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## Global 9 Unit 3 River Valley Civilizations

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### Paleolithic Age

Paleolithic Age is the name given to the **Old Stone Age**.

1. **Prehistoric** period-before written records. Occurred some 2.5 million years ago until about 8,000 BC. (10,000 years ago)
2. A time when earliest man evolved in Eastern Africa, then migrated to the rest of the world. This is called the **Peopling of the World**. This took place from 1.6 billion years ago to 10,000 BC.
3. Earliest man used tools, spoke a language, used fire for protection and to cook food, lived in groups and used teamwork to survive.
4. **Homo sapiens** is the species name given to modern humans. Cro-Magnons were homo sapiens while DNA shows the Neanderthals were not.
5. Earliest man and women were **nomads**. They obtained their food by **hunting and gathering**. Earliest man clothed themselves in animal hides and used bone needles to sew them.
6. Earliest man and women carved small animal sculptures and created cave paintings.

## Neolithic Revolution

Neolithic Revolution is the name given to the **New Stone Age** and time of change from hunting and gathering to **permanent** settlements.

1. Early man learned to grow (domesticate)crops about 10,000 years ago. (8,000BC)  
This offered a steady food supply and allowed populations to rise and people to stay in one place.
2. Some early people used slash and burn farming, stayed in an area a few years and then moved on. This lead to permanent farming.
3. Farmers learned to **domesticate** and pasture animals : horses, dogs, goats and pigs in the Eastern Hemisphere.
4. Within a few thousand years, villages developed and people began to live in river valleys and build cities. This was the beginning of **civilization**, advanced culture.

## Five Characteristics of Civilization

1. Advanced cities
2. Specialized workers
3. Complex Institutions:  
government, class systems,  
formalized religions
4. Record keeping: language,  
writing and number systems
5. Advanced technology.

## **RIVER VALLEY CIVILIZATIONS**

Earliest civilization started in the area between two rivers, Mesopotamia, in what is today the country of Iraq. Farming occurred in the **Fertile Crescent** the curved shaped rich farmland between the Mediterranean Sea and the Persian Gulf.

**MESOPOTAMIA: the people adapted to their environment and adapted their environment to meet their needs.**

**Sumerians** were the first dominant civilization.

1. They formed city-states (cities that act like a country) of Ur, Uruk, Kish, Lagash, and Umma .
2. City states were ruled by **dynasties**.
3. Sumerians were polytheistic (3,000 gods).
4. Built **ziggurats**(mountains of the gods) flat topped pyramids that acted as temples and city halls.
5. Sumerians formed social classes (priests and kings the highest, slaves the lowest).
6. They invented the wheel, plow, sail, irrigation, arches, and ramps.
7. They developed writing called **cuneiform** on clay tablets about 2300BC. (about 4300 years ago)
8. Created a number system based on 60. (360 degrees in a circle and 60 seconds in a minute etc.)

From 3000-2000 BC, the city-states of Sumer were at war. Sargon conquered the northern and southern sections of Mesopotamia and created the world's first empire that lasted 200 years, the **Akkadian Empire**.

An **empire** is an area that brings together several peoples, nations or previously independent states under the control of one ruler.

2000 BC the Amorites took over the Akkadian Empire and created the **Babylonian Empire**.

The Babylonian Empire achieved its **Golden Age** from 1792 BC to 1750 BC under Hammurabi's rule.

A **Golden Age** is time of great achievement and peace and can occur in any civilizations at any time.

Hammurabi created the world's first written law code.

### **Hammurabi's Code**

1. 282 laws and punishments from fines to death carved in stone, on display for all to see.
2. based on "an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth" if you were of the same social class. Higher classed people often got off with a fine and not as harmful punishments as lower classes.

## Nile River Civilizations

The Nile civilization began about 3000 BC. on the 4,100 mile river in the middle of desert land which acted as a barrier to invaders. It had fertile soil from yearly flooding. It was divided into two parts: Upper Egypt (from the first cataract to the delta) and Lower Egypt (the delta area).

