**HSI: Mesopotamia**

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| **Document 1: Trade and Innovation**This Ancient Mesopotamia region included city-states. **Ur** was one of the most important city-states in **Sumer** and a center of trade. Sea-traders from Ur connected Mesopotamia with people as far away as South Asia. Sumerians used advanced mathematics and invented the first wheeled vehicles and codes of law. They also used a written language called **cuneiform**, which is the earliest known form of writing. |

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| **Document 2: City-States and Agriculture**Mesopotamia made up parts of the area known as the **Fertile Crescent**, which included a narrow strip of fertile land between the **Tigris and Euphrates Rivers**. About 9500 BC, Mesopotamians shifted from gathering food to growing food. In addition to farming, they domesticated animals, or used them for work and as a food source. Farming villages grew into bigger settlements and then cities. Later, these cities came together to create the world’s first city-states, or independent political units. |

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| **Document 3: Babylonian Code of Law**During the 1700s B.C., King Hammurabi created one of the first written codes of law in the world known as Hammurabi’s Code. King Hammurabi created the list of laws to (1) maintain order and (2) unify the various groups he conquered and controlled in Babylonia. Although **Hammurabi’s Code** included some horrific forms of punishment, it also included several modern legal practices. For example, when two people or groups had a disagreement, they were allowed to bring their case before a judge and provide evidence and witnesses to back up their claims. |

**HSI: Mesopotamia**





Excerpts adapted from “Mesopotamia.” National Geographic World Cultures and Geography. Washington, DC: 2015;

<http://www.history.com/news/history-lists/8-things-you-may-not-know-about-hammurabis-code>

Images—

Map of the Fertile Crescent: <https://martinhumanities.com/category/mesopotamia/>

Diorite stele and detailed view of stele inscribed with the Code of Hammurabi: <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Code-of-Hammurabi>

**HSI: Ancient Egypt**

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| **Document 1: Mathematics**The Ancient Egyptians were mathematics experts and created advanced methods for solving problems. Egyptians used mathematics to create buildings, manage food supplies and compute the flood levels of the Nile River. Their mathematicians were so skilled that great Greek mathematicians traveled to Egypt to learn from them. Modern-day mathematics can be traced back to the ancient civilization. For example, the **Rhind Mathematical Papyrus**, the most famous mathematical document to have survived from Ancient Egypt, is the major source of knowledge of the mathematics of ancient Egypt. It contains 84 different mathematical problems - such as how to distribute 100 loaves of bread among a group of workers. |

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| **Document 2: Hieroglyphics**Around 3000 B.C., The Ancient Egyptians invented a writing system based on symbols called **hieroglyphics**. Hieroglyphics provide a look into Egypt’s past—particularly, in regards to religion, culture, and government in the ancient civilization. For example, the **Rosetta Stone**, a text written by a group of priests in Egypt in 196 B.C. to honor the Egyptian pharaoh, was partly written in Egyptian hieroglyphics. It lists all of the things that the pharaoh did for the priests and the people of Egypt. |

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| **Document 3: Egyptian Pyramids**The Egyptians built stone monuments called pyramids. The pyramids were built for two reasons—(1) as burial places, or tombs, for royalty and (2) kings and pharaohs to demonstrate their power by having large pyramids built in their honor. The largest pyramid built was the **Great Pyramid of Khufu**. Engineers and archaeologists are still amazed by Ancient Egyptian architecture and how the Egyptians built the pyramids without modern machines and technology. The pyramid form, in particular, still plays an important role in modern architecture, and can be seen above cemeteries, shopping centers, and other structures and locations.  |

` **HSI: Ancient Egypt**





Excerpts adapted from “The Great Pyramids” and “Egypt’s Ancient Civilization.” National Geographic World Cultures and Geography. Washington, DC: 2015;

<https://explorable.com/egyptian-mathematics>

<https://php.math.unifi.it/archimede/archimede_NEW_inglese/curve/curve_giusti/prima.php?id=1>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/ahistoryoftheworld/objects/y1T3knf-T66RwWyEt_cZBw>

http://www.ancientegypt.co.uk/writing/rosetta.html

Images—

Rhind Papyrus: <http://www-groups.dcs.st-and.ac.uk/history/HistTopics/Egyptian_mathematics.html>

Egyptian Hieroglyphics: <https://www.quora.com/How-many-symbols-are-there-in-Egyptian-Hieroglyphs-writing>

Great Pyramid of Khufu: <https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/ancient-art-civilizations/egypt-art/predynastic-old-kingdom/a/old-kingdom-pyramid-of-khufu>