Questions to Ponder

1. How did the development of agriculture lead to the development of civilization?
2. How does geography and climate impact the development of civilization?
3. What are the commonalities of these early civilizations?
4. What role did religion play for many of these civilizations?
5. What was the relationship between religion and government?
6. How did ideas and cultural practices spread from region to region?
Before History

Pre-History: time period before written language

People were nomadic hunter-gatherers
- **nomadic**: wandered from place to place, followed food supply
- **hunter-gatherers**: hunted for meat, gathered plants to food

People lived primarily in family clans/tribes

Religious beliefs centered on natural events (harvest), concerns about fertility, and as a way to explain the unknown.

!!! CRITICAL EVENT !!!

**Neolithic Agricultural Revolution**: humans learned how to plant crops and domesticate animals (adapt animals for human use)
Humans begin to domesticate plants & animals

- People began to form permanent settlements (villages, towns, & cities)
- People no longer had to be nomadic
- People able to produce an abundant supply of food
- Division of labor develops because not every one needed to produce food
- Population increases

Social class system develops between richer & poorer

Governments develop to maintain order in permanent settlements

Written languages develop to keep track of property & trade records
Building Blocks of Civilization

Why are these elements necessary for the development of a "civilized" society?

- Ability to produce a surplus of food
- Development of an organized system of governance
- Establishment of large-scale permanent settlements
- Specialization of Trade - Division of Labor

Additional characteristics of ancient civilized societies include:
- Writing System
- Calendar
- Engagement in Trade
River Valley Civilizations

Characteristics common to the river valley civilizations:

- temperate climate with long growing season
- seasonal flooding
- very fertile (rich) soil
In side the frame, give descriptions of your own culture that pertain to each element.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location &amp; Geography</th>
<th>Religion &amp; Beliefs</th>
<th>Governance &amp; Law</th>
<th>Key Achievements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Region known as Mesopotamia</td>
<td>Polytheistic (believe in multiple gods/goddesses)</td>
<td>Divided into independent city-states</td>
<td>developed earliest known written language (Cuneiform)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>located in between the Tigris &amp; Euphrates Rivers</td>
<td>Used religion to explain natural events</td>
<td>led by warrior chiefs/kings</td>
<td>Built Ziggurats (pyramid-like structures)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relatively warm, dry climate with seasonal rains</td>
<td>Buried the dead with objects</td>
<td>Women had few rights</td>
<td>developed number system based on 60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Periods of heavy flooding resulted in rich, fertile soil</td>
<td>Viewed the afterlife as a shadowy realm (no rewards or punishments after death)</td>
<td>Laws based on revenge (eye-for-an eye)</td>
<td>divided the circle into 360 degrees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good for agriculture, able to grow surplus of food</td>
<td>Prayed to idols (images of gods)</td>
<td>Wealthy boys were provided an education</td>
<td>developed the arch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>believed to be the first to use the wheel</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Inside the Frame, list your sources.**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location &amp; Geography</th>
<th>Culture &amp; Religion</th>
<th>Governance &amp; Law</th>
<th>Key Achievements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stretched from Mediterranean Sea to Persian Gulf</td>
<td>Spoke a Semitic language (related to Arabic &amp; Hebrew)</td>
<td>Led by a hereditary line of kings</td>
<td>Began the <em>Epic of Gilgamesh</em> during the Akkadians (epic poem about a Sumerian king)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Controlled the entire region known as Mesopotamia</td>
<td>Beliefs similar to the Sumerians</td>
<td>King Sargon unified the independent city-states into a single vast (large) empire</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## The Babylonians

