 1

City-States of Ancient Sumer II.1.HS.1,
II.4.HS.1, II.5.HS.1

Section 2

Invaders, Traders, and Empire Builders
I.2.HS.3, II.3.HS.1, II.4.HS.4, IV.5.HS.2

Section 3

Kingdom on the Nile I.1.HS.3, II.1.HS.1,
II.2.HS.1, II.4.HS.4

Section 4

Egyptian Civilization II.1.HS.1, II.1.HS.2,
II.4.HS.4

Section 5

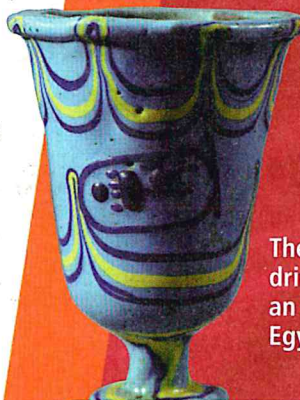
Roots of Judaism II.1.HS.1, II.1.HS.2, II.4.HS.1



An ancient coin from the Persian empire



A musical instrument called a lyre from ancient Sumer

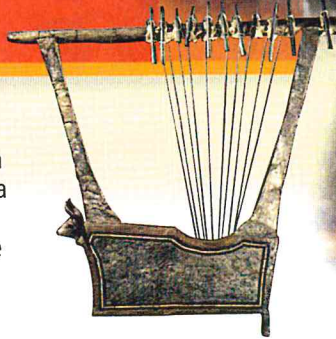


The blue glass drinking vessel of an ancient Egyptian king

Note Taking Study Guide Online

For: Note Taking and Concept Connector worksheets
Web Code: nad-0201

Sumerian depiction of a man playing a lyre (above); Sumerian lyre (right)


WITNESS HISTORY  AUDIO

Ancient Times, Ancient Tunes

Music may be one of the most difficult artistic forms of early civilizations for us to find evidence of because the songs themselves leave no physical trace. But in the ruins of Sumer, the world's first civilization, archaeologists have turned up both musical instruments and artwork showing musicians playing them. Although we may never know how Sumerian music sounded, we do know that even in the world's first cities, musicians filled the air with song.

Focus Question What were the characteristics of the world's first civilization?

City-States of Ancient Sumer


Content Standards

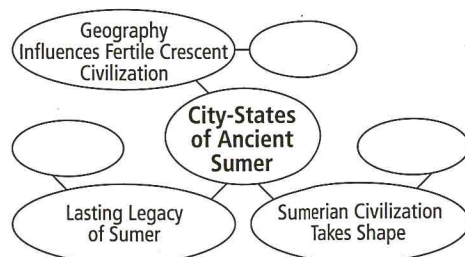
- **II.1.HS.1** Describe effect of world issues/events
- **II.4.HS.1** Effect of world processes on world regions
- **II.5.HS.1** Effect of geography and world processes on events

Terms, People, and Places

Fertile Crescent	hierarchy
Mesopotamia	ziggurat
Sumer	cuneiform
<i>The Epic of Gilgamesh</i>	

Note Taking

Reading Skill: Identify Main Ideas Use this concept web to record the main idea of each section of text that follows a red heading.



A number of early civilizations arose in the **Fertile Crescent**, a region of the Middle East named for its rich soils and golden wheat fields. Over time, nomadic herders, ambitious invaders, and traders easily overcame the region's few natural barriers. As a result, the region became a crossroads where people and ideas met and mingled. Each new group that arrived made its own contributions to the history of the region.

Geography Influences Fertile Crescent Civilization

The Fertile Crescent curves from the Persian Gulf to the eastern coast of the Mediterranean Sea. Within the Fertile Crescent lies a region that the ancient Greeks later named **Mesopotamia**, which means “between the rivers.” Mesopotamia is the area of land between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers, which flow from the highlands of modern-day Turkey through Iraq into the Persian Gulf. Around 3300 B.C., the world's first civilization developed in southeastern Mesopotamia, in a region called **Sumer**.

Organizing for Floods and Irrigation Control of the Tigris and Euphrates was key to developments in Mesopotamia. The rivers frequently rose in terrifying floods that washed away topsoil and destroyed mud-brick villages. The Mesopotamian narrative poem *The Epic of Gilgamesh*, which was first told orally in Sumer, describes a great flood that destroys the world. Archaeologists have indeed found evidence that catastrophic floods occurred regularly in the ancient days of the Fertile Crescent.

To survive and to protect their farmland, villagers along the riverbanks had to work together. Even during the dry season, the rivers had to be controlled in order to channel water to the fields. Temple priests or royal officials provided the leadership that was necessary to ensure cooperation. They organized villagers to work together on projects such as building dikes to hold back floodwaters and irrigation ditches to carry water to their fields.

Sumerians Build Thriving Cities The Sumerians had few natural resources, but they made the most of what they did have. They lacked building materials such as timber or stone, so they built with clay and water. They used the clay to make bricks, which they shaped in wooden molds and dried in the sun. These bricks were the building blocks for some of the world's first great cities, such as Ur and Uruk.

Trade brought riches to Sumerian cities. Traders sailed along the rivers or risked the dangers of desert travel to carry goods to distant regions. Although it is unclear where and when the wheel was invented, the Sumerians may have made the first wheeled vehicles. Archaeologists have found goods from as far away as Egypt and India in the rubble of Sumerian cities.

Checkpoint What geographic characteristics made the Fertile Crescent a good place for civilization to develop?

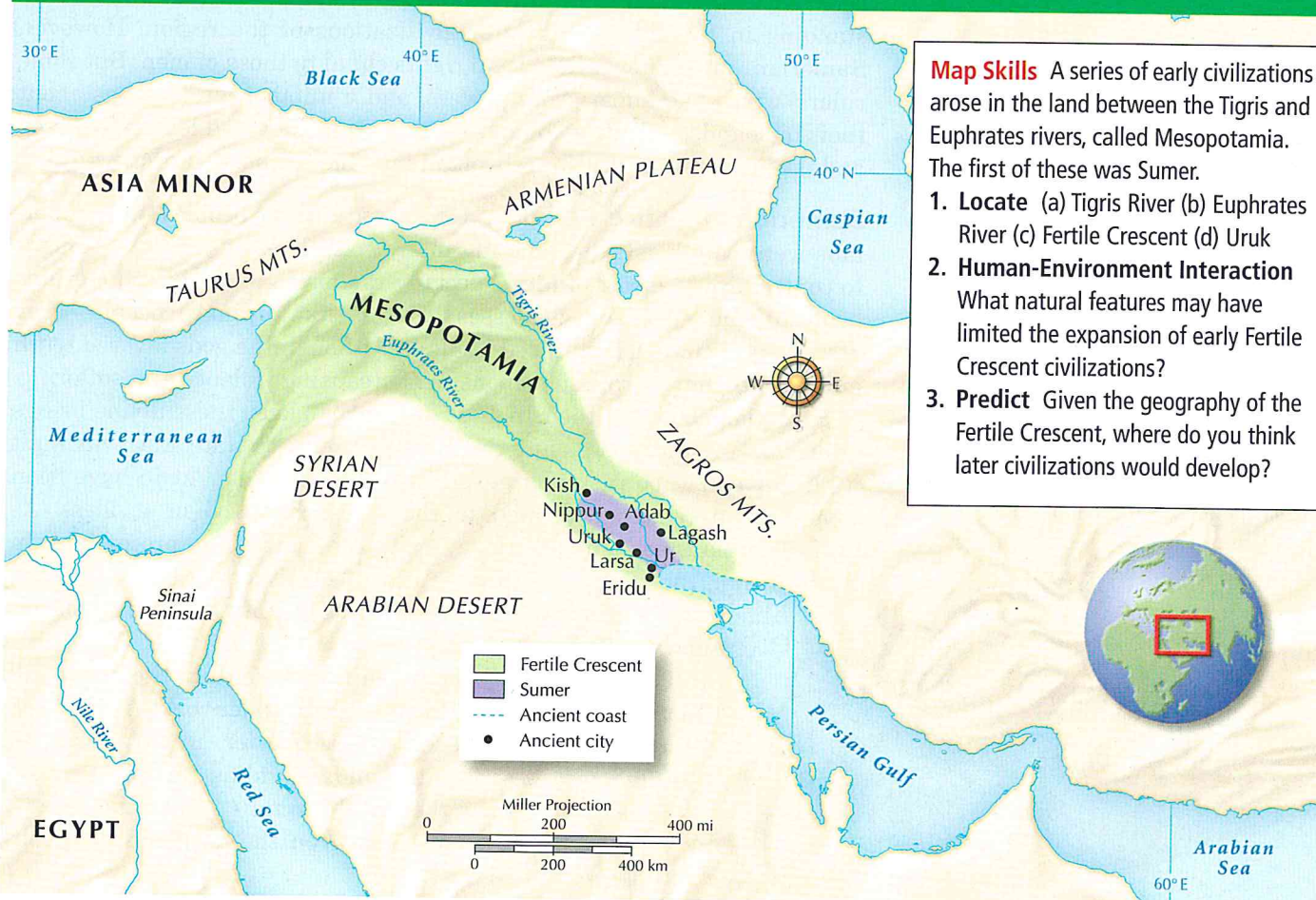
Vocabulary Builder

ensure—(en SHOOR) *v.* to make sure that something will happen

gogo page 50

Geography Interactive
For: Audio guided tour
Web Code: nap-0211

Sumer and the Fertile Crescent



Map Skills A series of early civilizations arose in the land between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers, called Mesopotamia. The first of these was Sumer.

- 1. Locate** (a) Tigris River (b) Euphrates River (c) Fertile Crescent (d) Uruk
- 2. Human-Environment Interaction** What natural features may have limited the expansion of early Fertile Crescent civilizations?
- 3. Predict** Given the geography of the Fertile Crescent, where do you think later civilizations would develop?

Vocabulary Builder

evolved—(ee VAHLVD) *vt.* developed gradually into something

Sumerian Civilization Takes Shape

Within a few hundred years of its beginning, Sumer included at least 12 separate city-states. Rival city-states often battled for control of land and water. For protection, people turned to war leaders. Over time, the practice of rule by war leaders evolved into hereditary rule.

Complex Government Unfolds In each city-state, the ruler was responsible for maintaining the city walls and the irrigation systems. He led its armies in war, enforced the laws, and employed scribes to carry out functions such as collecting taxes and keeping records. The ruler was seen as the chief servant of the gods and led ceremonies meant to please them.

Sumerians Structure Their Society Each Sumerian city-state had a distinct social **hierarchy** (HY ur ahr kee), or system of ranking groups. The highest class included the ruling family, leading officials, and high priests. A small middle class was made up of lesser priests, scribes, merchants, and artisans. Artisans who practiced the same trade, such as weavers or carpenters, often lived and worked on the same street.

The majority of people were peasant farmers, and they formed the lowest level of society. Some had their own land, but most worked land belonging to the king or to temples. Sumerians also owned slaves. Most slaves had been captured in war. Some, though, had sold themselves into slavery to pay their debts.

The role of women in Mesopotamian society changed over time. In Sumer, goddesses were highly honored in religious practice. Perhaps because of the importance of female deities, women held a higher social standing in Sumer than in later civilizations of the region. However, Sumerian women never held legal rights equal to those of men. But some rulers' wives had supervisory powers, and a number wrote songs about their husbands, revealing to later scholars that they had learned writing and music. On rare occasion, a woman may have inherited property.

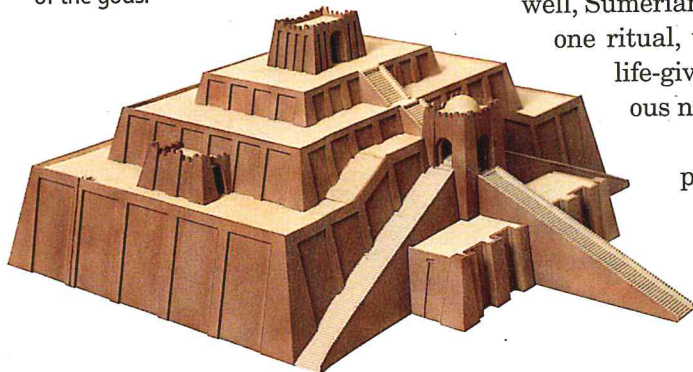
Sumerians Practice Religion Like most ancient peoples, the Sumerians were polytheistic, worshiping many gods. These gods were thought to control every aspect of life, especially the forces of nature. Sumerians believed that gods and goddesses behaved like ordinary people—they ate, drank, married, and raised families. Although the gods favored truth and justice, they were also responsible for causing violence and suffering.

Sumerians believed their highest duty was to keep these divine beings happy and, by doing so, ensure the safety of their city-state. Each city built a **ziggurat** (ZIG oo rat), a large, stepped platform thought to have been topped by a temple dedicated to the city's chief god or goddess. As well, Sumerians celebrated holy days with ceremonies and processions. In one ritual, the king went through a symbolic wedding to Inanna, the life-giving goddess of love. This rite was meant to ensure a prosperous new year.

The Sumerians believed in an afterlife. In their view, all people lived after death in a grim underworld from which there was no release. One character in *The Epic of Gilgamesh* describes the underworld as “the place where they live on dust, their food is mud, / . . . and they see no light, living in blackness / on the door and door-bolt, deeply settled dust.”

Temple to the Gods

Priests and priestesses could climb stairs to the top of the ziggurat to perform rituals and prayers. The people watched from below. They also prayed and offered sacrifices of animals, grain, and wine to win the favor of the gods.



● INFOGRAPHIC

Cuneiform Develops in Stages

Around 8000 B.C., Sumerians began using differently shaped clay tokens to represent various items of exchange, such as sheep, bread, or oil. To record economic transactions, they placed the tokens inside clay envelopes often shaped like balls. Around 3500 B.C., Sumerians began to press the tokens into clay tablets to make signs. They also started marking the clay using a sharp tool called a stylus. Around 3200 B.C., they created a true writing system that included symbols that represented words or syllables.

1 The Sumerians sometimes pressed tokens into the surface of a clay envelope before placing them within it, perhaps to indicate its contents.



