

Name _____

Mr. Moore

Mesopotamia and Egypt DBQ

Directions

The task below is based on documents 1 through 6. This task is designed to test your ability to work with the information provided by various types of documents. Look at each document and answer the question or questions after each document. Use your answers to the questions to help you write your essay.

Background

The Ancient cultures of Egypt and Mesopotamia helped to develop civilization today. Ancient Egyptians developed a civilization in northeastern Africa in the Nile River valley. Ancient Egypt was an advanced civilization in many areas, including religion, architecture, transportation, and trade. Ancient Mesopotamia was one of the first civilizations that developed a form of government as well as organized people into political states.

Task

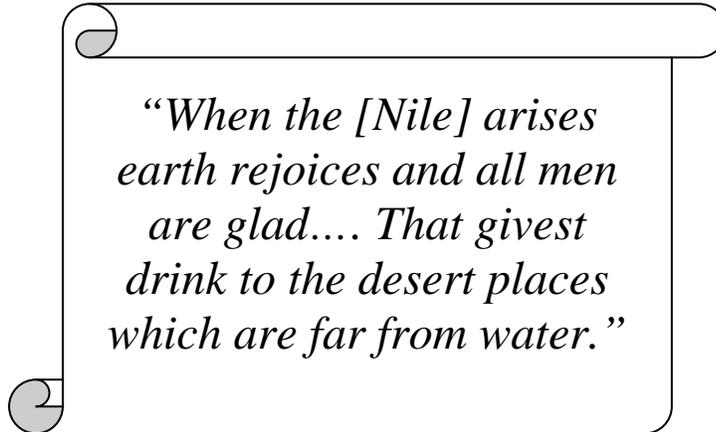
For Part A, read each document carefully and answer the question or questions after each document. Then read the directions for Part B and write your essay.

For Part B, use your answers from Part A, information from the documents, and your knowledge of social studies to write a well-organized essay.

How did the ancient cultures of Mesopotamia and Egypt develop into successful civilizations?

Document 1

Egyptian civilization began close to the Nile River because the Nile provided a fertile area in the middle of a desert. The people depended on the Nile for food and water. Heavy rains caused the Nile to overflow regularly, which made the soil fertile and good for farming. The ancient Egyptians sang this song about the benefits of the Nile:

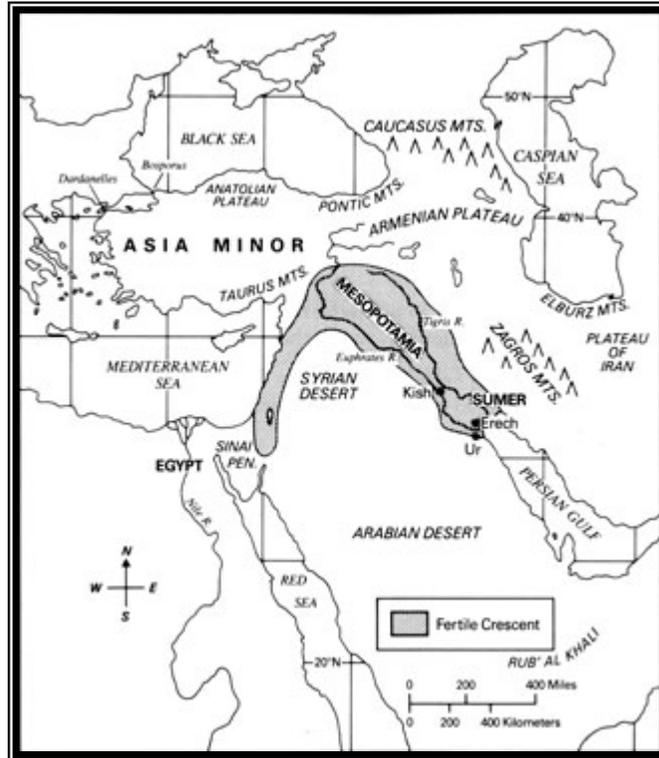


1. According to the song, what were two effects of the Nile’s rising waters? Tell them in your own words.

2. Why was the Nile so important to the Egyptians?

Document 2

The Rivers were a vital part of the development of a civilization. They provided many resources which included food, transportation, as well as plants. Since the rivers were in the middle of deserts and was surrounded by rough terrain, the development of city-states was inevitable. Mesopotamia developed along the rivers named the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers.

