GEOGRAPHY & HISTORY

1º DE E.S.O
UNIT 6: THE FIRST CIVILIZATIONS

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• THERE WERE.  
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• CITY-STATES  
• CIVILIZATION  
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1 – THE RISE OF THE FIRST CIVILIZATIONS

1. Around 6,000 BC the first civilizations appeared along large rivers (Nile, Tigris, Euphrates, Indus River, Yellow River...). Different groups founded cities on the fertile banks of those rivers and obtained great harvests.

2. Because there were more harvests, the population increased and the first towns arose.

3. Two civilizations arose in the Middle East, which is also called the Fertile Crescent: Mesopotamia and Ancient Egypt.

Activities:

- Answer these questions:
  - When did the first civilizations arise?
  - Where did they develop?
  - Why did they develop there?
  - In which countries are these rivers?
    Nile…………………………………………………………
    Tigris and Euphrates ……………………………
    India…………………………………………………
    Yellow River……………………………………

2 – NEW WAYS OF LIFE

1. For the first time not everyone worked in agriculture or livestock breeding because there was enough food for everyone. New jobs arose, such as quarrymen, construction workers or bricklayers, gold / silversmiths... Therefore, some new social groups arose.

2. Trade --or the exchange of products-- appeared because there was a surplus of food production. These goods were transported along rivers or by roads.
UNIT 6: The First Civilizations

3. Villages became towns and their societies became more complex. This caused the rise of governments and administrations. Kings and priests ruled, made laws (for example, The Code of Hammurabi), and controlled the government.

4. The people believed kings and priests were divine beings and had a special relationship with the gods. Kings and priests demanded a lot of taxes. They used these taxes to build monuments and finance armies.

- **Activities:**

  - Answer these questions:
    - What were the characteristics of the first civilizations?
    - How was life different from life during Prehistory?
    - Who were the most important people during this time?

  - Look at the picture about construction workers on page number 2. Colour this drawing with the same colours and answer these questions:
    - What does he do?
    - Was there another name for construction workers?
    - Was he a free worker or a slave? What do you think about this?

3 – THE RISE OF THE WRITING

- Writing arose in Mesopotamia around 3,500 BC because it was necessary for government and trade. Historians consider this development to be the beginning of History.

- With the development of writing schools, science, and culture flourished. Papyrus and clay tablets were used as writing surfaces.

- The writing in Mesopotamia is called **Cuneiform Script**. They recorded numbers by pressing a triangular shaped stylus into a soft clay tablet.

- The writing in Ancient Egypt is called **Hieroglyphic Script**. They wrote on papyrus and walls with different types of ink. Sometimes they sculpted reliefs on walls. They used drawings and symbols to represented words.
Activities:

- Answer these questions:
  - When and where did writing develop?
  - What were the differences between the writing in Mesopotamia and the writing in Ancient Egypt?

- Look at these pictures and write the name of each in the box below?

4 – THE MESOPOTAMIAN CIVILIZATIONS

- Mesopotamia means ‘land between the rivers.’ It was located in the Middle East, between the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers. Nowadays, this area is the location of Iraq. This region is known as the Fertile Crescent or the cradle of civilization.

- Some people settled in this fertile region and founded city-states:
  - Sumerian (4th millennium BC) - cities: Eridu, Uruk, Lagash...
  - Akkadian (3rd millennium BC) - city: Akkad.
  - Babylonian (from 2nd millennium BC to 1st millennium BC) - city: Babylon.
  - Assyrian (from 2nd millennium BC to 1st millennium BC) - city: Assur.
  - Persian (1st millennium BC) – city: Persepolis.
  - Other peoples: Hurrians, Hittites, Kassites...

- For many of these civilizations, the king and other leaders (such as priests and government employees), ruled the population of their cities. The kings had power over everything: politics, the military, and religion. There were free people who worked as farmers, livestock farmers, craftsmen, traders, but there were slaves, too. The social groups were very closed and hierarchical.

- Their principal economic activities were agriculture, livestock breeding, crafts, and trade. They grew crops on the fertile land along the river, and built docks and canals to control the flooding.
- Mesopotamians generally had polytheistic religions. They believed in many gods (Enlil, Enki, Ishtar...). In Mesopotamia there were libraries with clay tablets where they wrote epic poems, such as the Epic of Gilgamesh. They developed maths, astronomy and medicine.

- They built constructions with bricks of adobe and decorated them with other building materials (marble, glazed bricks or alabaster). Their principal buildings were palaces, temples and ziggurats. Ziggurats are step towers with several floors, with shrines or astronomical observatories in the upper level.