2 A scribe listed quantities of various commodities on this clay tablet using both token impressions and a stylus.

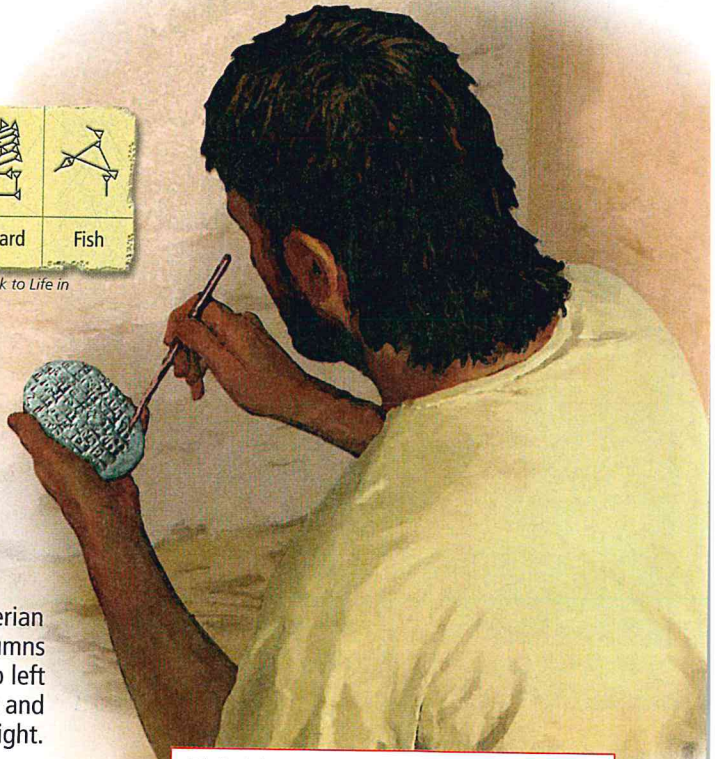
Cuneiform Symbol			
Meaning	Mountain	Orchard	Fish

SOURCE: Stephen Bertman, *Handbook to Life in Ancient Mesopotamia*



3 Scribes wrote cuneiform on both sides of a tablet, which was small enough to hold in one hand.

Using a stylus, a Sumerian scribe wrote in columns beginning at the top left corner of the tablet and working to the right.



Thinking Critically

- 1. Draw Inferences** How do you think the use of clay shaped the writing system the Sumerians developed?
- 2. Make Comparisons** How did cuneiform writing allow Sumerians to communicate more effectively than they could using tokens and clay envelopes?

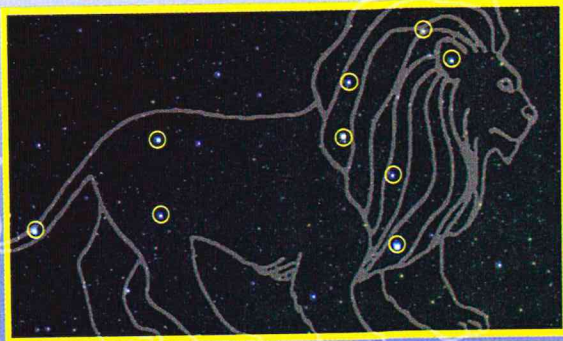
Sumerians Invent Writing By 3200 B.C., Sumerians had invented the earliest known writing. It was later called **cuneiform** (kyoo NEE uh fawrm), from the Latin word *cuneus* for “wedge,” because scribes wrote by making wedge-shaped marks on clay tablets. Cuneiform grew out of a system of pictographs used to record goods brought to temple storehouses. Later, the Sumerians developed symbols to represent more complicated thoughts. As their writing evolved, the Sumerians used it to record not only economic exchanges but also myths, prayers, laws, and business contracts.

Sumerian scribes had to go through years of difficult schooling to acquire their skills. Discipline was strict. Untidy copying or talking in class could be punished by caning. Students who did well often learned about religion, mathematics, and literature as well.

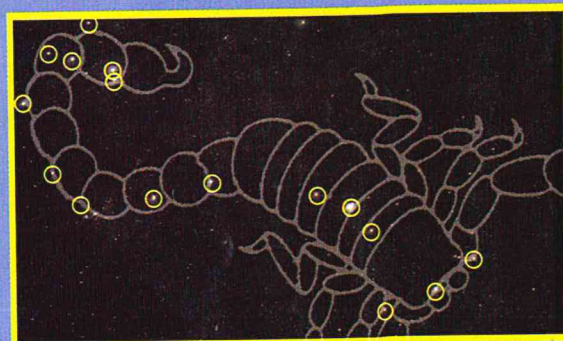
✓ Checkpoint How was Sumerian society structured?

The Story of the Stars

Mesopotamian astronomers were the first to associate many constellations with the shapes we know them for today. It was they who saw the lion in the stars we now call Leo and the scorpion in those we call Scorpio. *How do you think ancient notions of the night sky were passed on over so much time?*



▲ Leo



▲ Scorpio

Lasting Legacy of Sumer

Beginning around 2500 B.C., armies of conquering peoples swept across Mesopotamia and overwhelmed the Sumerian city-states. By 1900 B.C., the Sumerian civilization had been replaced by other civilizations and empires that you will read about in the next section.

However, Sumer left behind a lasting legacy. Newcomers to the region adopted many ideas and innovations from the Sumerians. For example, the Akkadians, Babylonians, and Assyrians adapted cuneiform so it could be used with their own languages. These peoples then helped spread Sumerian learning across the Middle East.

Over the centuries, Sumerian scholars had begun to develop astronomy and mathematics. They studied the skies and recorded the movements of planets and stars. They also established a number system based on six, dividing the hour into 60 minutes and the circle into 360 degrees, as we still do today. The Babylonians later built on this Sumerian learning to develop basic algebra and geometry, to create accurate calendars, and to predict eclipses of the sun and moon. Later peoples also elaborated on Sumerian oral narratives, such as *The Epic of Gilgamesh*, which was written down in cuneiform by both the Akkadians and the Babylonians.

In addition, by means of the various peoples who conquered the Middle East, Sumerian knowledge passed on to the Greeks and Romans. As you will read in later chapters, they, in turn, had a powerful impact on the development of the Western world.

✓ Checkpoint What advances did the Sumerians make in mathematics and astronomy?

SECTION

1

Assessment

Progress Monitoring Online

For: Self-quiz with vocabulary practice

Web Code: naa-0211

Terms, People, and Places

1. For each term, person, or place listed at the beginning of the section, write a sentence explaining its significance.

Note Taking

2. **Reading Skill: Identify Main Ideas** Use your completed concept web to answer the Focus Question: What were the characteristics of the world's first civilization?

Comprehension and Critical Thinking

3. **Draw Inferences** Sumerians faced significant geographic challenges, such as floods. How do you think facing these challenges played a role in the formation of a strong government?
4. **Determine Relevance** How might the invention of cuneiform writing have strengthened Sumerian government and religious practices?
5. **Analyze Information** Describe ways in which later peoples built on Sumerian learning. Would this have been possible without the invention of writing?

Writing About History

Quick Write: Determine the Purpose

When you write a biographical essay, start by determining its purpose. For example, your purpose might be to bring attention to someone who is not well known. Another purpose might be to describe the achievements that made someone very famous. Make a list of people about whom you could write an essay for either of these purposes, or for another purpose you may want to explore.

The Epic of Gilgamesh

The Epic of Gilgamesh may date from about 2000 B.C. Many different versions of it have been found, but all are missing many lines. Thus a “standard version” has been compiled from the many versions. The result is a collection of tales about a hero named Gilgamesh, who may have been a real-life king of the Sumerian city of Uruk. In this excerpt, Gilgamesh listens to Utnapishtim (ut nuh PISH tim), a man given immortality by the gods, and is tempted to believe in eternal life. However, he comes to realize that death is the fate of all people.

Utnapishtim said to him, to Gilgamesh: . . .
 “A secret of the gods let me tell you.
 There is a plant. Its roots go deep, like the boxthorn;
 its spike [thorn] will prick your hand like a bramble.
 If you get your hands on that plant, you’ll have everlasting life.”

Gilgamesh, on hearing this, . . . bound heavy stones to his feet;
 they dragged him down into the abyss¹ and he saw the plant.
 He seized the plant, though it cut into his hand;
 he cut the heavy stones from his feet;
 the sea cast him up onto its shore.

Gilgamesh said to Urshanabi the Boatman:
 “Urshanabi, this is the plant . . . by which a man can get
 life within. . . .
 Its name is The-Old-Man-Will-Be-Made-Young.
 I too will eat it, and I will return to what I was in my youth.” . . .

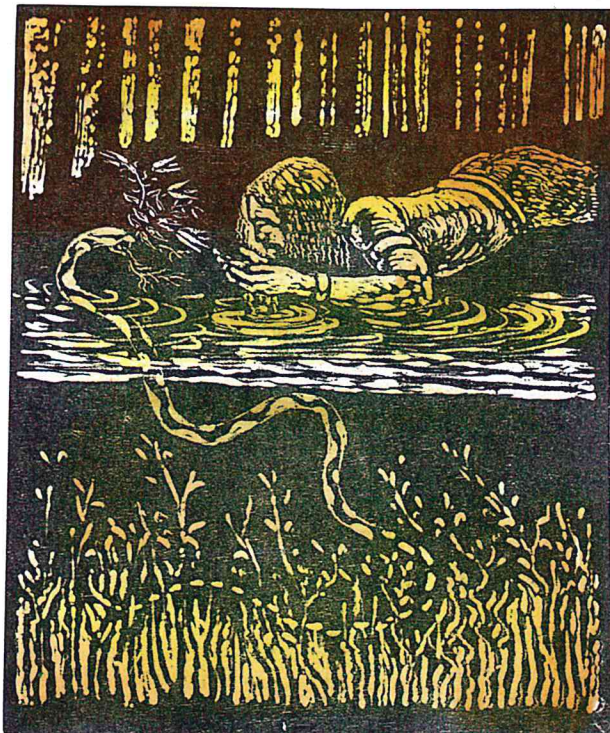
Gilgamesh saw a pool of cool water.
 He went down into it and bathed in the water.
 A snake smelled the fragrance of the plant.
 It came up through the water and carried the plant away.
 As it turned it threw off its skin.

That day Gilgamesh sat down weeping.
 Over his face the tears flowed.
 He took the hand of Urshanabi the Boatman.
 “For whom, Urshanabi, do my arms toil²?
 For whom has the blood of my heart dried up?
 I have not won any good for myself;
 it’s the lion-of-the ground [snake] that has won good fortune.”

1. abyss (uh BIS) *n.* something that is immeasurably deep
 2. toil (toyl) *vi.* to work long and hard



Artists have depicted scenes from *The Epic of Gilgamesh* for thousands of years. About 2,500 years ago, a Persian artist created this gold plate (above) showing Gilgamesh fighting two lions. A modern-day American artist created this print (below) revealing the snake carrying away Gilgamesh’s plant.



Thinking Critically

- Summarize** Why does Gilgamesh pick the plant that Utnapishtim has described? What does he want it to do for him?
- Analyze Literature** Which physical characteristic of a snake makes it work well as the character who ends up benefiting from the plant?



Hammurabi (front);
Hammurabi's Code
(back)

WITNESS HISTORY AUDIO

Establishing the Law

To establish the law of the land, Babylonian king Hammurabi set the law in stone and placed it in public view. He began the law code with a statement of his authority:

“Then [the gods] Anu and Bel called by name me, Hammurabi, the exalted prince, who feared God, to bring about the rule of righteousness in the land . . . so that the strong should not harm the weak; so that I should rule over the [people] and enlighten the land, to further the well-being of mankind.”

Focus Question How did various strong rulers unite the lands of the Fertile Crescent into well-organized empires?

Invaders, Traders, and Empire Builders



Content Standards

- **I.2.HS.3** Global impact of events/individuals on modern world
- **II.3.HS.1** Economic activity; world patterns
- **II.4.HS.4** Patterns of economic development, political systems
- **IV.5.HS.2** History of international trading

Terms, People, and Places

Sargon	barter economy
Hammurabi	money economy
codify	Zoroaster
civil law	colony
criminal law	alphabet
Nebuchadnezzar	

Note Taking

Reading Skill: Identify Main Ideas Use a table like this one to record the main idea of each section of text that follows a red heading.

Red Heading	Main Idea
First Empires Arise in Mesopotamia	
Conquests Bring New Empires and Ideas	

Through thousands of years of war and peace, the peoples of the Middle East built great empires and made long-lasting innovations. The region became a vital crossroads where warriors and traders met, clashed, and mingled. Many of the beliefs and ideas of the ancient Middle East survived to shape our modern world.

First Empires Arise in Mesopotamia

Again and again through time, nomadic peoples or ambitious warriors descended on the rich cities of the Fertile Crescent. While many invaders simply looted and burned, some stayed to rule. Powerful leaders created large, well-organized empires, bringing peace and prosperity to the region.

Sargon Builds the First Empire About 2300 B.C., **Sargon**, the ruler of Akkad, invaded and conquered the neighboring city-states of Sumer. He continued to expand his territory, building the first empire known to history. He appointed local rulers, each of whom served as king of the land he oversaw. However, the world's first empire did not last long. After Sargon's death, other invaders swept into the wide valley between the rivers, tumbling his empire into ruin.

Hammurabi Brings Babylon to Power In time, the Sumerian city-states revived, and they resumed their power struggles. Eventually, however, new conquerors followed in Sargon's footsteps and imposed unity over the Fertile Crescent. About

1790 B.C., **Hammurabi** (hah muh RAH bee), king of Babylon, brought much of Mesopotamia under the control of his empire.

Hammurabi's most ambitious and lasting contribution was his publication of a set of laws known as Hammurabi's Code. Most of the laws had been around since Sumerian times, but Hammurabi wanted to ensure that everyone in his empire knew the legal principles his government would follow. He had artisans carve nearly 300 laws on a stone pillar for all to see. Hammurabi's Code was the first important attempt by a ruler to **codify**, or arrange and set down in writing, all the laws that would govern a state.

Establishing Civil Law One section of Hammurabi's Code codified **civil law**. This branch of law deals with private rights and matters, such as business contracts, property inheritance, taxes, marriage, and divorce. Much of Hammurabi's civil code was designed to protect the powerless, such as slaves or women. Some laws, for example, allowed a woman to own property and pass it on to her children. Another law spelled out the rights of a married woman, saying that if she was found to be blameless for the problems between herself and her husband, she could leave the marriage. If she were found to be at fault, however, the law instructed that she be thrown in the river.

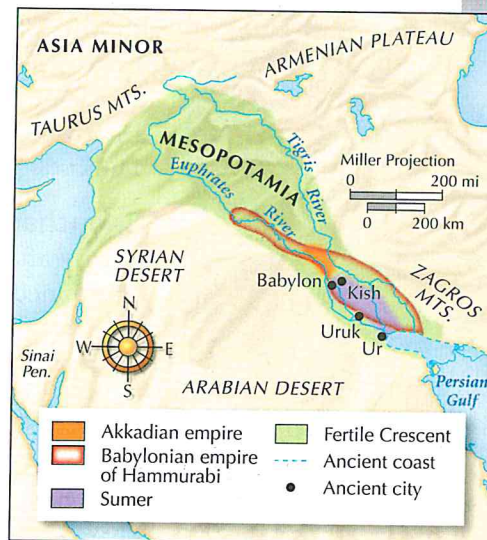
In general, Babylonian civil law gave a husband both legal authority over his wife and a legal duty to support her. The code also gave a father nearly unlimited authority over his children. The Babylonians believed that an orderly household was necessary for a stable empire.

