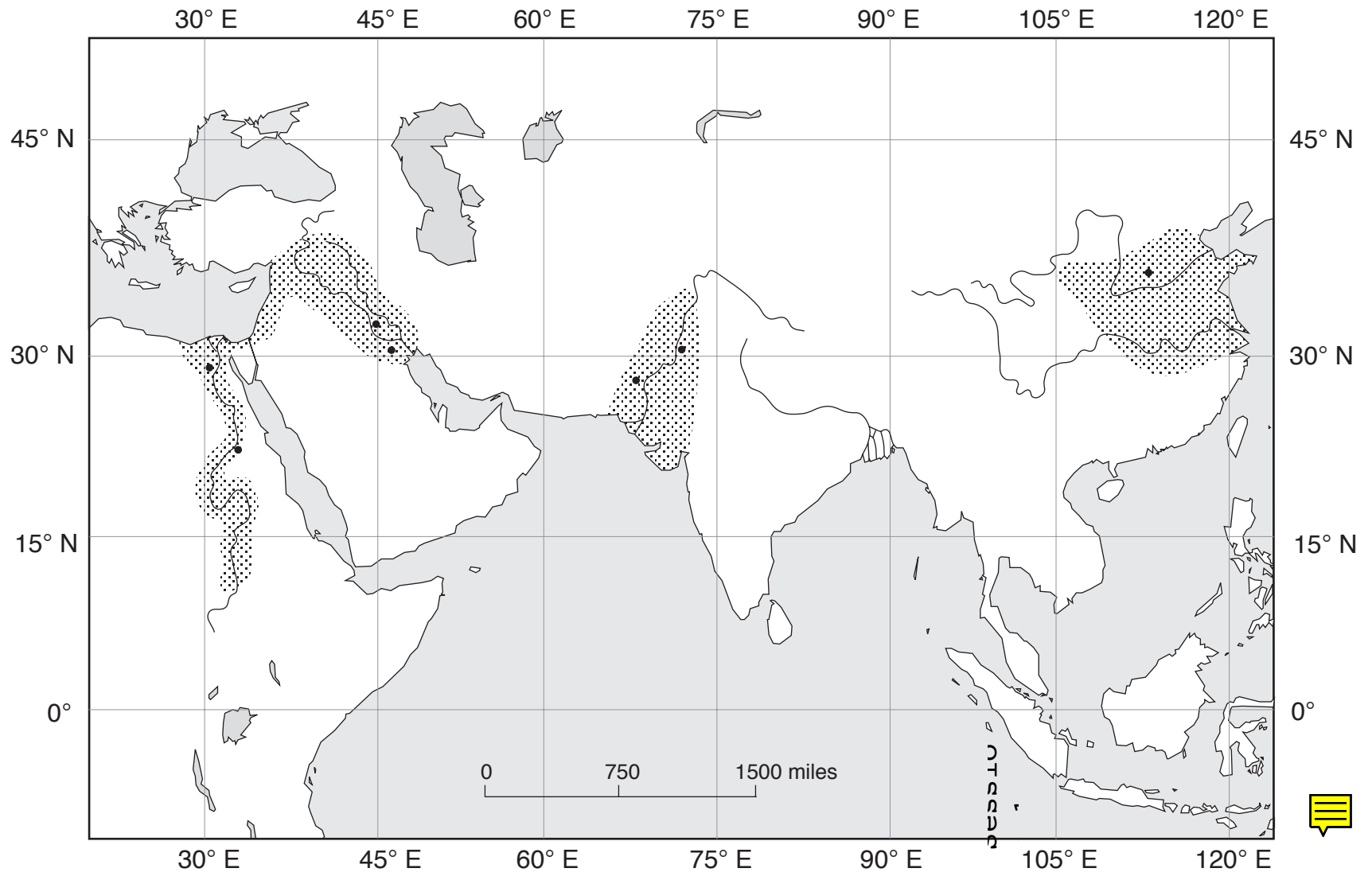


# Cradles of Civilization

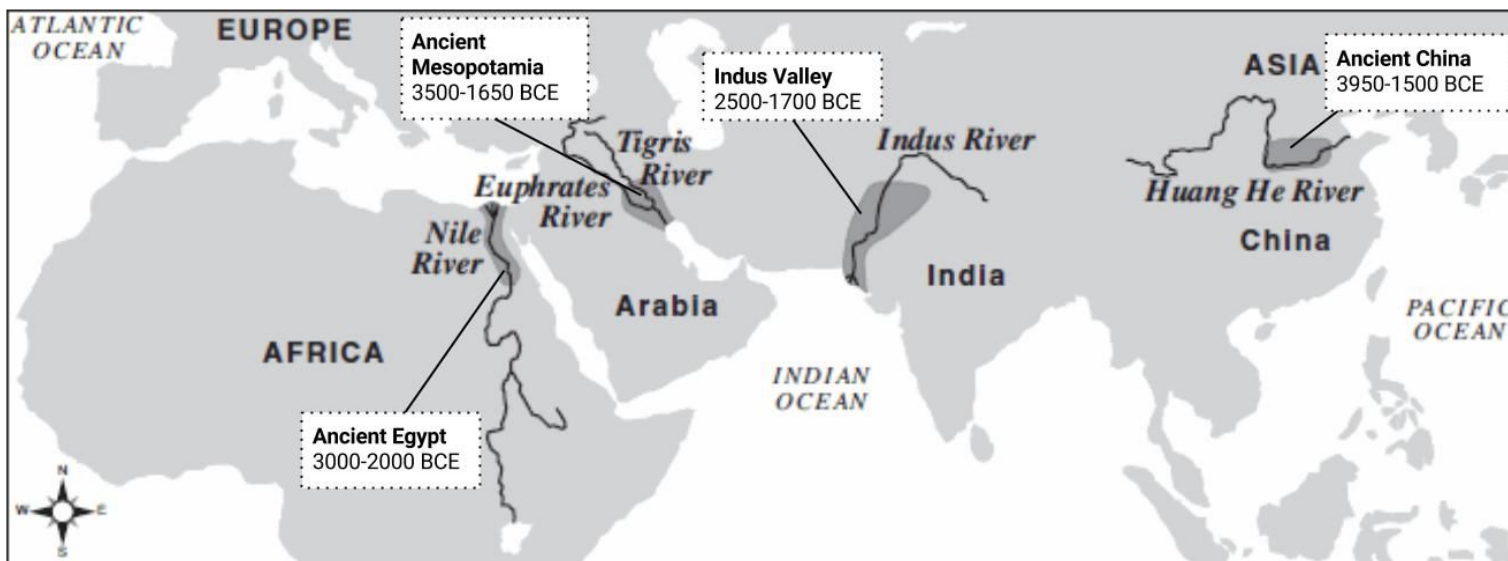




Think Like a Geographer

## Where were early river valley civilizations located?

➔ Directions: Read the map below. Respond to the questions.



Source: Charles F. Gritzner, *Exploring Our World, Past and Present*, D.C. Health and Company (adapted) from the NYS Global History and Geography Regents Exam.

1. Based on the map above, what geographic feature did the early civilizations settle near? \_\_\_\_\_

2a. Which civilization is the furthest east? \_\_\_\_\_

2b. Which civilization is the furthest west? \_\_\_\_\_

3. Which river was the ancient Egyptian civilization located near?

4. Which rivers were the ancient Mesopotamian civilization located near?

5. Which river was the ancient Chinese civilization located near?

6. Which river was the ancient Indus River Valley Civilization located near?

7. Which continent was the ancient Egyptian civilization located in?

8. Which continent was the ancient Mesopotamian civilization located in?

9. Which continent was the ancient Chinese civilization located in?

10. Which continent was the ancient Indus River Valley civilization located in?

Use your textbook and your knowledge of Agricultural societies to fill in the chart below

+	11a. What are the advantages of settling near rivers?	-	11b. What are the disadvantages of settling near rivers?

➔ **Directions:** Based on what you have learned, complete the task below.



**Think Like a  
Geographer**

Part I

1. Which geographic feature did early river valley civilizations settle near?

2. Why would civilizations settle near this geographic feature?

3a. Which civilization is located between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers? \_\_\_\_\_

3b. Which civilization is located near the Nile river? \_\_\_\_\_

3c. Which civilization is located near the Indus river? \_\_\_\_\_

3d. Which civilization is located Huang He river? \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_






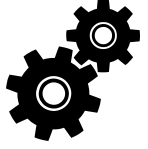
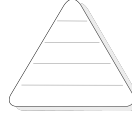

Global History I, Carr & McCasland

Date:

Period:

**AIM: How did early civilizations create complex societies?**

**CHARACTERISTICS OF A CIVILIZATION WORD BANK:**

<p><b>Religion</b></p> 	<p><b>Job Specialization</b></p> 	<p><b>Cities</b></p> 	<p><b>Government</b></p> 
<p><b>Language/Writing Systems</b></p> 	<p><b>Technology</b></p> 	<p><b>Social Hierarchy</b></p>  <p>The division of society based on wealth, religion, ethnicity, or other factors</p>	<p><b>Art &amp; Culture</b></p> 

