Unit 2 - Mesopotamia, Kush and Egypt

Content Area: **Social Studies**
Course(s): **Social Studies**
Time Period: **Ongoing**
Length: **approx 27 days**
Status: **Published**

NCS 6th grade Social Studies Curriculum

BOE Adopted & Approved October 2017

Big Idea

The first civilizations grew up in the river valleys in Asia and Africa. Such valley provided water and fertile land for farming. In the region of the Tigris and Euphrates river valley, the Sumerians developed the world's first civilization. The Sumerians' many advances include the wheel and the system of writing. After the Sumerians, a series of empires rose and fell in the region. These societies also made advances, such as a written code of law, that still influence civilization today.

In Africa, two great civilizations developed in the fertile valley of the Nile River. Ancient Egypt rose in northern Africa. Government and religion were closely connected, and Egyptians believed their rulers were gods. A strong belief in the afterlife led to the preserving of their rulers' bodies as mummies and burying them in pyramids, huge stone tombs with four triangle shaped sides. The Egyptians developed a rich culture and made lasting achievements in writing, architecture, and art. South of Egypt, the kingdom of Kush developed in a region called Nubia. Kush grew wealthy from trade. Around 1500 BC Egypt conquered Kush. Over the next 500 years, the people of Kush adopted many aspects of Egyptian culture. Kush grew strong and later conquered Egypt. In time, however, Kush weakened and eventually fell to a nearby kingdom.

Enduring Understanding

Geography influences the development of a region or area

Belief systems influence culture

Leaders emerge and exercise power in different ways

Changes in science and technology continually affect society

The agricultural revolution led to an increase in population, specialization of labor, new forms of social organization, and the beginning of societies

Early societies gave rise to civilizations which shared common characteristics in their development

Geography influenced the development of civilizations

Essential Questions

What are some of the advantages and disadvantages of living near a river valley?

How did Tigris and Euphrates support the growth of civilization?

Why was the Fertile Crescent an ideal place for the world's first civilization to develop?

Why was the Nile River so important to the Ancient Egyptians?

What was the daily life like for the Egyptians?

What were the religious beliefs of the Egyptians?

What ws unique about the Egyptian style of painting?

Why was the Middle Kingdon such a prosperous period for Egypt?

Who were the major pharaohs of Egypt and what were their accomplishments?

What impact did Nubia and Kush have on Ancient Egypt?

How does geography influence the growth of a civilization?

How does what we believe influence how we behave?

What makes a great leader?

How do innovations change how we live?

How did nomadic groups progress to the sedentary lifestyle?

What are the characteristics of a civilization? Is this always true?

How did the domestication of plants and animals encourage the rise of agricultural villages?

How did geography affect the development of river valley civilizations?

What are the major achievements of early river valley civilizations?

How did Hammurabi's law code differ from that of the Hebrews? How does it compare to modem day law?

How did large, well-organized empires develop and change over time?

What theories are given to explain the collapse of some early river valley civilizations (e.g. Indus)?

Skills

Explain why different ancient river valley civilizations developed similar governments

Explain how codifying laws met the needs of ancient river valley society

Determine the role of slavery in the economic and social structures of ancient river valley civilizations

Determine the extent to which geography influenced settlement, the development of trade networks, technological innovations and the sustainability of ancient river valley civilizations

Compare and contrast physical and political maps of ancient river valley civilizations and their modern counterparts (Mesopotamia & Egypt, Ancient Egypt & Modern Egypt, Indus River Valley & Modern Pakistan/India, Ancient China & Modern China)

Explain how technological advancements led to greater economic specialization, improved weaponry, trade, and the development of a class system in ancient river valley civilizations

Analyze the impact of religion on daily life, government and culture in various ancient river valley civilizations

Explain how the development of written language transformed all aspects of life in ancient river valley civilizations

Analyze the factors the led to the rise and fall of various ancient river valley civilizations and determine whether there was a common pattern of growth and decline

Justify which of the major achievements of the ancient river valley civilizations represent the most enduring legacies

Identify the characteristics of two great leaders from the time period

Compare social classes

Identify characteristics of a great leader and importance of Hammurabi's Code

Summarize the religious beliefs of the Sumerians and Israelites

Identify key individuals and their roles in Ancient Egypt: Menes, Khufu, Queen Hatshepsut, Ramses, Pianki, Tutankahmen

Explain the characteristics of a civilization

Investigate historical law codes using primary and secondary documents (Hammurabi, Justinian, Magna Carta, Napoleonic)

Demonstrate mastery of research skills in an independent research project by: asking questions to guide research, finding resources to answer these questions, distinguishing between relevant and irrelevant information in note taking, synthesizing information into graphic organizer, presenting findings in logical and meaningful ways and develop a list of works consulted

Learning Targets include but not limited to:

The earliest river of civilizations of the Middle East and Asia began as farming settlements that evolved into the first cities