Defining Crime and Punishment Hammurabi's Code also addressed **criminal law**. This branch of law deals with offenses against others, such as robbery, assault, or murder. Earlier traditions often permitted victims of crimes or their families to take the law into their own hands. By setting out specific punishments for specific offenses, Hammurabi's Code limited personal vengeance and encouraged social order.

By today's standards, the punishments in Hammurabi's Code often seem cruel, following the principle of "an eye for an eye and a life for a life." For example, if a house collapsed because of poor construction and the owner died as a result, the house's builder could be put to death. Still, such a legal code imposed more social order than existed when individuals sought their own justice.

Other Accomplishments Made by Hammurabi Although most famous for his code of laws, Hammurabi took other steps to successfully unite his empire. He improved the system of irrigation, organized a well-trained army, and ordered many temples to be repaired. To encourage religious unity across his empire, he promoted Marduk, the patron god of Babylon, over older Sumerian gods. In time, Marduk became the chief god of Babylonian worship.

Checkpoint How do civil law and criminal law differ?



Civilizations Expand

As new civilizations took control of Fertile Crescent lands, their empires expanded but stayed near the two large rivers. Many elements of shared culture existed among these civilizations, including worship of Marduk (above), who became the region's chief god.

Conquests Bring New Empires and Ideas

Later empires shaped the Middle East in different ways. Some conquerors, such as the Hittites, brought new skills to the region's people. Other conquerors uprooted the peoples they defeated, which had the side effect of spreading to new regions the ideas of those forced to move.

Hittites Learn the Secret of Ironworking The Hittites pushed out of Asia Minor into Mesopotamia in about 1400 B.C. They brought with them a major advancement—the knowledge of how to extract iron from ore. The tools and weapons they made with iron were harder and had sharper edges than those made out of bronze or copper. Because iron was plentiful, the Hittites were able to arm more people at less expense.

The Hittites tried to keep this valuable technology secret. But as their empire collapsed in about 1200 B.C., Hittite ironsmiths migrated to serve customers elsewhere. The new knowledge thus spread across Asia, Africa, and Europe, ushering in the Iron Age.

Assyrian Warriors Expand Ancient Knowledge The Assyrians, who lived on the upper Tigris, also learned to forge iron weapons. They had established an empire by about 1350 B.C., and by 1100 B.C., they began expanding their empire across Mesopotamia. Over the course of 500 years, they earned a reputation for being among the most feared warriors in history.

Historians are unsure why warfare was so central to Assyrian culture. Was it to keep others from attacking, or to please their god Assur by bringing wealth to the region? Whatever the reason, Assyrian rulers boasted of their conquests. One told of capturing Babylon. He proclaimed, “The city and its houses, from top to bottom, I destroyed and burned with fire.”

Despite their fierce reputation, Assyrian rulers encouraged a well-ordered society. They used riches from trade and war loot to pay for splendid palaces in their well-planned cities. They were also the first rulers to develop extensive laws regulating life within the royal household. For example, women of the palace were confined to secluded quarters and had to wear veils when they appeared in public.

At Nineveh (NIN uh vuh), King Assurbanipal (ahs ur BAH nee pahl) founded one of the world's first libraries. There, he kept cuneiform tablets that he ordered scribes to collect from all over the Fertile Crescent. Those tablets have offered modern scholars a wealth of information about the ancient Middle East.

Nebuchadnezzar Revives Babylon In 612 B.C., shortly after Assurbanipal's death, neighboring peoples joined forces to crush the once-dreaded Assyrian armies. In their absence, Babylon—which a king named Nabopolassar had reestablished as a power in 625 B.C.—quickly revived under its aggressive and ruthless second king, **Nebuchadnezzar** (neb yuh kud NEZ ur). The new Babylonian empire stretched from the Persian Gulf to the Mediterranean Sea.

Rebuilding Babylon

When Nebuchadnezzar became king, he had much of Babylon rebuilt in glorious fashion. The Ishtar Gate (below) is famous for its now faded blue bricks and animals depicting various gods. *Why might Nebuchadnezzar have erected such a substantial gateway to the city and in honor of the gods?*



● INFOGRAPHIC

HITTITES REFINE THE HORSE-DRAWN CHARIOT

Technological advances such as the use of iron to build powerful weapons were key to the success of conquering empires. From the Hittites, other peoples picked up the use of iron and began building new tools and weapons. In the same manner, the Hittites modified a military technology invented by others—the horse-drawn chariot—to increase their own firepower capabilities.



▲ A Hittite warrior

Three men could fit in each chariot. One drove while the other two fought the approaching enemy.



The axle connecting the wheels ran across the middle of the chariot rather than at its back. This allowed the chariot to support an additional man.

Hittite charioteers swept across the battlefield in thick lines, wielding lances, axes, and bows and arrows.



▲ Iron axe blade from Syria, 1300s B.C.



◀ Iron spearhead from near Jerusalem, 900s B.C.


Thinking Critically

1. **Synthesize Information** How did Hittite modifications to the chariot increase their firepower capabilities?
2. **Draw Conclusions** How do you think the addition of a third man might have hindered a chariot?

After nearly a thousand years of the city facing decline and destruction, Nebuchadnezzar oversaw the rebuilding of the canals, temples, walls, and palaces of Babylon. During his reign, the city became one of the largest and most highly regarded in the history of ancient Mesopotamia.

Nebuchadnezzar surrounded Babylon with a defensive moat and a brick wall that was 85 feet (26 meters) thick. Nine solid gateways dedicated to important gods allowed people to pass through the wall. The most famous one today, the Ishtar Gate, was made of bricks glazed bright blue and covered in lions representing the goddess Ishtar, dragons representing the god Marduk, and bulls representing the god Hadad. At the center of the city, Nebuchadnezzar enlarged and decorated the city's ziggurat to the gods and restored the temple honoring the city's chief god, Marduk.

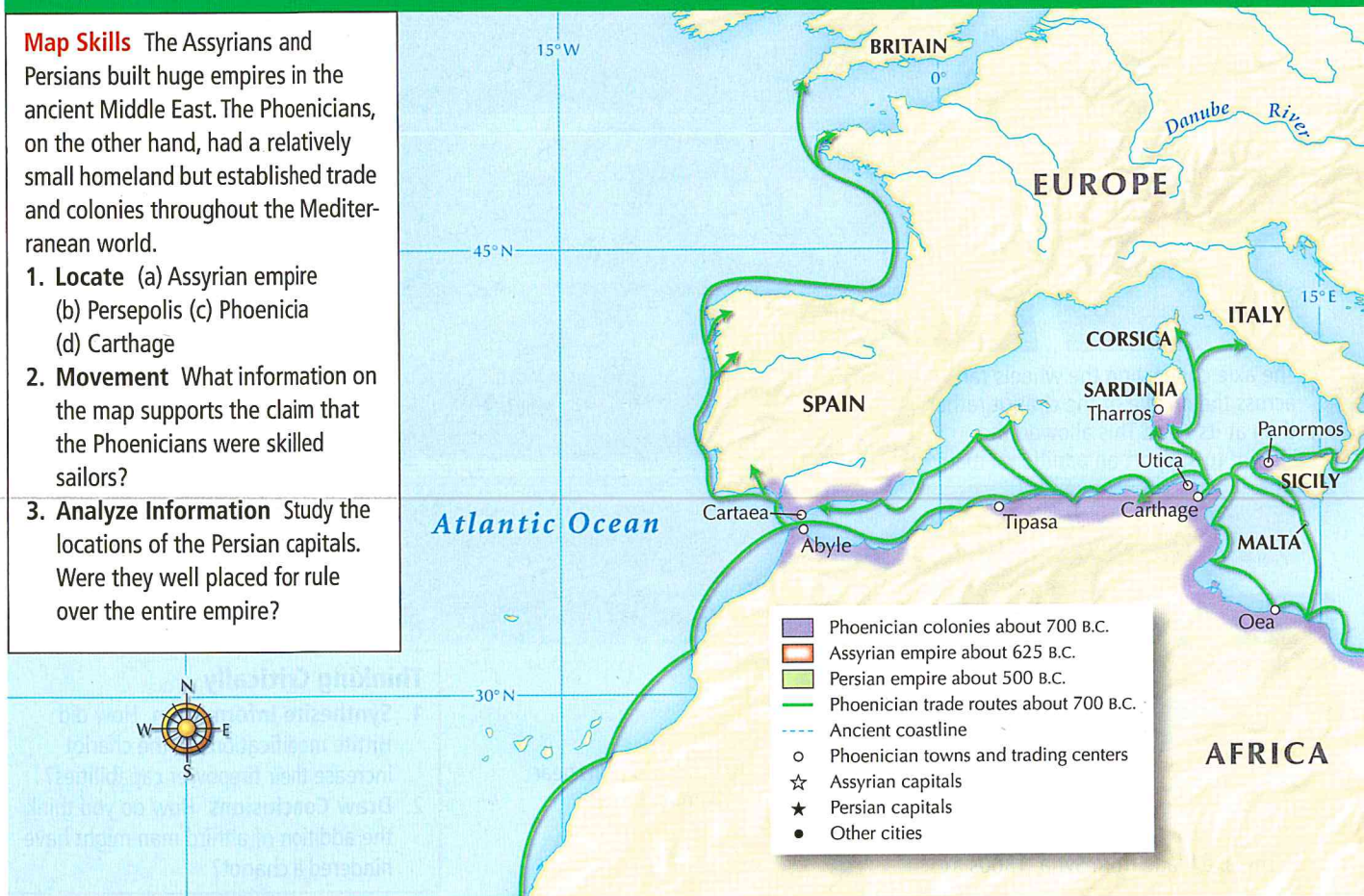
Although their remains have not yet been found, Nebuchadnezzar may have built the famous Hanging Gardens—known as one of the “seven wonders of the ancient world”—near his main palace. The gardens were probably made by planting trees and flowering plants on the steps of a huge ziggurat. According to legend, Nebuchadnezzar had the gardens built to please his wife, who was homesick for the hills where she had grown up.

 **Checkpoint** Name a significant contribution made by the Hittites, Assyrians, and Babylonians after each group's conquest in the Middle East.

Assyria, Persia, and the Phoenician Colonies

Map Skills The Assyrians and Persians built huge empires in the ancient Middle East. The Phoenicians, on the other hand, had a relatively small homeland but established trade and colonies throughout the Mediterranean world.

- 1. Locate** (a) Assyrian empire (b) Persepolis (c) Phoenicia (d) Carthage
- 2. Movement** What information on the map supports the claim that the Phoenicians were skilled sailors?
- 3. Analyze Information** Study the locations of the Persian capitals. Were they well placed for rule over the entire empire?



The Persians Establish a Huge Empire

The thick walls built by Nebuchadnezzar failed to hold back new conquerors. In 539 B.C., Babylon fell to the Persian armies of Cyrus the Great. Cyrus and his successors went on to build the largest empire yet seen. The Persians eventually controlled a wide sweep of territory that stretched from Asia Minor to India, including present-day Turkey, Iran, Egypt, Afghanistan, and Pakistan. In general, Persian kings pursued a policy of tolerance, or acceptance, of the people they conquered. The Persians respected the customs of the diverse groups in their empire.

Darius Unites Many Peoples The real unification of the Persian empire was accomplished under the emperor Darius I, who ruled from 522 B.C. to 486 B.C. A skilled organizer, Darius set up a government that became a model for later rulers. He divided the empire into provinces, each called a satrapy and headed by a governor called a satrap. Each satrapy had to pay taxes based on its resources and wealth. Special officials visited each satrapy to check on the satraps.

Darius adapted laws from the peoples he conquered and, like Hammurabi, drew up a single code of laws for the empire. To encourage unity, he had hundreds of miles of roads built or repaired. Roads made it easier to communicate with different parts of the empire. Darius himself kept moving from one royal capital to another. In each, he celebrated important festivals and was seen by the people.

Vocabulary Builder

successor—(suk SES ur)

n. somebody or something that follows another and takes up the same position

Geography Interactive
For: Audio guided tour
Web Code: nap-0221



Money and Economics

Benefits of a Money Economy

- Exchanges are simplified because only one party is purchasing items rather than two.
- Comparison of items being considered for purchase is simplified because all items are given exact values.
- Money can be kept for use at a later time, whereas barter items such as live animals may not last.

Chart Skills Barter economies, in which Phoenician glassware might be traded for Israeli figs, continued to exist throughout the world. But money economies developed quickly as well, thanks to the benefits they offered to the exchange process. **What advantages did a money economy offer?**



Improving Economic Life To improve trade, Darius set up a common set of weights and measures. He also encouraged the use of coins, which the Lydians of Asia Minor had first introduced. Most people continued to be part of the **barter economy**, which means they exchanged one set of goods or services for another. Coins, however, brought merchants and traders into an early form of a **money economy**. In this system, goods and services are paid for through the exchange of some token of an agreed value, such as a coin or a bill. By setting up a single Persian coinage, Darius created economic links among his far-flung subjects.

A New Religion Takes Hold Religious beliefs put forward by the Persian thinker **Zoroaster** (ZOH ruh as tur) also helped to unite the empire. Zoroaster lived about 600 B.C. He rejected the old Persian gods and taught that a single wise god, Ahura Mazda (AH hoo ruh MAHZ duh), ruled the world. Ahura Mazda, however, was in constant battle against Ahriman (AH rih mun), the prince of lies and evil. Each individual would have to choose which side to support.

In the end, taught Zoroaster, Ahura Mazda would triumph over the forces of evil. On a final judgment day, all individuals would be judged for their actions, as described below:

Primary Source

“Then the assembly . . . will meet, that is, all men of this earth will stand. In that assembly, every person will see his own good deeds and evil deeds. The righteous will be as conspicuous [obvious] amongst the wicked as a white sheep among the black. . . . They will then [carry] the righteous to the abode of harmony [heaven], and cast the wicked back to the wicked existence [hell]. . . . Then [the last savior] Soshyant by order of the Creator will give reward and recompense to all men in conformity with their deeds.”

—*Bundahishn*, Zoroastrian scripture

Two later religions that **emerged** in the Middle East, Christianity and Islam, also stressed ideas of heaven, hell, and a final judgment day.

✓ Checkpoint What are two steps that Darius took to unite the Persian Empire?