<table>
<thead>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In Mesopotamia</td>
<td>very similar to Sumerian culture</td>
<td>Created a uniform code of law for the kingdom (Code of Hammurabi)</td>
<td>Code of Hammurabi (one of the first known written codes of law)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>traded as far away as Egypt &amp; India</td>
<td>Code of Hammurabi included crimes &amp; punishments, and civil issues</td>
<td>Some of its laws are still in use today.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>wove cotton and wool cloth</td>
<td>Punishments often very harsh</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>polytheistic (believe in more than one god)</td>
<td>Women had rights to own property, have businesses, engage in trade, serve as scribes, and divorce their husbands.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>made sacrifices to the gods in exchange for favors (ex. for a good harvest)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>believed priests could foretell the future</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>focused on life on Earth, not the afterlife</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location &amp; Geography</td>
<td>Religion &amp; Beliefs</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------------</td>
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<td>------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Mesopotamia and Asia Minor (Turkey) mountainous region</td>
<td>Spoke an Indo-European language war-like most beliefs similar to that of the other Sumerian peoples Allowed some religious freedom to people they conquered polytheistic (believed in multiple gods &amp; goddesses)</td>
<td>Created a code of law where only severe crimes received the punishment of death Kings also held religious authority</td>
<td>One of the first people to smelt (make) iron Conquered the Babylonians Created a code of law NOT based on eye-for-eye concept</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Inside the Frame, list your sources.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Assyrians</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Location &amp; Geography</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Originally from Northern Mesopotamia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conquered all of Mesopotamia, Eastern Mediterranean, &amp; parts of Egypt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital was Nineveh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Chaldeans (Neo-Babylonians)

Location & Geography
- Controlled all of Mesopotamia and the Eastern Mediterranean region

Religion & Beliefs
- Engaged actively in trade
- Saw signs in the positions of the stars and planets
- Polytheistic (believed in multiple gods & goddesses)

Governance & Law
- Led by a King
- Most famous king was King Nebuchadnezzar

Key Achievements
- Rebuilt the city of Babylon
- Nebuchadnezzar had the Hanging Gardens of Babylon built
- Developed elaborate canal system
- Nearly accurate calculation of the length of the year
- Carefully recorded movements of stars & planets
- Accurately predicted solar & lunar eclipses

Inside the Frame, list your sources.
Egyptian civilization develops along Nile River.

- River's annual floods deposited rich soil. Good for agriculture.
- Warm year round. Multiple growing seasons.
- Able to produce an abundant surplus of food!!!
- Winds that blow up the Nile let it be good for trade, both up & down the Nile.
- Sahara Desert provides natural barrier to protect against invasion & attacks.

Engage in trade via Mediterranean Sea.
The Egyptians

Inside the Frame, list your sources.

Location & Geography
developed along the Nile R. (see map)

Religion & Beliefs
polytheistic
Sun god - Amon Re
Osiris - god of death & the afterlife.
buried dead w/object
mummified the dead
Book of the Dead - outlined views on afterlife

Governance & Law
led by a Pharaoh believed to be a god on Earth
women had more rights & could become Pharaoh (Hatshepsut)
Women could own property, have own business, & leave property to daughters

Key Achievements
built the pyramids & the sphinx
hieroglyphics (written language), found the Rosetta Stone which translated hieroglyphs into Greek
created 365 day calendar
had trading caravans that crossed the Sahara Desert
number system based on ten (similar to our decimal system)
elaborate irrigation & well systems to carry water into desert areas
The Persians

Location & Geography
Created a vast empire that stretched from Balkan Peninsula (Greece) and Egypt to Hindu Kush (India)
Centered in modern day Iran

Culture & Religion
Spoke an Indo-European language
Originally polytheistic (many gods/goddesses)
Developed a monotheistic religion (Zoroastrianism)
- life on Earth is training for a great battle between good & evil
- people must choose between good or evil
- people who chose good will be rewarded in the afterlife
- people who chose evil will be punished
- believe in a final judgement

Governance & Law
Led by hereditary kings
Kings expected to be strong warriors, too.
Cyrus united Persia & Medes into 1 kingdom
Darius I & Xerxes continued to spread the empire
Darius & Xerxes both tried to conquer Greece/both failed
Conquered peoples allowed some measure of religions freedom
Regional leaders oversaw different areas of the empire

Key Achievements
Created a VAST empire
Created the Royal Road System to connect the empire & move military rapidly throughout the empire (copied later by Romans)
Zoroastrianism may have influenced development of Christianity & Islam
# The Phoenicians

