

6th Grade Unit 2: Early Civilizations and the Emergence of Pastoral Peoples: Ancient River Valley Civilizations

Mission Statement

The primary goal of the Swedesboro-Woolwich School District is to prepare each student with the real life skills needed to compete in a highly competitive global economy. This will be achieved by providing a comprehensive curriculum, the integration of technology, and the professional services of a competent and dedicated faculty, administration, and support staff.

Guiding this mission will be Federal mandates, including No Child Left Behind, the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards, and local initiatives addressing the individual needs of our students as determined by the Board of Education. The diverse resources of the school district, which includes a caring PTO and active adult community, contribute to a quality school system. They serve an integral role in supporting positive learning experiences that motivate, challenge and inspire children to learn.

Unit 2/Module Overview

- In this unit, ancient river valley civilizations (RVC) are explored. The 4 major RVC are Mesopotamia, Egypt, India, and China. For each of the RVC, we will examine their geography, religion, achievements, political structure, economy, and social structure (GRAPES). As we examine each RVC, we will compare and contrast their similarities and differences. Students will be able to eventually determine common factors that make up what an ancient RVC is and why they are so important to understanding the development of civilization in general.
- These RVC were the first civilizations in the world. Students will investigate how these river valleys helped to support growing populations, and how these populations were then able to advance into civilizations. Students will learn through study and apply the following flow chart: agriculture, surplus, barter, division of labor, complex culture, and advanced civilization. This flow chart of activity appears in every civilization, and if any part of the flow fails, students will discover how the civilization will fall apart. Each part depends on the part before it.
- Two of these RVC (India and China) will turn into classic civilizations, which is the next unit of study.

Standards Covered in Current Unit/Module

Related Standards and Learning Goals

6th Grade Unit 2: Early Civilizations and the Emergence of Pastoral Peoples: Ancient River Valley Civilizations

- SOC.6.2.2 Early Civilizations and the Emergence of Pastoral Peoples: Early River Valley Civilizations (4000–1000 BCE)
- SOC.6.2.8.CivicsPI.2.a Explain how/why different early river valley civilizations developed similar forms of government and legal structures.
- SOC.6.2.8.CivicsHR.2.a Determine the role of slavery in the economic and social structures of early river valley civilizations.
- SOC.6.2.8.GeoSV.2.a Compare and contrast physical and political maps of early river valley civilizations and their modern counterparts and determine the geopolitical impact of these civilizations, then and now (i.e., Mesopotamia and Iraq; Ancient Egypt and Modern Egypt; Indus River Valley and Modern Pakistan/India; Ancient China and Modern China).
- SOC.6.2.8.GeoHE.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.EconGE.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.HistoryCC.2.a Evaluate the importance and enduring legacy of the major achievements of the early river valley civilizations over time.
- SOC.6.2.8.HistoryCC.2.b Analyze the impact of religion on daily life, government, and culture in various early river valley civilizations.
- SOC.6.2.8.HistoryCC.2.c Explain how the development of written language transformed all aspects of life in early river valley civilizations.
- SOC.6.2.8.HistoryCA.2.a 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.

Essential Questions

- Where were the earliest civilizations located?
- Why did ancient civilizations develop in river valleys?
- How did the geography of the Fertile Crescent impact Mesopotamian civilization?
- Why did the Code of Hammurabi play an important role in shaping Mesopotamia?
- What has been the lasting impact of Mesopotamian civilization on current society?
- What are the similarities and differences between Judaism and the religions of Mesopotamia and Egypt?
- How did their religious beliefs influence daily life?
- Why did the three kingdoms of ancient Egypt decline?
- How did writing and record keeping allow civilizations to grow more complex?
- Why are written laws so important?
- How did technology improve the lives of ancient humans?
- How did technology help people overcome their geography?
- How were the social classes structured in ancient societies?
- Why/How do religions and philosophies develop?
- How do religions and philosophies contribute to the advancement of society?
- How did religions and philosophies impact the daily lives and social structures of ancient citizens?

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- What are the most important legacies of the ancient River Valleys?
- In comparing the ancient River Valleys, what made them similar and what made them unique?

