

# Unit 3 Beginning of Civilization

Content Area: **Social Studies**  
Course(s): **Social Studies 5**  
Time Period: **March**  
Length: **MP3 and MP4**  
Status: **Published**

## Unit Summary

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In this unit students will learn about how geography affects the way civilizations develop. Students will also understand technological innovations that helped one group conquer another group. Students will explore how cultural practices can be passed along with trade even after a civilization has disappeared. Students will also learn about early agriculture and how domestication of plants and animals changed human life, and also led to permanent settlements. Students will know how villages became cities and then civilizations.

## Standards

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SOC.6.2.8.A.2.a	Explain how/why different early river valley civilizations developed similar forms of government and legal structures.
SOC.6.2.8.A.2.b	Determine the role of slavery in the economic and social structures of early river valley civilizations.
SOC.6.2.8.B.2.a	Determine the extent to which geography influenced settlement, the development of trade networks, technological innovations, and the sustainability of early river valley civilizations.
SOC.6.2.8.B.2.b	Compare and contrast physical and political maps of early river valley civilizations and their modern counterparts (i.e., Mesopotamia and Iraq; Ancient Egypt and Modern Egypt; Indus River Valley and Modern Pakistan/India; Ancient China and Modern China), and determine the geopolitical impact of these civilizations, then and now.
SOC.6.2.8.C.2.a	Explain how technological advancements led to greater economic specialization, improved weaponry, trade, and the development of a class system in early river valley civilizations.
SOC.6.2.8.D.2.a	Analyze the impact of religion on daily life, government, and culture in various early river valley civilizations.
SOC.6.2.8.D.2.b	Explain how the development of written language transformed all aspects of life in early river valley civilizations.
SOC.6.2.8.D.2.c	Analyze the factors that led to the rise and fall of various early river valley civilizations and determine whether there was a common pattern of growth and decline.
CAEP.9.2.8.B.4	Evaluate how traditional and nontraditional careers have evolved regionally, nationally, and globally.

## Student Learning Objectives

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Students will learn to:

- accurately label map of Mesopotamia.
- take notes regarding the life of Mesopotamian people from nomads to farming.
- examine the standard of Ur.
- identify countries that represent modern day Mesopotamia.
- create a model map of Mesopotamia using salt dough and different colors to distinguish between features
- create a compass rose.

- create a key for their maps on index cards.
- learn how technology helped the Sumerian civilization develop.
- decipher cuneiform to depict a message.
- describe the advantages of written language and identify how writing is considered technology.
- assess the effect of ancient laws on modern-day punishment.
- review Hammurabi's Code to identify the purpose of various laws.
- identify Babylon's buildings, government, currency, and culture.

## Essential Questions

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- How and why did civilizations develop along the river?
- How did two great rivers affect life in the fertile crescent?
- What kind of civilization did the Sumerians create?
- What are the consequences of technology?
- How were Assyria alike and different?
- How did the Torah influence Judaism?

## Enduring Understandings

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Students will understand that:

- Mesopotamian farming was very advanced for its time.
- Mesopotamian people developed advanced systems of irrigation, levees, and canals.
- Cuneiform made it possible for the Sumerians to keep records and record events.

## Application

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Students will be able to independently use their learning to:

- locate the Tigris and Euphrates created the Fertile Crescent.
- recognize Mesopotamia was highly advanced for its time in controlling their water ways and their communication.
- understand how cuneiform allowed for laws and events to be documented in writing.
- understand the Sumerian religions such as: ziggurat and polytheism.
- relate Sargon and Hammurabi as leaders of the empire.
- understand how Judaism was formed near the Fertile Crescent.

## Skills

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Students will be skilled at:

- describing the conditions in southern and northern Mesopotamia.
- explaining how technology such as levees and canals improved farming in the Mesopotamia region.
- analyzing the reasons for the growth of civilizations in the fertile crescent.
- explaining how cuneiform developed and why it was so important for the Sumerians.
- analyzing the development of Sumerian city-states.
- explaining how Mesopotamian cultural values shaped local life.
- describing Babylon's rise to power.
- analyzing Babylonian life under the code of Hammurabi.
- explaining the style of warfare Assyria used to conquer Babylon.
- describing the origins of Judaism.
- analyzing Moses' leadership of the Jews.
- explaining how King David and Solomon were important to Jerusalem's history.