CHAPTER 1 / ORIGINS

A History of World Societies, third edition | Course-guide topics

01 / **QUESTION**

What is prehistory?

Prehistory

02 / **QUESTION**

What is archaeology?

Historical evidence

03 / **QUESTION**

What is a primary source?

Historical evidence

04 / **QUESTION**

Why should historians question a source's purpose?

Historical evidence

05 / **QUESTION**

What does Paleolithic mean?

Prehistory

06 / **QUESTION**

How did Paleolithic people obtain most of their food?

Prehistory

02 / ANSWER

The study of past societies through material remains, such as tools, buildings, pottery, and burials.

Historical evidence

01 / ANSWER

The human past before written records. Its ending differs by region.

Prehistory

04 / ANSWER

Its creator's aims and audience can shape what it includes, leaves out, or exaggerates.

Historical evidence

03 / ANSWER

Evidence produced during the period being studied, such as an inscription, artifact, or contemporary account.

Historical evidence

06 / ANSWER

By hunting, gathering, and, where available, fishing.

Prehistory

05 / ANSWER

Old Stone Age.

Prehistory

07 / QUESTION

Why did many hunter-gatherer groups move seasonally?

Prehistory

08 / QUESTION

What does Neolithic mean?

Prehistory

09 / QUESTION

What was the Agricultural Revolution?

Agriculture

10 / QUESTION

Where is the Fertile Crescent?

Agriculture

11 / QUESTION

What is domestication?

Agriculture

12 / QUESTION

How could a food surplus support specialized occupations?

Agriculture

08 / ANSWER

New Stone Age; commonly associated with farming and settled village life, though changes occurred at different times in different regions.

Prehistory

07 / ANSWER

To follow changing supplies of wild plants, animals, and water.

Prehistory

10 / ANSWER

An arc of land in Southwest Asia extending through the Levant and Mesopotamia.

Agriculture

09 / ANSWER

The gradual shift toward cultivating crops and domesticating animals for food production.

Agriculture

12 / ANSWER

Stored or redistributed food could support people working as craftspeople, merchants, priests, or officials.

Agriculture

11 / ANSWER

The process by which humans breed and manage plants or animals, changing them over generations.

Agriculture

13 / QUESTION

Name two costs of early farming life.

Agriculture

14 / QUESTION

How did river floods help agriculture?

River civilizations

15 / QUESTION

What is irrigation?

River civilizations

16 / QUESTION

Besides farming, how did rivers support early settlements?

River civilizations

17 / QUESTION

What does Mesopotamia mean?

Mesopotamia

18 / QUESTION

Which two rivers define Mesopotamia?

Mesopotamia

14 / ANSWER

They replenished water and deposited nutrient-rich sediment, or silt.

River civilizations

13 / ANSWER

Possible costs included heavier labor, less varied diets, greater disease exposure in dense settlements, and vulnerability to crop failure.

Agriculture

16 / ANSWER

They supplied water and fish and provided routes for travel and trade.

River civilizations

15 / ANSWER

Directing water to fields through channels or other managed systems.

River civilizations

18 / ANSWER

The Tigris and Euphrates.

Mesopotamia

17 / ANSWER

Land between the rivers.

Mesopotamia

19 / QUESTION

Where was Sumer?

Mesopotamia

20 / QUESTION

What is a city-state?

Mesopotamia

21 / QUESTION

Name two Sumerian cities.

Mesopotamia

22 / QUESTION

What is a ziggurat?

Mesopotamia

23 / QUESTION

What economic role did Mesopotamian temples play?

Mesopotamia

24 / QUESTION

What is polytheism?

Mesopotamia

20 / ANSWER

An independent political unit consisting of a city and its surrounding territory.

Mesopotamia

19 / ANSWER

In southern Mesopotamia, largely in present-day southern Iraq.

Mesopotamia

22 / ANSWER

A monumental stepped temple platform associated with Mesopotamian religious life.

Mesopotamia

21 / ANSWER

Ur and Uruk. Other examples include Lagash and Eridu.

Mesopotamia

24 / ANSWER

Belief in multiple gods.

Mesopotamia

23 / ANSWER

They controlled land and resources, organized labor, and collected or distributed goods.