Unit/Module Weekly Learning Activities and Pacing Guide Trimester 2				
Week	Topic	Lessons/Activities	Goals/Targets	Materials
4 Weeks	Mesopotamia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assign vocabulary • PowerPoint: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Map skills ○ Civilization Flow Chart ○ Fertile Crescent ○ Irrigation ○ Civilization Flow Chart ○ Ubaid ○ Sumerians ○ Common Culture ○ Emergence of barter ○ Ur ○ Sumerian Achievements ○ Social Classes ○ Akkadian Empire ○ Babylon/Hammura 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goals • Use map skills to chart location of different river valleys and their features. • Explore polytheistic beliefs and some of the major gods and their roles in early river valley civilizations' religion. • Diagram the social order of ancient societies. • Identify contributions of early river valley civilizations. • Explain forms of government in river valley civilizations • Explain how advancements led to economic specialization, trade, and a class system in early river valley civilizations. • Understand the impact of religion on daily life and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Geography Skills Test • Vocabulary Test • Content Test • Close Reading • Worksheets • Exit Tickets • Irrigation project • History Alive! The Ancient World, TCI • http://www.mrdonn.org/geography.html • http://www.mrgrayhistory.com/ • http://www.phillipmartin.info/hammurabi/homepage.htm • https://www.eduplace.com/kids/socsci/ca/books/bkf3/imaps/AC_04_109_fertile/AC_04_109_fertile.html

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		<p>bi</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Kassites/Assyrians <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Study Guide · Close Reading Assignment · Chapter Tests · Geography Skills · Vocabulary · Content 	<p>culture in early river valley civilizations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Targets ● · Define and apply relevant academic vocabulary ● · Identify common geographic attributes of River Valley Civilizations ● · Analyze the use of plentiful natural resources ● · Identify the different geographical features of Mesopotamia and their impact on the people living there. ● · Analyze the key beliefs of early Sumerian religion. ● · Summarize the roles played by people in the different levels of Sumerian society ● · Identify the most important contributions of ancient Sumerians in education, architecture, art, and technology. ● · Analyze the law code of King Hammurabi of Babylon and its impact on modern laws. ● · Identify the different contributions of the Akkadians, Hittites, Assyrians, and Chaldeans to civilization in Mesopotamia. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● · http://www.mesopotamia.co.uk/menu.html
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4 Weeks	Egypt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Assign vocabulary · PowerPoint: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Map skills ○ Benefits of agriculture & domestication of animals ○ Adapting to your environment ○ Complex societies ○ Technological advances ○ Economic & social change ○ Settlements ○ Division of labor ○ Cities & civilizations · Study Guide · Close Reading Assignment · Chapter Tests <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Geography Skills · Vocabulary · Content 	<p>Goals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Use map skills to chart location of different river valleys and their features. · Explore polytheistic beliefs and some of the major gods and their roles in early river valley civilizations' religion. · Diagram the social order of ancient societies. · Identify contributions of early river valley civilizations. · Explain forms of government in river valley civilizations · Explain how advancements led to economic specialization, trade, and a class system in early river valley civilizations. · Understand the impact of religion on daily life and culture in early river valley civilizations. <p>Targets</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Define and apply relevant academic vocabulary · Identify the different geographical features of Egypt and their impact on the people living 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • PowerPoint • • Geography Skills Test • • Vocabulary Test • • Content Test • • Close Reading • • Worksheets • • Exit Tickets • • Irrigation project • • History Alive! The Ancient World, TCI • • http://www.mrdonn.org/geography.html • • http://www.mrgrayhistory.com/ • • Vocabulary • • Lesson Questions • • Maps • • Worksheets
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			<p>there.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Summarize the early history of Egypt and describe the rise of the Upper & Lower Kingdoms. · Describe the major events and achievements of Egypt during the Old, Middle, and New Kingdoms. · Identify the different powers and roles of the pharaoh in Egyptian government and religion. · Analyze the different beliefs and practices of ancient Egyptian religion. · Identify the different Egyptian scripts and write their own name in hieroglyphics. · Identify the different steps & stages in the history of Egyptian tomb building. 	
3 Weeks	India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Assign vocabulary · PowerPoint: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Map skills ○ Subcontinent ○ Well Planned Cities ○ Harappans 	<p>Goals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Use map skills to chart location of different river valleys and their features. · Explore polytheistic beliefs and some of the major gods and their roles in early river valley 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● · PowerPoint ● · Vocabulary ● · Lesson Questions ● · Maps ● · Worksheets ● · Geography Skills Test ● · Vocabulary Test

