



What Did We Learn About?

- The location in time and place of ancient river valley civilizations
- The development of social, political, and economic patterns, including slavery
- The development of religious traditions
- The origins, beliefs, traditions, customs, and spread of Judaism
- The development of language and writing

WHI.3a

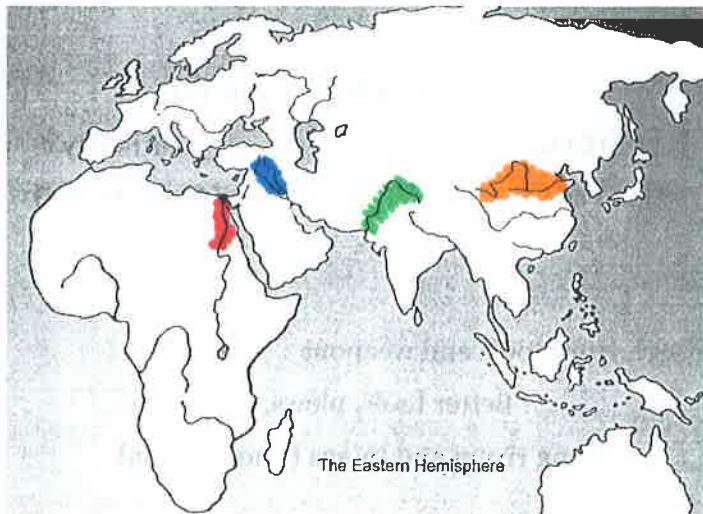
Essential Question: *Why did ancient civilizations develop in river valleys?*

River valleys offered rich soil and irrigation water for agriculture, and they tended to be in locations easily protected from invasions by nomadic peoples.

Essential Question: *Where were the earliest civilizations located?*

River valley civilizations (about 3500 to 500 BCE)

- Mesopotamia Civilization: Tigris and Euphrates River Valley (Southeast Asia)
- Egypt Civilization: Nile River Valley and Nile Delta (Africa)
- Indus (Indian) Civilization: Indus River Valley (South Asia)
- Chinese Civilization: Huang He Valley (East Asia)



Color:

- Egypt – Red
- Mesopotamia – Blue
- India – Green
- China – Orange

Other early civilizations (about 2000 to 500 BCE)

- Hebrews settled between the Mediterranean Sea and the Jordan River Valley (part of the Fertile Crescent in Southwest Asia).
- Phoenicians settled along the Mediterranean coast (part of the Fertile Crescent in Southwest Asia).
- Nubia was located on the upper (southern) Nile River (Africa).

Essential Question: *When did these civilizations exist?*

During the Neolithic Era (New Stone Age), permanent settlements appeared in river valleys and around the Fertile Crescent. River valleys provided water and rich soil for crops as well as protection from invasions.

WHI.3b

Essential Question: *What were the social, political, and economic characteristics of early civilizations?*

River valleys were the “Cradles of Civilization.” Early civilizations made major contributions to social, political, and economic progress.

Development of social patterns:

- Hereditary rulers; Dynasties of kings, pharaohs
- Rigid class system where slavery was accepted

Development of political patterns:

- World's first states (i.e. city-states, kingdoms, empires)
- Centralized government, often based on religious authority
- Written law codes (i.e. Ten Commandments, Code of Hammurabi)

Development of economic patterns:

- Use of metal (i.e. bronze, iron) tools and weapons
- Increasing agricultural surplus: Better tools, plows, irrigation
- Increasing trade along rivers and by sea (Phoenicians)
- Development of the world's first cities
- Development of the practice of slavery within most cultures in the ancient world, taking various forms

WHI.3c

Essential Question: *What religious traditions developed in ancient civilizations?*

Religion was a major part of life in all early civilizations.
Polytheism was practiced by most early civilizations. This means they believe in many gods. monotheism was practiced by the Hebrews. This means that they believed in one god.

WHI.3d

Essential Question: *What were the essential beliefs of Judaism?*

Origins of Judaism:

- Abraham is the founder of Judaism
- Moses led the Hebrews out of slavery in Egypt (The Exodus).
- Jerusalem is an important city to the Hebrews.

Beliefs, traditions, and customs of Judaism:

- Belief in one God (monotheism)
- Torah, which contains the written records and beliefs of the Jews
- Ten Commandments, which state moral and religious conduct

Spread of Judaism:

- Exile/Diaspora – forced dispersal of the Jews

Essential Question: *How did Judaism influence Western Civilization?*




The monotheism of Abraham became the foundation of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam – religions that changed the world. The Hebrews were the first to become monotheists.

Essential Question: What forms of language and writing existed in early civilizations?

Language and writing were important cultural innovations

- Pictograms : Earliest written symbols
- Hieroglyphics : Egypt
- Cuneiform : Sumer
- Alphabet : Phoenicia

Directions: Identify the writing.

	Egyptian Hieroglyphics
	Sumerian Cuneiform
	Phoenician Alphabet