

CIVILIZATIONS DEVELOP AROUND THE WORLD

The Four Cradles of Civilization

The first civilizations on earth arose at separate locations in the Eastern Hemisphere -- the Middle East, Egypt, the Indus Valley of ancient India, and the Huang He Valley in China. These four areas, known as "cradlelands" or "cradles of civilization," had the advantages of a relatively mild climate, fertile soil, and rivers for fishing and transportation. Civilization eventually spread from these to other parts of the world.



The cradlelands and later civilizations that appeared in Asia, Africa, North America, South America, and Europe are shown on the world map on page three. Use the information on the map to complete the paragraphs which follow. Find The Middle East on the map and note the list of six characteristics of this ancient civilization. Use the words in the list to complete the section on the Middle East below. In the same way, do the sections on the other cradles of civilization -- Egypt, the Indus Valley, and the Huang He Valley.

The Middle East

It is believed that the first civilization on earth began about 3500 B.C. in Mesopotamia in the ancient Middle East. Mesopotamia -- which means "land between rivers" -- was located in an area of rich soil between the Tigris River and Euphrates River. The people of this region, known as the Sumerians, grew wheat and raised (1)_____ and sheep. They used gold, silver, and (2)_____ to make tools and weapons. (3)_____ made pottery on a potter's wheel and baked it in ovens. The Sumerians built man's first (4)_____. Houses, temples, and (5)_____ were made of sun-dried clay bricks. The people invented a system of writing called (6)_____ in which symbols were drawn in wet clay with a stick.

Egypt

The ancient Egyptians settled in the Nile River Valley. The river provided the people with fish and waterfowl. Boats carried on a busy (7)_____. Farmers grew (8)_____ and other crops in the fertile soil that was deposited along the river during yearly floods. By 3000 B.C., the villages next to the Nile had joined together to form a single (9)_____. The Egyptians built great stone (10)_____ for worship and huge (11)_____ where (12)_____ -- god-kings -- were buried. They developed geometry and (13)_____ so they could set up an (14)_____ system. (15)_____ organized religious activities while (16)_____ kept (17)_____. Picture symbols called (18)_____ were used to write stories and poems and keep historical records. The Egyptians made a (19)_____ with 365 days.

Indus Valley

About 2500 B.C., another great civilization developed in the Indus Valley of ancient India. Archaeologists have learned about the people who lived there by studying the remains of several old (20)_____. Streets intersected at right angles similar to most modern-day streets. Each city had a (21)_____ and sewer system. (22)_____ baked in kilns (ovens) were used in the construction of buildings.

Important decisions were made by a well-organized (23)_____.

City dwellers earned a living from (24)_____ and trade. Skilled craftsmen produced (25)_____ and pottery. Jewelry was made from (26)_____. Other articles were shaped from (27)_____. In outlying areas, farmers grew wheat, (28)_____, and other crops to feed the people who lived in the cities. (29)_____ was used in dry areas.

The writing system consisted of pictograms which each had specific meanings. (30)_____ involved a form of "animism" in which spirits were thought to inhabit animals, trees, other natural objects, and people. The spirits had to be treated well because they could influence people's lives.

Huang He Valley

Civilization began in the Huang He Valley of northern China about 1500 B.C. The (31)_____ was directed by the Shang dynasty. Measures were adopted to maintain (32)_____ and build (33)_____ and drainage systems to control flooding. The Shang rulers united more than a thousand (34)_____. An (35)_____ was organized to gain new territories and spread Chinese civilization. (36)_____ were kept.

The economy was based mainly on agriculture. Farmers grew (37)_____, barley, and wheat. (38)_____ included horses, cattle, sheep, pigs, chickens, and dogs. Elephants were sometimes used as (39)_____. (40)_____ and artisans lived and worked in the cities.

Other Civilizations Develop Around the World

Civilizations eventually grew up in Asia, Africa, North America, South America, and Europe. A few of the many characteristics of each of these civilizations are listed under the headings below. Copy the characteristics in the appropriate spaces on the map.

Aegean

cities
plumbing
painting
writing
trade

Greek

alphabet
recorded history
science
architecture
sculpture
democracy
laws

Roman

paved roads
aqueducts
laws
armies
government

Andean

potatoes
beans
maize
domesticated animals
cotton cloth
paved roads
suspension bridges

Mayan

limestone temples
paintings
sculpture
pottery
calendar
hieroglyphic
writing
mathematics