Vocabulary Builder

emerged—(ee MURJD) *vi.* arose, appeared, or occurred

Contributions of Phoenician Sea Traders

While powerful rulers subdued large empires, many small states of the ancient Middle East made their own contributions to civilization. The Phoenicians (fuh NISH unz), for example, gained fame as both sailors and traders. They occupied a string of cities along the eastern Mediterranean coast, in the area that today is Lebanon and Syria.

Expanding Manufacturing and Trade The coastal land, though narrow, was fertile and supported farming. Still, because of their location near the sea, the resourceful Phoenicians became best known for manufacturing and trade. They made glass from coastal sand. From a tiny sea snail, they produced a widely admired purple dye, called “Tyrian purple” after the city of Tyre.

Phoenicians traded with people all around the Mediterranean Sea. To promote trade, they set up colonies from North Africa to Sicily and Spain. A **colony** is a territory settled and ruled by people from another land. A few Phoenician traders braved the stormy Atlantic and sailed as far as Britain. There, they exchanged goods from the Mediterranean for tin.

Establishing an Alphabet Historians have called the Phoenicians “carriers of civilization” because they spread Middle Eastern civilization around the Mediterranean. One of the most significant Phoenician contributions to culture was their alphabet. Unlike cuneiform, in which symbols represent syllables or whole words, an **alphabet** is a writing system in which each symbol represents a single basic sound, such as a consonant or vowel.

Phoenician traders developed an alphabetic system of 22 symbols that stood for consonant sounds. Later, the Greeks adapted the Phoenician alphabet and added symbols for the vowel sounds. From this Greek alphabet came the letters in which this book is written—that is, the alphabet we use today.

✓ **Checkpoint** How has the Phoenician development of an alphabet been a lasting contribution to civilization?



Sculpture of a Phoenician trading ship from about 100 B.C.

SECTION 2 Assessment

Progress Monitoring Online

For: Self-quiz with vocabulary practice
Web Code: naa-0221

Terms, People, and Places

1. For each term, person, or place listed at the beginning of the section, write a sentence explaining its significance.

Note Taking

2. **Reading Skill: Identify Main Ideas** Use your completed table to answer the Focus Question: How did various strong rulers unite the lands of the Fertile Crescent into well-organized empires?

Comprehension and Critical Thinking

3. **Demonstrate Reasoned Judgment** What do you think was the most important achievement of Sargon? Of Hammurabi? Why?
4. **Draw Inferences** How do you think the Persian policy of tolerance helped the empire grow so large?
5. **Draw Conclusions** One effect of warfare and conquest was that knowledge and beliefs spread among different peoples. How else did people of the ancient Middle East spread their ideas?

Writing About History

Quick Write: Gather Information

Choose a person from this section about whom you want to write a biographical essay and list important facts about him. You may want to use the Internet or the library to gather information about the person. Include details such as when and where he was born, what he did in his life, and what he did that most interests you.

SECTION
3



Ancient Egyptian wall painting of a man hunting birds in the marshes of the Nile

WITNESS HISTORY AUDIO

The Gift of the Nile

Every year, as the Nile River flooded its banks, the people of ancient Egypt sang a hymn of praise. They honored the river for nourishing the land and filling their storehouses with food:

“But all is changed for mankind when [the Nile] comes. . . . If [the Nile] shines, the earth is joyous, every stomach is full of rejoicing, every spine is happy, every jaw-bone crushes [its food].”
—Hymn to the Nile

Focus Question How did the Nile influence the rise of the powerful civilization of Egypt?

Kingdom on the Nile



Content Standards

- **I.1.HS.3** Identify and describe major eras in world history
- **II.1.HS.1** Describe effect of world issues/events
- **II.2.HS.1** Environmental effects of world events
- **II.4.HS.4** Patterns of economic development, political systems

Terms, People, and Places

cataract	vizier
delta	Hatshepsut
dynasty	Thutmose III
pharaoh	Ramses II
bureaucracy	

Note Taking

Reading Skill: Identify Supporting Details

Use an outline like this one to record the main idea of each section of the text that follows a red heading. Include at least two supporting details for each main idea.

I.
A.
B.
II.
A.
B.

The fertile lands of the Nile Valley attracted Stone Age farmers. People migrated there from the Mediterranean area, from hills and deserts near the Nile, and from other parts of Africa. In time, a powerful civilization emerged that depended heavily on the control of river waters.

Geography Helps Shape Egypt

“Egypt,” said the ancient Greek historian Herodotus, “is wholly the gift of the Nile.” Without the Nile, Egypt would be just the barren desert that surrounds the river. But while the desert protected Egypt from invasion, it also limited where people could settle.

In ancient times, as today, farming villages dotted the narrow band of land watered by the Nile. Beyond the rich, irrigated “Black Land,” generally no more than 10 miles wide, lay the “Red Land,” a sun-baked desert that stretches across North Africa. Farmers took advantage of the fertile soil of the Nile Valley to grow wheat and flax, a plant whose fibers were used for clothing.

Yearly Floods Bring Benefits The Nile rises in the highlands of Ethiopia and the lakes of central Africa. Every spring, the rains in this interior region send water racing down streams that feed the Nile River. In ancient times, Egyptians eagerly awaited the annual flood. It soaked the land with life-giving water and deposited a layer of rich silt.

People had to cooperate to control the Nile’s floods. Under the direction of early governments, they built dikes, reservoirs, and irrigation ditches to channel the rising river and store water for the dry season.



Uniting Two Regions Ancient Egypt had two distinct regions, Upper Egypt in the south and Lower Egypt in the north. Upper Egypt stretched from the Nile's first **cataract**, or waterfall, to within 100 miles of the Mediterranean Sea. Lower Egypt covered the delta region where the Nile empties into the Mediterranean. A **delta** is a triangular area of marshland formed by deposits of silt at the mouth of some rivers.

About 3100 B.C., Menes, the king of Upper Egypt, united the two regions. He founded Egypt's first capital at Memphis, a site near where the Nile empties into its delta. Menes and his successors used the Nile as a highway linking north and south. They could send officials or armies to towns along the river. The Nile thus helped make Egypt one of the world's first unified states.

The river also served as a trade route. Egyptian merchants traveled up and down the Nile in sailboats and barges, exchanging the products of Africa, the Middle East, and the Mediterranean region.

✓ **Checkpoint** How did the yearly floods of the Nile influence life in ancient Egypt?

The Old Kingdom Forms

Scholars divide the history of ancient Egypt into three main periods: the Old Kingdom (about 2575 B.C.–2130 B.C.), the Middle Kingdom (about 1938 B.C.–1630 B.C.), and the New Kingdom (about 1539 B.C.–1075 B.C.). Although power passed from one **dynasty**, or ruling family, to another, the land generally remained united.

A Strong Government Takes Hold During the Old Kingdom, Egyptian kings, later called **pharaohs** (FEHR ohz), organized a strong, centralized state. Pharaohs played key roles in government and religion. Egyptians believed each pharaoh was a god. He held absolute power, owning and ruling all the land in the kingdom. However, the pharaohs were seen as human as well as divine. The people expected their pharaohs to behave morally and judged the pharaohs for their deeds.

Pharaohs of the Old Kingdom took pride in preserving justice and order. They did so by means of a **bureaucracy**—a system of government that includes different job functions and levels of authority. In the Egyptian bureaucracy, a pharaoh depended on a **vizier** (vih ZEER), or chief minister, to supervise the business of government. Under the vizier, various departments looked after such matters as tax collection, farming, and the all-important irrigation system. Thousands of scribes carried out the vizier's instructions.



World's Longest River

As the world's longest river, the Nile extends about another 3,600 miles south of its first cataract, which you can see on the map. Egyptians today continue to rely on the river (above) to provide water for agriculture as well as for transportation. *Do you think Egypt was the only civilization to arise along the Nile? Why or why not?*

Ptah-hotep (ptah HOH tep), who lived around 2450 B.C. in Egypt, was a vizier to a pharaoh who took an interest in training young officials. Based on his vast experience of government, he wrote a book, *Instructions of the Vizier Ptah-hotep*, in which he emphasized the importance of being humble and honest, obedient to one's father and superiors, and fair in dealing with other officials of all ranks.

The Great Pyramids Are Built During the Old Kingdom, Egyptian pharaohs built many necropolises (neh KRAHP uh lis iz), or cemeteries, containing majestic pyramids in the areas surrounding Memphis. Today, the best known are the Great Pyramids that still stand at Giza. Tombs within the pyramids were considered homes in which the deceased would live for eternity. Because Egyptians believed in an afterlife, they preserved the bodies of their dead rulers and provided them with everything they would need in their new lives. Building each of the pyramids took so long that often a pharaoh would begin to build his tomb as soon as he came to power.

 **Checkpoint** How was Egyptian government structured during the Old Kingdom?

The Turbulent Middle Kingdom

Power struggles, crop failures, and the cost of building the pyramids all contributed to the collapse of the Old Kingdom. Then, after more than a century of disunity, new pharaohs reunited the land, ushering in a new era, the Middle Kingdom.

The Middle Kingdom was a turbulent period. The Nile did not rise as regularly as it had in the past. Corruption and rebellions were common. Still, strong rulers did organize a large drainage project, creating vast new stretches of arable, or farmable, land. In addition, Egyptian armies occupied part of Nubia (also known as Kush), a gold-rich land to the south about which you will read more in a later chapter. Traders also had greater contacts with the peoples of the Middle East and the Mediterranean island of Crete.

About 1700 B.C., foreign invaders called the Hyksos (HIK sohs) occupied the Nile delta region. Although the Hyksos took over the governance of Egypt, there was little conflict between the new rulers and the Egyptian people. The Hyksos awed the Egyptians with their horse-drawn war chariots. In time, the Egyptians mastered this new military technology. The Hyksos, in turn, were impressed by Egyptian civilization. They soon adopted Egyptian customs, beliefs, and even names. Finally, after more than 100 years of Hyksos rule, new Egyptian leaders arose and established the New Kingdom.

 **Checkpoint** In what ways was the Middle Kingdom turbulent?

New Kingdom Egypt Grows Strong

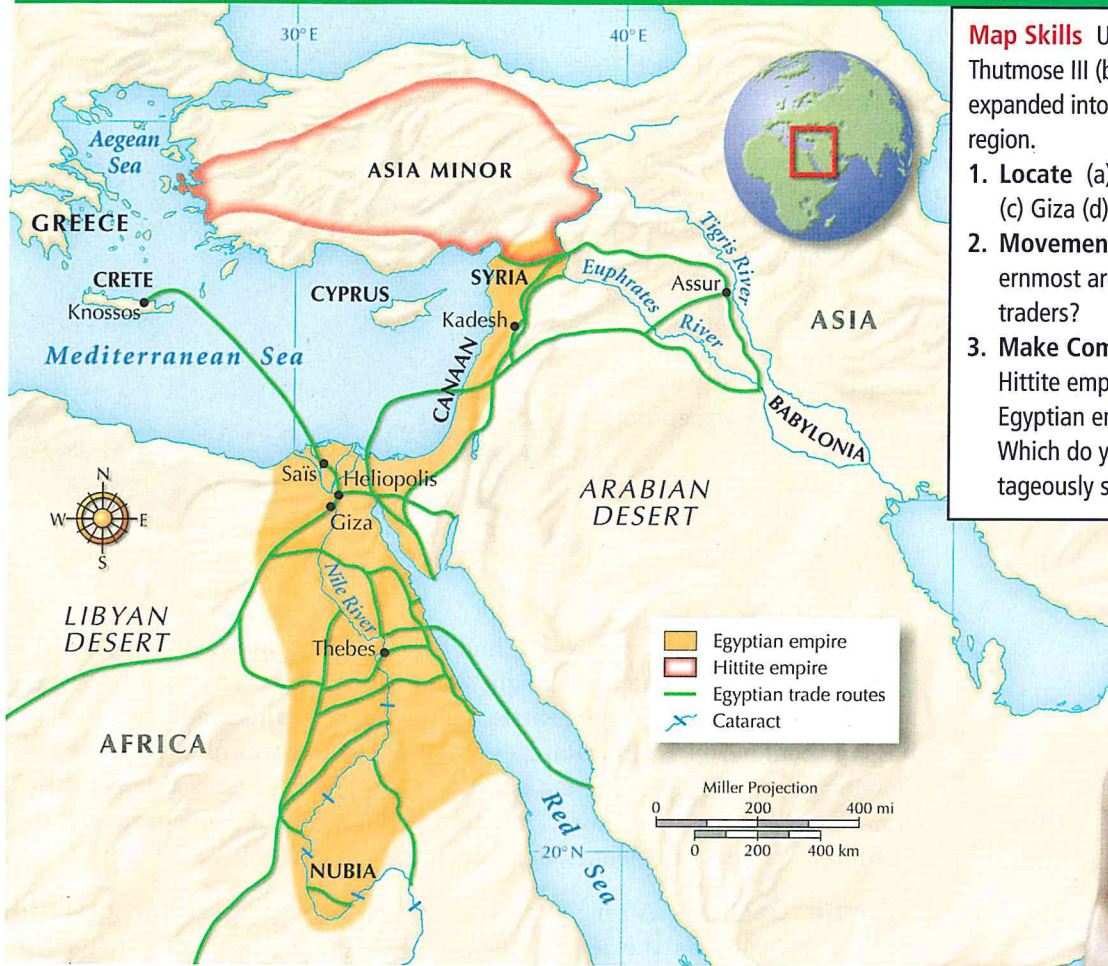
During the years of New Kingdom, a number of powerful and ambitious pharaohs created a large empire. At its height around 1450 B.C., the Egyptian empire reached as far north as Syria and the Euphrates River. The New Kingdom proved to be an age of conquest that brought Egyptians into greater contact with peoples in southwestern Asia as well as other parts of Africa.

WITNESS HISTORY VIDEO

Watch *The Nile: Where Egypt Began* on the Witness History Discovery School™ video program to learn more about the Nile's role in early Egypt.



New Kingdom Egypt, 1450 B.C.



Map Skills Under the control of Thutmose III (below), Egypt's borders expanded into the eastern Mediterranean region.

- 1. Locate** (a) Nile River (b) Nubia (c) Giza (d) Syria
- 2. Movement** What were the northernmost areas reached by Egyptian traders?
- 3. Make Comparisons** How did the Hittite empire compare in size to the Egyptian empire around 1450 B.C.? Which do you think was more advantageously situated?



New Kingdom pharaoh Thutmose III

Powerful Rulers Control Egypt During the New Kingdom, Egypt's first female ruler took charge. Her name was **Hatshepsut** (haht SHEP soot), and she exercised all the rights of a pharaoh. From about 1472 B.C. to 1458 B.C., she encouraged trade with eastern Mediterranean lands and along the Red Sea coast of Africa. Her stepson, **Thutmose III** (thoot MOH suh), took over as pharaoh once he reached adulthood. A great military general, Thutmose III stretched Egypt's borders to their greatest extent ever.

