

## Unit 1 Test Quick Study Guide

- **Neolithic Revolution**
  - what was it?
  - what made it different than paleolithic era? (better tools, agriculture, domestication of animals)
- First civilizations
  - where they arose?
  - geographic features of where they arose and why
  - why there couldn't be cities without agriculture/farming
  - **know the eight features of civilization**
- **Ancient Civilizations** - Where they were - what they did
  - **Mesopotamia**
    - Developed in the "fertile crescent" Between Tigris and Euphrates River... modern day Iraq
    - one of the first places to develop agriculture
    - the first city-states arose in Mesopotamia
      - Mesopotamian city states
        - Babylonia - place of **Hammurabi's Code**.
          - Hammurabi's code was history's first written law code
        - Phoenicia - birthplace of **phonetic alphabet** (alphabet where symbols represent sounds)
        - Sumer - the Sumerians developed one of the first writing systems called **cuneiform**
          - writing systems are important because they allow for record keeping (necessary for a government to collect taxes)
  - **Ancient Egypt**
    - Developed along the Nile River in northern Africa
    - existed for thousands of years
    - built the pyramids
    - developed writing system called **hieroglyphics**
      - hieroglyphics was a writing system in which pictures represented concepts (like cuneiform)
    - the Egyptians made advances in mathematics, astronomy, and anatomy
      - believed in afterlife
    - ruled by Pharaohs from 30 dynasties
      - the Pharaohs were seen as ruling with the power of the gods.
        - when leaders of a government rule on behalf of gods, that is **theocracy**
  - **Indus River Valley Civilization**
    - developed along the Indus River in modern day Pakistan
    - the largest ancient civilization - an estimated 5 million people lived there
      - some of its cities, like Mohenjo Daro and Harappa had as many as 40,000 citizens
    - cities in the Indus River Valley were planned
      - they were built on a grid system
      - bricks in cities across the civilization were all the same size. This leads historians to think that people across the civilization used a standardized system of measurement.
      - Standardized measurements suggest that there was a **strong central government** in this civilization
      - Several cities in this civilization had sewers and positioned buildings in a way that they could catch the wind
    - no one knows how the civilization ended. It could have ended because of invasions, earthquakes, or maybe the people there just left for better food supply
  - **Ancient China**

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- Developed along the Yellow River and Yangtze River in modern day China
  - Ruled by dynasties that lasted from 2070 BCE until the early 1900s CE
    - Rulers ruled based on the “**Mandate of Heaven**”, or blessing from the gods
    - rulers lost the mandate of heaven when they became corrupt, ineffective, etc.
    - **Great Wall of China** was built during the Qin Dynasty to keep out invaders
    - **The Silk Road**
      - the ancient Chinese traded silk to other empires along a series of roads called the Silk Road
      - this road was also important for trade and cultural diffusion
      - cultural diffusion = spread of culture from one place to another
      - gunpowder was also invented in ancient China
  - **Ancient Greece**
    - Ancient Greece is important to historians in part because of its influence on the cultures of many other civilization and societies
    - Alexander the Great created an **empire** that included parts of Europe, Asia, and Africa
      - definition of **empire**: when many countries are conquered and ruled by one power
    - Greek Culture spread to many other places and combined with the existing cultures there. This combination of Greek culture with existing cultures is called **Hellenism**
      - the best example of Hellenism is the city of Alexandria (named after Alexander the Great) in Egypt. He
  - **Persian Empire**
    - The Persian Empire is important to history for a number of reasons
      - the Persians were great road builders
        - these roads allowed them to govern large areas of land because they could send messages to cities that were far away from one another
      - the Persians also did not use slave labor in their empire
    - just as Alexander the Great created a Greek empire, an emperor called Darius I created a Persian Empire
      - to do this he built roads
      - he built a postal system
    - because the Persian and Greek empires shared a border, they went to war several times
    - Ultimately the Greeks won the war because they had a strong navy
- **Ancient Rome**
  - Ancient Rome is important to history for a number of reasons
    - the Romans invented the republican form of government (which is used by the USA)
    - the Romans
    - the Romans spoke Latin, which is the basis for many of the world's languages today: French, Italian, Portuguese, Spanish
    - the Romans created an empire that stretched from England to modern day Iraq and northern Africa
    - the Romans used **concrete** to build **aqueducts** which were structures that carried water to places without water
    - The Roman emperor Constantine made Christianity the official religion of the Roman empire which spread the religion from Europe to Africa
    - the Roman empire collapsed for several reasons
      - first, invasions from people living outside of the empire
      - secondly, it was too big to govern
      - weak leadership and assassinations

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- lack of Roman identity