

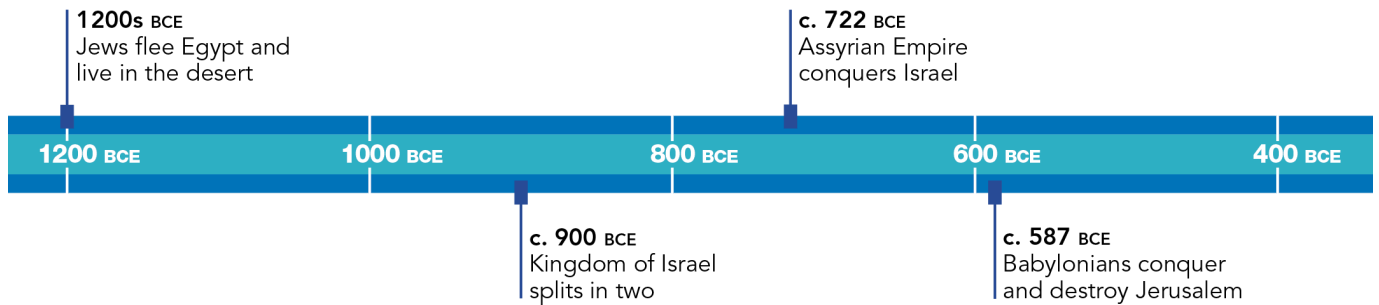
Topic Test: Civilizations and Peoples of the Fertile Crescent

Name _____ Date _____

Read each question carefully. Determine the best answer to the question from the four answer choices provided.

1 Look at the timeline of important events in early Jewish history.

Key Events in Early Jewish History



What date on the timeline marks the beginning of the Jewish Diaspora?

- A c. 1200 BCE
 - B c. 900 BCE
 - C c. 722 BCE
 - D c. 587 BCE
- 2 Sumer is important in world history because it was
- A the world's first civilization.
 - B where human beings evolved.
 - C where the first fishing villages developed.
 - D the world's largest empire.
- 3 Which of the following are included in the Ten Commandments? Choose the TWO correct answers.
- A "Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy."
 - B "You shall not lie."
 - C "You shall not steal."
 - D "You shall obey your spiritual leader."
- 4 When Judaism began, how was it different from other religions in the ancient world?
- A Judaism had sacred texts.
 - B Judaism did not instruct its followers about how to lead their daily lives.
 - C Judaism held that there was one God who set down laws about right and wrong.
 - D Judaism held that there was good and evil in the universe.

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- 5 What led to the conquest of Sumer?
- A the unification of city-states
 - B the peace among city-states
 - C the fighting among city-states
 - D the wealth of city-states
- 6 What did Sumerian sculptors create that was different from earlier sculptures?
- A iron pieces
 - B realistic statues of humans
 - C hanging gardens
 - D Assyrian-style statues
- 7 Which of the following correctly describe the *Epic of Gilgamesh*? Choose the TWO correct answers.
- A It was the important legal code written by Sumerian king, Gilgamesh.
 - B It was written in cuneiform.
 - C It is a myth, telling the story of a legendary hero named Gilgamesh.
 - D It was written by Sumerian priests.
- 8 Read the excerpt from Hammurabi's Code.
- "If a man has knocked out the eye of a patrician [aristocrat], his eye shall be knocked out. . . . If he has knocked out the eye of a plebeian [commoner] . . . he shall pay one mina of silver. If he has knocked out the eye of a patrician's servant . . . he shall pay half his value."
- What does this quote illustrate about the nature of Hammurabi's Code?
- A The law's punishments did not encourage social order.
 - B The law did not treat all members of society equally.
 - C The law did not address private matters, such as taxes.
 - D The law's punishments encouraged social order.
- 9 What city became the center of Hammurabi's Mesopotamian empire?
- A Babylon
 - B Lagash
 - C Ur
 - D Umma
- 10 The official religion of the Persian Empire was Zoroastrianism, whose main belief is
- A people may worship many gods.
 - B the universe is in a struggle between good and evil.
 - C meditation is the path to enlightenment.
 - D leaders should be buried in huge structures called pyramids.