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Aryan Migration ○ Caste System ○ 3 Major Religions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Hinduism · Buddhism · Jainism · Study Guide · Close Reading Assignment · Chapter Tests <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Geography Skills ○ Vocabulary ○ Content 	<p>civilizations' religion.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Diagram the social order of ancient societies. · Identify contributions of early river valley civilizations. · Explain forms of government in river valley civilizations · Explain how advancements led to economic specialization, trade, and a class system in early river valley civilizations. · Understand the impact of religion on daily life and culture in early river valley civilizations. <p>Targets</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Define and apply relevant academic vocabulary · Describe the geography and climate of the Indian subcontinent. · Describe the history of the Gupta Empire. · Summarize the history and achievements of the Harappan civilization. · Describe the impacts of the Aryan invasion of 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● · Content Test ● · Close Reading ● · Worksheets ● · Exit Tickets ● · Irrigation project ● · History Alive! The Ancient World, TCI ● · http://www.mrdonn.org/geography.html ● · http://www.mrgrayhistory.com/
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			<p>India.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Describe the major beliefs of Hinduism, Jainism, and Buddhism. · Summarize the rises, achievements, and declines of the Mauryan and Gupta Empires. · Explain the common features of Hindu literature, art, architecture, and clothing. · Summarize the achievements and innovations of Indians in mathematics, astronomy, and medicine. 	
3 Weeks	China	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Assign vocabulary · PowerPoint: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Map skills · Study Guide · Close Reading Assignment · Chapter Tests <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Geography Skills ○ Vocabulary ○ Content · Mulan Activity · Group Projects 	<p>Goals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Use map skills to chart location of different river valleys and their features. · Explore polytheistic beliefs and some of the major gods and their roles in early river valley civilizations' religion. · Diagram the social order of ancient societies. · Identify contributions of early river valley civilizations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● · PowerPoint ● · Vocabulary ● · Mulan Movie ● · The True Story of Mulan Reading ● · Project Materials ● · Tests ● · Close Reading Material ● · Geography Skills Test ● · Vocabulary Test ● · Content Test ● · Close Reading ● · Worksheets

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Explain forms of government in river valley civilizations · Explain how advancements led to economic specialization, trade, and a class system in early river valley civilizations. · Understand the impact of religion on daily life and culture in early river valley civilizations. <p>Targets</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Define and apply relevant academic vocabulary · Identify the different geographical features of China and their impact on the people living there. · Analyze the development of the Chinese civilization during the Shang, Zhou, Qin, and Han dynasties. · Summarize the achievements of the ancient Chinese civilization. · Map the growth of trade and describe its impact. · Compare and contrast the philosophies of Confucianism, Daoism, and Legalism 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exit Tickets • Irrigation project • History Alive! The Ancient World, TCI • http://www.mrdonn.org/geography.html • http://www.mrgrayhistory.com/
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Materials and Resources	Possible Assessments	Technology Integration	21st Century Life & Career Ready Practices
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> History Alive! The Ancient World, TCI Daily Geography Practice, Grade 6+, Evan-Moor Educational Publishers World History Detective® by John De Gree Vocabulary PowerPoints Lesson Questions Movie – The Prince of Egypt Movie – Mulan Exit Slips 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Geography Skills Test Vocabulary Test Content Test Egypt Project Close Readings River Valley Project (Irrigation) http://teachers.egfi-k12.org/lesson-wa-y-to-flow-water-irrigation/ or https://www.polk-fl.net/districtinfo/departments/schoolbased/schoolchoice/vpsc/documents/Tab7.pdf Technology Integration Activity Worksheets Notes Primary/Secondary Sources Worksheet Lesson Questions Exit Tickets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use Chromebooks Use Google Docs/Slides/Sheets Use Google Classroom <p>CS.6-8.8.1.8.DA.1 - Organize and transform data collected using computational tools to make it usable for a specific purpose.</p> <p>CS.6-8.8.1.8.IC.1 - Compare the trade-offs associated with computing technologies that affect individual's everyday activities and career options.</p> <p>CS.6-8.8.1.8.IC.2 - Describe issues of bias and accessibility in the design of existing technologies.</p> <p>CS.6-8.8.1.8.NI.1 - Model how information is broken down into smaller pieces, transmitted as addressed packets through multiple devices over networks and the Internet, and reassembled at the destination.</p> <p>CS.6-8.8.2.8.ITH.2 - Compare how technologies have influenced society over time.</p> <p>CS.K-12.2.a - Cultivate working relationships with individuals possessing diverse perspectives, skills, and personalities.</p>	<p>CRP.K-12.CRP2.1 Career-ready individuals readily access and use the knowledge and skills acquired through experience and education to be more productive. They make connections between abstract concepts with real-world applications, and they make correct insights about when it is appropriate to apply the use of an academic skill in a workplace situation.</p> <p>CRP.K-12.CRP4 Communicate clearly and effectively and with reason.</p> <p>CRP.K-12.CRP9 Model integrity, ethical leadership and effective management.</p> <p>CAEP.9.2.8.B.3 Evaluate communication, collaboration, and leadership skills that can be developed through school, home, work, and extracurricular activities for use in a career.</p> <p>CAEP.9.2.8.B.4 Evaluate how traditional and nontraditional careers have evolved regionally, nationally, and globally.</p>

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		CS.K-12.2.b - Create team norms, expectations, and equitable workloads to increase efficiency and effectiveness.	
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[Link to Additional Components including Cross Curricular Connections, Accommodations, Assessments, Etc](#)

[ELA Enduring Understanding Statements](#)