- Answer these questions:
  - Where was Mesopotamia?
  - What are the social and economical characteristics of Mesopotamian civilizations?

- Read the questions. Choose the correct answer.
  - What is polytheism?: a) to believe in a god b) to believe in a goddess c) to believe in many gods
  - What did the Mesopotamian civilizations develop? a) astronomy b) physics c) biology
  - What type of buildings did the Mesopotamian civilizations build? a) theatres b) basilicas c) ziggurats

- Look at these pictures and answer: Which of these images correspond to the Sumerians, the Akkadians, the Assyrians, the Babylonians and the Persians?
5 – ANCIENT EGYPT

- Ancient Egypt was a civilization along the Nile River. Once a year the Nile flooded— or inundated—the Nile Valley and fertilized nearby land. Also, the Nile was the principal waterway for river navigation.

- The history of ancient Egypt can be divided in several periods: the Old Kingdom; the Middle Kingdom; the New Kingdom and the Late Period. Egypt was divided in Upper and Lower Egypt. King Meni (Menes) unified Upper and Lower Egypt around 3,100 BC The first dynasties of pharaohs began around this time.

- Old Kingdom (2700-2200 BC): This was the time of pyramids and great pharaohs Djoser, Kheops (Khufu), Khafa, Menkaura... The capital town was Memphis.

- Middle Kingdom (2052-1786 BC) During this time, Egypt was invaded by Hyksos (a people from Asia). The capital town was Tebas.

- New Kingdom (about 1567 BC-about 1085 BC) This was the age of great pharaohs who are the most famous of Ancient Egypt (Hatshepsut, the female pharaoh; Akhenaten; Tutankamun, known as King Tut; Ramesses II; and Ramesses III).

- Late Period (about 1085 BC – 30 BC) Egypt was divided in little territories and suffered invasions. Finally, the Greeks and Romans conquered it.

- The society was divided hierarchically into groups:

  - The pharaoh and his family (the pharaohs were thought to be both a king and a god, and had all power).
  - The leading group (priests, viziers, and important government employees like scribes or scriveners).
  - Free people who worked as soldiers, craftsman, workers, farmers...
  - And slaves. Slaves worked in mines and in domestic housework. They didn't exist during all periods of Ancient Egypt.
  - Overall, women had more freedom than others civilizations. There were several women pharaohs, like Hatshepsut and Cleopatra.
- Their principal economic activities were agriculture, livestock breeding, crafts, textiles, and trade.
  
  - In agriculture they farmed wheat (to make bread and beer); flax (to make linen); lentils…
  - In livestock breeding they reared many species.

- Ancient Egyptians practiced a polytheistic religion. They believed in many gods (Ra, Horus, Anubis...). They believed in life after death, which is why they mummified the dead. They wrote texts about religions (Book of the Dead), science and technology, and even wrote literature (Story of Sinuhe). They used a solar calendar similar to ours.

- They built great constructions with big stone blocks. These constructions had colossal dimensions. They also built temples and funerary constructions, including tombs like mastabas, pyramids and hypogeums. The pyramids were built by free workers, not slaves.

## Activities:

- Answer these questions:
  - Where was Ancient Egypt?
  - What are the economic characteristics of Ancient Egypt?

- Make a time line describing the periods of Ancient Egypt.

- Read the questions. Choose the correct answer.
  - How was the pharaoh considered?: a) as a priest b) as a god c) as a vizier
  - Who were the scribes? a) government employees b) farmers c) slaves
  - What were soldiers, craftsmen, workers and farmers? a) gods b) free people c) slaves
  - Where did slaves work? a) in mines b) in pyramids c) in the Book of the Dead
  - Who were Hatshepsut and Cleopatra? a) two goddesses b) two pharaohs c) two pyramids
  - What is `Story of Sinuhe`? a) a literary story b) a pyramid c) a solar calendar
- Look at these pictures and answer: Which of these images correspond to Amun-Ra, Anubis, Horus, Isis and Anubis?

![Images](http://static.howstuffworks.com/gif/willow/ancient-egypt-history2.gif

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- Look at these pictures and answer: Which of these images correspond to mastabas, pyramids and hypogeums?

