

CHAPTER ONE THE BIRTH OF CIVILIZATION

Multiple Choice

1) What is the species name of modern humans?

- A) *Homo sapiens sapiens*
- B) *Homo erectus*
- C) *Homo ergaster*
- D) *Homo habilis*
- E) Neanderthals

Answer: A

Page Ref: 6

Skill: Factual

Topic: The Evolution of Prehistoric Cultures

2) The triangular indentations used for the script of Sumerians are called

- A) cuneiform.
- B) *lugal*.
- C) runes.
- D) pictographs.
- E) hieroglyphics.

Answer: A

Page Ref: 20

Skill: Factual

Topic: The Origin of Civilization in Mesopotamia: Sumer

3) The Great Pyramid was built for which Egyptian pharaoh?

- A) Khufu
- B) Imhotep
- C) Djoser
- D) Menkaure
- E) Kameronnebti

Answer: A

Page Ref: 29

Skill: Factual

Topic: The Rise of Civilization in Egypt

4) Objects made from what material were used much more frequently by Neolithic man than by Paleolithic man?

- A) fired clay
- B) bronze
- C) iron
- D) glass
- E) wood

Answer: A

Page Ref: 12

Skill: Factual

Topic: The Archaic States

5) Which metal was used for tools as early as 7500 B.C.E.?

- A) copper
- B) iron
- C) bronze
- D) silver
- E) lead

Answer: A

Page Ref: 13

Skill: Factual

Topic: The Archaic States

6) The legendary king Gilgamesh ruled the city of

- A) Uruk.
- B) Babylon.
- C) Eridu.
- D) Kish.
- E) Akkad.

Answer: A

Page Ref: 6

Skill: Factual

Topic: Key Question

7) Which of the following technologies was NOT used by the earliest Western civilizations?

- A) forging iron
- B) agriculture
- C) metal working
- D) building
- E) irrigation

Answer: A

Page Ref: 32

Skill: Factual

Topic: Key Question Revisited

8) Study of the Iceman and the materials found with him suggest that he was most likely to have been a

- A) hunter or shepherd.
- B) soldier.
- C) tradesman.
- D) farmer or gatherer.
- E) homeless nomad.

Answer: A

Page Ref: 9

Skill: Factual

Topic: People in Context

9) Discovered in the Alps in 1991, the Iceman was from what era?

- A) Bronze Age
- B) Iron Age
- C) Neanderthal
- D) Paleolithic
- E) Neolithic

Answer: A

Page Ref: 9

Skill: Factual

Topic: People in Context

- 10) As shown on Map 1-2, the land between the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers is known as
- A) Mesopotamia
 - B) Babylonia
 - C) the Delta
 - D) Anatolia.
 - E) Libya

Answer: A

Page Ref: 14

Skill: Factual

Topic: Map 1-2

- 11) Which archaic states shown in Map 1-2 are described in the text as the first civilizations?

- A) Sumerian and Egyptian
- B) Egyptian and Iranian
- C) Egyptian and Hittite
- D) Hittite and Iranian
- E) Sumerian and Iranian

Answer: A

Page Ref: 14

Skill: Factual

Topic: Map 1-1

- 12) What critical problem did the first farmers in Mesopotamia have to overcome before enough food could be grown to support a dense population?

- A) trapping flood waters for distribution during the growing season
- B) defeating barbarian invaders
- C) developing sturdy iron tools.
- D) conquering the Hittite Kingdom
- E) finding water sources in a desert

Answer: A

Page Ref: 14-15

Skill: Factual

Topic: The Origin of Civilization in Mesopotamia: Sumer

13) What common characteristic was shared by primal civilizations in Egypt, Sumer, China, and India?

- A) They sprang up along flooding rivers.
- B) They relied on transportation by sea.
- C) Agriculture developed only after large cities developed.
- D) The first arose on islands
- E) They all arose in areas of mild climate.

