

First Civilizations: Cities, States, and Unequal Societies

(use calendar for a pacing guide)

<p>Social Science Vocabulary</p> <p style="text-align: center;">civilization slavery patriarchy (patriarchal) city-state economic specialization standardized centralized state ecological foundations chiefdom bureaucracy (bureaucrats) kinship egalitarian artisans horticultural societies commerce paternalistic state propaganda urbanization principalities domesticated animals imperial state diplomacy</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Big Picture</p> <p>From about 5,000 years ago, urban societies developed, laying the foundations for the first civilizations. The term <i>civilization</i> is normally used to designate large societies with cities and powerful states. While there were many differences between civilizations, they also shared important features. They all produced agricultural surpluses that permitted significant specialization of labor. All civilizations contained cities and generated complex institutions, such as political bureaucracies, armies, and religious hierarchies. They also featured clearly stratified social hierarchies and organized long-distance trading relationships. Economic exchanges intensified within and between civilizations, as well as with nomadic pastoralists.</p> <p>As populations grew, competition for surplus resources, especially food, led to greater social stratification, specialization of labor, increased trade, more complex systems of government and religion, and the development of record keeping. As civilizations expanded, they had to balance their need for more resources with environmental constraints such as the danger of undermining soil fertility. Finally, the accumulation of wealth in settled communities spurred warfare between communities and/or with pastoralists; this violence drove the development of new technologies of war and urban defense.</p>
<p>Key Historical Terms</p> <p style="text-align: center;">quipu Mandate of Heaven oracle bones ziggurat Teotihuacan Hatshepsut pharaohs Nubia Hebrews Phoenicians Hittites Hyskos</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Essential Understanding</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify the <i>geographical and environmental settings</i> of the earliest civilizations including Mesopotamia, Egypt, Indus Valley, Shang China, Olmec, and Chavin. (pp. 56-61) 2. How did early civilizations erode the “equality” found in earlier societies (hunter-gatherers, pastoralists, agriculturalists, etc.)? Consider social classes, slavery, gender roles, etc. (pp. 64-69) 3. The first states emerged within core civilizations. What were <i>the basic characteristics</i> of these early states? (pp. 69-73) 4. What role did culture play in unifying states? Consider laws, language, literature, religion, myths, and monumental art. (spread throughout the chapter) 5. How did interaction and exchange spread goods, cultural ideas, and technology? (pp. 79-83)
<p>Your Questions (questions you need/want answered from the reading)</p>	