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location &amp; Geography</th>
<th>Religion &amp; Culture</th>
<th>Colonies &amp; Trade</th>
<th>Language</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>located on the E. Mediterranean Sea</td>
<td>polytheistic (believe in many gods)</td>
<td>overseas trade was primary economic activity</td>
<td>created first phonetic language (written language where symbols represents sounds)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Desert &amp; mountains to the west</td>
<td>believed in the afterlife</td>
<td>set up colonies (settlements) throughout Med. ex. Carthage in N. Africa</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supports very little agriculture</td>
<td>tried to win favor of the gods by offering gifts &amp; sacrifices (even human sacrifices)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mountains heavily forested</td>
<td>adopted many of the practices of the Babylonians &amp; Egyptians</td>
<td>Exports: Murex (purple dye), blown glass, lumber, olive oil, dried fish, salt, linen (fabric)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Along the Eastern Mediterranean</td>
<td>practice religion of Judaism</td>
<td>Initially nomadic family tribes</td>
<td>Built the city of Jerusalem during reign of King David</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very dry, little agriculture</td>
<td>Monotheistic</td>
<td>Unified into a single state by King Saul</td>
<td>Built a great religious temple during time of King Solomon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Main crops include olives</td>
<td>View Abraham as their patriarch (father)</td>
<td>Led by a hereditary line of kings</td>
<td>Influenced the development of world's two largest religions: Christianity &amp; Islam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some sheep &amp; goat herding</td>
<td>Holy book is the Torah</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Place of worship is a temple or synagogue</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Lydians: developed a money-based economic system.

prior economies based on barter system (trading one good for another)
Origins of Judaism

Developed in the Mesopotamian region of Ur

2000 BCE, Abraham & his followers moved from Ur to Canaan (modern Israel)
   - Jews trace their lineage to Abraham through his son, Isaac

Jacob, son of Isaac, divides Hebrews (Jews) into the Twelve Tribes

1250 BCE, Jews move from Israel to Egypt due to extreme drought

Jews enslaved in Egypt for around 400 years

Moses leads the Jews out of Egypt and back to Israel
   - raised within the Pharaoh's royal family
   - leaving was precipitated by a series of plagues
Origins of Israel

King Saul unites the Twelve Tribes

David, adopted son of Saul, establishes Jerusalem as the capital of the Israelites

Solomon, son of David, leads Israel into prosperity
  - establishes the great Temple of Solomon to house the Arc of the Covenant.
  - greatly expands trade with other Middle Eastern & North African kingdoms

900 BC Israel divided due to civil unrest
  - Israel in the north
  - Judea (Judah) in the south

722 BC - Assyrians conquer Israel & enslave the Hebrews

587 BC - Chaldeans conquer Judea destroying Jerusalem and the Temple

Chaldeans conquered by Persians, Hebrews allowed to rebuild the Temple & city of Jerusalem
Destruction of Israel

332 BC: Israel conquered by Alexander the Great (Greece)

166-63 BC: Brief period of independence following the Maccabean Revolt and the fall of the Hellenistic Empire

63 BC to 636 AD: Israel under Roman the Byzantine Rule
- 66 to 70 AD: Jews rebel against Roman rule
- 70 AD: Jerusalem & Second Temple destroyed
- Diaspora begins (Jews leave Israel)

636-1099 AD: Arab (Muslim) rule

691 AD: The Dome of the Rock mosque constructed on the remains of the First & Second Temple

1099-1291 AD: Latin Kingdom of Jerusalem. Ruled by the Crusaders of the Roman Catholic Church (Knights Templar)

1291 - 1917 AD: Rule by Ottoman Muslims until end of WWI, then becomes colony of the British Empire
Principle Beliefs of Judaism

There is only the one true God (in Hebrew called Yahweh)

Core beliefs outlined in the Torah (Book of Moses), the Nevi'im (Book of the Prophets), Kesivum (divinely inspired writings), and the Talmud (the laws)

Mosaic Law (Law of Moses):
- based on the Ten Commandments
- strong belief in kindness, charity, and devotion to God's law
- death penalty reserved for relatively severe crimes

Believe they are God's Chosen People
- have been given special responsibilities

Believe a descendant of David (a Messiah) will come to rebuild Temple and bring peace to the world