

Early River Valley Civilizations, 3500 B.C.–450 B.C.

Civilizations emerge and develop on fertile river plains in Mesopotamia, Egypt, the Indus Valley, and China.



FIGURE 1-1 The four ancient river valley civilizations.

Early River Valley Civilizations, 3500 B.C.–450 B.C.

Section 1 City-States in Mesopotamia

Section 2 Pyramids on the Nile

Section 3 Planned Cities on the Indus

Section 4 River Dynasties in China

Section-1

City-States in Mesopotamia

The earliest civilization in Asia rises in Mesopotamia and organizes into city-states.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sohXPx_XZ6Y&list=PLBDA2E52FB1EF80C9&index=3



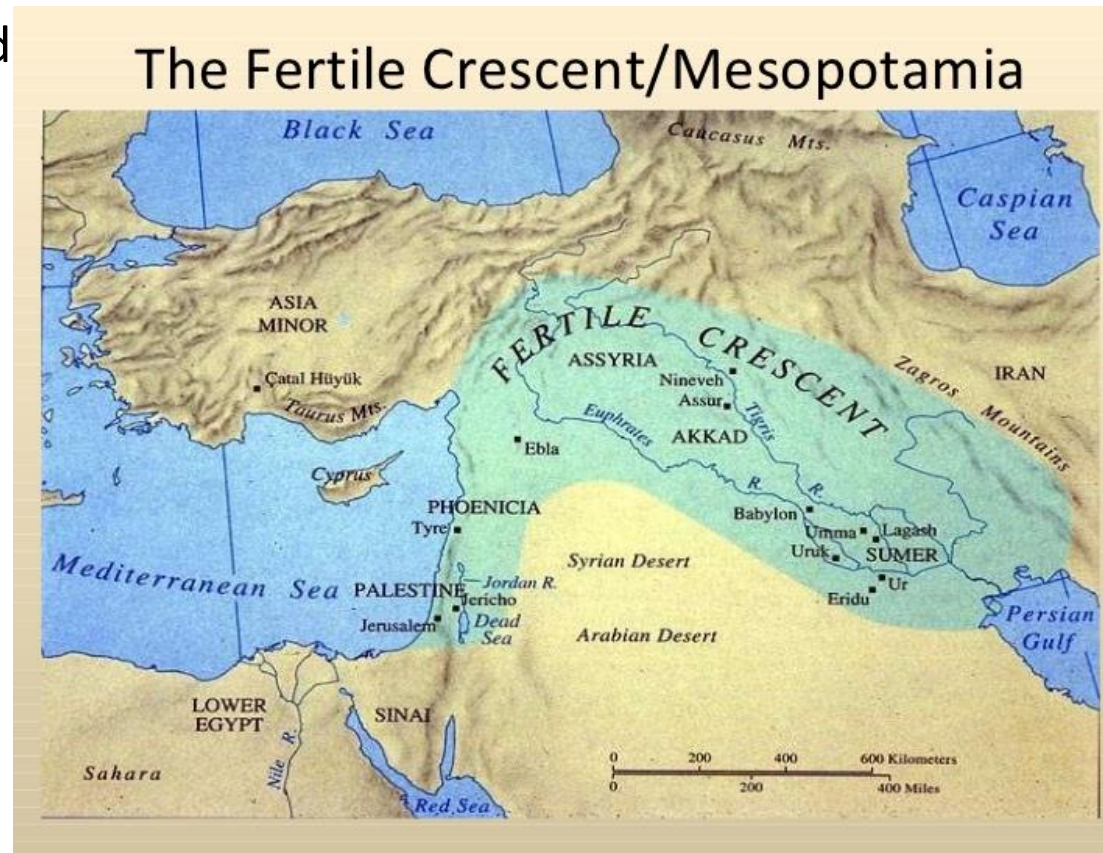
City-States in Mesopotamia

Geography of the Fertile Crescent

The Fertile Crescent•

Fertile Crescent

- Includes **Mesopotamia** “land between the rivers”—a fertile plain
- Tigris and Euphrates rivers flood once a year, leaving rich soil.



