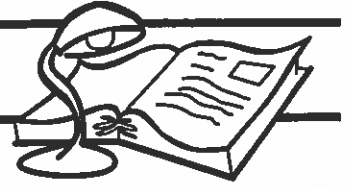


Reading Essentials and Study Guide



Chapter 2, Section 1

For use with textbook pages 37–43

CIVILIZATION BEGINS IN MESOPOTAMIA

KEY TERMS

city-state cities and the countryside around them, which were the basic units of Sumerian civilization (page 39)

ziggurat a massive stepped tower with a temple on top (page 39)

theocracy a government by divine authority (page 39)

empire a large political unit or state, usually under a single leader, that controls many people or territories (page 40)

patriarchal a form of society dominated by men (page 41)

polytheistic a belief in many gods (page 42)

cuneiform ("wedge-shaped") the Sumerian system of writing (page 42)

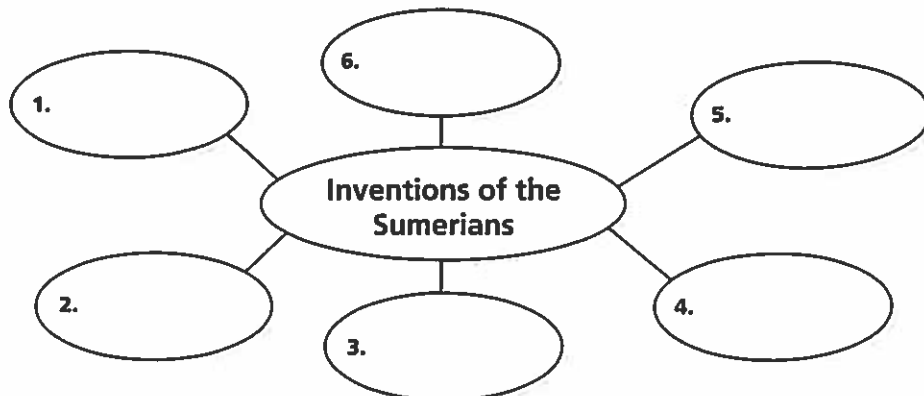
DRAWING FROM EXPERIENCE

What do you think life would be like if you did not have a system of writing? How would you communicate? What problems would result?

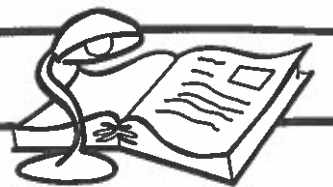
In this section, you will learn about the beginning of civilization in Mesopotamia. You will learn about the Sumerians, the people who invented the first writing system. You will also learn about the first empires in this region.

ORGANIZING YOUR THOUGHTS

Use the concept web below to help you take notes. Name six inventions of the Sumerians.



Reading Essentials and Study Guide



Chapter 2, Section 1 (continued)

READ TO LEARN

• The Impact of Geography (page 37)

The valley between the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers is called Mesopotamia. Mesopotamia means the land "between the rivers." Mesopotamia was at the eastern end of the Fertile Crescent. The Fertile Crescent is an area from the Mediterranean Sea to the Persian Gulf. Early civilizations began in this area, because it had land with rich soil.

The soil in Mesopotamia was rich because of the two rivers. Each spring, the rivers overflowed their banks. The floods left layers of silt, the material deposited by the rivers. The people of Mesopotamia learned how to control the flow of the rivers. They created irrigation and drainage ditches. This made it possible for them to grow crops on a regular basis. They were able to grow an abundance of food, which allowed people to live together in cities.

Ancient Mesopotamia included three general areas: Assyria, Akkad, and Sumer. The Sumerians were the creators of the first Mesopotamian civilization.

7. Where was Mesopotamia located?

• The City-States of Ancient Mesopotamia (page 38)

By 3000 B.C., the Sumerians had started several cities in southern Mesopotamia. Three of these cities were Eridu, Ur, and Uruk. The cities controlled the countryside around them. These **city-states** were the basic units of Sumerian civilization. Walls made out of mud bricks surrounded the cities. The Sumerian people also used mud bricks to build their houses and other buildings. They also invented the arch and the dome.