Answer: A

Page Ref: 14

Skill: Factual

Topic: The Origin of Civilization in Mesopotamia: Sumer

14) The middle area of the Fertile Crescent differed from Egypt and Mesopotamia because it

- A) had enough rainfall to sustain crops.
- B) subsisted on fishing.
- C) built complex irrigation systems.
- D) was an extension of the Sinai Desert.
- E) flourished through Mediterranean trade.

Answer: A

Page Ref: 14

Skill: Factual

Topic: Map 1-2

15) The first farmers in Mesopotamia migrated into the area from

- A) the Iranian highlands.
- B) Anatolia.
- C) the Arabian Desert.
- D) the Aegean Sea region.
- E) the Mediterranean coast.

Answer: A

Page Ref: 14

Skill: Factual

Topic: The Origin of Civilization in Mesopotamia: Sumer

- 16) The axe found with the body of the Iceman had a head made of
- A) copper.
 - B) iron.
 - C) polished stone.
 - D) flaked flint.
 - E) forged steel.

Answer: A

Page Ref: 9

Skill: Factual

Topic: People in Context

- 17) Historians estimate that the existence of *Homo sapiens sapiens* goes back how many years?

- A) 150,000
- B) 300,000
- C) 50,000
- D) 100,000
- E) 200,000

Answer: A

Page Ref: 6

Skill: Factual

Topic: The Evolution of Prehistoric Cultures

- 18) Historians speculate that the shift from hunting and gathering to farming and herding occurred in the Western world about how many years ago?

- A) 10,000
- B) 40,000
- C) 30,000
- D) 20,000
- E) 50,000

Answer: A

Page Ref: 5

Skill: Factual

Topic: Key Question

19) What was the name of the pharaoh who was credited with setting a style for pyramid construction that lasted for centuries?

- A) Djoser
- B) Cheops
- C) Khufu
- D) Narmer
- E) Imhotep

Answer: A

Page Ref: 29

Skill: Factual

Topic: The Rise of Civilization in Egypt

20) What material began to be used as the Neolithic gave way to the dawn of civilization?

- A) metals
- B) fired bronze
- C) burnished pottery
- D) pressure-chip tools
- E) fired pottery

Answer: A

Page Ref: 13

Skill: Factual

Topic: The Archaic States

21) In which global area did the transition to civilization happen last?

- A) Mesoamerica
- B) China
- C) Egypt
- D) Indus River valley
- E) Mesopotamia

Answer: A

Page Ref: 13

Skill: Factual

Topic: The Archaic States

22) One of the earliest works of literature was the epic story of what Sumerian king?

- A) Gilgamesh
- B) Enmerbaragesi
- C) Sargon
- D) Menes
- E) Enlil

Answer: A

Page Ref: 6

Skill: Factual

Topic: Key Question

23) The main task of the Egyptian pharaoh was to preserve justice, otherwise known as

- A) *ma'at*.
- B) nomes.
- C) karma.
- D) *mastaba*.
- E) *lugal*.

Answer: A

Page Ref: 27

Skill: Factual

Topic: The Rise of Civilization in Egypt

24) The first true city to arise in Mesopotamia, in the fourth millennium B.C.E., was

- A) Uruk.
- B) Akkad.
- C) Babylon.
- D) Kish.
- E) Nippur.

Answer: A

Page Ref: 16

Skill: Factual

Topic: The Origin of Civilization in Mesopotamia: Sumer

25) Early Sumerian cities would be best described as

- A) uncomfortable and unhealthy.
- B) built to last out of stone and fired brick.
- C) much less prone to disease than the surrounding countryside.
- D) well planned and carefully laid out.
- E) small and uncomplicated.

Answer: A

Page Ref: 17-18

Skill: Factual

Topic: The Origin of Civilization in Mesopotamia: Sumer

26) The Neolithic era was considered revolutionary because it was the first period when Western mankind began to

- A) consciously transform the environment.
- B) harvest what nature produces.
- C) learn about the life cycles of plants and animals.
- D) increase its reliance on hunting and gathering.
- E) sow seeds to produce crops.

Answer: A

Page Ref: 10

Skill: Conceptual

Topic: The Evolution of Prehistoric Cultures

27) Which of the following was a result of Ur-Nammu becoming aware of the antiquity of Sumerian civilization?