Much later, **Ramses II** (RAM seez) became pharaoh of the New Kingdom. He ruled for 66 years, from 1279 B.C. to 1213 B.C., and during that time pushed Egyptian control northward again as far as Syria. He may be the best known of the Egyptian rulers because he boasted of his conquests on numerous temples and monuments, although his greatest reported victory may not actually have taken place.

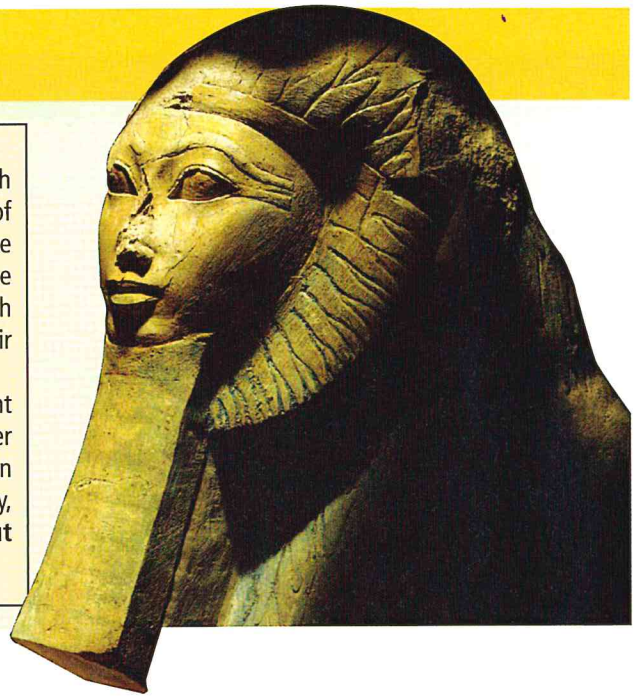
Egypt Battles With Its Neighbors During the reign of Ramses II, Egypt fought a number of fierce battles against the Hittites of Asia Minor. After years of fighting, the Egyptians and the Hittites signed a peace treaty, the first such document in history known to have survived. It declared that Egypt and the Hittites "shall be at peace and in brotherhood forever."

BIOGRAPHY

Hatshepsut

Hatshepsut (?1540 B.C.—?1457 B.C.) was the daughter of the pharaoh Thutmose I, the wife and widow of Thutmose II, and the stepmother of Thutmose III. Like some earlier Egyptian queens, she began ruling in the name of a male heir—her stepson—who was too young to take the throne. However, she later took the bold step of declaring herself pharaoh and won the support of key officials. Because Egyptians thought of their rulers as male, she wore a false beard as a sign of authority.

For herself and her father, Hatshepsut had constructed a magnificent funeral temple on the walls of which she left behind a record of her reign. Carvings depict a construction project as well as an expedition she sent down the Red Sea coast of Africa, which brought back ivory, spices, and incense. **For what reasons do you think Hatshepsut wanted to leave a record of her accomplishments?**



To the south of Egypt, Nubia had developed along the Nile. For centuries, Egyptians traded or fought with their southern neighbor. From Nubia, they acquired ivory, cattle, and slaves. During the New Kingdom, Egypt conquered Nubia. Ramses II used gold from Nubia to pay charioteers in his army. Nubians served in Egyptian armies and left their mark on Egyptian culture. Much Egyptian art of this period shows Nubian soldiers, musicians, or prisoners.

Egypt Declines After 1100 B.C., Egyptian power slowly declined. Invaders, such as the Assyrians and the Persians, conquered the Nile region. In 332 B.C., the last Egyptian dynasty ended as the Greeks took control. In 30 B.C., Roman armies displaced the Greeks. Each new conqueror was eager to add the fertile Nile Valley to a growing empire.

 **Checkpoint** What role did Egyptian conquest of others play during Egypt's New Kingdom?

Vocabulary Builder

displaced—(dis PLAYS) *vt.* took the place of somebody or something

SECTION 3 Assessment

Progress Monitoring Online

For: Self-quiz with vocabulary practice
Web Code: naa-0231

Terms, People, and Places

1. What do the key people listed at the beginning of the section have in common? Explain.

Note Taking

2. **Reading Skill: Identify Supporting Details** Use your completed outline to answer the Focus Question: How did the Nile influence the rise of the powerful civilization of Egypt?

Comprehension and Critical Thinking

3. **Summarize** How did the Nile play a crucial role in uniting Egypt?
4. **Analyze Information** What knowledge did Egyptians gain from their conquerors the Hyksos? How do you think this helped them later on?
5. **Draw Conclusions** What types of information about ancient Egypt can we learn from colossal monuments such as the Great Pyramids or the building projects of Hatshepsut and Ramses II?

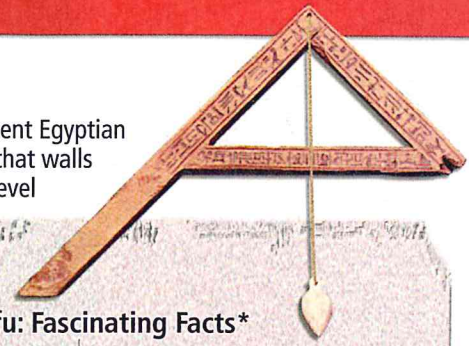
Writing About History

Quick Write: Draw Conclusions Choose a person from this section about whom you want to write a biographical essay and draw conclusions about his or her personality traits. Consider the person's actions and what they tell you about his or her personality. You may want to use the Internet or the library to gather more information about the person.

Building the Pyramids

Building an Egyptian pyramid was costly and required great planning. For example, the pharaoh Khufu built the first and largest of the pyramids at Giza. Thousands of farmers worked on the pyramid (shown below) when not planting or harvesting crops. They had no iron tools or wheeled vehicles. To complete the pyramid, workers quarried millions of huge limestone blocks. They transported the cut stones on barges along the Nile and then pulled them on sleds up a long ramp to and around the pyramid.

Broken remain of an ancient Egyptian A-frame, used to ensure that walls being constructed were level

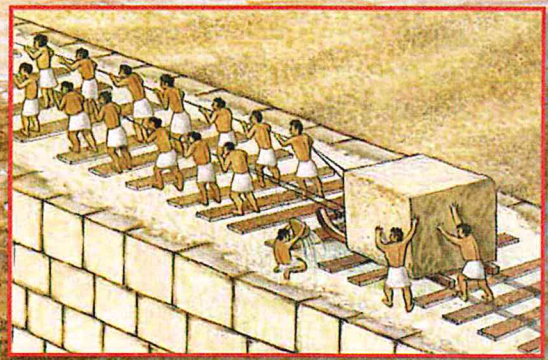
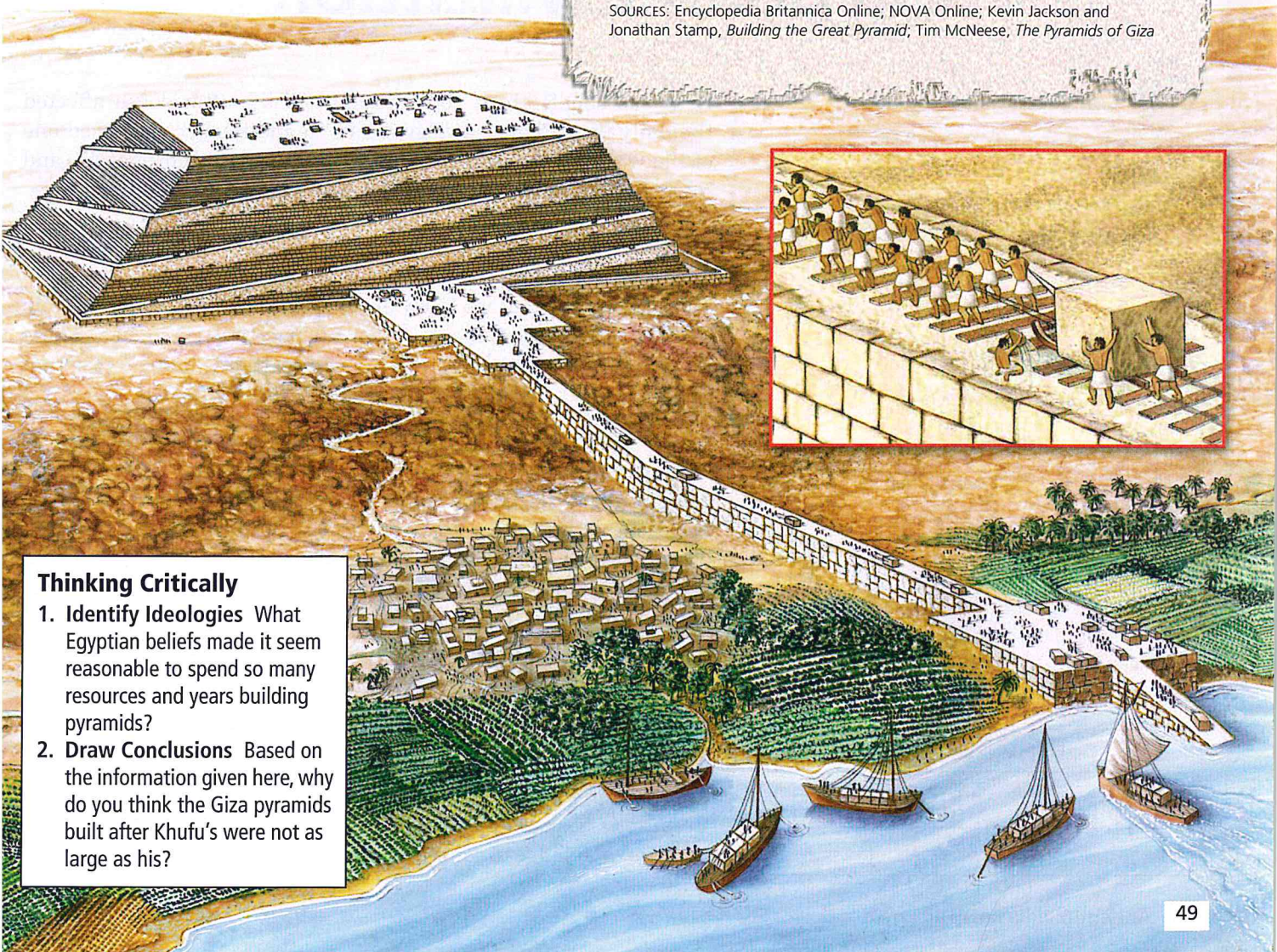


Great Pyramid of Khufu: Fascinating Facts*

Height	481 feet (146.5 meters)
Type of stone	Mostly limestone and some granite
Distance from limestone quarry to Great Pyramid	500 yards
Number of cut stones used	2.3 million
Average weight of one cut stone	2.5 tons
Average weight of largest cut stone	40 tons
Total weight of Great Pyramid	6 million tons
Length of construction	20–30 years
Size of workforce	20,000–30,000 workers, skilled and unskilled
Types of workers	Construction workers, carpenters, water carriers, toolmakers, potters, overseers, scribes, cooks, bakers, butchers, physicians, priests

* All figures except the Great Pyramid's height are estimated values.

SOURCES: Encyclopedia Britannica Online; NOVA Online; Kevin Jackson and Jonathan Stamp, *Building the Great Pyramid*; Tim McNeese, *The Pyramids of Giza*



Thinking Critically

- 1. Identify Ideologies** What Egyptian beliefs made it seem reasonable to spend so many resources and years building pyramids?
- 2. Draw Conclusions** Based on the information given here, why do you think the Giza pyramids built after Khufu's were not as large as his?



Amon-Re was associated with both the sun (shown atop his head at right) and the ram (far right).

*WFO
page 100*

WITNESS HISTORY AUDIO

The Greatest of Gods

In ancient Egypt, the people of each city tended to worship one god in particular over all others. In time, however, the god Amon-Re became revered as the greatest of the gods. Most importantly, people believed the pharaohs received their right to rule from Amon-Re. They said of him, "Far away he is as one who sees, near he is as one who hears." Therefore even the pharaohs had to be careful of their actions, for Amon-Re's judgment could not only alter their lives but also put their leadership in jeopardy.

Focus Question How did religion and learning play important roles in ancient Egyptian civilization?



Egyptian Civilization



Content Standards

- **II.1.HS.1** Describe effect of world issues/events
- **II.1.HS.2** Effect of culture on women's and men's perceptions
- **II.4.HS.4** Patterns of economic development, political systems

Terms, People, and Places

Amon-Re	hieroglyphics
Osiris	papyrus
Isis	decipher
Akhenaton	Rosetta Stone
mummification	

Note Taking

Reading Skill: Identify Supporting Details Use a chart to record the main idea of each section of text that follows a red heading. Include at least two supporting details for each main idea.

Egyptian Civilization			
Red Heading	Main Idea	Supporting Detail	Supporting Detail

Religious beliefs about gods, values, and life after death affected the daily lives of ancient Egyptians. In addition, scribes used one of the world's earliest forms of writing to record information, and scholars and artists made advances in science, art, and literature.

Religion Shapes Life in Ancient Egypt

Today, much of what we know about Egyptian religion comes from inscriptions on monuments and wall paintings in tombs. These inscriptions describe Egyptians appealing to the divine forces that they believed ruled this world and the afterlife.

Chief Gods and Goddesses In the sun-drenched land of Egypt, the chief god was the sun god. During the Old Kingdom, Egyptians worshipped a sun god named Re (ray). By the Middle Kingdom, Egyptians associated Re with another god, Amon (AH mun), and called this great lord of the gods **Amon-Re**. The pharaohs, whom Egyptians viewed as gods as well as kings, were believed to receive their right to rule from Amon-Re.

Most Egyptians related more to the god **Osiris** (oh SY ris) and the goddess **Isis** (EYE sis), whose story touched human emotions such as love and jealousy. According to mythology, Osiris ruled Egypt until his jealous brother, Set, killed him. Set then cut Osiris into pieces, which he tossed all over Egypt. Osiris' wife, Isis, saved him. She reassembled his body and brought him back to life. Because Osiris could no longer rule over the living, he became god of the dead and judge of souls seeking admission to the afterlife.

To Egyptians, Osiris was especially important because, in addition to ruling over the underworld, he was also god of the Nile. In that role, he controlled the annual flood that made the land fertile. Isis had special appeal for women, who believed that she had first taught women to grind corn, spin flax, weave cloth, and care for children. Like Osiris, Isis promised the faithful that they would have life after death.