The most important building in a Sumerian city was the temple. The temple was dedicated to the chief god or goddess of the city. The temple was often built on top of a ziggurat. A **ziggurat** is a massive stepped tower. The temples and related buildings were the center of Sumerian cities. Priests and priestesses supervised the temples, so they had a great deal of power.

The Sumerians believed that the gods ruled the cities. This made their city-states theocracies. A **theocracy** is a government by divine authority. Eventually, kings began to rule the Sumerian city-states. The Sumerians believed that kings got their power from the gods. Kings led armies and supervised building and irrigation projects.

Reading Essentials and Study Guide



Chapter 2, Section 1 (continued)

Most of the Sumerians were farmers, but the Sumerians also learned how to make metal goods, pottery, and wool cloth. The Sumerians began to trade their goods for copper, tin, and timber. The invention of the wheel around 3000 B.C. made it easier to take goods from place to place.

Sumerian city-states had three major social groups: nobles, commoners, and slaves. The nobles were the kings and priests and their families. Commoners included farmers, fishers, merchants, and craftspeople. Slaves belonged to palace and temple officials. Rich landowners also used slaves to farm their lands.

8. Which people had the most power in the Sumerian city-states?

• Empires in Ancient Mesopotamia (page 40)

City-states began to fight other city-states for control of land and water. Other groups also invaded city-states. The land of Mesopotamia was very flat, so it was easy to invade. To the north of the Sumerian city-states were people called the Akkadians. Their leader's name was Sargon. Around 2340 B.C., the Akkadians overran the Sumerian city-states. They set up the first empire in world history. An **empire** is a large political unit or state, usually under a single leader, that controls many peoples or territories

People from the neighboring hills eventually attacked the Akkadian Empire. It ended about 2100 B.C., and the system of warring city-states returned. In 1792 B.C., a new empire began to control much of Mesopotamia. The leadership of this empire came from Babylon, a city-state south of Akkad. The king of Babylon was Hammurabi. He gained control of Sumer and Akkad. After he died in 1750 B.C., weaker kings were unable to keep the Babylonian Empire united, and it finally fell to new invaders.

9. What two empires gained control of the Sumerian city-states?

Reading Essentials and Study Guide



Chapter 2, Section 1 (continued)

• The Code of Hammurabi (page 41)

One of Hammurabi's most important achievements was a collection of laws. These laws are called the Code of Hammurabi. Penalties were severe, but they were different for each class of people. Lower class people (commoners) were punished more severely than upper class people (nobles). The principle of retribution ("an eye for an eye, tooth for a tooth") was the basis for many of the laws.

A large category of the laws focused on marriage and the family. Society in Mesopotamia was **patriarchal**. This means that men dominated it. Men ruled their wives and children. A woman who neglected her home could be drowned. A child who struck his father could have his hand cut off. Hammurabi's law code covered almost every aspect of people's lives.

10. What principle was the basis for many of the laws in Hammurabi's code?

• The Importance of Religion (page 42)

The climate in Mesopotamia was harsh. There were heavy rains, scorching winds, and famines. Floods were heavy and unpredictable. The people knew that they could not control these things, so they believed that supernatural forces controlled their world. They believed that there were almost three thousand gods and goddesses. Their religion is called **polytheistic**, because they believed in many gods. Human beings were supposed to obey and serve the gods. They could never be sure what the gods might do to help or hurt them.

11. Why did the people of Mesopotamia believe that supernatural forces controlled their world?

Reading Essentials and Study Guide



Chapter 2, Section 1 (continued)

• The Creativity of the Sumerians (page 42)

The Sumerians invented many things that still affect our lives today. Perhaps their greatest invention was their writing. Their system of writing is called **cuneiform** ("wedge-shaped"). They made wedge-shaped marks on clay tablets. The tablets were then baked or dried in the sun. These tablets could last a long time. Many of the tablets have lasted until modern times and have been found by archaeologists.

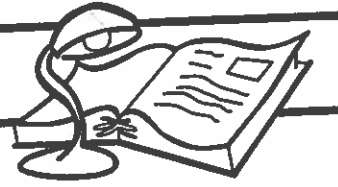
The people of Mesopotamia used writing to keep records. Cuneiform writing was taught in schools that trained scribes. The schools were in operation by 2500 B.C. Boys from wealthy families learned to be scribes as a way to start their careers. Scribes often became leaders of their cities, temples, and armies. Students learned how to write by copying the same writings over and over again.