- A) the archiving of ancient documents
- B) updates to the road system
- C) the reconstruction of the palace
- D) the reinforcement of religious practices
- E) the securing of Sumerian borders

Answer: A

Page Ref: 23

Skill: Conceptual

Topic: The Origin of Civilization in Mesopotamia: Sumer

28) Which of the following best explains the fact that ancient Egypt left no written law codes?

- A) The pharaoh was a god on earth and thus the source of all law and justice.
- B) Egyptian society was so unsophisticated that laws were not needed.
- C) Ancient Egyptians had no means of writing down their laws.
- D) Egyptians were expected to care for themselves without government oversight.
- E) Families—not the pharaoh or abstract laws—held final power.

Answer: A

Page Ref: 28

Skill: Conceptual

Topic: The Rise of Civilization in Egypt

29) The Iceman's trappings were not just utilitarian. What decorative element distinguished him?

- A) tattoos
- B) pattern in his woven cloak
- C) nose ring
- D) finger ring
- E) feathers in his hair

Answer: A

Page Ref: 9

Skill: Conceptual

Topic: People in Context

30) In 1897 a palette was discovered at Hierakonpolis that

- A) provided clues on how Egypt was unified.
- B) pictured Narmer as the ruler of a totally unified state.
- C) recorded the names of the major Egyptian gods.
- D) explained the divisions of the empire.
- E) commemorated the victories of Upper Egypt.

Answer: A

Page Ref: 26

Skill: Conceptual

Topic: The Rise of Civilization in Egypt

31) The leaders of Sumerian city-states

- A) benefited their subjects but were also oppressive.
- B) spared their subjects hardship by using foreign slave labor.
- C) had little effect on the state of the physical environment.
- D) provided few benefits or services to their subjects.
- E) were aware of the responsibilities and duties of power.

Answer: A

Page Ref: 6

Skill: Conceptual

Topic: Key Question

32) Which common factor is true of both prehistoric cultures and early civilizations?

- A) People altered the natural environment.
- B) Societies relied on written records to maintain traditions.
- C) Hunting and gathering provided more food than agriculture.
- D) Human populations were small and scattered.
- E) Cultural change was usually intentional and carefully planned.

Answer: A

Page Ref: 31

Skill: Conceptual

Topic: Key Question Revisited

- 33) Scientific study of the Iceman has shown that
- A) human remains can provide information about an era without written records.
 - B) people lived in Mesopotamia much earlier than historians had suspected.
 - C) Bronze Age people lived simple lives with few possessions.
 - D) the Alps formed a barrier that Bronze Age people could not cross.
 - E) the inability to adapt to the environment greatly limited early human culture.

Answer: A

Page Ref: 9

Skill: Conceptual

Topic: People in Context

- 34) Which of the following developments marked man's evolution from prehistory to history?

- A) development of writing systems
- B) development of fired pottery
- C) development of city-states
- D) ornamentation of utilitarian objects
- E) use of bronze

Answer: A

Page Ref: 6

Skill: Conceptual

Topic: Key Topic: The Evolution of Prehistoric Cultures

- 35) The Iceman provided an unusual amount of information about Neolithic man because he

- A) was frozen.
- B) had been embalmed.
- C) was mummified using Egyptian methods.
- D) carried documents that were decipherable.
- E) had tattooed identification.

Answer: A

Page Ref: 9

Skill: Conceptual

Topic: People in Context

36) As a result of the Amorite invasions and the founding of Babylon, Sumerian civilization

- A) was assimilated and preserved by its conquerors.
- B) disappeared without a trace.
- C) spread into the Nile River valley.
- D) had little influence on later Mesopotamian cultures.
- E) was united into a single state for the first time.

Answer: A

Page Ref: 23

Skill: Conceptual

Topic: The Origin of Civilization in Mesopotamia: Sumer

37) Historians now believe that the centrality of religious life in Sumer

- A) may be illusory because most surviving documents come from temple archives.
- B) is proven by the centrality of religion and faith in the Epic of Gilgamesh.
- C) is supported by the extensive archives of royal documents.
- D) was much greater than they had originally suspected.
- E) was based primarily on the king's claims to be a god on earth..