**DO NOW: Prove that YOU live in a complex society**

Choose **two** characteristics of a civilization from the word bank above. For each provide a list of evidence from the city, state, and/or country you live in to prove that you live in a complex society.

<p><b>Characteristic:</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>Evidence:</b></p>	<p><b>Characteristic:</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>Evidence:</b></p>
---	---

**How did the innovations of early river valley civilizations affect their society AND later periods in history?**

**AIM:**

- **Describe** the innovations of early river valley civilizations
- **Explain** how these innovations society inhabitants and later periods in history

**DO NOW:** In the space below, define "*innovation*"

<i>Mini Lecture: Fill in the blanks</i>	In the space below, identify as many characteristics of a civilization as you can recall (HINT: CH 1, Sec. 3 Notes)
<p>A _____ is a complex society in which a large number of people live. The first civilizations which emerged after the Neolithic Revolution between 5500 and 2000 BCE were _____,</p> <p>_____ and the _____.</p> <p>These first civilizations began in cities. These cities were larger, more populated, and more complex than Neolithic villages.</p>	

Objective:

## How did the innovations of the early river valley civilizations affect their inhabitants and later periods in history?

- **Describe** the innovations of early river valley civilizations
- **Explain** how these innovations impacted inhabitants and later periods in history



Predict

### Introduction

A **civilization** is a complex society in which a large number of people live. The first civilizations which emerged after the Neolithic Revolution between 5500 and 2000 BCE were **Mesopotamia, Ancient Egypt, Shang China,** and the **Indus River Valley Civilization**. These first civilizations began in cities. These cities were larger, more populated, and more complex than Neolithic villages.



In the space below, identify as many characteristics of civilizations as you can recall.



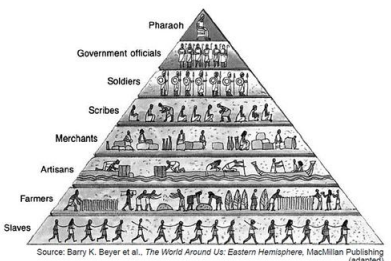
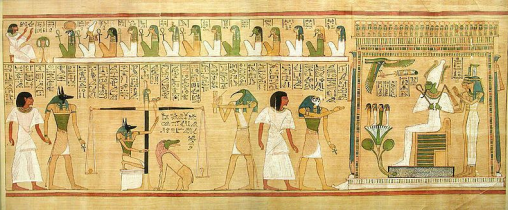


### Innovations and Contributions of Early River Valley Civilizations


In this activity, you will learn about various ways that early river civilizations affected their inhabitants and set the stage for later developments.

➡ Directions: Complete the chart below using the [gallery walk posters](#).