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- 11 What pattern did the laws in Hammurabi's Code follow?
- A punishment, offense
 - B punishment, explanation
 - C offense, punishment
 - D offense, explanation
- 12 Which of the following statements correctly describe the Great Royal Road? Choose the TWO correct answers.
- A It was constructed by Cyrus the Great.
 - B It spanned rivers on bridges that swung from cables.
 - C It was used to transport trade goods and tribute across the empire.
 - D It allowed the Persians to create the fastest communication system of the ancient world.
- 13 How did Cyrus the Great's treatment of the Jews of Jerusalem differ from that of the neo-Babylonians?
- A Cyrus destroyed Jerusalem, while the neo-Babylonians helped rebuild it.
 - B Cyrus allowed the Jews to return to Jerusalem, while the neo-Babylonians forced them into exile.
 - C Cyrus conquered all of Jerusalem, while the neo-Babylonians only destroyed the Jewish temple.
 - D Cyrus banished the Jews from Jerusalem, while the neo-Babylonians allowed them to stay.
- 14 Look at the map.



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What could BEST be inferred from the map?

- A Phoenicia was frequently at war with other empires.
- B Phoenicians traded with peoples in Africa and Europe.
- C The population of Phoenicia and its colonies was larger than that of Greece and its colonies.
- D Greece and its colonies benefitted from a better climate for agriculture.

15 The Phoenician alphabet was based on

- A syllables.
- B words.
- C vowels.
- D sounds.

16 Which of the following texts contains commentaries on the teachings of Moses?

- A the Writings
- B the Torah
- C the Hebrew Bible
- D the Talmud

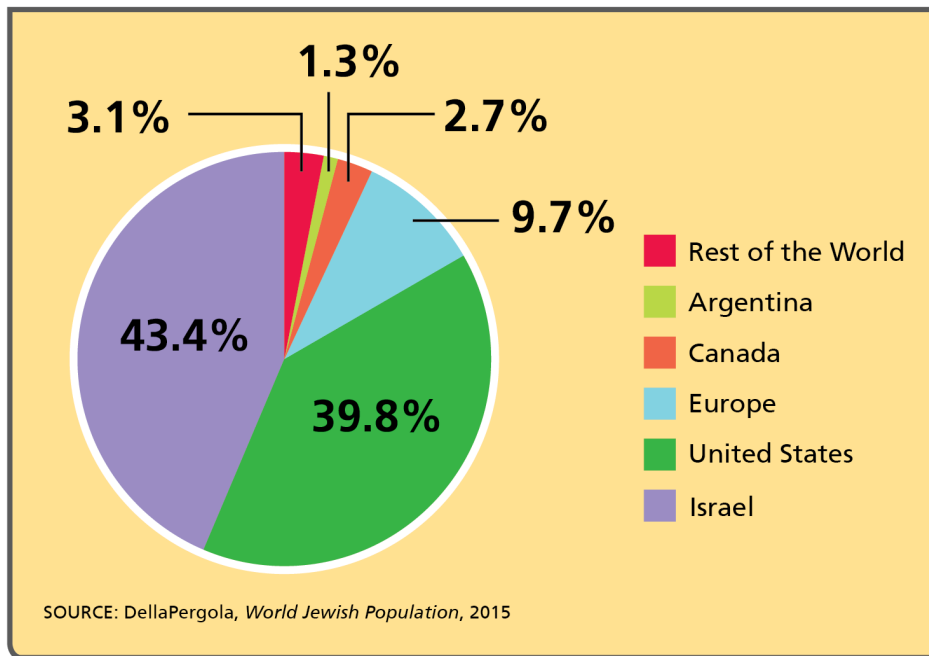
17 The common set of values and beliefs shared by Judaism and Christianity is known as the

- A Old Testament.
- B Holy Bible.
- C Covenant.
- D Judeo-Christian tradition.

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18 Study the graph.

Jewish Population by Region



Outside of Israel, where do the largest number of Jews live today?

- A in other parts of Southwest Asia
- B in Europe and Russia
- C in Latin America
- D in the United States

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19 Look at the photograph.



What Sumerian art form does the photograph show?

- A cylinder seals
 - B stone stelae
 - C ivory netsuke
 - D cuneiform printing
- 20 What does the Jewish holiday of Passover commemorate? Choose the TWO correct answers.
- A the Exodus
 - B Cyrus the Great allowing the Jews to return to Judah
 - C the Diaspora
 - D God freeing the Jews from slavery in Egypt

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Short Answer

Read each question, and write your answer in complete sentences.

- 21 How have the ethical values of Judaism helped form a basis for modern democratic societies such as the United States?

- 22 How did the Phoenicians' willingness to travel far for trade eventually lead to the spread of their civilization?

- 23 What is ethical monotheism and how does it relate to Judaism?

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24 Why is the study of the Hebrew Bible such an important part of the practice of Judaism?

25 What was the significance and lasting impact of Hammurabi's Code?
