

ANCIENT RIVER VALLEY CIVILIZATIONS

Pre-history

- ▣ Pre-historic = before written records
- ▣ Two periods of pre-history to know
 - Paleolithic
 - Neolithic

Pre-history

- ▣ Paleolithic
 - (Old) Stone age period
 - ▣ Stone primary material for tools
 - Hunter-gathers
 - Nomadic lifestyle

Pre-history

- ▣ Neolithic Age
 - (New) stone age
 - ▣ Stone still primary tool material
 - ▣ Agriculture
 - ▣ Domestication of animals
 - ▣ Some settlement
 - ▣ Some nomadic groups

Farming



Paleolithic

Age

1st
Agricultural
Revolution

Neolithic

Age

Surplus Food



Neolithic
Age

People
Start to
Settle

Develop
Civilization

Civilization

- ▣ *A form of culture, characterized by cities, specialized workers, complex institutions, record-keeping and advanced technology*

Civilization

- ▣ To be a civilization, society must have a majority of these:
 - Cities
 - Government
 - Religion
 - Written language
 - Specialized Labor
 - Public Works (Infrastructure)
 - Art
 - Social classes

Tigris & Euphrates

- ▣ Located in modern Iraq
- ▣ Known as *Mesopotamia* (land between 2 rivers)
- ▣ Known as Fertile Crescent
- ▣ Look for the only green in the brownish Middle east on the map
- ▣ Rivers empty into Persian Gulf



Tigris & Euphrates

- ▣ The geography does not help
 - Unpredictable flooding
 - No natural barriers to invasion
 - Plenty of fresh water for farming and drinking
 - Access to trade/travel & cultural diffusion
 - Silt deposited by rivers

Tigris & Euphrates

- ▣ Geography does not help, but problems solved
 - For defense, walls of mud bricks were built
 - Trade of grain, cloth and tools brought in natural raw materials like stone, wood and metal

Tigris & Euphrates

- ▣ Main crops grown were barley & wheat
- ▣ Surpluses produced led to development of different civilizations in the region

Tigris & Euphrates

- ▣ Cities associated with Mesopotamia
 - Sumer
 - Akkad
 - Babylon
 - Ur

Tigris & Euphrates

▣ Sumer

- Polytheism
- Run by soldiers
- Temples called Ziggurats
- Invented sail, plow, wheel & 1st to use bronze
- Developed geometry & arithmetic

Tigris & Euphrates

▣ Sumer

- Developed arches, columns, ramps
- Developed cuneiform (wedge writing in wet mud which was allowed to dry)

Tigris & Euphrates

- ▣ Akkad
 - Sargon of Akkad conquered Sumer
 - Created world's first empire
 - Dynasty lasted 200 years

Tigris & Euphrates

- ▣ Babylon
 - Based on Euphrates river
 - Empire hit peak under Hammurabi
 - Hammurabi's Code

Tigris & Euphrates

- ▣ Hammurabi's Code
 - Needed single, unified code of law to unify people
 - Written in stone
 - Placed throughout the empire
 - “eye for an eye”
 - Law applied to everyone, but applied differently to men/women & rich/poor