

Mr. Bayer – World History - Chapter 1 & 2 Study Guide

Prehistory

Know the significance of the following:

- Basic Ideas in the “Before Class” reading: What was the role of human cooperation in our species survival?
- Neolithic Revolution (what/when/significance & what 3 major developments came about - *2 human/1 natural*)
- Paleolithic/Neolithic Eras (what/when/significance)
- Hominid
- Homo-Sapien
- Cro-Magnon
- Neanderthal (achievements)
- Nomad
- Hunter-gatherer or forager – explain this lifestyle
- Archaeologist, Anthropologist, Paleontologist, Historian (know roles of)
- Describe function/basic composition of basic tools
- Dates: 4 million years ago (1st hominids), 2.5 million years ago (Paleolithic age begins), 8,000 B.C (Neolithic Revolution), 3,000 B.C. (Bronze Age well established in Mesopotamia)
- Know the 5 characteristics of civilization and be able to discuss the importance and provide examples: 1-Advanced cities; 2-Specialized workers; 3-Complex institutions; 4-Record keeping; 5-Advanced technology
- Identify and discuss Jared Diamond’s basic arguments about humans’ development of civilization as regressive (backward/harmful) development for the human species from his essay, “The Worst Mistake...”
- Identify and discuss Jared Diamond’s (*Guns Germs and Steel* book/documentary) theories as to why the first advanced civilizations developed where they did.

Mesopotamia (Sumer / Babylonian Civilizations)

- What does **Mesopotamia** mean?
- Where is Mesopotamia on a map & in what modern-day country did it exist?
- What are the two rivers important to the Ancient Mesopotamian civilization?
- Fertile Crescent
- Silt
- Geographic disadvantages to Mesopotamia – unpredictable flooding, lack of natural barriers, limited natural resources
- Approximate dates of beginnings of Ancient Mesopotamian civilization – 4500 B.C. – 1st settlers; 3500 B.C. Sumerians arrived
- City-state
- Ziggurat
- Role of priests/priestesses in Mesopotamian society; role of monarchs
- Dynasty
- How did the Sumerian warrior-dominated government come about?
- Significance of a civilization producing a food surplus
- Polytheism
- Compare and contrast gods in polytheism vs. God in today’s world religions
- Various social classes of Mesopotamian society
- How did one typically become a slave?
- Role of women in Mesopotamian society – inferior status – could pursue career as merchant/artisan/lower priesthood
- Be able to analyze various laws from Hammurabi’s Code of Law
- What can we learn from Hammurabi’s code – differentiation in social classes, responsibility of gov’t, gender differentiation, values of the society (trade, marriage), sense of morality, etc.
- Be able to name 3 technological advancements from Mesopotamian society: wheel, sail, plow, bronze (1st), writing – Cuneiform, maps, astronomy, chemical substances, irrigation, numbering system – base units of 60 (seconds/minute & minutes/hour); 360 degrees, building
- Cuneiform – visual representations
- Cultural Diffusion – Mesopotamia w/ Egypt – system of writing and city development (3200 B.C.)
- Mesopotamian concept of afterlife

Egypt

- Where is Ancient Egypt & the Nile River (Nile Delta) on a map & and what modern-day country did it exist?
- Structure of Ancient Egyptian civilization – less a collection of city-states than Mesopotamia – unified early – stability for 3000 years – 31 dynasties – 2,600 years
- Origin timeframe – villages as early as 5000 B.C. –
- Nile River – annual flooding – predictable – Nile as the “giver of life”
- Location of Upper and Lower Egypt – flow direction of the Nile river – South to North
- Items Ancient Egyptians traded for: gold, ivory, cattle, granite blocks
- Memphis – capital of Egypt
- Be able to draw out social stratification (hierarchy) of Egyptian society – Pharaoh or King/Queen & Royal Family // Upper Class – wealthy landowners, government officials, priests, army commanders // Middle Class – merchants/artisans // Lower Class – (largest) – unskilled laborers // Slaves – captives of foreign wars – domestic servants for rich – mined gold – built pyramids
- Discuss social mobility in Egyptian society – marriage, changing jobs, slaves buying freedom
- Role of women in Egyptian society – close social status to men – own property, propose marriage, seek divorce
- Theocracy
- Discuss the importance of afterlife in Egyptian society and provide evidence – large tombs, burial planning (mummification), concept of judgment, Egyptian concept of afterlife
- Purpose/significance of pyramids
- Hieroglyphics
- Papyrus

Misc. (Indus/China)

- Be able to find the Indus River and Ganges River on a map // also Yangtze River (Ancient China)
- Indus Civilization – basic understanding of this river valley civilization through the “Five Characteristics” lens – with the limitation that historians have yet to decipher their writing.

Essay

In a 5-paragraph essay format -- What are the most important changes/developments to happen within and among human societies from around 15,000 BCE to around 1500 BCE. Describe each area of change/development in detail.