Rivers played an integral part in the development of ancient civilizations

Key geographical features of ancient Egypt (Nile River, Shara & Arabian Deserts, Mediterranean Sea & Red Sea)

Key geographical features of the Fertile Crescent (Tigres River, Euphrates River, Mediterranean Sea, Red Sea, Black Sea, Persian Gulf, Arabian Desert, Syrian Desert & mountain ranges)

Beliefs of the Israelites

Constructed responses (literal, inferential, critical)

Principles of the afterlife and its effects on ancient Egyptian society

Characteristics of great leaders (Hammurabi, Hatshepsut, Thutmose III & Ramses the Great)

Vocabulary

Factors (geographical, social, technological) that cause the evolution to early settlements to early civilizations

Advancements that gave rise to stable agriculture and cities

Five Themes of Geography

Development of culture: social, political, economic, belief systems

Development of religious traditions

Development of language and writing (cuneiform & literature)

Development of inventions and innovations

Contrasts between upper and lower Egypt

Characteristics of Old, Middle and New Kingdoms

Study of pharaohs (Menes, Akhnaton, Tutankhamon, Hatshepsut, Ramses, Cleopatra)

Development of hieroglyphics

Characteristics of Egyptian Art and what it tells archaelogists about Egyptian culture

Archaeological artifacts and fossils (Rosetta Stone, tombs, temples, pyramids)

Contributions to technology

Impact of the Nile River on the growth of Egypt

Beliefs in afterlife

Social pyramid

Performance Tasks include but not limited to:

Write a five paragraph explanatory essay on "Sumerian Achievements"

Open-ended responses using RACER format

DBQ's

Create a map of Birch Grove Park

Writing folders

Research key aspects of one river - its location and the ancient civilization influenced by it

Create a chart listing the five criteria for a civilization; characterize facts about Egypt and Mesopotamia that would fit the criteria

Presentation demonstrating understanding of Egyptian topics creating Google Slides on Egypt afterlife, achievements, etc

Standards

Include but not limited to:

SOC.6.2.8.1	The Beginnings of Human Society
SOC.6.2.8.B	Geography, People, and the Environment

Assessments

Quizzes & Tests

Projects/Performance Tasks/DBQs

Classwork

Student Participation

Study Guides, scribe notes

Resources/Instructional Materials

Include but not limited to:

Google Classroom

BYOD

Google Drawing & Docs

Quizlet

Kahoot

Chromebooks, Tablets, Smart phones

Smart Board

Primary Source Documents (Hummarbi's Code, the Discovery of Chauvet Cave)

Videos (World Religious Series, History Channel, Discovery Channel, National Geographic, PBS)

Newsela

Maps

Timelines

Informational Text

Holt World History Textbook

Articles, Periodicals...

Modifications

Modifications for Special Education Students	Note IEP, audio recordings, digital media, screen casts, visual presentation, study guides, outlines, teacher's notes, graphic organizers, essay template
Modifications for English Language Learners	Extended time, assign preferential seating, positive reinforcement, peer tutoring, study guides, lower reading level, read directions aloud, alternative assignments, study guides, outlines, teacher's notes, graphic organizers, essay template
Modifications for Students Who Lack Support for School	Extended time, assign preferential seating, positive reinforcement, peer tutoring, study guides, lower reading level, read directions aloud, alternative assignments, study guides, outlines, teacher's notes, graphic organizers, essay template

Modifications for Gifted Students	Integrate, abstract, complex and varied assignments, freedom of choice when applicable, variable pacing levels

Integration of 21st Century Skills/Career Education

Focus on the development of 21st Century Content Skills:

- Global awareness
- Financial, economic, business and entrepreneurial literacy
- Civic literacy
- Health and wellness awareness
- Environmental literacy

Focus on the Development of Learning and Thinking Skills:

- Critical Thinking and Problem Solving Skills
- Communication Skills
- Creativity and Innovation Skills
- Collaboration Skills
- Information and Media Literacy Skills
- Contextual Learning Skills

Focus on the Development of Life Skills:

- Leadership
- Ethics
- Accountability
- Adaptability
- Personal Productivity
- Personal Responsibility
- People Skills
- Self Direction
- Social Responsibility

Interdisciplinary Connections

- Academic and Technical Rigor - Projects are designed to address key learning standards identified by the school or district.
- Authenticity - Projects use a real world context (e.g., community and workplace problems) and address issues that matter to the students.
- Applied Learning - Projects engage students in solving problems calling for competencies expected in high-performance work organizations (e.g.,teamwork, problem-solving, communication, etc.).
- Active Exploration - Projects extend beyond the classroom by connecting to internships, fieldbased investigations, and community explorations.
- Adult Connections - Projects connect students with adult mentors and coaches from the wider

community.

- Assessment Practices - Projects involve students in regular, performance-based exhibitions and assessments of their work; evaluation criteria reflect personal, school, and real-world standards of performance.