	Description of Innovation	Name of Civilization	Impact on Society
<p><b>Cuneiform</b></p>  <p><small><a href="#">Image</a> courtesy of Wikimedia and is in the public domain</small></p>		<p><b>Mesopotamia</b></p> <p><b>Egypt</b></p> <p><b>China</b></p> <p><b>Indus Valley</b></p>	
<p><b>Mohenjo-Daro, Indus River Valley Civilization</b></p>  <p><small><a href="#">Mohenjo-daro.jpg</a> by Saqib Qayyum is published under the <a href="#">CC BY-SA 3.0 Unported</a> license</small></p>		<p><b>Mesopotamia</b></p> <p><b>Egypt</b></p> <p><b>China</b></p> <p><b>Indus Valley</b></p>	
<p><b>Social Class Hierarchy in Ancient Egypt</b></p>		<p><b>Mesopotamia</b></p> <p><b>Egypt</b></p> <p><b>China</b></p> <p><b>Indus Valley</b></p>	



 <p style="text-align: center;">Citation <a href="#">3</a></p>			
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Egyptian Book of the Dead</b></p>  <p style="text-align: center;"><a href="#">Image</a> courtesy of Wikimedia and is in the public domain</p>		<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Mesopotamia</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Egypt</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>China</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Indus Valley</b></p>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Code of Hammurabi</b></p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Citation <a href="#">1</a></p> <p><b>Top Quarter / Fingernail</b></p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Citation <a href="#">2</a></p> <p><b>Lower Portion / Inscription</b></p> </div> </div>		<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Mesopotamia</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Egypt</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>China</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Indus Valley</b></p>	

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Egyptian Shaduf</b></p>  <p style="font-size: small;">Source: James Barter, <i>The Nile</i>, Lucent Books from the NYS Global History and Geography Regents Exam, January 2014.</p>		<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Mesopotamia</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Egypt</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>China</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Indus Valley</b></p>	
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**FA**

**SQ 16:** How did the innovations of the early river valley civilizations affect their inhabitants and later periods in history?

➔ **Directions:** Based on what you have learned, complete the task below.

**ANSWER AIM**

**Explain** how *one* innovation impacted its society, and then describe its impact on later periods in history.



**Connect Cause  
and Effect**

# Cuneiform



[Image](#) courtesy of Wikimedia and is in the public domain

Cuneiform was a system of writing created in Mesopotamia around 3,000 BCE. Scribes used a reed to make “wedge shaped” indentations on a clay tablet. Cuneiform started as way of keeping track of business transactions but was later used to create alphabets for the languages spoken in Ancient Mesopotamia. The Code of Hammurabi (discussed later) was written in cuneiform.

# Mohenjo-Daro, Indus River Valley Civilization



[Mohenjo-daro.jpg](#) by Saqib Qayyum is published under the [CC BY-SA 3.0 Unported](#) license

Mohenjo-daro was a city in the Indus Valley Civilization built around 2600 B.C.E., located in present day Pakistan. Mohenjo-daro was the largest, most sophisticated city discovered from the Indus River Valley Civilization.

It had a layout based on a grid of streets and at its height the city probably had around 35,000 residents. The buildings of the city had structures constructed of same-sized sun dried bricks of baked mud and burned wood. The public buildings of those cities also suggest a high degree of social organization.

The city included granary ducts to circulate beneath the stored grain to dry it. There was also a great public bath, with steps down to a brick-lined pool in a courtyard. The elaborate bath area had been extremely well built, with a layer of natural tar to keep it from leaking, and in the center stood the pool. Measuring 12m x 7m, with a depth of 2.4m, the pool had been likely used for religious or spiritual ceremonies.

The city included the world's first urban sanitation systems. Within the city, individual homes or groups of homes obtained water from wells. Some of the houses included rooms that appear to have been set aside for bathing, with wastewater diverted to covered drains, which lined the major streets.

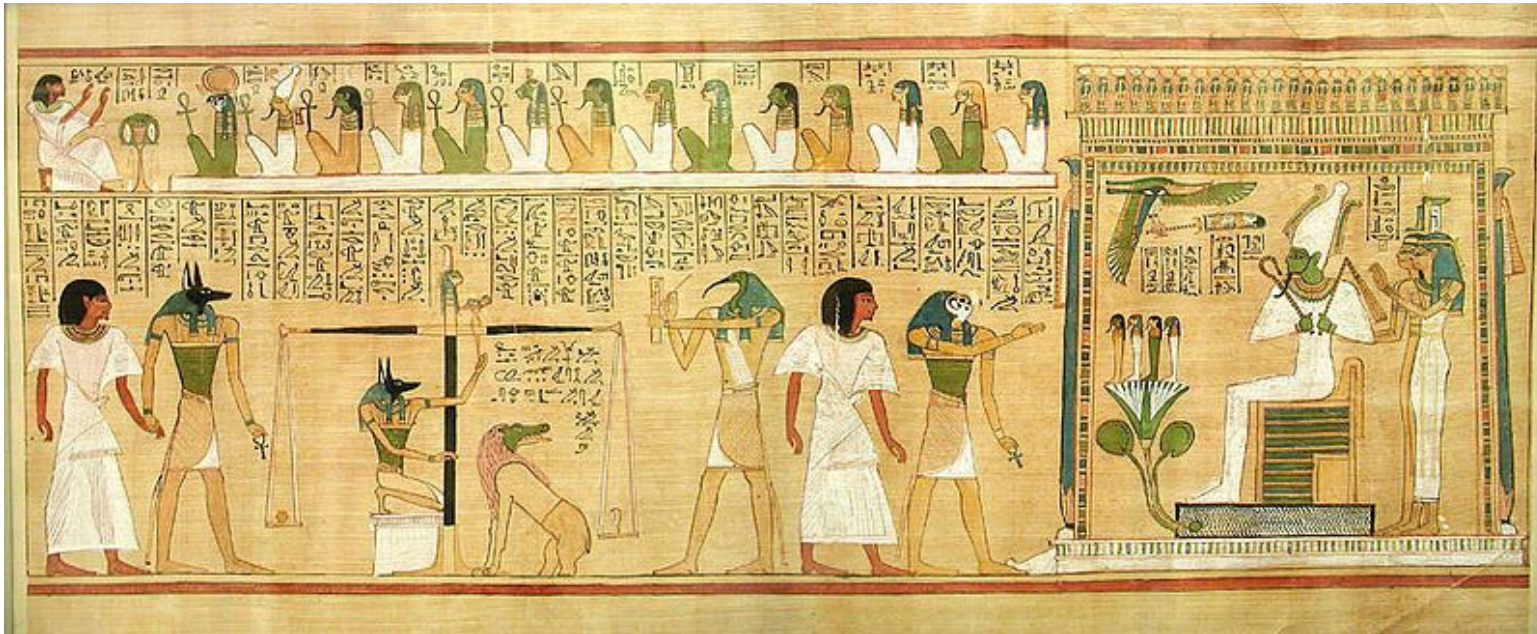
# Social Class Hierarchy in Ancient Egypt