**The people adapted to their environment and adapted their environment to meet their needs.**

1. Egyptians were ruled by god-kings called **pharaohs**. This type of government is called a **theocracy**.
2. Egyptians were polytheistic and believed in more than 2,000 gods and goddesses.
3. They believed in life after death and so they mummified their dead and buried them in **pyramids**.
4. Egyptians developed a social class system: the top=royal family, landowners, government officials, priests and army leaders; middle class= merchants and artisans; lower class= farmers
5. They developed **hieroglyphics**, on **papyrus** and the Rosetta Stone is the greatest sample of their writing.
6. They also developed a calendar with 12 months 30 days and five holidays (365 days), irrigation systems and chariots.

## SHANG CIVILIZATION

Civilizations in China began in the Huang He River (Yellow) valley in 1650 BC. and the Yangtze River valley in 1550 BC about the same time a Mesopotamian civilization began.

The Shang Dynasty was the first record.

**The people adapted to their environment and adapted their environment to meet their needs.**

### Shang Dynasty

1. 1700 BC to 1027 BC
2. Anyang was the capital city of the Shang dynasty. A capital city is a central location for the government. The ruler was the king of the warrior class.
3. Used packed earth wall to protect themselves. One walled area was 118 feet at the base and encircled 1.2 square miles.
4. They were constantly at war, had a warrior class and developed horse drawn chariots to drive and shoot from.
5. The Shang developed a society with great respect for the family with great respect for elders.
6. Society was divided into nobles (landowners) and peasants.
7. They believed in animism and that the spirits could bring good fortune or trouble.
8. The Shang developed a writing system based on characters that some form is used today in China.

## **Zhou Dynasty**

In 1027 BC, The Zhou (Joh) overthrew the Shang dynasty, it did not change the existing culture but added new ideas

To justify their overthrow of the government, the Zhou claimed the gods had taken the right to rule from the Shang rulers because they were poor ruler. The mandate of heaven is born.

### **Mandate of Heaven**

1. ruler's' right to rule comes from  
the gods (heaven)
2. people owe total loyalty and obedience to the emperor
3. rulers are to keep peace and harmony or subjects may rebel
4. wars, floods, famine etc. are signs that the ruler lost the mandate and should no longer rule.

The Mandate of Heaven resulted in the dynastic cycle.

**Dynastic Cycle**-the pattern of rise, decline and replacement of dynasties that lasted until 1911.

Zhou established **feudalism**; a political system in which nobles granted land for loyalty and military service to the king to protect the people living there.

## INDUS RIVER VALLEY

The Indus River Valley civilization arose in what is now Pakistan about 2500 BC. (4500 years ago)

This area is known as a **subcontinent** because it is separated from the rest of Asia by the Himalayan Mountains. (the roof of the world)

This area was greatly affected by the monsoons, seasonal winds that dominated this area's climate. From October to February the winds blew from the mountains and dry the land, from June to October, the winds blew from the Indian Ocean and carried great moisture to the land. Often too much which caused flooding.

**Harappan Civilization-  
the people adapted to their  
environment and adapted their  
environment to meet their needs.**

1. Earliest people may have gotten here through the Khyber Pass to the Indus River valley by 2500 BC, they created large cities with levees to keep the water out in flood time.
2. Developed plumbing and sewer system for their cities.
3. Used city planning to develop



cities in an orderly, meaningful way.

4. Developed a written language of 400 symbols which has never been deciphered.
5. May have been ruled by a religious leader. (theocracy)
6. Early Indian religion may have started here. Representations of Shiva, a Hindu god, and mother earth have been found here.
7. Economy was based on trade from Afghanistan to Persia. Cotton was one of the main products grown and sold. Ship were used to trade with Sumer and areas along the Persian Gulf.
8. By 1750 BC. the Indus Valley cities declined. It is believed that the shifting of tectonic plates, caused earthquakes and floods and altered the flow of the Indus River at this time.

Around 1500 BC. **Aryans**, a nomadic people, came down from the Hindu Kush mountain, took over the area and developed the Indian civilization with the characteristics we know today.

**WHAT IS BIG IDEA OF THIS UNIT?**  
(Answer on the back of this sheet.)