A Pharaoh Tries to Reshape Religion About 1380 B.C., a young pharaoh named Amenhotep IV (ah mun HOH tep) challenged the powerful priests of Amon-Re. He devoted his life to the worship of Aton, a minor god. The pharaoh took the name **Akhenaton** (ah keh NAH tun), meaning “he who serves Aton.” He ordered priests to worship only Aton and to remove the names of other gods from their temples.

Akhenaton’s radical ideas had little success. Priests of Amon-Re and of other gods resisted such revolutionary changes. The people, too, were afraid to abandon their old gods in favor of Aton. Nobles also deserted the pharaoh because he neglected his duty of defending the empire. After Akhenaton’s death, priests of the old gods reasserted their power.

✓ **Checkpoint** Which details about the Egyptian gods show the importance of agriculture to Egyptian society?

How Egyptians Viewed the Afterlife

As you have read, Egyptians believed that Osiris and Isis had promised them eternal life after death. Belief in the afterlife affected all Egyptians, from the highest noble to the lowest peasant.

Proving Oneself to Osiris The Egyptians believed that each soul had to pass a test to win eternal life. First, the dead soul would be ferried across a lake of fire to the hall of Osiris. Then, the dead person’s heart would be weighed against the feather of truth. Those Osiris judged to be sinners would be fed to the crocodile-shaped Eater of the Dead. Worthy souls would enter the Happy Field of Food, where they would live forever in bliss. To survive the dangerous journey through the underworld, Egyptians relied on the *Book of the Dead*. It contained spells, charms, and formulas for the dead to use in the afterlife.

Vocabulary Builder

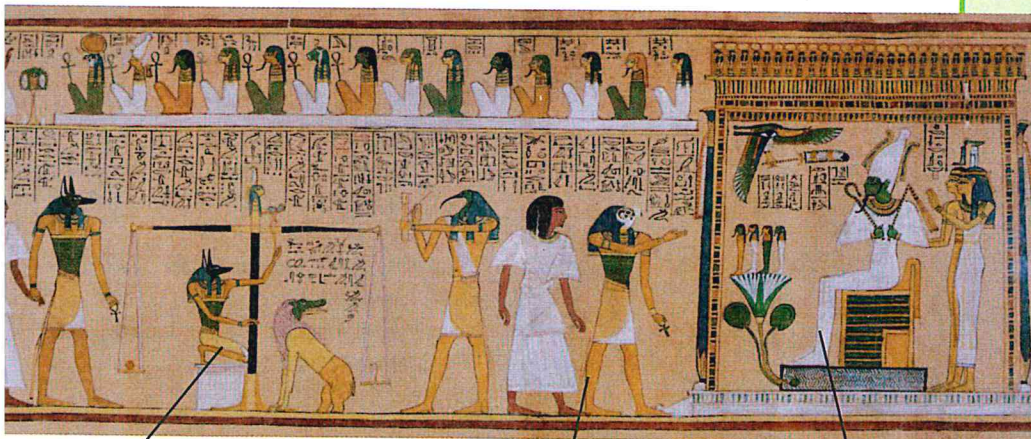
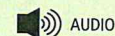
radical—(RAD ih kul) *adj.* favoring or making economic, political, or social changes of a sweeping or extreme nature

The *Book of the Dead* (page shown at left) includes the Negative Confession below, which the dead could use to prove his or her worthiness to Osiris. *What sorts of crimes does the confession say one has not committed?*

Primary Source

“I have caused none to feel pain. I have made [no man] to weep. I have not committed murder. . . . I have not stolen from the orchards; nor have I trampled down the fields. . . . I have not turned back water at its spring-tide. . . . I am pure. I am pure. I am pure.”

—*Book of the Dead*



The god Anubis weighs Hunefer’s heart against a feather.

The god Horus leads Hunefer to Osiris for judgment.

Osiris



Mummification

The ancient Egyptians made a science out of mummifying the dead. Skilled embalmers extracted the brain of the dead person through the nostrils and removed most of the internal organs. They then filled the body cavity with linen and a drying powder, sprinkled spices on the body, and rubbed a mixture that kept out moisture into the skin. Later they wrapped the body in strips of linen. This costly process took months to complete.

Mummies were often laid to rest inside a nest of coffins. King Tutankhamen's coffins, shown here, were made of gold and wood and highly decorated.



Mummification preserves bodies so well that even thousands of years later, they look lifelike when unwrapped.



Once removed from the body, the internal organs were also mummified. They were then stored in jars and placed within the tomb of the deceased.

Thinking Critically

- Determine Relevance** What does mummification tell us about ancient Egyptian religious views?
- Predict Consequences** Which fields of science do you think mummification helped the Egyptians learn about?

Preparing the Dead for the Afterlife Egyptians believed that the afterlife would be much like life on Earth. As a result, they buried their dead with everything they would need for eternity. To give a soul use of its body in the afterlife, Egyptians perfected skills in **mummification** (mum uh fih KAY shun), the preservation of dead bodies by embalming them and wrapping them in cloth. At first, mummification was a privilege reserved for rulers and nobles. Eventually, ordinary Egyptians also won the right to mummify their dead, including beloved pets.

Evidence Found in the Tomb of Tutankhamen During the New Kingdom, many pharaohs were buried in a desolate valley known as the Valley of the Kings. Their tombs, known to be filled with fantastic riches, were a temptation to robbers in ancient times. As a result, most royal tombs were stripped of their treasures long ago. In 1922, however, British archaeologist Howard Carter unearthed the tomb of the young pharaoh Tutankhamen (toot ahng KAH mun), who was the son-in-law of Akhenaton. The tomb had remained almost untouched for more than 3,000 years. Its treasures have provided scholars a wealth of evidence about Egyptian civilization.

The body of the 18-year-old “King Tut” had been placed in a solid-gold coffin, nested within richly decorated outer coffins. Today, the dazzling array of objects found in the tomb fills several rooms in the Egyptian Museum in Cairo. The treasures include chariots, weapons, furniture, jewelry, toys, and games. Tutankhamen was only a minor king. We can only imagine what treasures must have filled the tombs of great pharaohs like Thutmose III or Ramses II.

✔ **Checkpoint** How did mummification reflect Egyptian beliefs about the afterlife?

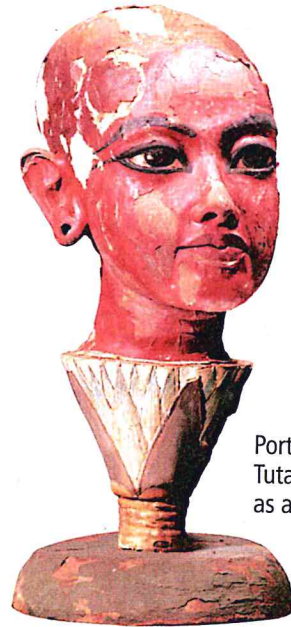
Egyptians Organize Their Society

Like other early civilizations, Egypt had its own class system. As both a god and an earthly leader, the pharaoh stood at the top of society, along with the royal family. Directly under the pharaoh were government officials and the high priests and priestesses, who served the gods and goddesses. Next came a tiny class of merchants, scribes, and artisans. They provided for the needs of the rich and powerful. The bottom layer of society was the largest—made up of peasants who worked the land.

Most People Were Farmers Most Egyptians were peasant farmers. Many were slaves. Men and women spent their days working the soil and repairing the dikes. One ancient record describes the life of a typical Egyptian peasant. “When the water is full he irrigates [the fields] and repairs his equipment. He spends the day cutting tools for cultivating barley, and the night twisting ropes.”

In the off-season, peasant men were expected to serve the pharaoh, laboring to build palaces, temples, and tombs. Besides working in the fields, women also spent much time raising children, collecting water, and preparing food.

Changes to Social Structure During the New Kingdom, social classes became more fluid as trade and warfare increased. Trade offered new opportunities to the growing merchant class. Foreign conquests brought riches to Egypt, which in turn meant more business for artisans.



Portrait of Tutankhamen as a boy

These skilled craftworkers made fine jewelry, furniture, and fabrics for the palaces and tombs of pharaohs and nobles.

Egyptian Women Enjoyed Higher Status Egyptian women generally enjoyed a higher status and greater independence than women elsewhere in the ancient world. For example, Ramses II declared, “The foot of an Egyptian woman may walk where it pleases her and no one may deny her.” Under Egyptian law, women could inherit property, enter business deals, buy and sell goods, go to court, and obtain a divorce.

Although there were often clear distinctions between the occupations of women and men, women’s work was not confined to the home. Women manufactured perfume and textiles, managed farming estates, and served as doctors. Women could also enter the priesthood, especially in the service of goddesses. Despite their many rights and opportunities, few women learned to read and write. Even if they did, they were excluded from becoming scribes or holding government jobs.

✓ **Checkpoint** Which social class grew in size as a result of trade and warfare?

Simplified Writing

Because hieroglyphs took a lot of time and care to write, Egyptian scribes also developed the cursive hieratic and demotic scripts for quicker use. *How much do the cursive forms of each symbol resemble their equivalent hieroglyphs?*

Egyptians Make Advances in Learning

Learned scribes played a central role in Egyptian society. Some kept records of ceremonies, taxes, and gifts. Others served government officials or the pharaoh. Scribes also acquired skills in mathematics, medicine, and engineering. With skill and luck, a scribe from a poor family might become rich and powerful.

Keeping Written Records Like people in other early civilizations, the ancient Egyptians developed writing. In fact, they developed multiple writing systems. The first was **hieroglyphics** (hy ur oh GLIF ics), a system in which symbols or pictures called hieroglyphs represent objects, concepts, or sounds. The Egyptians used hieroglyphs to record important economic, administrative, and royal information. Often, priests and scribes carved hieroglyphs in stone. Such inscriptions on temples and other monuments are records of Egyptian culture that have endured for thousands of years.

Around the time that hieroglyphics came into use, scribes also developed hieratic (hy ur AT ik) writing, a simpler script for everyday use. The hieratic script was a cursive form of writing created by simplifying the shapes of the hieroglyphs. Over time, hieratic script was replaced by a similar one called demotic. The Egyptians also learned to make a paperlike writing material from **papyrus** (puh PY rus), a plant that grows along the banks of the Nile. (Paper would

The Three Egyptian Scripts



▲ Hieratic passage

◀ Hieroglyphic passage



▲ Demotic passage

Meaning	Hieroglyphic Symbol	Hieratic Symbol	Demotic Symbol
Fox skins tied together			
Stone jug			
Roll of papyrus			

not be invented until about A.D. 100, in China.) Writing cursive scripts with reed pens and ink on the smooth surface of papyrus strips was much easier than chiseling words onto stone. When writing official histories, however, scribes continued to carve hieroglyphs.

The Clues of the Rosetta Stone After ancient Egypt declined, the meanings of ancient hieroglyphs were lost. Not until the early 1800s did a French scholar, Jean Champollion (zhahn shahm poh LYOHN), unravel the then mysterious writings on Egypt's great monuments. Champollion did so by **deciphering**, or figuring out the meaning of, passages written on the **Rosetta Stone**. This flat, black stone presents the same passage carved in hieroglyphics, demotic script, and Greek. By comparing the three versions, Champollion worked out the meanings of many hieroglyphs. As a result of that breakthrough, scholars could begin to read the thousands of surviving records from ancient Egypt.

Furthering Science and Mathematics The ancient Egyptians accumulated a vast store of knowledge in fields such as medicine, astronomy, and mathematics. Like most doctors until recent times, Egyptian physicians believed in various kinds of magic. However, they learned a great deal about the human body through their knowledge of mummification. They also became skilled at observing symptoms, diagnosing illnesses, and finding cures.

Doctors also performed complex surgical operations, which we know about today because they are described on papyrus scrolls that survived through time. Many plant parts that Egyptian doctors prescribed as medicines—such as anise, castor beans, and saffron—are still used today for various purposes.

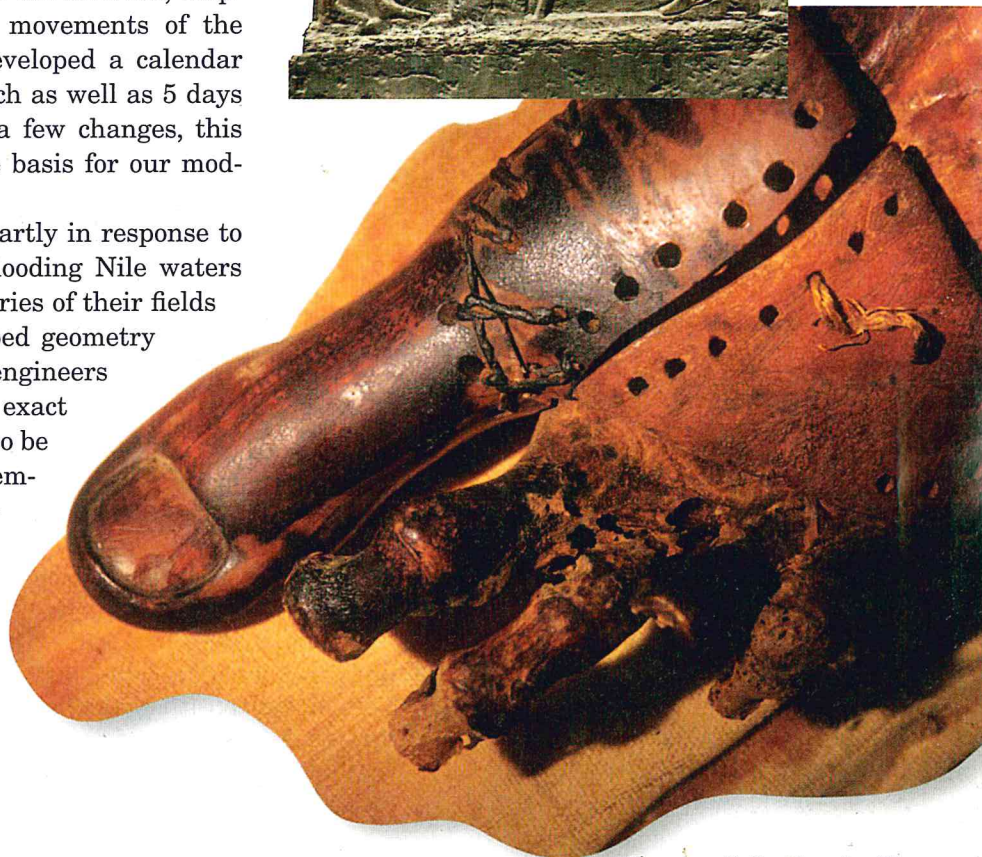
Egyptian priest-astronomers studied the heavens, mapping constellations and charting the movements of the planets. With this knowledge, they developed a calendar that included 12 months of 30 days each as well as 5 days added at the end of each year. With a few changes, this ancient Egyptian calendar became the basis for our modern calendar.