Source: Barry K. Beyer et al., *The World Around Us: Eastern Hemisphere*, MacMillan Publishing (adapted)

From the New York State Education Department. 20080618exam.pdf. Internet. Available from [www.nysedregents.org/globalhistorygeography/Archive/20080618exam.pdf](http://www.nysedregents.org/globalhistorygeography/Archive/20080618exam.pdf); accessed 06/20/2017.

# Egyptian Book of the Dead



[Image](#) courtesy of Wikimedia and is in the public domain

The Egyptian Book of the Dead was both a description of the ancient Egyptian idea of the afterlife and a collection of hymns, spells, and instructions to guide the dead through the challenges that Egyptians believed they would meet in the afterlife. Copies of the book were printed on papyrus and placed in the coffins or burial chambers of the deceased, so they could use them in the afterlife.

# Code of Hammurabi



[Image](#) courtesy of Wikimedia and is in the public domain

**Top Quarter / Fingernail**



[Hammurabi detalle.jpg](#) by AFLastra is published under the [CC BY-SA 3.0 Unported](#) license

**Lower Portion / Inscription**

The Code of Hammurabi was a set of laws written around 1780 BCE. Hammurabi was the ruler of Babylon, a city-state in Mesopotamia. Hammurabi had his laws inscribed on large stone monuments called **stele** that were placed on public places for all people to see. The code of Hammurabi contained 282 laws, written by scribes on 12 tablets. The Code consists of rules and punishments if those rules are broken. The structure of the code is very specific, with each offense receiving a specified punishment.

# Egyptian Shaduf

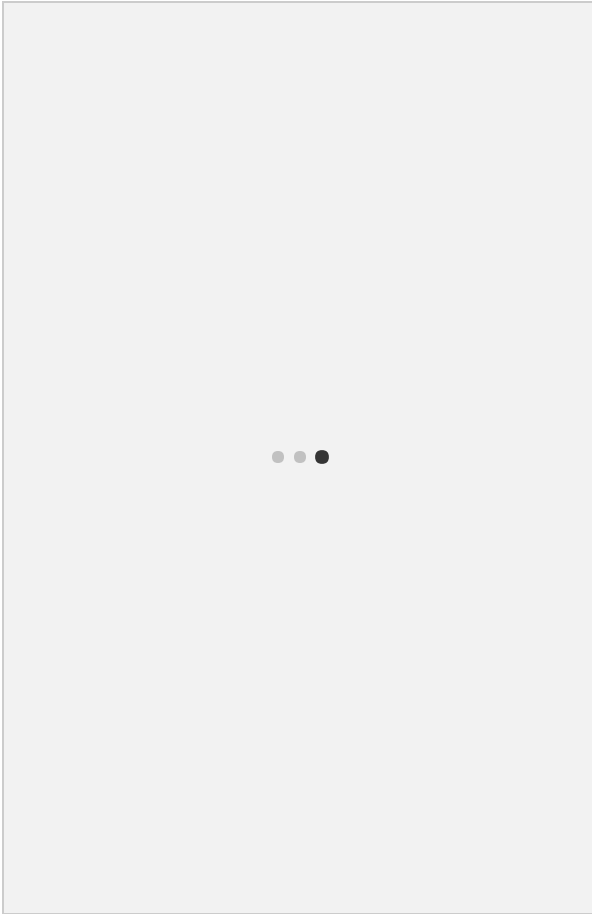


Source: James Barter, *The Nile*, Lucent Books from the NYS Global History and Geography Regents Exam, January 2014.

This frieze, or architectural adornment, on an ancient temple portrays Egyptians using *shadufs*, devices that enabled them to transfer water from the Nile to their fields.



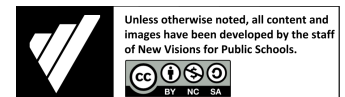
# Oracle Bones- Shang China



[Shang dynasty inscribed scapula.jpg](#) by BabelStone is published under the [CC BY-SA 3.0 Unported](#) license

The Shang (ca. 1554-1045/40 BCE) people believed that they could communicate with their ancestors and God, and tell the future by using what they called oracle bones. To do this, oracles (spiritual guides) created holes in tortoise shells or cow bones, then placed a hot rod in the holes. The heat created cracks in the shell or bone. The oracles then interpreted the cracks to find answers to their questions.

Sometimes the predictions were written out on the shell or bone. Oracle bones are some of earliest examples of writing from Ancient China.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date:

Global History I, Carr

Period:

**Directions:** Read the passages below from three early River Valley Civilizations. As you read, annotate your text by taking notes in the margins. You will have time to discuss the questions that follow with your group after each passage.