Answer: A

Page Ref: 17

Skill: Conceptual

Topic: The Origin of Civilization in Mesopotamia: Sumer

38) The Ubaid period of Sumerian history was characterized by

- A) villages sustained by hunting, fishing, and farming.
- B) complex city-states with large populations.
- C) the strict separation of church and state.
- D) a complicated, centralized bureaucracy.
- E) the fact that religion played a small role in people's lives.

Answer: A

Page Ref: 15

Skill: Conceptual

Topic: The Origin of Civilization in Mesopotamia: Sumer

39) Old Kingdom Egyptian governors' efforts to train their sons to succeed them may also have had what result?

- A) It weakened royal authority, leading to the end of the Old Kingdom.
- B) It increased the pharaoh's power throughout Egypt.
- C) It maintained the Old Kingdom longer than it deserved.
- D) It opened Egypt to foreign invasion.
- E) It encouraged daughters, excluded from power, to rebel against the pharaoh.

Answer: A

Page Ref: 30-31

Skill: Conceptual

Topic: The Rise of Civilization in Egypt

40) How would you characterize the organization of societies and governments in the Old Kingdom in Egypt?

- A) little urbanization, much centralization
- B) much urbanization, little centralization
- C) few villages, many large cities
- D) few villages, many large city-states
- E) grassroots power, little overall organization

Answer: A

Page Ref: 27

Skill: Conceptual

Topic: The Rise of Civilization in Egypt

41) The domestication of wheat early in history is evidence that

- A) humans reshaped the environment by accident as well as intention.
- B) plants that were most prolific in the wild were best suited for domestication.
- C) humans had little ability to shape their environments.
- D) early agriculture had little impact on human culture..
- E) agricultural societies change more slowly than hunter-gatherer societies..

Answer: A

Page Ref: 31

Skill: Conceptual

Topic: Key Question Revisited

- 42) Sumerian cuneiform was used for writing long after Sumer disappeared because
- A) it could be adapted to write almost any language.
 - B) most Near Eastern peoples, like the Sumerians, spoke Semitic languages.
 - C) it was a simple and easily learned system.
 - D) Sumerian papyrus texts were nearly indestructible.
 - E) Sumerian texts had been written with future generations in mind.

Answer: A

Page Ref: 21

Skill: Conceptual

Topic: The Origin of Civilization in Mesopotamia: Sumer

- 43) What factor helps to explain Egypt becoming politically unified earlier than Mesopotamia?

- A) Egypt's climate and geography
- B) lack of Mesopotamian natural resources
- C) Egyptians' greater religious devotion
- D) earlier domestication of plants and animals in Egypt
- E) Egypt's lack of natural frontiers

Answer: A

Page Ref: 25

Skill: Conceptual

Topic: The Rise of Civilization in Egypt

- 44) Which of the following developments of the Uruk period remained in use throughout the Middle East for centuries?

- A) the writing system and cylinder seals
- B) literary style
- C) hieroglyphics
- D) paper-like writing surfaces
- E) papyrus and ink

Answer: A

Page Ref: 15

Skill: Conceptual

Topic: The Origin of Civilization in Mesopotamia: Sumer

45) Which of the following was most influential in drawing early settlers to Mesopotamia?

- A) rich soil for cultivation along riverbanks
- B) climate featuring heavy rainfall
- C) temperate climate throughout the year
- D) abundance of minerals for mining
- E) plentiful forests for lumbering

Answer: A

Page Ref: 13

Skill: Conceptual

Topic: The Origin of Civilization in Mesopotamia: Sumer

46) Only three rivers are shown on Map 1-1 because

- A) Egypt and Sumer would not have developed so early without them.
- B) these rivers are no longer part of important areas of human settlement.
- C) the other rivers did not have names in antiquity.
- D) the other rivers on the map were not navigable.
- E) they are the only rivers that ran through deserts.