Egyptians developed mathematics partly in response to practical problems that they faced. Flooding Nile waters forced Egyptians to redraw the boundaries of their fields each year. To do this, scholars developed geometry in order to survey the land. Egyptian engineers also used geometry to calculate the exact size and location of each block of stone to be used in construction of a pyramid or temple. Huge projects such as building pyramids required considerable skills in design and engineering.

✓ **Checkpoint** Describe three advances in learning made by the ancient Egyptians.

Ancient Medicine

Art and artifacts like the ones below have also given us clues about the medical knowledge of the ancient Egyptians. An Old Kingdom wall carving (below top) shows a wounded man walking on crutches to meet a doctor. The skillfully shaped artificial toe (below bottom) was discovered on a mummy from the New Kingdom. *What medical skills do these pieces reveal?*





Colorful Variety of Art

Ancient Egyptian artists created a great variety of colorful and intricate pieces of art, such as Thutmose III's blue glass drinking vessel (above right), the lifelike bust of Akhenaton's wife Nefertiti (above left), and Tutankhamen's decorative pectoral jewelry (right).



Egyptians Develop Arts and Literature

The Egyptians left behind them a rich legacy of art and literature. Statues, paintings, poems, and tales have given us a wealth of information about ancient Egyptian viewpoints and values.

Egyptian Arts The arts of ancient Egypt included statues, wall paintings in tombs, and carvings on temples. Some show everyday scenes of trade, farming, family life, or religious ceremonies. Others boast of victories in battle.

Painting and sculpture styles remained almost unchanged for thousands of years. Artists always presented gods and pharaohs as much larger than other figures—size indicated the subject's importance, not his or her real size. Also, artists usually depicted people with their heads and limbs in profile but their eyes and shoulders facing the viewer.

Statues often showed people in stiff, standard poses. Some human figures have animal heads that represent special qualities. The Sphinx that crouches near the Great Pyramids at Giza portrays an early pharaoh as a powerful lion-man. Egyptians also erected many stone buildings and monuments, mostly tombs and temples.

Egyptian Literature The oldest Egyptian literature includes hymns and prayers to gods, proverbs, and love poems. Other writings tell of royal victories in battle or, like Ptah-hotep's book, give practical advice.

In Egypt, as in other early societies, folk tales were popular, especially *The Tale of Sinuhe*. It relates the wanderings of Sinuhe (SIN oo hay), an Egyptian official forced to flee into what is now Syria. He fights his way to fame among the desert people, whom the Egyptians consider uncivilized. As he gets older, Sinuhe longs to return home. The story ends happily when the pharaoh welcomes him back to court. *The Tale of Sinuhe* helps us see how Egyptians viewed both themselves and the people of the surrounding desert.

 **Checkpoint** What art forms were common in ancient Egypt?

SECTION 4 Assessment

Progress Monitoring Online

For: Self-quiz with vocabulary practice
Web Code: naa-0241

Terms, People, and Places

1. What do three of the key names listed at the beginning of the section have in common? Explain.

Note Taking

2. **Reading Skill: Identify Supporting Details** Use your completed chart to answer the Focus Question: How did religion and learning play important roles in ancient Egyptian civilization?

Comprehension and Critical Thinking

3. **Predict Consequences** Egyptians believed that their pharaohs received the right to rule from Amon-Re. How do

you think replacing him with the god Aton would have affected the authority of the pharaohs?

4. **Make Comparisons** How do the Book of the Dead and the tomb of Tutankhamen offer different types of information about Egyptian views of the afterlife?
5. **Summarize** What jobs were Egyptian women allowed to hold? What jobs were not allowed to hold?
6. **Analyze Information** Considering the materials that ancient Egyptians used to create their writing and art, what do you think are the challenges of locating examples of them today?

Writing About History

Quick Write: Write an Introduction

Choose a person from ancient Egypt about whom you want to write a biographical essay and write an introduction. Be sure to include a thesis statement that explains who the person was and why he or she is worth learning about. Try to find an anecdote or quotation to use to set the tone for your essay.

SECTION 5



Moses

WITNESS HISTORY AUDIO

The One God of Judaism

“I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. You shall have no other gods before Me.”
—Exodus 20:2–3

In the Hebrew Bible, God speaks these words to Moses to explain a belief that set the Israelites apart from all other people of the ancient world at that time. Instead of worshipping many gods, the Israelites prayed to just one god for guidance and protection.

Focus Question How did the worship of only one god shape Judaism?

Roots of Judaism



Content Standards

- **II.1.HS.1** Describe effect of world issues/events
- **II.1.HS.2** Possible cultural effects on women’s and men’s perceptions
- **II.4.HS.1** Effect of world processes on world regions

Terms, People, and Places

monotheistic	Solomon
Torah	patriarchal
Abraham	Sabbath
covenant	prophet
Moses	ethics
David	Diaspora

Note Taking

Reading Skill: Identify Supporting Details Use a chart to record the main idea of each section of text that follows a red heading. Include at least two supporting details for each main idea.

Roots of Judaism		
Red Heading:	Red Heading:	Red Heading:
Main Idea:	Main Idea:	Main Idea:
Supporting Details:	Supporting Details:	Supporting Details:

The present-day nation of Israel lies at the far western end of the Fertile Crescent, on the eastern coast of the Mediterranean Sea. About 4,000 years ago, the ancient Israelites developed the religion of Judaism, which became a defining feature of their culture. Today, Judaism is one of the world’s major faiths.

The Ancient Israelites Shape a Unique Belief System

The beliefs of the ancient Israelites, also called the Hebrews, differed in basic ways from those of nearby peoples. The Israelites were **monotheistic**, believing that there was only one god. At the time, all other peoples worshiped many gods. A few religious leaders, such as the Egyptian pharaoh Akhenaton, spoke of a single powerful god. However, such ideas did not have the lasting impact that Israelite beliefs did.

The Israelites believed in an all-knowing, all-powerful god who was present everywhere. In their views, history and faith were interconnected. Each event reflected God’s plan for the people of Israel. As a result, they recorded events and laws in the **Torah** (TOH ruh), their most sacred text. The Torah includes the first five books of the Hebrew Bible—that is, the books of Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy. The Hebrew Bible includes a total of 24 books. Additional laws and customs written down much later make up another important text, the Talmud.

Checkpoint How did the beliefs of ancient Israelites differ from those of other nearby peoples?

The Dead Sea Scrolls

The oldest known texts of the Hebrew Bible were discovered in 1947 in a region along the northwest shore of the Dead Sea. They were written about 2,000 years ago on papyrus scrolls and bound in leather and copper. At some point, the Dead Sea Scrolls were stored carefully in clay jars and tucked away in a series of caves near Qumran, where an unsuspecting young shepherd happened upon them one day.



The caves of Qumran (above); a clay storage jar (top left); and one of the aged scrolls (bottom left)



◀ Many of the scrolls were so worn by time and weather that they had broken into many fragments, which had to be pieced back together carefully to be read.

Thinking Critically

1. **Determine Relevance** Why do you think the Dead Sea Scrolls were considered an important find?
2. **Draw Conclusions** Why might someone have decided to store these scrolls in a cave?

The Ancient Israelites

According to the Torah, a man named **Abraham** lived near Ur in Mesopotamia. About 2000 B.C., he and his family migrated, herding their sheep and goats into a region called Canaan (KAY nun). Abraham is considered the father of the Israelite people.

God Makes a Covenant With the Israelites The Israelites believed that God had made the following **covenant**, or promise and agreement, with Abraham:

“You shall be the father of a multitude of nations. . . . I will make nations of you, and kings shall come forth from you. And I will establish my covenant between me and you and your descendants after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your descendants after you. And I will give to you, and to your descendants after you, the land of your sojournings [short stay], all the land of Canaan. . . .”

—Genesis 17:4–8

God's covenant with Abraham included two declarations that became the basis of two key beliefs of Judaism. First, God declared that He would have a special relationship with Abraham and his descendants. The Israelites believed that God had chosen them to fulfill certain obligations and duties in the world. Second, God declared that Canaan would one day belong to the Israelites. As a result, the Israelites viewed Canaan as their "promised land."

An Israelite named **Moses** later renewed God's covenant with the Israelites. Genesis tells that a famine forced many Israelites to migrate to Egypt. There, they were eventually enslaved. In the book of Exodus, Moses tells the Israelites that in return for faithful obedience to God, God will lead them out of bondage and into the promised land. In time, Moses led the Israelites in their exodus, or departure, from Egypt. After 40 years, they reached Canaan, although Moses died just before they arrived.


The Kingdom of Israel Established By 1000 B.C., the Israelites had set up the kingdom of Israel. The Torah tells of twelve separate tribes of Israel that had feuded up until this time. Then **David**, the strong and wise second king of Israel, united these tribes into a single nation.

According to the Torah, David's son **Solomon** followed him as king. Solomon undertook the task of turning the city of Jerusalem into an impressive capital. Jerusalem was praised for its splendid temple dedicated to God, which David had begun constructing and Solomon completed. Solomon also won fame for his wisdom and understanding. Additionally, he tried to increase Israel's influence around the region by negotiating with powerful empires in Egypt and Mesopotamia.

Israel Suffers Division and Conquest Solomon's building projects required such high taxes and so much forced labor that revolts erupted after he died about 922 B.C. The kingdom then split into Israel in the north and Judah in the south.

The Israelites remained independent for 200 years but eventually fell to more powerful peoples. In 722 B.C., the Assyrians conquered Israel. In 586 B.C., Babylonian armies captured Judah. Nebuchadnezzar destroyed the great temple and forced many of those he defeated into exile in Babylon. This period of exile, called the Babylonian Captivity, lasted about 50 years.

In 539 B.C., the Persian ruler Cyrus the Great conquered Babylon and soon freed the Israelites. Since most of them had come from the kingdom of Judah, they became known as Jews. Many Jews returned to Judah where they rebuilt a smaller version of Solomon's temple. However, like other groups in the region, they lived under Persian rule.

 **Checkpoint** According to the Torah, where did the Israelites go once they left Egypt? What was special to them about this place?

Judaism Teaches About Law and Morality

From early times, the concept of law was central to the Israelites. The Torah includes many laws and is thus often referred to as the Books of the Law. Some of the laws deal with everyday matters such as cleanliness and food preparation. Others define criminal acts. The Torah also establishes moral principles.

Israelite society was **patriarchal**, which means that men held the greatest legal and moral authority. A family's oldest male relative was the head of the household and arranged marriages for his daughters.

Vocabulary Builder

undertook—(un dur TOOK) *vt.* began to do something

Women had few legal rights. Still, in early times, a few outstanding women, such as the judge Deborah, won great honor.

The Ten Commandments as a Guide At the heart of Judaism are the Ten Commandments, a set of laws that Jews believe God gave to them through Moses. The first four commandments stress religious duties toward God, such as keeping the **Sabbath**, a holy day for rest and worship. The rest address conduct toward others. They include “Honor your father and mother,” “You shall not kill,” and “You shall not steal.”

Teaching an Ethical Worldview Often in Jewish history, spiritual leaders emerged to interpret God’s will. These **prophets**, such as Isaiah and Jeremiah, reminded the Jewish people of their duties.

The prophets also taught a strong code of **ethics**, or moral standards of behavior. They urged both personal morality and social justice, calling on the rich and powerful to protect the poor and weak. All people, they said, were equal before God. Unlike many ancient societies in which the ruler was seen as a god, Jews saw their leaders as fully human and bound to obey God’s law.

Jews Maintain Their Beliefs Over Time and Place For a 500-year period that began with the Babylonian Captivity, many Jews left Judah and moved to different parts of the world. This spreading out of the Jewish people was called the **Diaspora** (dy AS pur uh). Some Jews were exiled, others moved to farther reaches of the empires that controlled their land, and yet others moved because of discontent with political rulers. Wherever Jews settled, many maintained their identity as a people by living in close-knit communities and obeying their religious laws and traditions. These traditions helped them survive centuries of persecution, or unfair treatment inflicted on a particular group of people, which you will read about in later chapters.

Today, Judaism is considered a major world religion for its unique contribution to religious thought. It influenced both Christianity and Islam, two other monotheistic faiths that also arose in the Middle East. Jews, Christians, and Muslims alike honor Abraham, Moses, and the prophets, and they all teach the ethical worldview developed by the Israelites. In the West, this shared heritage of Jews and Christians is known as the Judeo-Christian tradition.

 **Checkpoint** How did the prophets help Jews uphold the law?

SECTION **5** Assessment

Progress Monitoring Online

For: Self-quiz with vocabulary practice
Web Code: naa-0251

Terms, People, and Places

1. What do many of the key terms and people listed at the beginning of the section have in common? Explain.

Note Taking

2. **Reading Skill: Identify Supporting Details** Use your completed chart to answer the Focus Question: How did the worship of only one god shape Judaism?

Comprehension and Critical Thinking

3. **Recognize Ideologies** Which events recorded in the Torah reflect the Israelite belief that God had a plan for the people of Israel?
4. **Summarize** At which points in its early history was Israel unified, divided, or ruled by outsiders?
5. **Categorize** What types of laws does Judaism uphold?

Writing About History

Quick Write: Present Evidence Choose a person from ancient Israel about whom you want to write a biographical essay and present interesting biographical evidence about him or her. Start by writing a thesis statement that explains why you think this person is important. Then write a paragraph summarizing facts, details, and examples from the person’s life that support the thesis statement.

Psalm 23

The Psalms are a collection of 150 religious hymns. These songs reflect the Israelites' belief in God as the powerful savior of Israel. Many of the psalms praise the faithfulness of God to each of his people. In Psalm 23, the speaker describes his faith in God's protection and celebrates the Israelites' sense of a special relationship with a loving God.

The LORD is my shepherd,
I shall not want;

he makes me lie down in green pastures.
He leads me beside still waters;

he restores my soul.
He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I fear no evil;
for thou art with me;
thy rod and thy staff,
they comfort me.