Mexican

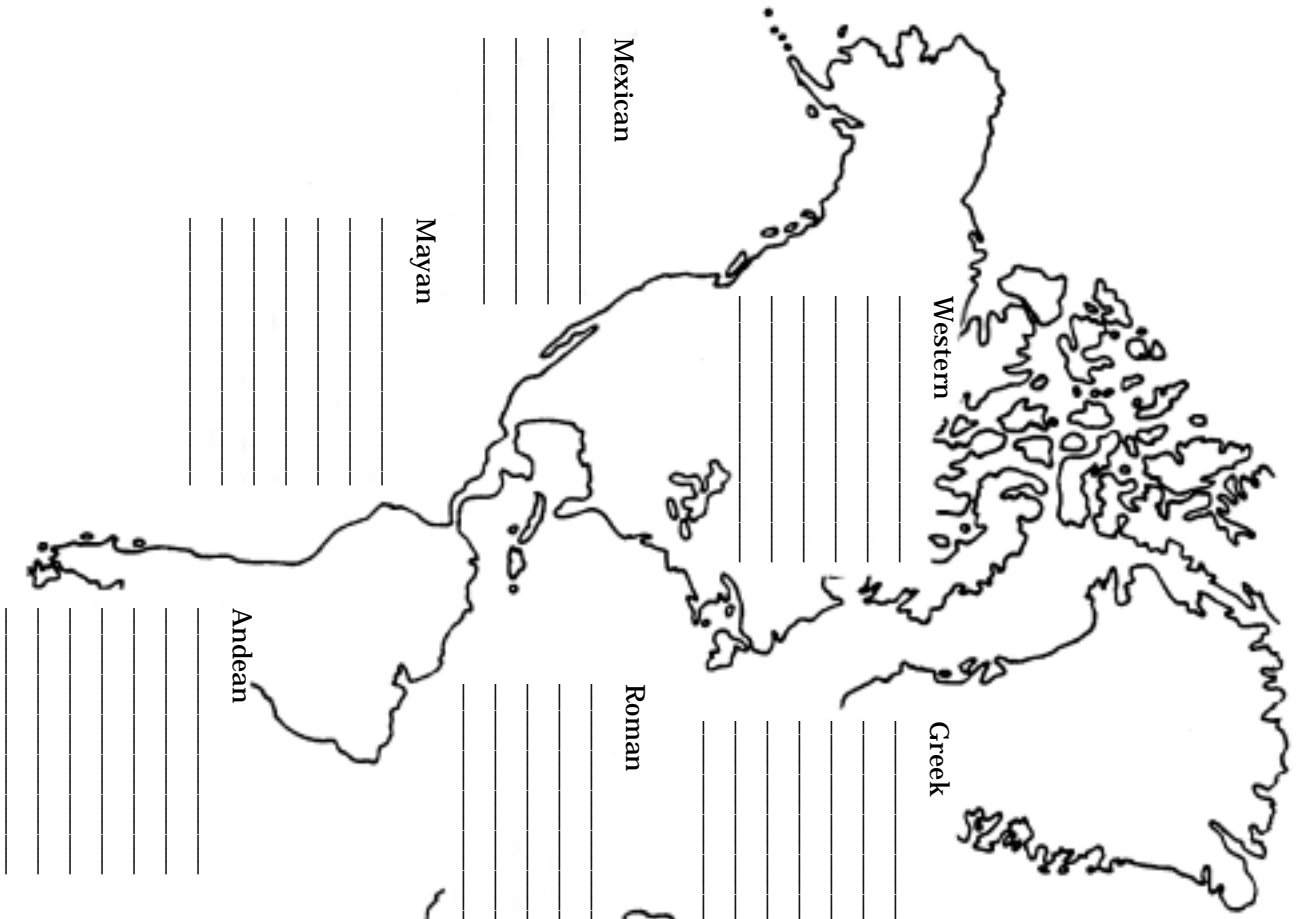
crops
pyramids
metal tools
organized
religion

later Chinese

gunpowder
porcelain
silk
jade
architecture

Western

Christianity
firearms
sailing ships
printing
science
industry



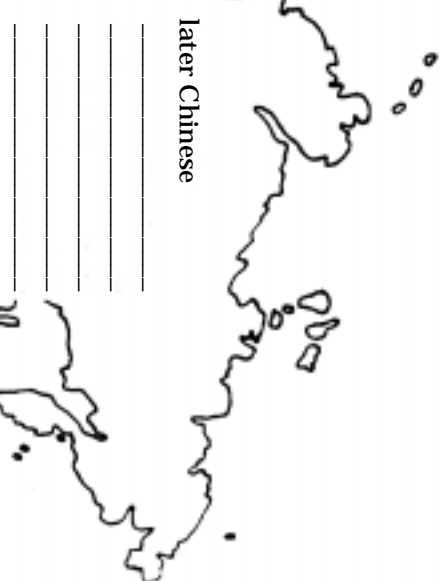
- kingdom
- engineering
- priests
- temples
- pharaohs
- written records
- wheat
- irrigation
- trade
- pyramids
- scribes
- calendar
- hieroglyphics



- palaces
- cities
- cattle
- artisans
- cuneiform
- bronze

The Middle East

- palaces
- cities
- cattle
- artisans
- cuneiform
- bronze



- work animals
- city-states
- army
- irrigation projects
- government
- written records
- dikes
- domesticated animals
- millet
- merchants
- government
- bricks
- industry
- cotton cloth
- copper and bronze
- cities
- water system
- gold and silver
- irrigation
- barley
- religious beliefs