Answer: A

Page Ref: 11

Skill: Conceptual

Topic: Map 1-1

47) What advantage did Egypt have over Sumer as shown by Map 1-2?

- A) Egypt was more isolated from invading neighbors.
- B) The Nile accessed the Mediterranean whereas Sumer's rivers accessed the Caspian Sea.
- C) Egypt had fewer major cities than Sumer.
- D) The Nile was longer than the Tigris and Euphrates.
- E) Egypt comprised city-states whereas Sumer was unified.

Answer: A

Page Ref: 14

Skill: Conceptual

Topic: Map 1-2

- 48) The variety of materials available to Sumerian artisans is evidence of
- A) the importance of long-distance trade to the Sumerian economy.
 - B) the rich array of natural resources found in Mesopotamia.
 - C) the strong influence of Egypt over Sumerian culture.
 - D) how Sumerians made the most of the resources close at hand.
 - E) the lack of innovation in Sumerian society.

Answer: A

Page Ref: 18-19

Skill: Conceptual

Topic: The Origin of Civilization in Mesopotamia: Sumer

- 49) Which of the following is one reason for undertaking pyramid construction projects?
- A) The pyramids demonstrated the pharaoh's power and sophistication.
 - B) They housed and protected the remains of common people.
 - C) Conquered peoples and slaves provided cheap labor.
 - D) The societies used the pyramids for the center of religious ceremonies.
 - E) The pyramids demarcated pathways through the desert.

Answer: A

Page Ref: 28-29

Skill: Conceptual

Topic: The Rise of Civilization in Egypt

- 50) Which of the following is NOT one of the impacts that primitive societies had on their natural environment?
- A) They upset the balance of the waters so that their rivers flooded.
 - B) They disturbed the state of nature when they began to farm.
 - C) They drove some species of animals towards extinction.
 - D) They changed their surroundings by hunting and gathering.
 - E) They encouraged the proliferation of some animal and plant species.

Answer: A

Page Ref: 30

Skill: Conceptual

Topic: Key Question Revisited

- 51) Sumerian gods and goddesses would best be described as
- A) superhuman in power but very human in personality.
 - B) the source of Sumerians' strong personal ethics.
 - C) distant, mysterious and impossible to influence.
 - D) outside and uninvolved in the natural world.
 - E) a reflection of Mesopotamia's timeless stability.

Answer: A

Page Ref: 21

Skill: Analytical

Topic: The Origin of Civilization in Mesopotamia: Sumer

52) The permanence of the pyramids and the poor state of preservation of ziggurats could be interpreted as evidence of

- A) Egyptians' more positive outlook on life and death.
- B) Egyptians' superior building skills.
- C) Egypt developing as a civilization much later than Sumer.
- D) the differences between the Egyptian and Mesopotamian environments.
- E) archaeologists' lack of interest in Sumer and attention to Egypt.

Answer: A

Page Ref: 28

Skill: Analytical

Topic: The Rise of Civilization in Egypt

53) What part of the Iceman's equipment is most similar to what a modern Alpine traveler might use?

- A) his snowshoes
- B) his weapons
- C) his clothing
- D) his food
- E) his first-aid kit

Answer: A

Page Ref: 9

Skill: Analytical

Topic: People in Context

54) What were scientists NOT able to determine about the Iceman?

- A) the use of the items in his pouch
- B) the reason for his death
- C) his approximate age
- D) where he came from
- E) what he was wearing

Answer: A

Page Ref: 9

Skill: Analytical

Topic: People in Context

55) The King List, compiled by a scribe in 2100 B.C.E., described which of the following?

- A) a period of history covering 240,000 years
- B) schematic drawings for a pyramid
- C) no kings whose reigns can be authenticated
- D) authenticated reigns covering tens of thousands of years
- E) a flood that proves the validity of the Noah's ark story

Answer: A

Page Ref: 16

Skill: Analytical

Topic: The Origin of Civilization in Mesopotamia: Sumer

Short Answer

56. The vizier who oversaw the construction of the step pyramid was

Answer: Imhotep.