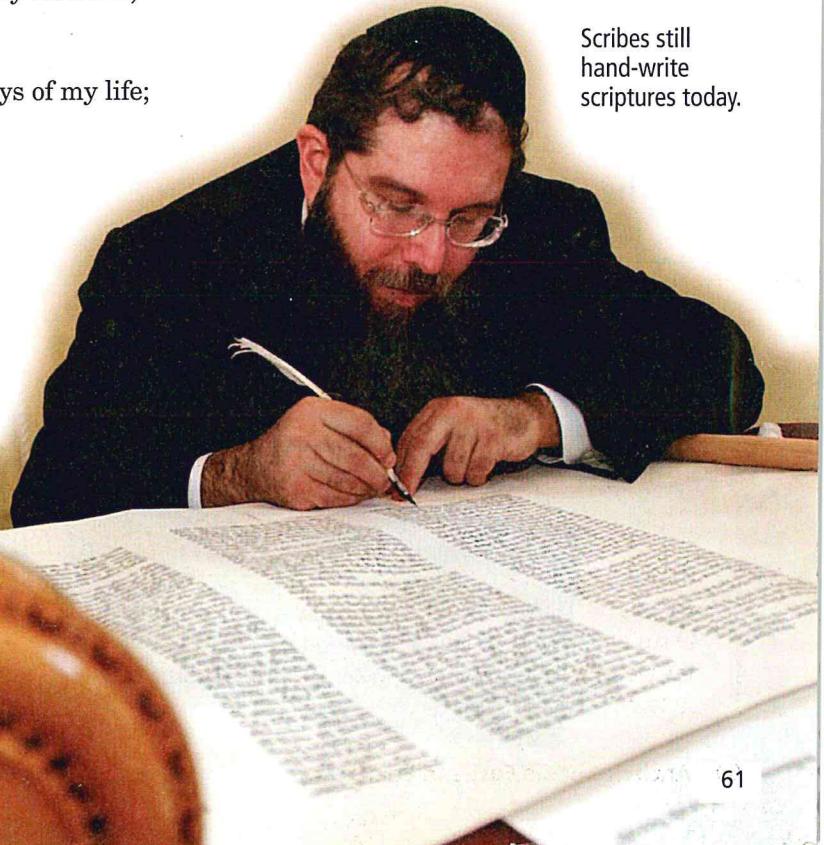
Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
thou anointest¹ my head with oil, my cup overflows.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life;
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

1. **anointest** (uh NOYNT ist) *v.* to rub into a part of the body as part of a religious ceremony



Scribes hand-wrote Hebrew Bibles from right to left on long scrolls of parchment. Medieval scribes copied religious texts and decorated the pages, as in this version of Psalm 23 from about A.D. 1280.



Scribes still hand-write scriptures today.

Thinking Critically

- Analyze Information** List two lines from the song that reflect the writer's sense that he is protected by God.
- Analyze Literature** Why do you think the writer describes God as a shepherd?

Quick Study Guide



I.1.HS.3, II.1.HS.1,
II.2.HS.1, II.3.HS.1

Progress Monitoring Online

For: Self-test with vocabulary practice
Web Code: naa-0261

Key Civilizations

Civilization	Time Period	Notable Rulers
Sumer	3200 B.C.–1900 B.C.	
Egypt	Old Kingdom 2575 B.C.–2130 B.C. Middle Kingdom 1938 B.C.–1630 B.C. New Kingdom 1539 B.C.–1075 B.C.	Hatshepsut Thutmose III Ramses II
Akkad	2300 B.C.–2150 B.C.	Sargon
Babylon	Old 1790 B.C.–1595 B.C. New 626 B.C.–539 B.C.	Hammurabi Nebuchadnezzar
Hittite	1650 B.C.–1200 B.C.	
Assyria	1350 B.C.–609 B.C.	Assurbanipal
Israel	1000 B.C.–586 B.C.	David Solomon
Persia	539 B.C.–323 B.C.	Cyrus the Great Darius I

Key Innovations

Sumer: social hierarchy; cuneiform writing; advances in astronomy and mathematics

Egypt: bureaucracy; pyramids; peace treaty; mummification; social hierarchy; hieroglyphic, hieratic, and demotic writing; papyrus; advances in medicine, astronomy, and mathematics; 365-day calendar

Babylon: legal code; advances in astronomy and mathematics

Hittites: iron working

Assyrians: legal regulation of royal household; libraries

Israel: monotheistic religion, Judaism

Persians: government organized into provinces with governors; roads; common set of weights and measures; use of coins and money economy; new religion of Zoroaster

Phoenicians: Tyrian purple dye; alphabet

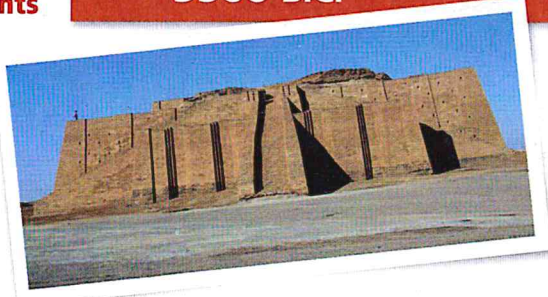
Key Causes of Rise and Fall of Civilization

- Leadership able to coordinate control of rivers (Sumer, Egypt)
 - Wealth gained from economic pursuits such as trade (Sumer, Persia, Phoenicia, Egypt)
 - Conquest of existing states (Akkad, Babylon, Assyria, Persia)
 - Unification of existing regions (Persia, Egypt, Israel)
- Rise of Civilization
- Conquest by others (Sumer, Akkad, Assyria, Babylon, Egypt, Israel)
- Fall of Civilization

The Rise of Civilization



Chapter Events World Events



2600 B.C.
Cities are built in the Indus Valley of South Asia.

Concept Connector

Cumulative Review

Record the answers to the questions below on your Concept Connector worksheets. In addition, record information from this chapter about the following concepts:

- Trade: Phoenician sea traders
 - Geography's Impact: Tigris and Euphrates rivers
- Advances in Technology** During prehistory, technological advances such as the development of stone tools and of domestication and farming allowed hominids and early humans to radically expand the possibilities for their lives. How do those advances compare in impact to technological advances that the peoples of ancient Mesopotamia and Egypt made? Think about advances in the following:
 - military technology
 - the sciences
 - writing
 - Belief Systems** People in many early civilizations established belief systems that became an important force in shaping their societies. Compare the influence of religion on ancient Egyptian and ancient Israelite society. Think about the effects of religion on these aspects of society:
 - government and law
 - the sciences
 - daily life
 - art
 - standards for behavior
 - Empire** To maintain control over a vast empire, it was vital that a ruler be well-respected. Based on the empires of the ancient Middle East and Egypt, what characteristics do you think made the leaders you have read about most successful? Think about the following:
 - spiritual leadership
 - establishment of laws and punishments for crimes
 - military power
 - treatment of subjects

Connections to Today

- Economic Systems: Money in the World Today** The establishment of a money economy by the Persians allowed the many peoples living within the vast empire to exchange goods more easily because they shared a common currency. Today, many countries have their own unique coins and bills, so all people within each country use the same money. To sell goods or services in another country, however, people must exchange their own money for the equivalent amount of the other country's money. Do you think there should be one common world currency? Explain your answer.
- People and the Environment: A Dam on the Nile** Like their ancient ancestors, modern Egyptians rely on the Nile. Nearly all Egyptians live on the 4 percent of land closest to the Nile's shores. Since 1970, when Egypt completed construction of the Aswan High Dam across the Nile, people



Persons per sq. mile	Persons per sq. kilometer
More than 3,119	More than 1,204
520-3,119	200-1,204
260-519	100-199
130-259	50-99
25-129	10-49
1-24	1-9
Less than 1	Less than 1

have had year-round access to water for farming and drinking. The dam also generates half the country's electricity. However, it prevents the Nile's rich silt from reaching farmland downstream. Compare the ways in which the Nile has served as a challenge and a resource in ancient times and today.

History Interactive

For: Interactive timeline
Web Code: nap-0261

<p>1790s B.C. Hammurabi, the king of Babylon, issues the first written law code.</p>	<p>1100 B.C. The Assyrians expand across Mesopotamia.</p>	<p>1000 B.C. The kingdom of Israel is established, and Israelite beliefs evolve into a major religion, Judaism.</p>	<p>522 B.C. Darius begins to unify the Persian empire.</p>
<p>2000 B.C. The kingdom of Nubia develops along the Nile River in East Africa.</p>	<p>1766 B.C. The Shang dynasty of China emerges.</p>	<p>1150 B.C. The Olmecs build the first civilization in the Americas.</p>	<p>750 B.C. Greek city-states such as Athens begin to develop.</p>
			<p>509 B.C. The Roman republic is founded.</p>

Chapter Assessment

Terms, People, and Places

Match the following terms with the definitions below.

ziggurat	Hatshepsut
Torah	Osiris
prophet	colony
Zoroaster	codify
delta	dynasty
Fertile Crescent	ethics

1. moral standards of behavior
2. Egyptian god of the underworld
3. a territory ruled by outsiders
4. to arrange and set down in writing
5. the most sacred text in Judaism
6. triangular area of marshland at the mouth of some rivers
7. large, stepped platform
8. ruling family
9. Egypt's first female ruler
10. a region of the Middle East with rich soil and wheat fields
11. spiritual leader who interprets God's will
12. Persian founder of a new religion

Main Ideas

Section 1 (pp. 30–35)

13. Describe Sumer's social hierarchy.
14. How was the development of writing in Sumer influenced by economic needs?

Section 2 (pp. 36–43)

15. Explain the significance of Hammurabi's Code.
16. How did the knowledge of iron working help both the Hittites and the Assyrians to expand?

Section 3 (pp. 44–49)

17. Describe the government bureaucracy of Old Kingdom Egypt.

Section 4 (pp. 50–56)

18. Describe three gods or goddesses who were important to ancient Egyptians. How did Akhenaton try to change their roles?
19. Name an achievement the ancient Egyptians made in each of the following fields: medicine, astronomy, and mathematics.

Section 5 (pp. 57–61)

20. Why did the Israelites consider themselves to be God's "chosen people"?
21. How does the Torah reflect the Israelites' respect for the law?

Chapter Focus Question

22. What distinct characteristics did the early civilizations and empires of the Middle East and Egypt develop?

Critical Thinking

23. **Make Comparisons** Compare the views about the after-life of the Sumerians, the ancient Egyptians, and Zoroaster. Point out similarities and differences.
24. **Recognize Cause and Effect** How did an Egyptian religious practice—mummification—affect the field of medicine?
25. **Analyze Information** Consider the separate inventions of writing in Sumer and in Egypt. Why do you think that, in both cases, writing continued to change in form and in use over time?
26. **Demonstrate Reasoned Judgment** Many ancient peoples, including the Babylonians, Assyrians, and Israelites, lived in societies guided by well-established laws. Do you think that having a code of laws is an essential aspect of civilization? Why or why not?
27. **Synthesize Information** Conquest by different leaders was a constant theme of life in the lands of the ancient Middle East and Egypt. In what ways did leaders unite the often distant and culturally different lands that they ruled?

● Writing About History

Writing a Biographical Essay As civilizations developed in the ancient Middle East and Egypt, many important and interesting people played a role. Write a biographical essay on one of the following people: Nebuchadnezzar, Darius I, Hatshepsut, Solomon, or any other person mentioned in the chapter. Consult page SH18 of the Writing Handbook for additional help.

Prewriting

- Decide which person from the chapter interests you most. You may choose someone whose actions you admire or someone who seems particularly unique and interesting to you.

- Decide whether you want to focus more on the historical events the person took part in or on details of the person's life.
- Do research to gather facts and details about the actions or life of the person.

Drafting

- Develop a focus for your essay and choose information to support that focus.
- Make an outline organizing the events or details in a logical way, such as chronologically.
- Write an introduction, a body, and a conclusion. Be sure to use direct descriptions, quotations, and anecdotes.

Revising

- Use the guidelines for revising your report on page SH19 of the Writing Handbook.





Test Preparation

I.1.HS.3, II.4.HS.1,
V.1.HS.1, V.1.HS.3

War in the Ancient Middle East

Military campaigns were conducted frequently in the ancient Middle East. Scribes and artists often recorded their leaders' victories on monuments. The following documents reveal that these early wars were both devastating and widespread.

Document A

"... [My troops] were like lions roaring upon the mountaintops. The chariotry consisted of runners, of picked men, of every good and capable chariot-warrior. The horses were quivering in every part of their bodies, prepared to crush the foreign countries under their hoofs. . . . Those who reached my frontier, . . . their heart and their soul are finished forever and ever. Those who came forward together on the sea, the full flame was in front of them at the river-mouths, while a stockade of lances surrounded them on the shore. . . . I have made the lands turn back from (even) mentioning Egypt; for when they pronounce my name in their land, then they are burned up."

—From Pharaoh Ramses III of Egypt

Document B

"In the eighteenth year of my rule I crossed the Euphrates for the sixteenth time. [King] Hazael of Damascus put his trust upon his numerous army and called up his troops in great number. . . . I fought with him and inflicted a defeat upon him, killing with the sword 16,000 of his experienced soldiers. I took away from him 1,121 chariots, 470 riding horses as well as his camp. . . . I followed him and besieged him in Damascus, his royal residence. I cut down his gardens. . . . I marched as far as the mountains of Hauran, destroying, tearing down and burning innumerable towns, carrying booty away from them which was beyond counting. I marched as far as the mountains of Ba'li-ra'si . . . and erected there a stela [stone pillar] with my image as king."

—From King Shalmaneser III of Assyria

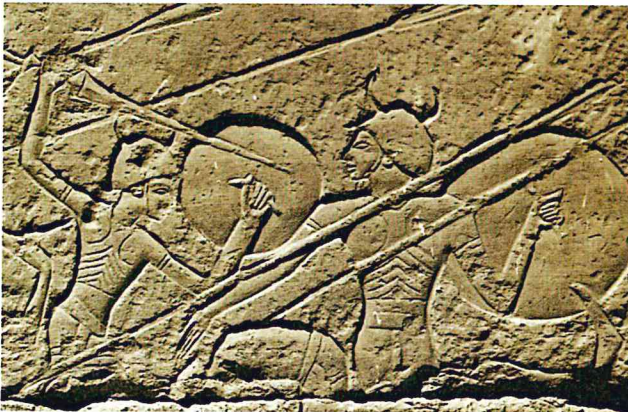
Document C

Soldiers of Ramses III in Battle



Document D

Soldiers of Shalmaneser III in Battle



Analyzing Documents

Directions: Read the documents above and use them with what you already know to answer the following questions.

- Documents A and B are told from the point of view of
 - a victim of an ambush.
 - the ally of a conquering ruler.
 - the enemy of a conquering ruler.
 - the leader of a successful campaign.
- What did the narrator of Document B do in the mountains of Ba'li-ra'si after he conquered the kingdom of Damascus?
 - conquer a great city
 - set up a monument showing his image
 - chase the enemies' leader
 - receive tribute from the conquered people
- Which can you learn from Documents C and D?
 - who won each battle shown
 - how many men fought in each battle
 - where each battle took place
 - what weapons the soldiers used in battle
- Writing Task** Consider that inscriptions and artwork were two different means for rulers to tell people about their conquests. What motives would have led the rulers to have such documents created? Do you think such documents serve as reliable records of historical events? Use your knowledge and specific information from these documents to support your opinion.