Geography of the Fertile Crescent

Environmental Challenges

- Around 3300 B.C. Sumerians begin

farming southern Mesopotamia

- Environment poses three

disadvantages:

1. floods are unpredictable;

sometimes no rain

2. land offers no barriers to

invasion

3. land has few natural resources;

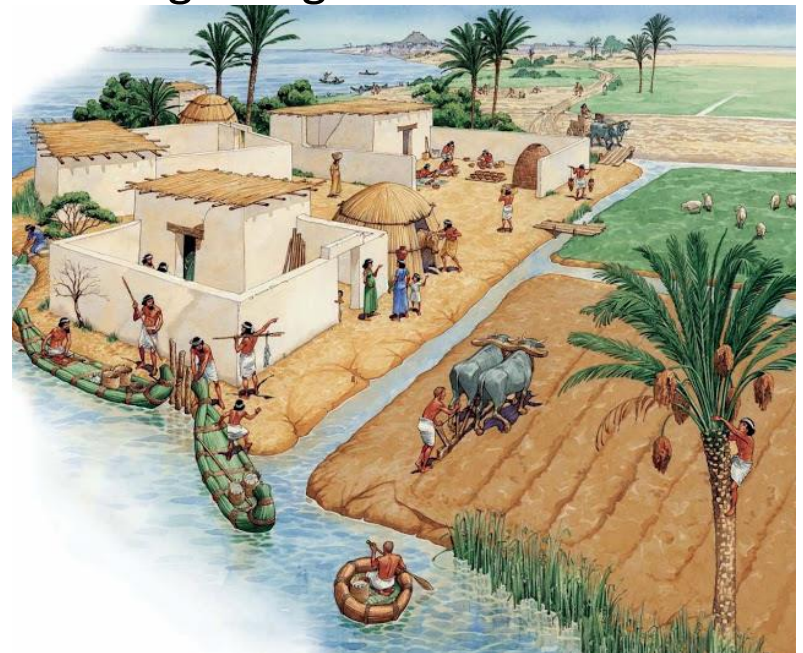
building materials scarce



Geography of the Fertile Crescent

Solving Problems Through Organization

- Sumerians worked together; find solutions to environmental challenges:
 - build irrigation ditches to control water, produce crops
 - build walled cities for defense
 - trade grain, cloth, and tools for raw materials—stone, wood metal
- Organization, leadership, and laws are the beginning of civilization





Sumerians Create City-States



Sumerian City-States

- By 3000 B.C. Sumerians build cities surrounded by fields of crops
- Each is a **city-state**
- Sumer city-states Uruk, Kish, Lagash, Umma, and Ur
- Each city has temple and ziggurat; priests appeal to gods

Sumerians Create City-States

Priests and Rulers Share

Control

- Sumer's early governments controlled by temple priests
- Some military leaders become rulers; dynasties rule after 2500 B.C.
- **Dynasty**



Sumerians Create City-States

The Spread of Cities

- By 2500 B.C. many new cities in Fertile Crescent
- Sumerians exchange products and ideas with other cultures
- **Cultural diffusion**



Sumerian Culture

A Religion of Many Gods

- polytheism
- Gods are thought to control forces of nature
- Gods behave as humans do, but people are gods'

servants

- Life after death is bleak and gloomy



Sumerian Culture

Life in Sumerian Society

- Sumerians have social classes—kings, landholders,

priests at top

- Wealthy merchants next; at lowest levels are slaves
- Women have many rights; become priests, merchants,

artisans



Sumerian Culture

Sumerian Science and Technology

- Sumerians invent wheel, sail, and plow; first to use bronze
- Make advances in arithmetic and geometry
- Develop arches, columns, ramps and pyramids for building
- Have complex system of writing—cuneiform
- Study astronomy, chemistry, medicine



Time of War

The First Empire Builders

- From 3000 to 2000 B.C. city-states at constant war

Sargon of Akkad

- Around 2350 B.C., Sargon from Akkad defeats city-states of

Sumer

- Creates first **empire**



The First Empire Builders



Babylonian Empire

- Amorites, nomadic warriors, take control of region around 2000 B.C.
- Make Babylon, on Euphrates River, the capital
- Babylonian Empire at peak during **Hammurabi's** rule (1792-1750 B.C.)