Page Ref: 29

Topic: The Rise of Civilization in Egypt

57. The period of political wrangling that followed the fall of the Old Kingdom was called

Answer: the First Intermediate Period.

Page Ref: 30-31

Topic: The Rise of Civilization in Egypt

58. The evolutionary roots of hominids can be traced back how many years?

Answer: 7,000,000 years.

Page Ref: 6

Topic: The Evolution of Prehistoric Cultures

59. In the fourth millennium, the sole Mesopotamian large urban center was

Answer: Uruk.

Page Ref: 15

Topic: The Origin of Civilization in Mesopotamia: Sumer

60. The greatest Egyptian pyramids were built in the period of

Answer: the Old Kingdom.

Page Ref: 29

Topic: The Rise of Civilization in Egypt

Essay

61. Based on the history of the earliest civilizations, what can be said about how environments shape human communities and how human communities alter environments?

Page Ref: 5

Topic: Key Question

62. Identify the differences between the Paleolithic and Neolithic societies and explain how these societies established the foundations for the subsequent development of civilization.

Page Ref: 7

Topic: The Evolution of Prehistoric Cultures

63. How do environmental differences between Mesopotamia and Egypt help to explain the differences between Sumerian and early Egyptian culture? What similarities can you point to that led to similar characteristics?

Page Ref: 24

Topic: The Rise of Civilization in Egypt

64. As people evolved from hunting and gathering to farming and herding, new types of societal structures became necessary. Compare the two forms of subsistence and describe the types of societal organizations that were necessary to support farming and herding societies.

Page Ref: 5

Topic: Key Question

65. Why do historians consider the development of Paleolithic art as a milestone in human development? What types of thought processes had developed in the brains of Paleolithic artists that enabled them to produce the cave paintings 32,000 years ago? How did these thought processes differ from those required to create an ornamented utilitarian object like a bowl?

Page Ref: 8

Topic: The Evolution of Prehistoric Cultures

66. Global warming at end of the Ice Ages significantly impacted Neolithic man. Putting aside for a moment the current debate about global warming, let's assume for the sake of argument that global warming is now underway. Compare the effects of global warming on today's society and environment with its effects on Neolithic societies and environment.

Page Ref: 9

Topic: The Evolution of Prehistoric Cultures

67. Compare the Egyptian and Sumerian writing systems—their evolution, pictorial features, and practicality. Include in your essay the details of surfaces used for writing and instruments used for marking surfaces.

Page Ref: 20, 26

Topics: The Origin of Civilization in Mesopotamia: Sumer; The Rise of Civilization in Egypt

68. Explain how *The Epic of Gilgamesh* epitomizes the main aspects of Sumerian beliefs about their lives on earth and after death.

Page Ref: 22

Topic: The Origin of Civilization in Mesopotamia: Sumer

69. Compare the Ziggurat of Ur to the Great Pyramid at Giza. Include in your comparison the architectural form, purpose, size, construction, and maintenance issues.

Page Ref: 20, 28

Topics: The Origin of Civilization in Mesopotamia: Sumer; The Rise of Civilization in Egypt

70. Societies complex enough to be classified as civilizations arose in Eurasia well before 3000 B.C.E. Other major civilizations such as the Harappan, the city-states of the Shang dynasty, and Peru developed later. What natural advantages caused the Eurasian civilizations to evolve before the others? In your essay, include a comparison of plant and animal life, agriculture, and the geography that facilitated or hampered the spreading of people across wide regions.

Page Ref: 13-14

Topic: The Archaic States

Identification

71. *The Epic of Gilgamesh*

72. Neolithic era

73. ziggurat

74. Old Kingdom

75. Upper Egypt

76. Paleolithic era

77. cuneiform

78. Sargon

79. ma'at

80. Fertile Crescent

Map Questions

81. Consult Map 1-2 (p. 14). Identify the key cities in Mesopotamia and describe their geographical arrangement. Explain all of the geographical factors that may have influenced the establishment and growth of these cities.

82. Consult Map 1-2 (p. 14). Locate the Nile River. Explain how the Nile River might offer similar and different opportunities for settlement and development compared to those of Mesopotamia.