Mesopotamia

25 / QUESTION

What were the broad divisions of Mesopotamian society?

Mesopotamia

26 / QUESTION

What was cuneiform?

Writing

27 / QUESTION

What practical needs helped early Mesopotamian writing develop?

Writing

28 / QUESTION

How did writing strengthen government?

Writing

29 / QUESTION

What was a scribe?

Writing

30 / QUESTION

Which number base did Mesopotamian mathematics use extensively?

Mesopotamian learning

26 / ANSWER

A writing system using wedge-shaped impressions, usually made with a reed stylus in clay.

Writing

25 / ANSWER

Elites such as rulers, priests, and major landowners; free commoners, including farmers and craftspeople; and enslaved people. Status varied across periods and cities.

Mesopotamia

28 / ANSWER

It allowed officials to record taxes, property, laws, supplies, and instructions.

Writing

27 / ANSWER

Recording goods, rations, deliveries, and other economic transactions.

Writing

30 / ANSWER

Base 60. Its legacy survives in 60-minute hours and 360-degree circles.

Mesopotamian learning

29 / ANSWER

A person trained to read and write, often employed in administration, commerce, or religious institutions.

Writing

31 / QUESTION

Who is the central hero of the Epic of Gilgamesh?

Mesopotamian literature

32 / QUESTION

What major human concern appears in the Epic of Gilgamesh?

Mesopotamian literature

33 / QUESTION

Who was Sargon of Akkad?

Mesopotamian rule

34 / QUESTION

What is Hammurabi especially remembered for?

Mesopotamian rule

35 / QUESTION

Were punishments in Hammurabi's laws the same for everyone?

Mesopotamian rule

36 / QUESTION

Which river sustained ancient Egyptian civilization?

Egypt

32 / ANSWER

Mortality and the search for lasting meaning or immortality.

Mesopotamian literature

31 / ANSWER

Gilgamesh, a legendary king of Uruk.

Mesopotamian literature

34 / ANSWER

A major collection of Babylonian legal judgments, commonly called the Code of Hammurabi.

Mesopotamian rule

33 / ANSWER

A ruler who conquered Sumerian city-states and built a major Mesopotamian empire in the third millennium BCE.

Mesopotamian rule

36 / ANSWER

The Nile.

Egypt

35 / ANSWER

No. Penalties could differ according to social status and the circumstances of the case.

Mesopotamian rule

37 / QUESTION

Where were Upper and Lower Egypt?

Egypt

38 / QUESTION

Approximately when were Upper and Lower Egypt unified?

Egypt

39 / QUESTION

What was a pharaoh?

Egypt

40 / QUESTION

What were Egyptian hieroglyphs?

Egypt

41 / QUESTION

What purpose did royal pyramids serve?

Egypt

42 / QUESTION

What is the chronological order of Egypt's three main kingdoms?

Egypt

38 / ANSWER

Around 3100 BCE.

Egypt

37 / ANSWER

Upper Egypt was in the south, upstream; Lower Egypt was in the north, including the Nile Delta.

Egypt

40 / ANSWER

A writing system whose signs could represent sounds, words, or clarify meaning.

Egypt

39 / ANSWER

Egypt's king, whose authority had a sacred or divine character.

Egypt

42 / ANSWER

Old Kingdom, Middle Kingdom, New Kingdom, with intermediate periods between them.

Egypt

41 / ANSWER

They were royal tombs within larger funerary complexes, connected with kingship and beliefs about the afterlife.

Egypt

43 / QUESTION

How did their early political organization differ?

Egypt and Mesopotamia

44 / QUESTION

Where was the Hittite kingdom centered?

Hittites

45 / QUESTION

Was there one simple cause of the Late Bronze Age collapse?

Fall of empires

44 / ANSWER

In Anatolia, in present-day Turkey; its capital was Hattusa.

Hittites

43 / ANSWER

Early Sumer consisted of competing city-states; unified Egypt developed a more centralized monarchy. Both regions changed over time.

Egypt and Mesopotamia

45 / ANSWER

No. Warfare, political instability, disrupted trade, and environmental pressures interacted differently across regions around 1200 BCE.

Fall of empires