The First Empire Builders

Hammurabi's Code

- Hammurabi creates a code of laws for the Babylonian Empire
- 282 laws on all aspects of life; engraved in stone and made public
- Set different punishments depending on social class, gender
- Goal for government to take responsibility for order, justice
- Amorite rule for Fertile Crescent ends 200 years after

Hammurabi



Section-2

- ▶ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z3Wvw6BivVI&list=PLBDA2E52FB1EF80C9&index=4>

Pyramids on the Nile

Using mathematical knowledge and engineering skills, Egyptians build magnificent monuments to honor dead rulers.





Pyramids on the Nile

The Geography of Egypt

Egypt's Settlements

- Arise along the 4,100-mile Nile River on narrow strip of fertile land



Pyramids on the Nile

The Geography of Egypt

The Gift of the Nile

- Yearly flooding brings water and fertile black mud—silt
- Farmers build irrigation system for wheat and barley crops
- Egyptian's worship Nile as a god



The Geography of Egypt

Environmental Challenges

- Light floods reduce crops, cause starvation
- Heavy floods destroy property; deserts isolate and protect Egyptians

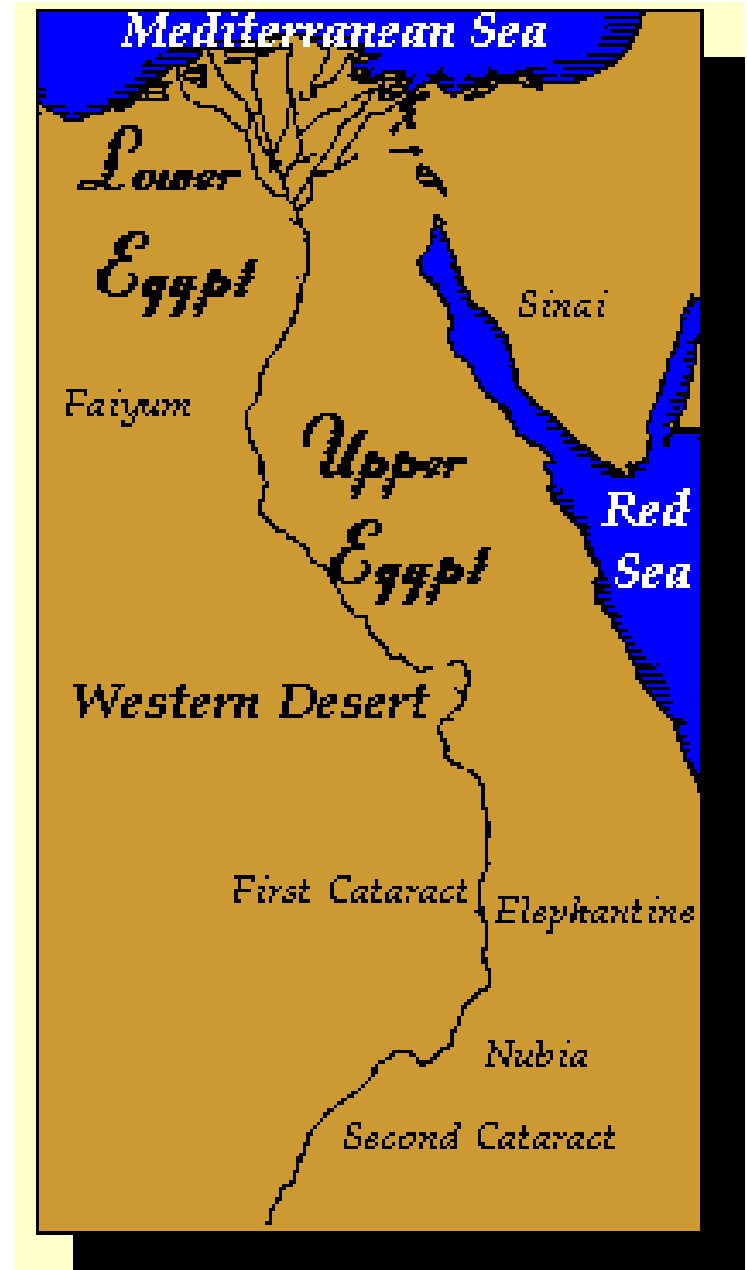