**As you read, keep our AIM for today in mind: *How did the earliest river valley civilizations use religion to explain the world?***

---

### **Title: The Epic of Gilgamesh**

*Instructions: The following passage comes from The Epic of Gilgamesh, a Babylonian Epic about a warrior king. Use the passage to get on understanding about Mesopotamian religion.*

- A. In those days the world teemed, the people multiplied, the world bellowed like a wild bull, and the great god was aroused by the clamor. Enlil heard the clamor and he said to the gods in council, "The uproar of mankind is intolerable and sleep is no longer possible by reason of the babble." So the gods agreed to exterminate mankind. Enlil did this, but Ea warned me in a dream. "Tear down your house, I say, and build a boat. These are the measurements of the boat as you shall build her: let her beam equal her length, let her deck be roofed like the vault that covers the abyss; then take up into the boat the seed of all living creatures."
- B. On the seventh day the boat was complete. I loaded into her all that I had of gold and of living things, my family, my kin, the beasts of the field both wild and tame, and all the craftsmen. The evening came, the rider of the storm sent down the rain. I looked out at the weather and it was terrible, so I too boarded the boat and battened her down. All was now complete.
- C. For six days and six nights the winds blew, torrent and tempest and flood overwhelmed the world, and tempest and flood raged together like warring hosts. When the seventh day dawned the storm from the south subsided, the sea grew calm, the flood was stilled. The surface of the sea stretched as flat as a rooftop; I opened a hatch and the light fell on my face. Then I bowed low, I sat down and I wept. I looked for land in vain, but fourteen leagues distant there appeared a mountain, and there the boat grounded. When the seventh day dawned I loosed a dove and let her go. She flew away, but finding no resting place she returned. Then I loosed a swallow and she flew away, but finding no resting place she returned. I loosed a raven, she saw that the waters had retreated, she ate, she flew around, she cawed, and she did not come back.

Questions:

1. How does the *Epic of Gilgamesh* portray the gods and their relationship to humankind?

## 2. Why would the people worship gods such as these?

### TITLE: Oracle Bone Inscription

The inscriptions below are primary documents written during the reign of the Shang dynasty (ca. 1554-1040 BCE) that were discovered and translated, and serve as the earliest written records of Chinese life during its beginning stages. Through such divinations, the Shang hoped to discover the causes of events, the will of their ancestors and of their highest deity, Di, and the correct course of action to take when faced with difficult decisions



### Inscriptions

Crack-making on *jiashen* (day 21), Que divined: “Lady Hao’s (a consort of Wu Ding) Childbearing will be good.” (Prognostication) The king read the cracks and said: “If it be on a *ding*-day that she give birth, there will be prolonged luck.” (Verification) (After) thirty-one days, on *jiayin* (day 51), she gave birth; it was not good; it was a girl.

Crack-making on *guichou* (day 50), Zheng divined: “If we do not build a settlement, Di will approve.”

Crack-making on *xinchou* (day 38), Que divined: “Di approves the king (doing something?).” 20B. Divined: “Di does not approve the king (doing something?).”

Divined: “It is Di who is harming our harvest.” Second moon.

Divined: “It is not Di who is harming our harvest.”

[Divined:] ‘The Fang (enemy) are harming and attacking (us); it is Di who orders (them) to make disaster for us.’ Third moon.

Divined: “(Because) the Fang are harming and attacking (us, we) will raise men.”

Divined: “It is not Di who orders (the Fang) to make disaster for us.”

### Questions:

1. Reading the inscriptions, how would you describe the relationship between deceased ancestors and their living descendants?

2. Who is Di and what is his relationship with the Shang rulers?

3. What are some of the concerns of the Shang elite as reflected in these inscriptions? Are these concerns unique to them?

**Title: Hymn of the Nile**

*Background:* Religious hymns first appeared in Egypt around the 26<sup>th</sup> century BCE. As is true with this hymn, the division between secular and spiritual was not always sharply drawn. Here the Nile is a “spring from the ground.” But it is treated almost as a supernatural being, a giver of life. The river complements the sun god, Ra, who by himself, cannot produce life. Read this excerpt from the “Hymn to the Nile” and answer the questions.

Praise to thee, O Nile, that flows out  
of the Earth and comes to nourish  
the dwellers of Egypt...  
who floods the fields that Ra [the sun god] has created to make all animals live...  
who produces barley and makes wheat grow,  
that the temples might be in festival.

If the Nile is sluggish, the nostrils are stopped up, and the people are brought low [impoverished];

The offerings of the gods are reduced,  
And millions die.

When the Nile rises, the Earth is joyous and everyone is glad; every jaw laughs and every tooth is uncovered.

**Questions:**

1. What is a hymn?

2. According to the “Hymn to the Nile,” why do the people praise the river?

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Global History I, Carr

Date:

Period:

**AIM: What does Hammurabi's Code reveal about Mesopotamian society under the Babylonian empire?**

- **Describe** what Hammurabi's Code reveals about Mesopotamian society under the Babylonian empire.

**DO NOW:** INDEPENDENTLY read and respond to the questions below in the first column. After three minutes, I will ask you to switch pages with your partner. Your partner will then respond to your answer in the next column.

	Your response:	Partner Response:
1. Are laws and rules necessary? Explain.		
2. Are punishments for laws necessary ? Explain.		
4. Who should be able to enforce laws?		
5. Are all laws and rules fair? Explain.		

## HAMMURABI'S CODE: BACKGROUND INFO

**Directions:** As we read, annotate the text by following the prompts and answering the questions in the space provided.

King Hammurabi ruled the city of Babylon from 1792 - 1750 BCE. He is best known for The Code of Hammurabi. This was one of the first codified or written law codes. It was written on a stele, or a large stone monument, and placed in a public place so that all could see it. Even though it was visible for all to see, few were literate enough to read the cuneiform writing. A carving at the top of the stele shows King Hammurabi receiving the laws from the god Shamash. The inscription states that King Hammurabi was chosen by the gods of his people to bring the laws to them.