Writing allowed people to pass knowledge from person to person and generation to generation. It also made it possible to record poems and other forms of literature. The most famous piece of Mesopotamian literature is the *Epic of Gilgamesh*. It is a poem about a legendary king named Gilgamesh.

The Sumerians also invented devices to help them in their daily lives. The wagon wheel made it easier to get people and goods from place to place. The potter's wheel, the sundial, and the arch are other examples of Sumerian inventions. The Sumerians were also the first people to make bronze out of copper and tin. They also made outstanding achievements in math and astronomy.

12. Why was writing important to the Sumerians?

Reading Essentials and Study Guide



Chapter 2, Section 2

For use with textbook pages 45–53

EGYPTIAN CIVILIZATION: "THE GIFT OF THE NILE"

KEY TERMS

- dynasty** a family of rulers whose right to rule is passed on within the family (page 47)
- pharaoh** ("great house" or "palace") the most common title of Egyptian monarchs (page 47)
- bureaucracy** an administrative organization with officials and regular procedures (page 48)
- vizier** ("the steward of the whole land") the official in charge of the government bureaucracy in ancient Egypt (page 48)
- mummification** a process of slowly drying a dead body to prevent it from rotting (page 48)
- hieroglyphics** ("priest-carvings" or "sacred writings") the Greek name for the earliest Egyptian writing (page 52)
- hieratic script** a simplified version of hieroglyphics that was used for business transactions, record keeping, and the general needs of daily life in Egypt (page 52)

DRAWING FROM EXPERIENCE

What do you think of when you hear the words "ancient Egypt"? What do you think life was like in ancient Egypt?

In the last section, you learned about the early civilization of Mesopotamia. In this section, you will learn about Egyptian civilization in the Nile Valley.

ORGANIZING YOUR THOUGHTS

Use the chart below to help you take notes. Historians have divided Egyptian history into three major periods, the Old Kingdom, Middle Kingdom, and New Kingdom. List the major accomplishments and events that occurred during these periods.

Egyptian Periods	Accomplishments and Events
Old Kingdom	1.
Middle Kingdom	2.
New Kingdom	3.

Reading Essentials and Study Guide



Chapter 2, Section 2 (continued)

READ TO LEARN

• The Impact of Geography (page 45)

The Nile is the longest river in the world. It begins in Africa and empties into the Mediterranean Sea. About a hundred miles before it reaches the sea, it splits into two branches. This split forms a triangle of land, called a delta. The Nile Delta is called Lower Egypt. The land to the south is called Upper Egypt. The point where the delta splits is called the tip of the delta. The most important cities in Egypt developed at the tip of the delta.

The yearly flooding of the Nile was called the "miracle" of the Nile. Unlike the floods in Mesopotamia, the Nile floods were predictable. When the river flooded, it left a deposit of mud on both sides of the river. This created an area of rich soil. Farmers were able to grow a surplus of food in the Nile Valley. This surplus made Egypt prosperous. The Nile also made it easy to travel throughout the land.

Egypt had natural barriers that protected it from invasion. The barriers were the deserts to the west and east; the Red Sea to the east; the cataracts (rapids) to the south; and the Mediterranean Sea to the north. These barriers and the regularity of the Nile floods made the Egyptian people feel secure. They also had confidence in the stability of things.

4. How did the Nile affect life in ancient Egypt?

• The Importance of Religion (page 46)

Religion also made Egyptians feel secure. Like the people of Mesopotamia, they were polytheistic. Their most important gods were sun gods and land gods. They believed that the sun god had different forms and names, depending on his role. Two names for the sun god were Atum and Re. Egyptian rulers had the title Son of Re, because they were seen as earthly forms of Re.

Two of the river and land gods were Osiris and Isis. Osiris was a symbol of resurrection (coming back to life). A famous Egyptian myth says that Osiris was killed by his brother Seth, who cut his body into pieces and threw them into the Nile. Osiris's wife, Isis, found the pieces, and she and the other gods brought Osiris back to life. Egyptians believed that they could be reborn after they died, like Osiris.