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The Geography of Egypt

Upper Egypt and Lower Egypt

- River area south of First Cataract is elevated, becomes Upper Egypt
- Cataract—where boulders turn Nile River into churning rapids
- River area north, including Nile delta, becomes Lower Egypt
- **Delta**



Egypt Unites into a Kingdom

King Narmer (Menes) Creates Egyptian Dynasty

- Villages of Egypt ruled by two kingdoms—Lower Egypt, Upper

Egypt

- King **Narmer** unites them around 3000 B.C.; makes Memphis capital
- Establishes first Egyptian dynasty



Egypt Unites into a Kingdom

Pharaohs Rule as Gods

- To the Egyptians, kings are called **pharaohs**
- Pharaohs control religion, government, army, well-being of kingdom

•theocracy

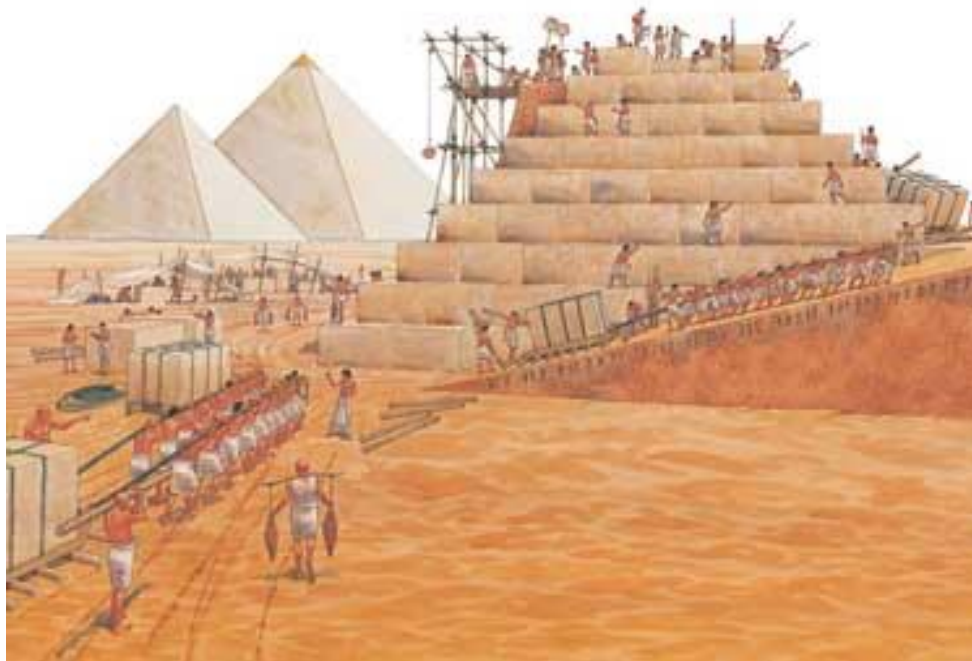


Egypt Unites into a Kingdom

Builders of the Pyramids

<http://www.history.com/topics/ancient-history/ancient-egypt>

- Kings believed to rule even after death; have eternal life force, *ka*
- Build elaborate tombs, pyramids, to meet needs after death
- **Pyramids** made with blocks of stone, 2-15 tons each; 481 ft. high
- Kingdom had leadership, government; economically strong