The code of Hammurabi contained 282 laws. These laws covered business contracts, farming methods, debts, wages marriage, divorce, and the treatment of women. The laws were written by scribes on 12 tablets. The Code consists of rules and the punishments if those rules were broken. The structure of the code is very detailed: each offense receiving a particular punishment.

Hammurabi's code set the standard for future codes because it dealt with the evidence of the crime. What decided one's guilt or innocence was something called the Ordeal. During the Ordeal, the accused person was sentenced to perform a certain task such as being thrown into a river or swimming a certain distance across a river and, if they succeeded, they were innocent. If they did not survive the ordeal, they were considered guilty.

**Who was Hammurabi?**

**What was the Code of Hammurabi?**

***Underline the aspects of society that the Code of Hammurabi covered.***

**Name 3 aspects of society that the code had laws about.**

1-

2-

3-

**What decided one's guilt of a crime?**

**How did Hammurabi's Code impact (set the standard) for others codes of law in history?**

## Mini-Lecture: City of Babylon and Hammurabi's Code

### Who was Hammurabi?

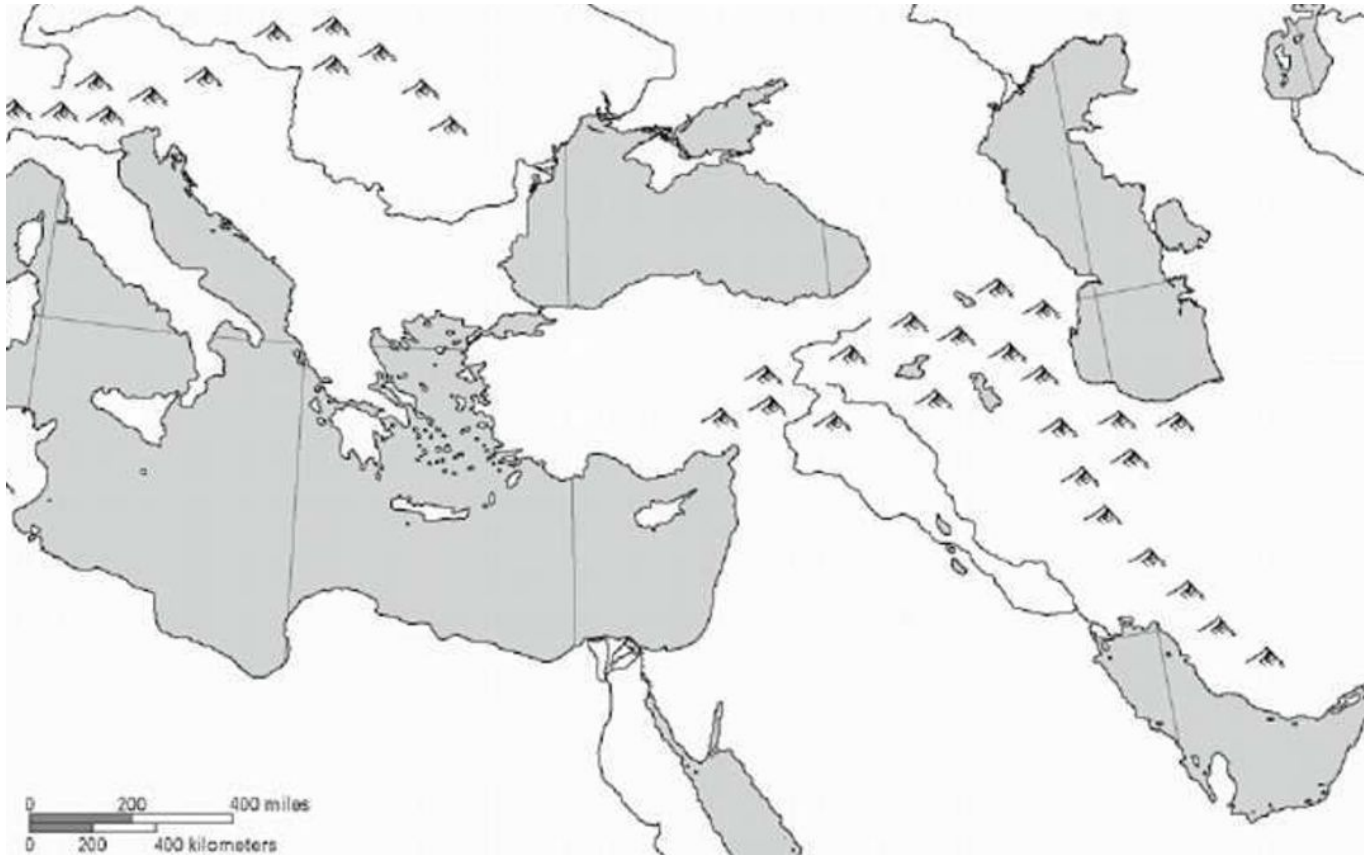
Hammurabi was one of the most powerful and influential kings of \_\_\_\_\_ from \_\_\_\_\_ BCE.

He united all of \_\_\_\_\_ under the Babylonian Empire.

### Between what two rivers was the city of Babylon located? :

the \_\_\_\_\_ River and the \_\_\_\_\_ River.

