

# Unit 4 The Ancient Near East

Content Area: **Social Studies**  
Course(s): **Social Studies 5**  
Time Period: **Quarter 4**  
Length: **MP4**  
Status: **Published**

## Unit Summary

---

In this unit, students will study civilizations and empires in the Fertile Crescent. They will also explore leadership and culture in Ancient Egypt and Nubia. Through their studies in this chapter students will learn about Judaism and the Jewish people and how religion impacted daily life government and cultures in various early river valley civilizations.

## Standards

---

|                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|-----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 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.                                                                                                                                                                      |
| SOC.6.2.8.D.2.d | Evaluate the importance and enduring legacy of the major achievements of the early river valley civilizations over time.                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |

## Student Learning Objectives

---

Students will:

- recognize that the Israelite belief in one god developed into the religion known as Judaism.
- understand that Jews believe that God freed the Israelites from slavery after sending Moses to lead them.
- understand that the Israelites eventually settled in Canaan, their Promise Land.

## Essential Questions

---

- How did the Nile River affect the life of the people of Egypt?
- How and why did civilizations develop along the river?
- What were the achievements of ancient Egypt during the Old Kingdom?
- What made ancient Egypt's culture so rich?
- What kind of civilization did ancient Nubia develop?
- How did Egypt's rule influence Kush?

## Enduring Understandings

---

Students will understand that:

- the Nile River positively influenced the ancient Egypt civilizations.
- the ancient Egyptians developed a structured system of government, religion and writing.
- the Egyptian societies influenced other major kingdoms, such as Nubia and Kush.

## Application

---

Students will be able to independently use their learning to:

- understand the Geography of the Nile River and the surrounding area.
- know how the Nile River influenced the Egyptian culture.
- understand the technological advancements: flood control and improvement of farming.
- understand the unification of the kingdoms of Egypt.
- understand the Pharaoh's role in government and religion.
- understand the achievements of Old Kingdom including pyramids, organized government, mummification, and hieroglyphics.
- understand the growth and decline of Egyptian pharaohs over many years.
- identify the attributes and governments of Kingdoms of Nubia.

## Skills

---

Students will be skilled at:

- describing the Nile River, the geographical area through which it runs, and the effects of its floods on ancient farmers in the region.
- explaining how the people of Egypt used the Nile River to develop a rich agriculture.
- explaining how ancient Egypt was united.
- analyzing the workings of government and the importance of religion in Egypt.
- describing the structure and purpose of the pyramids.
- explaining hieroglyphics, the Egyptian system of writing.
- describing the changes that came to Egypt during the years of the Middle and New Kingdoms.
- identifying how Egypt prospered and became an empire during the New Kingdom.
- analyzing how Egyptian ideas and skills spread even as the kingdom declined.

- describing the geographical location of Nubia and explain how it was divided into two regions.
- explaining how Nubia and Kush developed and grew wealthy.
- analyzing the political and social structure of Kush and trace its history in relationship to Egypt.