Egyptian Culture

Religion and Life

- Egyptians believe in 2,000 gods and goddesses—polytheistic
- Re is sun god, Osiris, god of the dead; goddess Isis is ideal woman
- Believe in life after death; person judged by deeds at death
- Develop **mummification**
- *Book of the Dead* contains prayers and spells, guides soul after death



Life in Egyptian Society

Social Classes

- Society shaped like pyramid, from Pharaoh down to farmers, laborers
- Few people at top have great power; most people at bottom
- People move into higher social classes through marriage or merit
- Women have many of the same rights as men

Pharaoh

CLASSES IN ORDER

1. Pharaoh

Vizier

2. Vizier, nobles, government officials, and priests

3. Scribes, artisans, tradesmen, and soldiers

4. Peasants, farmers, and servants

5. Slaves

Scribes

Soldiers

Craftsmen

Farmers

Slaves

Life in Egyptian Society



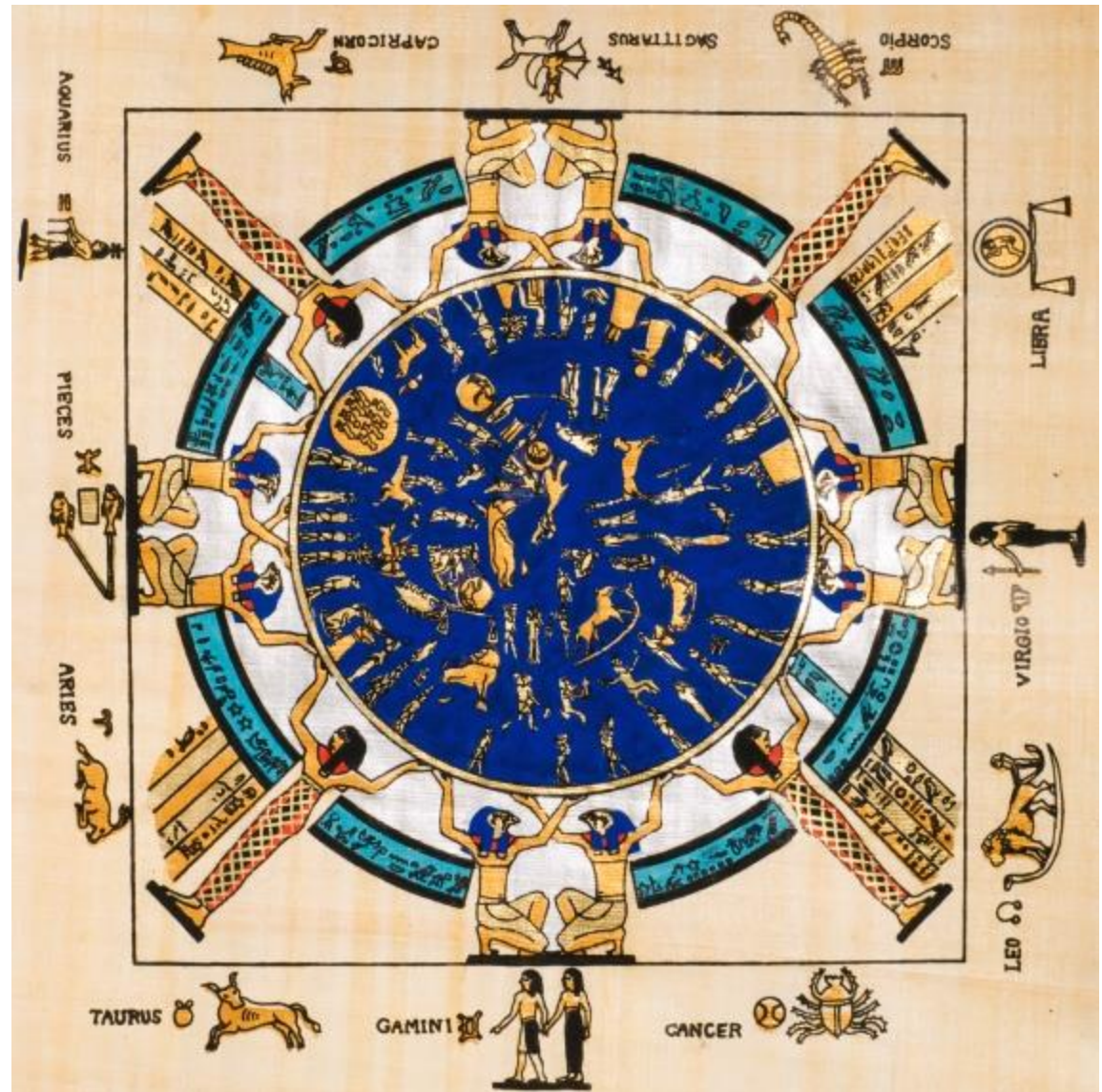
Egyptian Writing

- In **hieroglyphics** writing system, pictures represent ideas
- Paperlike sheets made from **papyrus** reeds used for writing

Life in Egyptian Society

Egyptian Science and Technology

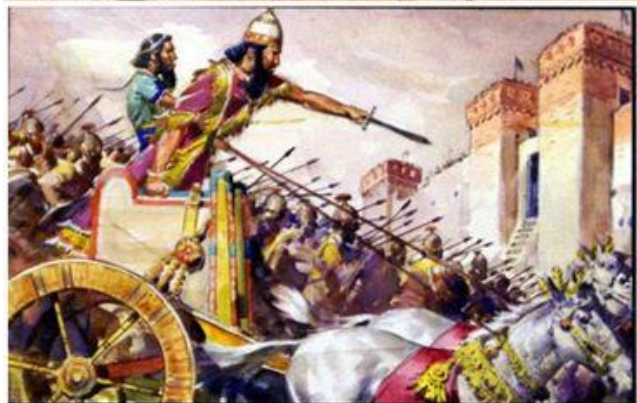
- Egyptians invent calendar of 365 days and 12 months
- Develop system of written numbers and a form of geometry
- Skilled engineers and architects construct palaces, pyramids
- Egyptian medicine famous in the ancient world



Invaders Control Egypt

Changes to Egyptian Society