***Label the rivers below and shade in the area that made up the Babylonian empire in Ancient Mesopotamia***



**Read different parts of the Code of Hammurabi below, and answer the questions that follow:**

Economy	Social Classes	Women
<p>53. If any one be too lazy to keep his <b>dam</b> in proper condition, and does not so keep it; if then the dam break and all the fields be flooded, then shall he in whose dam the break occurred be sold for money, and the money shall replace the corn which he has caused to be ruined.</p> <p>54. If he be not able to replace the corn, then he and his possessions shall be divided among the farmers whose corn he has flooded.</p> <p>55. If any one open his ditches to water his crop, but is careless, and the water flood the field of his neighbor, then he shall pay his neighbor corn for his loss.</p> <p>59. If any man, without the knowledge of the owner of a garden, fell [cause to fall] a tree in a garden he shall pay half a mina in money.</p>	<p>196. If a man put out the eye of another man, his eye shall be put out.</p> <p>197. If he break another man's bone, his bone shall be broken.</p> <p>198. If he put out the eye of a freed man, or break the bone of a freed man, he shall pay one gold mina.</p> <p>199. If he put out the eye of a man's slave, or break the bone of a man's slave, he shall pay one-half of its value.</p> <p>200. If a man knock out the teeth of his equal, his teeth shall be knocked out.</p> <p>201. If he knock out the teeth of a freed man, he shall pay one-third of a gold mina</p> <p>202. If any one strike the body of a man higher in rank than he, he shall receive sixty blows with an ox-whip in public.</p> <p>203. If a free-born man strike the body of another free-born man or equal rank, he shall pay one gold mina.</p>	<p>138. If a man wishes to separate from his wife who has borne him no children, he shall give her the amount of her purchase money and the dowry which she brought from her father's house, and let her go.</p> <p>141. If a man's wife, who lives in his house, wishes to leave it, plunges into debt, tries to ruin her house, neglects her husband, and is judicially convicted: if her husband offer her release, she may go on her way, and he gives her nothing as a gift of release. If her husband does not wish to release her, and if he take another wife, she shall remain as servant in her husband's house.</p> <p>143. If she is not innocent, but leaves her husband, and ruins her house, neglecting her husband, this woman shall be cast into the water.</p> <p>148. If a man take a wife, and she be seized by disease, if he then desire to take a second wife he shall not put away his wife, who has been attacked by disease, but he shall keep her in the house which he has built and support her so long as she lives</p>
<p><b>What Characteristic of a Civilization do these laws cover?</b></p>	<p><b>What Characteristic of a Civilization do these laws cover?</b></p>	<p><b>What Characteristic of a Civilization do these laws cover?</b></p>
<p><b>What were the different punishments? Who got punished?</b></p>	<p><b>Which members of society received harsher punishments?</b></p>	<p><b>How did punishments differ between a man and woman?</b></p>



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Global History I, Carr & McCasland

Period: \_\_\_\_\_

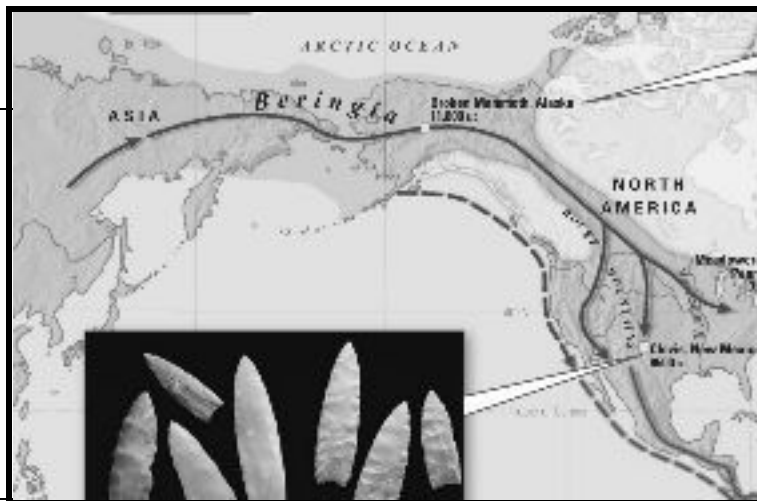
*Mesoamerica and the Olmec People*

**AIM: How are Olmec colossal heads evidence of a complex society?**

**DO NOW:** Examine the images on the projector and answer the following questions:

1. Why do you think these monuments were created?
2. Who do you think ordered them to be created?

**GUIDED NOTES:** Follow along and fill in the blanks.



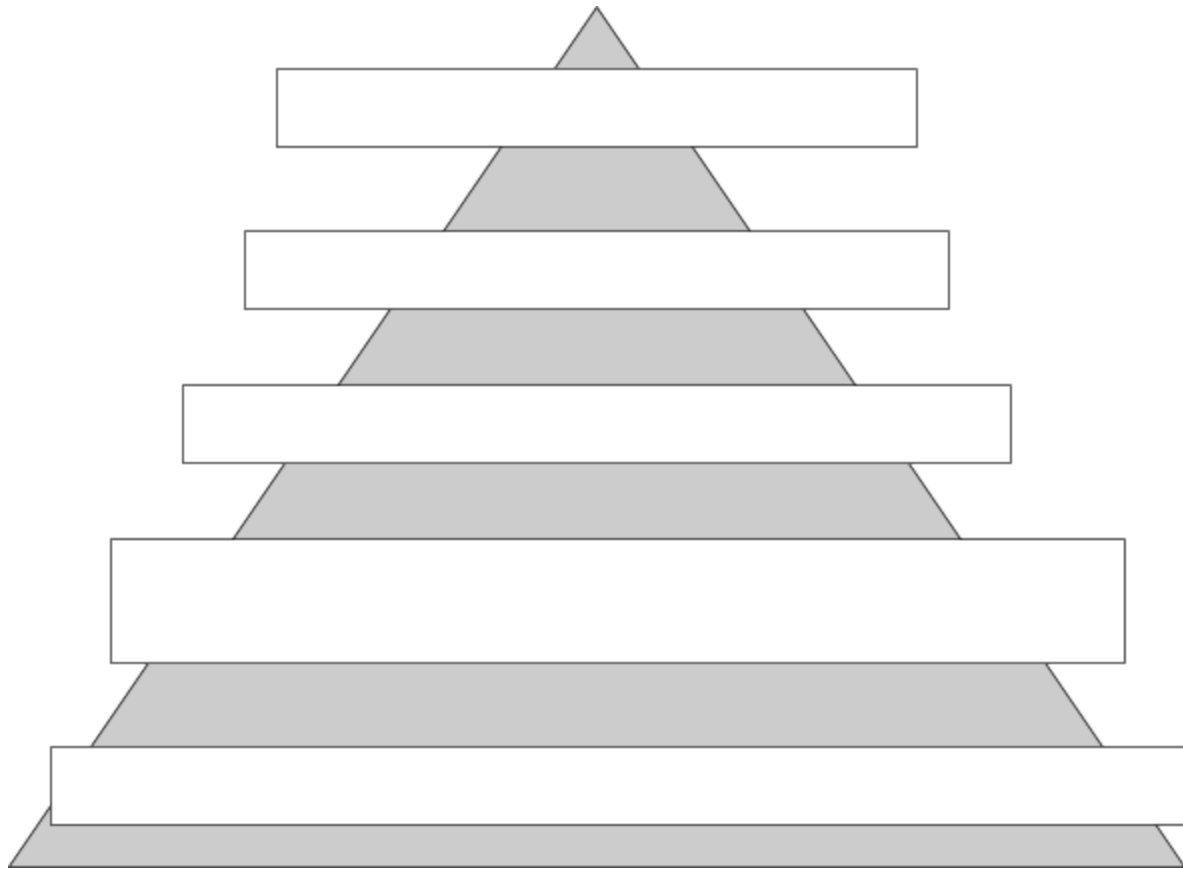
**How did early humans travel to North and South America? Write your answer in the box.**