![Images](http://z.about.com/d/ancienthistory/1/0/Z/m/2/Mastaba-faraoun-3.jpg

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Images from: [http://media.photobucket.com/image/Hipogeo/zonznzn_photos/Egipto/RN08_1_hatsepsut.jpg](http://media.photobucket.com/image/Hipogeo/zonznzn_photos/Egipto/RN08_1_hatsepsut.jpg)
### 5 - VOCABULARY

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<th>SPANISH</th>
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<td>Along preposición</td>
<td>/əˈloʊn/</td>
<td>A lo largo de</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appeared verbo, pasado</td>
<td>/əˈpɜrd/</td>
<td>Aparecieron</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Banks sust.</td>
<td>/bæŋks/</td>
<td>Ribera, orilla</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bricklayers sust.</td>
<td>/ˈbrɪkˌleɪər/</td>
<td>Albañil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Build monuments verb. and sust.</td>
<td>/bild/ /ˈmɑ:njəmənts/</td>
<td>Construir monumentos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City-states sust.</td>
<td>/ˈsɪti/-/ˈstɛrt/</td>
<td>Ciudades-Estado</td>
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<tr>
<td>Civilization sust.</td>
<td>/ˈsɪvaləˈzeɪʃən/</td>
<td>Civilización</td>
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<tr>
<td>Closed adjetivo</td>
<td>/kləʊzd/</td>
<td>Cerrado</td>
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<tr>
<td>Colossal dimensions adj. and sust.</td>
<td>/ˈkɑ:ˈlɑ:səl / /dəˈmentʃəns/</td>
<td>Dimensiones colosales</td>
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<tr>
<td>Complex adj.</td>
<td>/ˈkɑ:mpleks/</td>
<td>Complejo</td>
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<tr>
<td>Conquered verbo, pasado</td>
<td>/ˈkɑ:ŋkɑrd /</td>
<td>Conquistaron</td>
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<tr>
<td>Consider verbo</td>
<td>/kʌnˈsidər/</td>
<td>Considerar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction workers sust.</td>
<td>/kɑnˈtrækʃən / /ˈwɑ:rkər /</td>
<td>Trabajadores</td>
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<tr>
<td>Controlled the government verb. and sust.</td>
<td>/ˈkɑnˈtrəʊld/.../ˈɡɑvərnment /</td>
<td>Controlaron el gobierno</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cradle of Civilization sust.</td>
<td>/ˈkreydəl / /ˈsɪvaləˈzeɪʃən/</td>
<td>La cuna de la civilización</td>
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<tr>
<td>Develop verbo</td>
<td>/dɪˈvɛlp/</td>
<td>Desarrollar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Divine beings adj. and sust.</td>
<td>/daˈvæn / /ˈbiːɪŋz$/</td>
<td>Seres divinos</td>
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<tr>
<td>Epic poem adj. and sust.</td>
<td>/ˈɛpɪk/ /ˈpəʊəm /</td>
<td>Poema épico</td>
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<td>Exchange sust.</td>
<td>/ɪksˈtʃɛndaɪʃən/</td>
<td>Cambio</td>
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<td>Fertile adjetivo</td>
<td>/fɜːtɪl/</td>
<td>Fértil</td>
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<td>Finance armies adj. and sust.</td>
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<td>Financiar ejércitos</td>
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<td>Fundado</td>
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<td>Gold / Silversmith sust.</td>
<td>/ˈɡɔuld/-/ˈsɪlvər / /ˈsmɪθ/</td>
<td>Orfebre/ platero</td>
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<td>Government sust.</td>
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<td>/ˈhɑːrnvest/</td>
<td>Cosecha</td>
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<td>Have power over...</td>
<td>/hæv/ /ˈpəʊər/ /ˈəʊvər/</td>
<td>Tener poder sobre...</td>
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<td>Hierarchical adj.</td>
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<td>Jerárquico</td>
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<td>Kings sust.</td>
<td>/kɪŋz/</td>
<td>Reyes</td>
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<td>Large adj.</td>
<td>/lɑːrˈdʒɪ /</td>
<td>Grande</td>
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<td>Library sust.</td>
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<td>Biblioteca</td>
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<td>Made laws verb.</td>
<td>/mɛrd/ /ˈboʊs/</td>
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<td>Middle East adj. and sust.</td>
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<td>Mummify (-ied) verb.</td>
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<td>Near adj.</td>
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<td>Near</td>
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<td>Obtained particípio</td>
<td>Obtenido</td>
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<td>Population sust.</td>
<td>Población</td>
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<td>Sacerdote</td>
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<td>Canteros</td>
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<td>Rule (-d) verbo, (-pasado)</td>
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<td>Esclavo</td>
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<td>Surplus sust.</td>
<td>Excedente</td>
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<td>Impuesto</td>
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<td>Tomb sust.</td>
<td>Tumba</td>
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<td>Trade sust.</td>
<td>Comercio</td>
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<td>Triangular shaped stylus adj. and sust.</td>
<td>Caña con punta triangular</td>
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<td>Way of life sust.</td>
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<td>What...? pronombre interrog.</td>
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