

Prehistoric and Ancient History

Prehistoric = before written history

Paleolithic Age

Old Stone Age
Hunter-gatherer
Nomadic

vs.

Neolithic Age

New Stone Age
agriculture and domestication
settlements and semi-nomadic

**** To get from the Paleolithic Age to the Neolithic Age =
farming developed

This is the Neolithic Revolution or The **Agricultural Revolution**

**** To move from the Neolithic Age to Civilization = **food surplus**

Civilization: a form of culture characterized by cities, specialized workers, complex institutions, record keeping, and advanced technology

Must have a **majority** of these to have civilization:

- Cities
- Government
- Religion
- Taxes
- Written language
- Specialized jobs
- Science and technology
- Art
- Social classes

I. Ancient River Valley Civilizations

A. Tigris and Euphrates River Valley

1. Geographical Issues:
 - a. unpredictable flooding
 - b. no natural barriers = constant invading
 - c. access to water = trade
2. **Mesopotamia** = land between two rivers
3. Modern day Iraq
4. Part of the **Fertile Crescent**
5. Evidence of Civilization
 - a. cities: Ur, Babylon, Akkad, Sumer, city-states
 - b. gov't: **Code of Hammurabi = king's laws "eye for an eye"**
 - c. religion: polytheism, ziggurats
 - d. written language: cuneiform
 - e. specialized jobs: scribes, priest, farmers, artists
 - f. science and technology: irrigation, wheel, sail, plow

B. Nile River Valley

1. Geographical issues
 - a. floods predictably = growing seasons and calendar
 - b. river floods, river recedes, fertile soil (**SILT**) left behind
 - c. **delta region** at mouth of river
 - d. papyrus plant becomes paper
 - e. access to Mediterranean Sea + Red Sea = trade

f. cataracts = steep cliffs along river

2. North Africa = modern day Egypt

3. Evidence of Civilization

a. cities: Memphis, Thebes

b. gov't: theocracy, **pharaoh**

c. religion: priests, after life, **mummification**, polytheism,

d. written language: **hieroglyphics**

e. science and technology: mummification, **pyramids**, irrigation, mathematics, geometry, medicine

C. Indus River Valley

1. Geographical Issues

a. unpredictable flooding

b. **Himalaya Mountains** = natural barrier

c. **Monsoon winds**

i. wet = warm = summer

ii. dry = cold = winter

2. Northern India

3. Evidence of Civilization

a. cities: Harappa, Mohenjo-Daro, planned grid cities

b. gov't: social welfare, strong central gov't

c. religion: polytheism, related to Hinduism

d. specialized jobs: farming, artisans

e. science and technology: plumbing, grid cities, irrigation, sewage system

f. written language: not deciphered yet

D. Huang He (Yellow) and Yangtze Rivers

1. Geographical issues:
 - a. rivers flood unpredictably
 - b. soil deposited = **loess**
 - c. on a plain
 - d. natural barriers = Gobi Desert + Himalaya Mts.
 - e. Isolated

2. central China

3. Evidence of Civilization
 - a. cities: Anyang, Ynagzhou, Hao, Luoyang
 - b. gov't: strong central gov't, dynasties, **Mandate of Heaven, dynastic cycle**
 - c. social classes: family more important than individual, man centered, nobles and peasants
 - d. science and technology: **porcelain**, writing, silk, coined money, cast iron
 - e. religion: ancestor worship, oracle bones

II. Other Ancient Civilizations

A. Indo-Europeans

1. Aryans invade India
 - a. **caste system**
 - b. lighter skin = higher caste
 - c. blend of culture
 - d. new religion = **Hindu**
 - i. caste system
 - ii. reincarnation
 - iii. karma and dharma
 - e. **Buddhism** develops by **Siddhartha Guatama**
 - i. no classes
 - ii. enlightenment and Nirvana
 - iii. 4 Noble Truths and the 8 Fold Path
2. Hittites
 - a. Anatolia = Modern day Turkey
 - b. Adopt other ideas
 - c. Iron technology
 - d. Chariots

B. Fertile Crescent

1. Phoenicians
 - a. coast of Mediterranean
 - b. seafaring nation
 - c. colonies strung out like beads = day's journey
 - d. carries of civilization
 - e. purple snail dye
 - f. **alphabet "Hooked on Phonics"**
2. Minoans

- a. Aegean Sea
- b. Isle of Crete
- c. Women had higher status
- d. Human sacrifice
- e. End mysteriously

3. Hebrews

- a. Palestine Area = Canaan
- b. Monotheism**
 - i. history written = Torah
 - ii. Abraham starts
 - iii. God = Yahweh
 - iv. Covenant**
- c. enslaved in Egypt
 - i. leave Egypt
 - ii. new covenant = 10 commandments
- d. Kingdom of Israel
 - i. David
 - ii. Solomon
- e. Babylonian Captivity
- f. interacted with Empires
 - i. Egyptian
 - ii. Persian
 - iii. Babylonian
 - iv. Greek
 - v. Romans
- g. **Diaspora** = Jews spread from Palestine to Eastern Europe. (during Roman Empire)