Reading Essentials and Study Guide



Chapter 2, Section 2 (continued)

5. Which gods were most important to the Egyptians?

• The Course of Egyptian History (page 47)

Historians have divided Egyptian history into three major periods, known as the Old Kingdom, Middle Kingdom, and New Kingdom. These periods were times of stability. Between these periods were times of chaos and invasion, known as Intermediate periods.

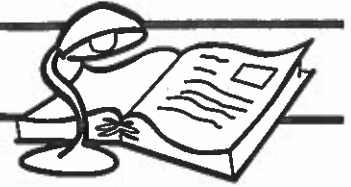
Egyptian history begins around 3100 B.C., when King Menes united Upper and Lower Egypt into one kingdom. King Menes also created the first dynasty. A **dynasty** is a family of rulers whose right to rule is passed on within the family.

The Old Kingdom lasted from about 2700 to 2200 B.C. It was a time of prosperity and splendor. The monarchs of the Old Kingdom were powerful rulers. The most common title for Egyptian monarchs was **pharaoh**. The word pharaoh originally meant "great house" or "palace." The Egyptians believed that pharaohs were gods. By obeying their pharaoh, they believed that they were helping to keep their world stable. Pharaohs had unlimited power to rule their people, but they developed a bureaucracy to help them rule. A **bureaucracy** is an administrative organization with officials and regular procedures. The most important official was the **vizier** ("the steward of the whole land"). He reported directly to the pharaoh and was in charge of the government bureaucracy.

One of the greatest achievements of Egyptian civilization was the building of the pyramids. This took place during the Old Kingdom. Pyramids were tombs for the bodies of dead pharaohs. The tombs were stocked with food and other supplies. The Egyptians believed that human beings had two bodies, a physical one and a spiritual one. The spiritual body was called the *ka*. If the physical body was preserved after death and its tomb was stocked with food and supplies, the *ka* could return. To preserve the physical body after death, the Egyptians used mummification. **Mummification** is the process of slowly drying a dead body to prevent it from rotting.

The largest of the pyramids was built at Giza around 2540 B.C. It was built by King Khufu and is called the Great Pyramid. Tradition says that it took 100,000 Egyptians 20 years to build the Great Pyramid. Guarding this pyramid is a huge statue, known as the Great Sphinx. It has the body of a lion and a human head. The Great Pyramid still stands as a symbol of the power of the Egyptian pharaohs.

Reading Essentials and Study Guide



Chapter 2, Section 2 (continued)

The Old Kingdom eventually collapsed. It was followed by a period of chaos that lasted about 150 years. Around 2050 B.C., a new dynasty gained control of Egypt. This marked the beginning of the Middle Kingdom. The Middle Kingdom lasted until 1652 B.C. and was a time of stability. During the Middle Kingdom, Egypt conquered Nubia and sent armies to Syria and Palestine. The pharaohs of the Middle Kingdom were concerned about their people. They drained the swampland in the Nile Delta to give the people more land to farm. They also dug a canal to connect the Nile and the Red Sea. This aided trade and transportation.

The Middle Kingdom ended around 1652 B.C. when the Hyksos invaded Egypt. The Hyksos were people from western Asia who used horse-drawn chariots. They ruled Egypt for almost a hundred years. The Egyptians learned some important skills from the Hyksos. They learned how to make bronze tools and weapons. They also learned how to use chariots.

Eventually a new dynasty of pharaohs used the new skills and weapons to drive out the Hyksos. The New Kingdom lasted from about 1567 to 1085 B.C. During the period of the New Kingdom, Egypt created an empire and became the most powerful state in Southwest Asia. The pharaohs of the New Kingdom built new temples. Hatshepsut, the first woman to become pharaoh, built a great temple at Deir el Bahri, near Thebes.

There were also problems during the New Kingdom. The pharaoh Amenhotep IV forced the people to worship a single god, Aton. He closed the temples of the other gods, and changed his own name to Akhenaton ("It is well with Aton"). After he died, the new pharaoh, Tutankhamen, restored the old gods. But the problems caused by Amenhotep's changes led to a loss of Egypt's empire.

Under Ramses II, the Egyptians tried to regain control of their earlier empire, but they were only partly successful. During the thirteenth century B.C., "Sea Peoples" invaded the Egyptian Empire and it came to an end. The New Kingdom itself ended in 1085 B.C.