- Power of Pharaohs declines about 2180 B.C.; end of Old Kingdom
- In Middle Kingdom (2040 to 1640 B.C.), some pharaohs regain control
- Improve trade, dig canal from Nile to Red Sea, drain swamps for farms
- Hyksos move into Egypt from Palestine; rule from 1630 to 1523 B.C.



DEFINE THE FOLLOWING WORDS

▶ 2.3

▶ 1. Subcontinent

▶ 2. Monsoon

▶ 3. Harappan
Civilization

▶ 2.4

▶ 1. Loess

▶ 2. Oracle Bone

▶ 3. Mandate of
Heaven

▶ 4. Dynastic Cycle

▶ 5. Feudalism



Section-3

Planned Cities on the Indus

The first Indian civilization builds well-planned cities on the banks of the Indus River.

Section-3

Planned Cities on the Indus

The Geography of the Indian Subcontinent

Indian Subcontinent

- **Subcontinent**—landmass that includes India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh
- World's tallest mountain ranges separate it from rest of Asia

Rivers, Mountains, and Plains

- Mountains to north, desert to east, protect Indus Valley from invasion
- Indus and Ganges rivers form flat, fertile plain—the Indo-Gangetic
- Southern India, a dry plateau flanked by mountains
- Narrow strip of tropical land along coast



The Geography of the Indian Subcontinent

Monsoons

- Seasonal winds—**monsoons**—dominate India's climate
- Winter winds are dry; summer winds bring rain can cause flooding

Environmental Challenges

- Floods along the Indus unpredictable; river can change course
- Rainfall unpredictable; could have droughts or floods

