





Early Civilizations and Empires

Directions: As you travel through each exhibit analyze the “artifacts” from the “archeological dig” conducted. Be sure to look at all information provided and take notes on each civilization and their accomplishments as listed below. Please note this will serve as your class notes!

	<p style="text-align: center;">Ancient Egypt</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">Mesopotamia</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">Ancient India</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">Ancient China</p> 
<p style="text-align: center;">Geography</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nile River Valley • Annual floods • Irrigation system • Fertile soil • Climate: hot and dry 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Fertile Crescent” • Mesopotamia means “The land between rivers.” • Between the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers. • Annual floods • Fertile soil • No natural barriers • Desert-like conditions. • Irrigation systems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indus River Valley • On the Indian subcontinent. • Monsoons- strong winds that brought rain. • Monsoons were important to bring rain needed for crops. • Irrigation systems. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Huang-He and Yangzi Rivers. • Fertile soil • Irrigation systems • Canals • Very isolated because of mountains, deserts, and Pacific Ocean. This isolation led to ethnocentric beliefs, and the name “The Middle Kingdom.”
<p style="text-align: center;">Government</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pharaoh was the king of Egypt. • Pharaoh was seen as a living god. • Theocracy • Ruled dynasties. • Rigid social classes. Slaves at the bottom of the social pyramid. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developed independent city-states with walls for protection. • Temple priests are at the top of government. • Kings ruled with power granted from gods. • Patriarchal society. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May have been matriarchal • Council of businessmen, craftsmen, and farmers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shang Dynasty- 1st ruling family in China. • Kings were seen as gods • Use oracle bones to make decisions about future events. • Patriarchal society.
<p style="text-align: center;">Religion</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Polytheistic • Used mummification to preserve dead bodies for the afterlife. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Built temples called ziggurats to worship gods. • Polytheistic-believed in many gods. • Religion was a central part of society. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Polytheistic • Performed bathing ceremonies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Polytheistic • Worshiped ancestors. • Yin-yang- the nature balance within nature and the universe.
<p style="text-align: center;">Social Life</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Depended on agriculture • Farmers • Merchants/traders • Made cloth, pottery, jewelry. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economy based on agriculture. • Farmers • Merchants/traders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Based on agriculture • Specialization of jobs-merchants and traders • Made cloth, pottery, jewelry. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Based on agriculture • Merchants and traders • Made cloth, silk, pottery, jewelry.
<p style="text-align: center;">Contributions & Technology</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hieroglyphics- writing system. • Rosetta Stone- used by archaeologists to decipher hieroglyphics. • Number system. • Created a calendar. • Geometry. • Papyrus- paper 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cuneiform- first writing system. • Pictures to represent ideas. • Invented the wheel. • Calendar/clock • Irrigation systems • Calculated the 360 degree circle. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sanskrit- written language. However, undecipherable to scholars, and therefore much about the Indus River Civilization remains a mystery. • Well planned cities: Harappa and Mohenjo-Daro • Plumbing and drainage systems. • Indoor bathrooms. • Sewage systems. • Use of the wheel. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chinese writing system of pictographs and ideographs (symbols)- form of writing. • Bronze casting. • Use of silk • Made jade jewelry.