

Answer each question with three or four sentences.

1. What are some of the difficulties in using ancient writing as historical evidence?
2. What do different writing materials—clay tablets, bones, bamboo, etc.—reveal about the respective culture that used them?
3. How did historians of the eighteenth century define “civilization,” and what lasting problems has this created?
4. How did Sumer's geography influence the religious system created there?
5. How did a hereditary kingship and aristocracy develop in Sumer?
6. What factors helped Sargon and Hammurabi create some of the first empires?
7. What geographical factors shaped Egyptian civilization?
8. Describe the complex role of the pharaoh in Egyptian politics and religion.
9. Describe the relationship between Egypt and Nubia.
10. Explain why the Persians created a system of roads and how these roads benefited their empire.

Answer each of the following questions with an essay. Be sure to include specific examples that support your thesis and conclusions.

1. Describe some of the changes brought to Mesopotamian societies by the introduction of sustained agriculture.
2. Mesopotamia and Egypt were both sites of ancient civilizations. Describe each civilization in terms of its political structure, religion, society, and culture. How can we account for the similarities and differences between them?
3. Explain the differences and similarities between Phoenician, Mesopotamian, and Egyptian writing systems. Why was writing important to the development of each of these civilizations?
4. How did the worship of Yahweh by the Hebrews compare with how the Mesopotamians, Egyptians, and Persians worshiped their gods?
5. Explain the roles of women in Egyptian and Hebrew societies. Discuss similarities and differences.

Use the following to answer questions 1-10:

Select the word or phrase from the Terms section that best matches the definition or example provided in the Definitions section.

Terms

- a. Iron Age
- b. Yahweh
- c. cuneiform
- d. Zoroastrianism
- e. epic poem
- f. Indo-European languages
- g. polytheism
- h. Phoenicians
- i. pharaoh
- j. Hammurabi's law code

1. Sumerian form of writing; the term describes the wedge-shaped marks made by a stylus.

2. An oral or written narration of the achievements and sometimes the failures of heroes that embodies peoples' ideas about themselves. _____

3. A proclamation issued by Babylonian king Hammurabi to establish laws regulating many aspects of life. _____

4. The worship of many gods and goddesses. _____

5. A large family of languages that includes English, most of the languages of modern Europe, ancient Greek, Latin, Persian, Hindi, Bengali, and Sanskrit, the sacred tongue of ancient India. _____

6. Period beginning about 1100 B.C.E. when iron became the most important material for weapons and tools in some parts of the world. _____

7. All-powerful god of the Hebrew people and the basis for the enduring religious traditions of Judaism. _____

Choose the letter of the best answer.

1. What material was used for writing in Mesopotamia?
 - A) Animal bones
 - B) Papyrus
 - C) Soft clay
 - D) Parchment

2. How did papyrus compare with clay tablets as a writing material?
 - A) It was less prone to disintegration.
 - B) It was more fragile and less likely to survive.
 - C) It required a stylus to carve the symbols.
 - D) It was more difficult to write on.

3. In general, how did residents of ancient cities tend to view residents of rural areas?
 - A) City dwellers viewed themselves as more sophisticated.
 - B) City dwellers saw themselves as equal to the farmers.
 - C) City dwellers looked up to and envied those who lived in the country.
 - D) City dwellers tried to imitate the people of the rural areas.

4. What method did early states use to control their populace?
 - A) Exemption from taxation
 - B) Promises of wealth
 - C) Threats of violence
 - D) Offers of free food

5. Social hierarchies in early states were usually heightened by the introduction of what state mechanism?
 - A) Written laws
 - B) Economic records
 - C) Written religious texts
 - D) Coinage

6. In what region did the first known states develop?
 - A) Egypt
 - B) India
 - C) Persia
 - D) Mesopotamia