- ❖ The \_\_\_\_\_ civilization (1300 B.C. – 400 B.C.)
- ❖ Location: \_\_\_\_\_
- ❖ The Olmec are considered the \_\_\_\_\_ of Mesoamerica
- ❖ It is believed that the Olmec focused more on \_\_\_\_\_ than \_\_\_\_\_
- ❖ Trade centered around \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_.

## Olmec Society

- ❖ \_\_\_\_\_ was its lifeblood
- ❖ Farmed on frequently \_\_\_\_\_ land
- ❖ \_\_\_\_\_ land to avoid flooded homes
- ❖ Land was so \_\_\_\_\_ because of the flooding

## Social Structure



## Colossal Heads

- ❖ Carved from \_\_\_\_\_; averaged \_\_\_\_\_ meters and \_\_\_\_\_ tons.
- ❖ What the giant stone heads represent is \_\_\_\_\_.

**ACTIVITY #1:** Read the following documents and answer the questions below with your group

## Olmec Colossal Heads

**Background:** Some scholars consider these colossal heads to be one of a number of portrait heads that memorialized rulers and therefore constitute the first royal portraits of ancient Mexico. To date, ten of the seventeen known colossal heads derive from San Lorenzo Tenochtitlán, each distinguished by size, expression, and personal adornment. Their gigantic scale asserts the ruler's power and authority, but their expressive faces are realistic portraits of specific individuals. Because it was carved from volcanic stone using only simple stone tools, it required enormous effort and skill to sculpt. The massive blocks of basalt used for this and other monumental sculpture came from the Tuxtla Mountains, approximately thirty-five miles from San Lorenzo, and they had to be transported overland or by river and sea. The magnitude of this task, which required the mobilization of a very large labor force, is evidence that the rulers of San Lorenzo were in firm control of a highly efficient, centralized society.

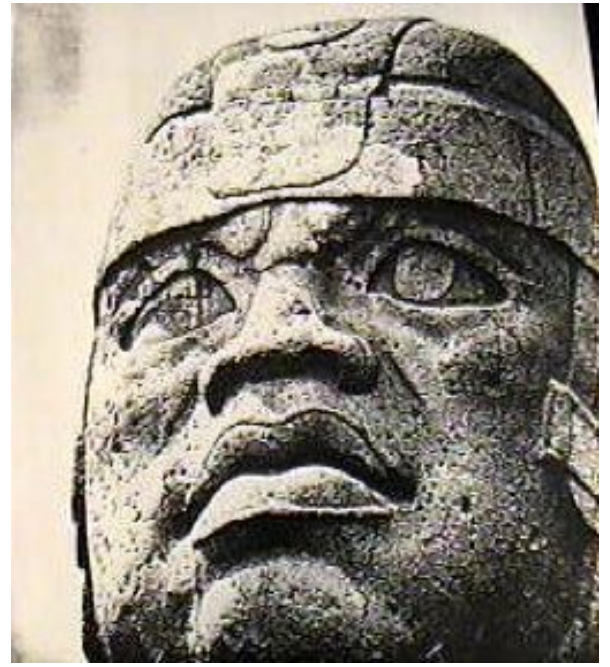
**Interpretation 1:** A variety of "sister" chiefdoms existed in different areas with a common religion based on worship of the jaguar. The heads represent shamanistic practices, such as the transformation of priests into jaguars. Over time, the jaguar became associated with the god of rain.

**Interpretation 2:** The purpose of heads was to honor the current ruler. When the ruler died, his sculpture was decapitated as a religious sacrifice. Some historians believe that competitors for power were responsible for decapitating sculptures.

**Interpretation 3:** The colossal heads demonstrated the power of rulers. When monuments, such as heads, statues, altars, or pillars, were located in a large public plaza, people would gather for ceremonies. Many large gatherings implied that the ruler possessed great power. Rulers were those who could show contact with ancestors and gods through shamanistic rituals. The purpose of the ceremonies was to ask for help with rainfall and to control the ferocity of jaguars and other aggressive animals in the rainforest. The heads represented those rulers who demonstrated religious power.



**Interpretation 4:** Heads celebrated ball players who may have been rulers, too. Many of the earliest heads seem to represent participants in the ritualistic ball game, which, according to Mesoamerican beliefs, recreates the world.



1. In your opinion, which interpretation makes the most sense?

2. What does it explain about Olmec values and beliefs?

**EXIT TICKET:** Answer the following question

**How are Olmec colossal heads evidence of a complex society?**

*Finish the topic sentence (make a CLAIM or ARGUMENT). Then provide two pieces of evidence to support your topic sentence.*

***The Olmec Colossal heads are evidence of a complex society because they represent*** \_\_\_\_\_  
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