### River Valley Civilizations

**Mesopotamia**

**Impact of Geography:**

**Characteristics of Mesopotamian Civilization:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Specialized Workers</th>
<th>Record Keeping (Writing)</th>
<th>Advanced Technology</th>
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**Class Notes on Mesopotamia**

**Egypt**

**Impact of Geography:**

**Characteristics of Egyptian Civilization:**

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**Class Notes on Egypt**
### Impact of Geography:

**India**

**Characteristics of Indus River Valley Civilization:**

- Specialized Workers
- Record Keeping (Writing)
- Advanced Technology
- Advanced Cities
- Complex Institutions (Government)
- Complex Institutions (Religion)

**Class Notes on India**

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**China**

**Characteristics of Chinese Civilization:**

- Specialized Workers
- Record Keeping (Writing)
- Advanced Technology
- Advanced Cities
- Complex Institutions (Government)
- Complex Institutions (Religion)

**Class Notes on China**
The Rise of Civilizations

Thousands of years ago, several societies in different parts of the world changed from hunting and gathering to farming. Some began to produce surpluses of food. Those surpluses helped bring about the world's first civilizations.

In Unit 1, you learned that most historians define civilization as a complex culture with these five characteristics: (1) advanced cities, (2) specialized workers, (3) complex institutions, (4) record keeping and writing, and (5) advanced technology. You also learned about several early civilizations. In the next six pages, you will explore what those ancient civilizations had in common and how they differed.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Indus Valley</th>
<th>Mesopotamia</th>
<th>China</th>
<th>Ancient Egypt</th>
<th>Palestine</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Advanced Cities</strong></td>
<td>Planned cities had neatly laid-out streets and fortified areas.</td>
<td>Cities had central temples called ziggurats.</td>
<td>Cities had massive earthen walls for protection.</td>
<td>Cities had power over the surrounding lands.</td>
<td>Phoenician cities were busy ports.</td>
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<td>Jerusalem had a large temple.</td>
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<td><strong>Specialized Workers</strong></td>
<td>Artisans made various goods, which traders exchanged with other peoples.</td>
<td>Priests, warriors, scribes, artisans, and farmers all had special tasks.</td>
<td>Warriors defended the land.</td>
<td>Rulers, officials, priests, and wealthy landowners led society.</td>
<td>Phoenician sailors carried goods.</td>
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<td>Israelite religious leaders had great influence.</td>
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<td><strong>Complex Institutions</strong></td>
<td>Rulers organized the work of laying out the cities.</td>
<td>Priests and kings ran the cities.</td>
<td>Rulers organized workers to build canals and city walls.</td>
<td>Pharaohs ordered people to build elaborate tombs.</td>
<td>Israelites developed the belief in one god. They saw the law as a gift from God.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Record Keeping and Writing</strong></td>
<td>The system of writing has not yet been deciphered.</td>
<td>Cuneiform was the world's first system of writing.</td>
<td>The writing system helped unify peoples with different languages because characters stood for ideas.</td>
<td>Hieroglyphic writing had symbols that stood for ideas and for sounds.</td>
<td>The Phoenician alphabet became the basis of many alphabets.</td>
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<td><strong>Advanced Technology</strong></td>
<td>Engineers made sophisticated buildings and plumbing systems.</td>
<td>Sumerians invented the wheel, the sail, and the plow, and discovered how to make bronze.</td>
<td>The Chinese refined bronze casting technology and valuable silk cloth production.</td>
<td>Advances were made in engineering, astronomy, and medicine.</td>
<td>Phoenicians built ships with advances such as the steering oar and the sail.</td>
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