

Chapter 1

Origins: The First Civilizations

Multiple Choice

1. “Prehistory” may be defined as that period prior to

- a. the Ice Age.
- b. written records.
- c. stone tools.
- d. humankind.

Answer: b

2. The first civilizations appeared

- a. in tropical climates.
- b. on high plateaus.
- c. in Western Europe.
- d. on the banks of rivers.

Answer: d

3. Research into the origins of writing suggest that written signs derived from

- a. hand signals.
- b. markings on clay tokens.
- c. images on cave walls.
- d. Hammurabi’s Code.

Answer: b

4. The term Paleolithic is used interchangeably with the term

- a. Old Stone Age.
- b. New Stone Age.
- c. Neolithic.
- d. Mesolithic.

Answer: a

5. One of the earliest landmarks of Paleolithic culture is

- a. cave-painting.
- b. metallurgy.
- c. stone circles.
- d. farming.

Answer: a

6. The world's oldest clay vessels appear to have come from

- a. Egypt.
- b. Mexico.
- c. Israel.
- d. Japan.

Answer: d

7. The landmark known as Stonehenge is located in

- a. Iraq.
- b. England.
- c. Mexico.
- d. Spain.

Answer: b

8. The Tigris and Euphrates Rivers are located in present-day

- a. Israel.
- b. Iran.
- c. Iraq.
- d. Syria.

Answer: c

9. Which of the following statements about the *Epic of Gilgamesh* is most accurate?

- a. It originated in Egypt.
- b. It was first written down by Neolithic communities.
- c. It was passed down orally for centuries.
- d. It was inspired by the Hebrew Bible.

Answer: c

10. Hammurabi was a ruler of

- a. Uruk.
- b. Sumer.
- c. Assyria.
- d. Babylon.

Answer: d

11. Hammurabi's Code is significant chiefly because it

- a. originated the idea that all subjects were equal under the law.
- b. is the only example of cuneiform in ancient Mesopotamia.
- c. is unusually comprehensive and extensive.
- d. granted women the same rights as men.

Answer: c

12. The earliest discovered inscribed clay tablets come from

- a. Sumer.
- b. Africa.
- c. Egypt.
- d. Babylon.

Answer: a

13. The first literary epic developed in

- a. India.
- b. Egypt.
- c. Mesopotamia.
- d. China.

Answer: c

14. The Great Temple at Karnak was

- a. dedicated to the sun-god Amon-Ra.
- b. a landmark of Egypt's Old Kingdom.
- c. built by Indo-Aryan invaders in India.
- d. built in honor of the prophet Zoroaster.

Answer: a

15. Which Iron Age sea-faring people created a non-pictographic alphabet?

- a. Phoenicians
- b. Persians
- c. Chaldeans
- d. Assyrians

Answer: a

16. The name Zoroaster is associated primarily with the history of

- a. Persia.
- b. Sumer.
- c. Egypt.
- d. Assyria.

Answer: a

17. The Egyptian pyramids functioned primarily as

- a. temples.
- b. tombs.
- c. administrative centers.
- d. gathering places.

Answer: b

18. The landmark known as the *Book of the Dead* is

- a. a Hindu text on the afterlife.
- b. the first Sumerian written document.
- c. a set of Egyptian funerary prayers.
- d. China's oldest written religious text.

Answer: c

19. Akhenaten is associated with what religion or religious view?

- a. pantheism
- b. Daoism
- c. Hinduism
- d. monotheism

Answer: d

20. Jade artifacts, especially in the form of circular discs, are primarily associated with ancient

- a. China.
- b. Egypt.
- c. India.
- d. Babylon.

Answer: a

21. Zhou rebels justified their rebellion against the Shang dynasty on the basis of

- a. Daoist principles.
- b. the Mandate of Heaven.
- c. the aristocracy of merit.
- d. their interpretation of the *Vedas*.

Answer: b

22. In Hinduism, the Absolute Spirit is known as

- a. nirvana.
- b. karma.
- c. Atman.
- d. Brahman.

Answer: d

23. Taking its name from the term for “sacred knowledge,” which Hindu literature teaches worship through prayer and sacrifice?

- a. *Ramayana*
- b. *Vedas*
- c. *Upanishads*
- d. *Mahabharata*

Answer: b

Essay

24. Discuss any two of the following as landmarks of the ancient world, explaining why each holds the status of a landmark: *The Babylonian Creation*; the *Epic of Gilgamesh*; Hammurabi's Code; the Egyptian pyramids.
25. Which landmarks do you believe are most representative of the key idea in this chapter, "origins"? In what way does each of these landmarks reflect a beginning point in the history of culture?
26. How do the landmarks of China and India differ from (or resemble) those of ancient Egypt and Mesopotamia?