Civilization Emerges on the Indus

Indus Valley Civilization

- Influenced an area larger than Mesopotamia or Egypt

Earliest Arrivals

- About 7000 B.C., evidence of agriculture and domesticated animals
- By about 3200 B.C., people farming in villages along Indus River

Planned Cities

- By 2500 B.C., people build cities of brick laid out on grid system
- Engineers create plumbing and sewage systems
- Indus Valley called **Harappan civilization** after Harappa, a city

Civilization Emerges on the Indus

Harappan Planning

- City built on mud-brick platform to protect against flood waters
- Brick walls protect city and citadel—central buildings of the city
- Streets in grid system are 30 feet wide
- Lanes separate rows of house (which featured bathrooms)



Harappan Culture

Language

- Had writing systems of 400 symbols; but scientists can't decipher it

Culture

- Harappan cities appear uniform in culture; no great social divisions
- Animals important to the culture; toys suggest prosperity

Harappan Culture

Role of Religion

- Priests closely linked to rulers
- Some religious artifacts reveals links to modern Hindu culture

Trade

- Had thriving trade with other peoples, including Mesopotamia

Indus Valley Culture Ends

Harappan Decline

- Signs of decline begin around 1750 B.C.
- Earthquakes, floods, soil depletion may have caused decline
- Around 1500 B.C., Aryans enter area and become dominant



Section-4

River Dynasties in China

Early rulers introduce ideas about government and society that shape Chinese civilization.

Section-4

River Dynasties in China

The Geography of China

Barriers Isolate China

- Ocean, mountains, deserts isolate China from other areas

River Systems

- Huang He (“Yellow River”) in north, Yangtze in south
- Huang He leaves **loess**—yellow fertile silt—when it floods

Environmental Challenges

- Huang He floods can devour whole villages
- Geographic isolation means lack of trade; must be self-sufficient

China’s Heartland

- North China Plain, area between two rivers, center of civilization

Civilization Emerges in Shang Times

The First Dynasties

- Around 2000 B.C. cities arise; Yu, first ruler of Xia Dynasty
- Yu's flood control systems tames Huang He ("Yellow River")
- Shang Dynasty, 1700 to 1027 B.C., first to leave written records

Early Cities

- Built cities of wood, such as Anyang—one of its capital cities
- Upper class lives inside city; poorer people live outside
- Shang cities have massive walls for military defense

The Development of Chinese Culture

Chinese Civilization

- Sees China as center of world; views others as uncivilized
- The group is more important than the individual

Family

- Family is central social institution; respect for parents a virtue
- Elder males control family property
- Women expected to obey all men, even sons

Social Classes

- King and warrior-nobles lead society and own the land

The Development of Chinese Culture

Religious Beliefs

- Spirits of dead ancestors can affect family fortunes
- Priests scratch questions on animal bones and tortoise shells
- **Oracle bones** used to consult gods; supreme god, Shang Di

Development of Writing

- Writing system uses symbols to represent syllables; not ideas
- People of different languages can use same system
- Huge number of characters make system difficult to learn

Zhou and the Dynastic Cycle

The Zhou Take Control

- In 1027 B.C., Zhou Dynasty takes control of China

Mandate of Heaven

- **Mandate of Heaven**—the belief that a just ruler had divine approval
- Developed as justification for change in power to Zhou
- **Dynastic cycle**—pattern of the rise and decline of dynasties

Control Through Feudalism

- **Feudalism**—system where kings give land to nobles in exchange for services
- Over time, nobles grow in power and begin to fight each other

Zhou and the Dynastic Cycle

Improvements in Technology and Trade

- Zhou Dynasty builds roads, canals to improve transportation
- Uses coins to make trade easier
- Produces cast iron tools and weapons; food production increases

A Period of Warring States

- Peaceful, stable Zhou empire rules from around 1027 to 256 B.C.
- In 771 B.C., nomads sack the Zhou capital, murder monarch
- Luoyang becomes new capital; but internal wars destroy traditions