



Guided Reading Activity 2-1

Civilization Begins in Mesopotamia

DIRECTIONS: Answer the following questions as you read Section 1.

1. Why was the land between the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers able to sustain an early civilization?

2. What were the Sumerians the first to do?

3. Describe the dimensions of the Sumerian city of Uruk.

4. In what ways were the people of Mesopotamia creative with mud bricks?

5. In what three ways did the temples serve as the center of a Sumerian city?

6. What did the Sumerians believe about who it was that ruled their cities?

7. Around 3000 B.C., what was invented that greatly affected the transport of goods in Sumeria?

8. What is an empire?

9. Who set up the first empire in world history, and how did he do it?

10. What principle was a fundamental part of the Code of Hammurabi?

11. According to Sumerian beliefs, why did the gods create human beings?

12. What do many people consider to be the greatest invention of the Sumerians?

13. Why was writing so important in ancient civilizations?



Guided Reading Activity 2-2

Egyptian Civilization

DIRECTIONS: As you are reading the section, decide if a statement is true or false. Write **T** if the statement is true or **F** if the statement is false. For all false statements, write a corrected statement.

- _____ 1. To the ancient Egyptians, the most important feature of the river was the many fish that lived in it.

- _____ 2. Ancient Egyptian civilization was marked by constant change and upheaval over the centuries.

- _____ 3. Osiris took on an important role for the Egyptians as a symbol of resurrection.

- _____ 4. In obeying their pharaoh, subjects felt humiliated and powerless to determine the course of their own lives.

- _____ 5. Pyramids were built as part of a larger complex of buildings dedicated to the dead—in effect, a city of the dead.

- _____ 6. The Greek historian Herodotus reported the story that it took 100,000 Egyptians 20 years to build the Great Pyramid.

- _____ 7. The draining of swampland in the Nile Delta provided room for many more pyramids to be built.

- _____ 8. Cleopatra was the first Egyptian woman to become pharaoh.

- _____ 9. The earliest Egyptian writing was later called hieroglyphics, meaning “priest-carvings” or “sacred writings.”

**Guided Reading Activity 2-3****New Centers of Civilization**

DIRECTIONS: Fill in the blanks below as you read Section 3.

The term **(1)** _____ refers to a particular group of people who used a language derived from a **(2)** _____ parent tongue. The **(3)** _____ were the first of the Indo-European peoples to make use of iron.

The Phoenicians lived in the area of Palestine along the **(4)** _____ coast. The Phoenicians improved their **(5)** _____, became great international **(6)** _____, and thus created a trade empire. The Phoenician culture is best known for its **(7)** _____.

Much of the history and the religious beliefs of the Israelites were eventually recorded in written form in the **(8)** _____. By the time of **(9)** _____, the Israelites had established control over all of **(10)** _____ and made **(11)** _____ into the capital of Israel. Under King Solomon, ancient Israel was at the **(12)** _____ of its power.

After King Solomon's death, tension between the northern and southern tribes within Israel led to the creation of two separate **(13)** _____. In 722 B.C., the **(14)** _____ overran the Kingdom of Israel. The **(15)** _____ completely destroyed **(16)** _____ in 586 B.C.

According to Jewish beliefs, there is but one God, called **(17)** _____, the creator of the world and everything in it. This powerful creator was just and good, and he expected **(18)** _____ from his people. Hebrew writings say, "The Lord is gracious and **(19)** _____, slow to anger and rich in love." Jewish prophets embraced a vision for the future that included the end of **(20)** _____ and the establishment of **(21)** _____ for all the nations of the world.



Guided Reading Activity 2-4

The Rise of New Empires

DIRECTIONS: Fill in the blanks as you read Section 4.

- I. The Assyrians, a _____-speaking people, established an empire by 700 B.C.
 - A. The Assyrians exploited the use of _____ weapons.
 - B. One of the world's first libraries was established at _____ by Ashurbanipal.
 - C. The Assyrians used _____ as an instrument of warfare.
- II. Nebuchadnezzar rebuilt _____ as the center of his short-lived empire.
- III. Cyrus created a Persian state that stretched from _____ to _____.
 - A. Cyrus had a genuine respect for other _____.
 - B. Darius added a new Persian _____ in western India.
 - C. Well-maintained _____ made it easy for officials to travel through the empire.
 1. The _____ Road stretched from Lydia to _____, the chief capital.
 2. The Persians set up _____ for the king's messengers.
 - D. The Persian kings created a standing army of _____ soldiers.
 1. At its core was a _____ and _____ force of 10,000.
 2. These groups were known as the _____.
 3. When one member was killed, he was immediately _____.
 - E. After Darius, the Persian kings became more and more _____.
- IV. The Persians' most original contribution was the religion of _____.
 - A. Ahuramazda was the _____ god who brought all things into being.
 - B. The _____ gave all humans the freedom to choose between right and wrong.
 - C. At the end of the world, the final _____ of good and evil would occur.