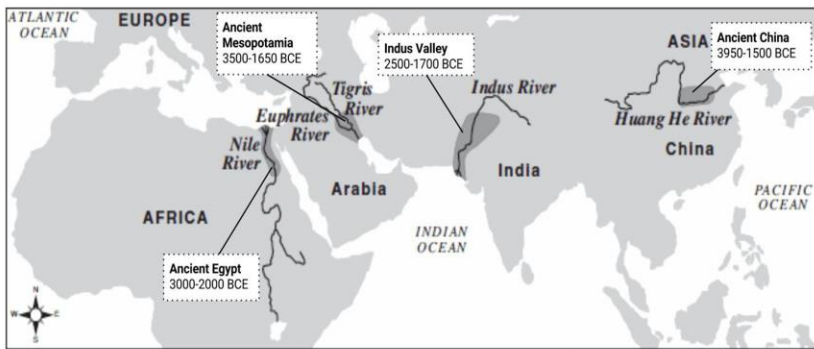
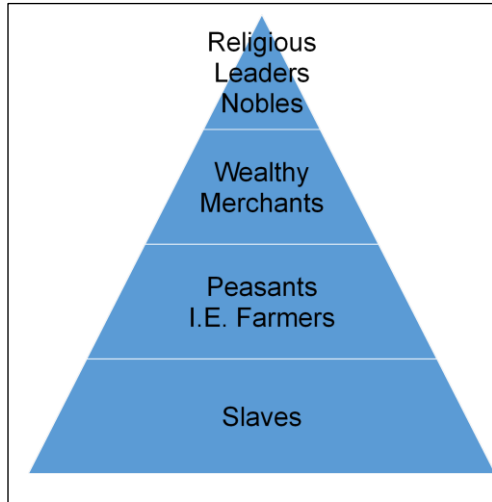


Aim #4: How did the world's first civilizations arise and develop?

Beginning of Civilizations

NYS SS Framework: 9.1c



Source: Charles F. Gritzner, *Exploring Our World, Past and Present*, D. C. Heath and Company (adapted)

Mini Lecture

- A **civilization** is an advanced state of development of a society w/ 8 features.
- The earliest civilizations developed near major rivers. Rivers provided water, transportation, & food.
- Floodwaters made the soil fertile w/ silt. In such rich conditions, farmers produced **surpluses**, which allowed them to store food & feed growing populations.
- As populations grew, villages expanded into **cities**, where some people had jobs other than farming. The rise of cities is the main feature of civilization.
- In addition to cities, historians distinguish other basic features of most early civilizations. They include **organized governments, complex religions, job specialization, social classes, arts & architecture, public works, and writing.**
- In these early civilizations, central governments led by chiefs or elders coordinated large-scale projects such as farming or public works, established laws, & organized defense.
- Most people were **polytheistic**, believing in many gods.
- Also, for the first time, individuals began to specialize in certain jobs. Some became artisans. In many civilizations, people's jobs determined their social rank.
- Art & architecture developed, reflecting the belief/values of the civilization. Skilled workers built large, ornate palaces & temples decorated with paintings & statues.
- Many civilizations also developed writing from **pictographs**. As writing grew more complex, only specially trained people called **scribes** could read/write.
- Over time, early civilizations changed. Famine, drought, or other disasters led people to migrate. Migration, as well as trade & warfare, led to **cultural diffusion.**
- Rulers acquired more territory. This brought about the development of **city-states** & later the first **empires.**

Review Questions:

1. Why did early civilizations develop near major rivers?
2. What roles did central governments have in early civilizations?
3. Summarize Explain what causes cultural diffusion.

Resources/Documents:

- Videos on Irrigation and Terrace Farming

Early River Valley Civilizations

	Mesopotamia	Egypt	Indus Valley	China
Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tigris and Euphrates flooding unpredictable • No natural barriers • Limited natural resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nile flooding predictable • Natural barriers: deserts • Nile an easy transportation link 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indus flooding unpredictable • Natural barriers: mountains, deserts • Monsoon winds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Huang He flooding unpredictable • Natural barriers: mountains, deserts • Geographically isolated
Power and Authority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Independent city-states governed by monarchs • City-states united into first empires 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pharaohs rule kingdom as gods • Pharaohs built pyramids 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong centralized government • Planned cities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community and family important • Sharp social divisions • Mandate of Heaven
Science and Technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cuneiform • Irrigation • Bronze • Wheel, sail, plow 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hieroglyphics • Pyramids • Mathematics, geometry • Medicine 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Writing (not yet deciphered) • Cities built on precise grid • Plumbing and sewage systems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Writing • Silk • Coined money • Cast iron

Further Reading: Chapter 1, Section 3

How did inhabitants of Early River Valley Civilizations innovate to meet their needs?

Example 1: Irrigation

The environmental problem was that there was ...	<i>so</i>	Early River Valley Civilizations modified their environments to create ...
---	-----------	---



What is irrigation?

Irrigation is the process of bringing water from a natural source like a river to an area without water.



Watch the [“What is irrigation?”](#) video to see examples of irrigation across the world.

1. Based on the video, identify advantages and disadvantages to using irrigation in the chart below.

Advantages to Using Irrigation

Disadvantages to Using Irrigation

Irrigation in Ancient Egypt and Mesopotamia



Directions: Watch this [Discovery Education Video on irrigation in Ancient Egypt](#) and [this video on Irrigation in Ancient Mesopotamia](#) then complete the tasks the follow.

2. Describe the techniques used by Ancient Egyptians and people living in Mesopotamia to meet their water and food needs.

3. Explain the effects of using these techniques on these civilizations.

--	--

Example 2: Terrace Farming and Mud Brick Making

The environmental problem is that there is ...

so

Early River Valley Civilizations modified their environments to create ...

not enough flat land to farm because of mountains

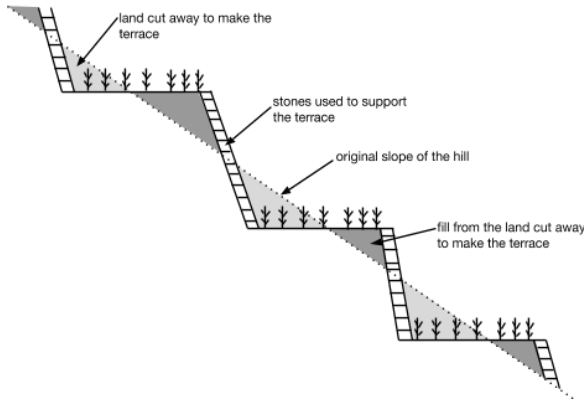


TERRACE FARMING

Terrace Farming in Ancient China

Directions: Examine the image below and watch [this video on the rice terraces in Yunnan, China](#) then complete the tasks the follow.

Terrace Farming



4. In your own words, describe what terrace farming is and explain how terrace farming benefited the Ancient Chinese.

Mud Brick Making



Directions: Watch this [CCTV video on how a modern day mud brick maker makes bricks](#), a process that is not that different from the technique used by people in Ancient Egypt, Mesopotamia, and the Indus River Valley Civilization.

5. Describe the techniques used to make mud bricks.

6. Explain how being able to create bricks might have affected the Early River Valley Civilizations.