For the next thousand years, Libyans, Nubians, Persians, and Macedonians dominated Egypt. In the first century B.C., the pharaoh Cleopatra VII tried to regain Egypt's independence. But she was defeated, and Egypt became part of the Roman empire.

6. What is mummification, and why did the Egyptians use it?

Reading Essentials and Study Guide



Chapter 2, Section 2 (continued)

• Society in Ancient Egypt (page 51)

Egyptian society was organized like a pyramid. The pharaoh was at the top. Under him was a small upper class of nobles and priests. Below the upper class were merchants, artisans, scribes, and tax collectors. Merchants traded goods up and down the Nile. Some of them also traded with other countries. Artisans made many different goods, such as paper, stone dishes, painted boxes, wooden furniture, linen clothes, and gold, silver and copper items.

Most of the people in Egypt were in the lower classes. They were mainly peasants who farmed the land. They paid taxes from the crops they grew, and they lived in small villages. They also served in the military and were forced to work on building projects.

7. How was Egyptian society like a pyramid?

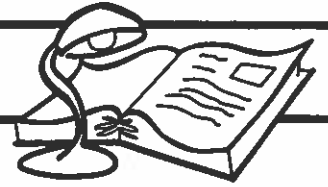
• Daily Life in Ancient Egypt (page 52)

Ancient Egyptians had a positive attitude toward daily life. They married young, and a man normally had only one wife. If a marriage ended in divorce, the wife was compensated. Men were the masters in their houses, but women were well respected. Wives were in charge of the household and the education of children. They kept control of their property and inheritance even after they married. Some women operated businesses. Upper-class women could become priestesses, and four queens became pharaohs.

Parents arranged marriages for their children. The main purpose of marriage was to produce children, especially sons. Only sons could carry on the family name. But daughters were also valued.

8. How were women treated in Ancient Egypt?

Reading Essentials and Study Guide



Chapter 2, Section 2 (continued)

• Writing and Education (page 52)

Writing in Egypt began around 3000 B.C. The Greeks called the earliest Egyptian writing **hieroglyphics**. Hieroglyphics means “priest-carvings” or “sacred writings.” Hieroglyphics used both pictures and more abstract forms. It was complex and took a long time to learn. It was used for writing on temple walls and in tombs. A simpler version of hieroglyphics was developed. It is called **hieratic script** and was used for business and in daily life. At first, hieroglyphics were carved in stone. Later, hieratic script was written on papyrus. Papyrus was a paper made from the papyrus reed that grew along the Nile.

Egyptian scribes taught the art of writing. At the age of 10, boys from upper class families went to schools run by scribes to learn to read and write. Girls stayed at home and learned housekeeping skills from their mothers.

9. What is hieratic script?

• Achievements in Art and Science (page 52)

Pyramids, temples, and other monuments show the artistic ability of the Egyptians. Artists and sculptors followed particular formulas in style. This gave Egyptian art a distinctive look.

Egyptians also made advances in mathematics and science. They used geometry and learned how to calculate area and volume. This helped them build the pyramids. They also developed a 365-day calendar, and became experts in human anatomy. They used splints, bandages, and compresses to treat fractures, wounds, and disease.

10. What advances did the Egyptians make in math and science?

Reading Essentials and Study Guide



Chapter 2, Section 3

For use with textbook pages 54–60

NEW CENTERS OF CIVILIZATION

KEY TERMS

- pastoral nomads** nomads who domesticated animals for food and clothing (page 55)
- monotheistic** the belief in one god (page 59)

DRAWING FROM EXPERIENCE

What are the Ten Commandments? When do you think they were established? What do you think was their purpose? What purpose do you think they have today?

In the last section, you learned about the civilization of Ancient Egypt. In this section, you will learn about some other early civilizations, including the Phoenicians and the Israelites. The Ten Commandments were the basis of the law of the Israelites.

ORGANIZING YOUR THOUGHTS

Use the chart below to help you take notes. The achievements of the Hittites, Phoenicians, and Israelites still affect our lives today. Identify at least one achievement of each civilization that still affects us today.

Civilization	Achievement
Hittites	1.
Phoenicians	2.
Israelites	3.