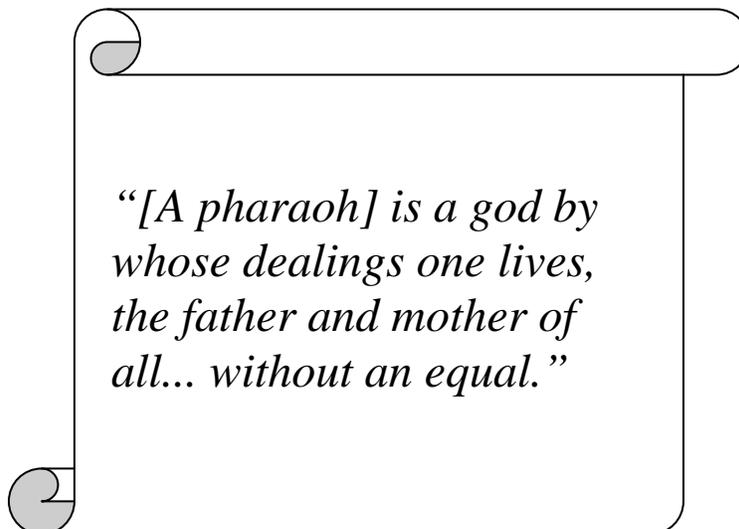


1. The Tigris and Euphrates Rivers were so important to the survival of people. Why were they so important for the development of a civilization?

2. Based upon the map, what is surrounding the Fertile Crescent in the south and in the East?

Document 3

Ancient Egyptians referred to their king as a pharaoh. What follows is a description of the role of a pharaoh, found on a tomb:

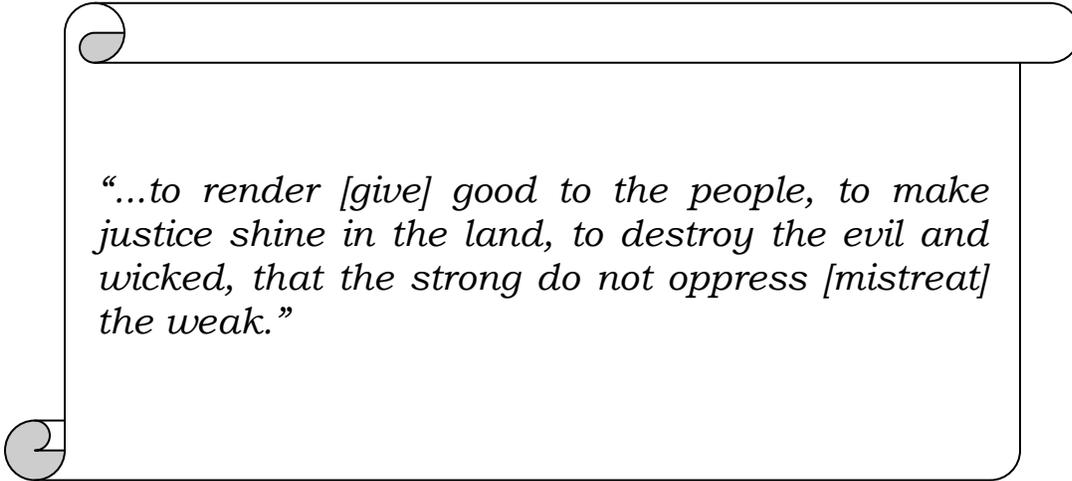


1. Based on the quotation, what did ancient Egyptians believe made the pharaoh such a special person?

2. What type of power did the pharaoh possess in Egypt? Define the term.

DOCUMENT #4

In the Code of Hammurabi, the laws concerned daily life, business, medicine, property, and family. Punishment for breaking these laws was very harsh. For example, people caught stealing could be put to death. Those who did not show care and respect for the property of others had to pay a fine. Hammurabi stated his goal for the law code in this way:

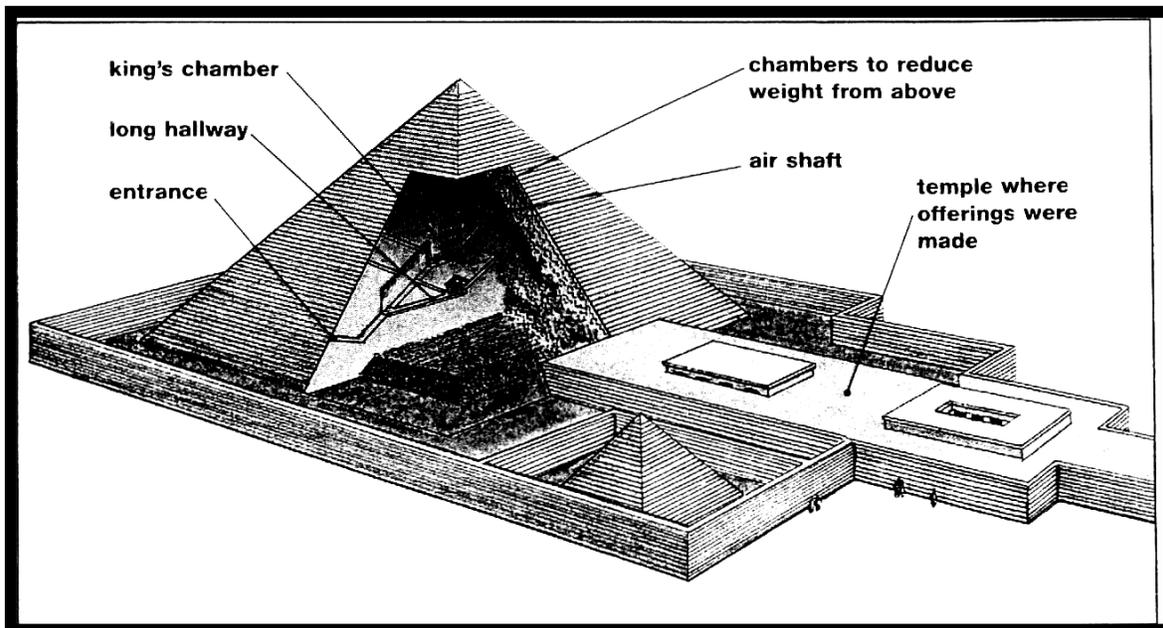


1. Name **three** things Hammurabi wanted to accomplish with this set of laws.

2. How were people punished for stealing in Hammurabi’s time?

Document 5

Ancient Egyptian pharaohs, or god-kings, had workers build huge pyramids to serve as tombs. Egyptians believed that their kings could take their possessions with them after death. As a result, pharaohs were buried with their possessions. Below is a diagram of a pyramid.

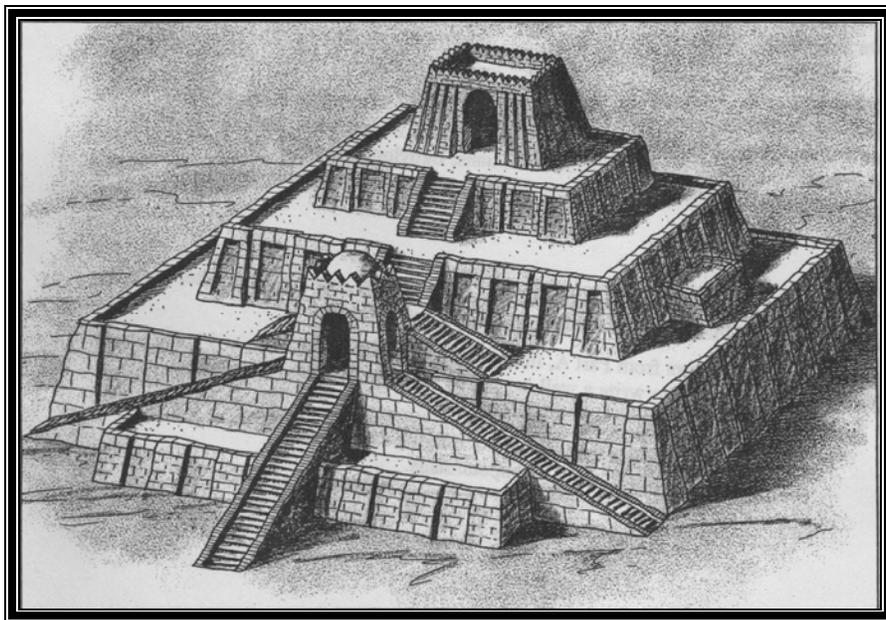


1. Where was the king's (pharaoh's) chamber located?

2. Why do you think a temple was included?

Document 6

Sumerians and Akkadians practiced polytheism, the worship of many gods. They believed that keeping the gods happy was the key to their own happiness and prosperity. On the other hand, if the gods were angry, they might bring suffering and disaster. Sumerians built huge temples called ziggurats. They believed these temples linked Earth with the heavens and linked people with the gods.



1. Look at the illustration. Notice the number of stairs. What does the size of the temple tell you about the value the Sumerians placed on their gods?

2. From the passage, what did the Sumerians and Akkadians look to their gods for?

Putting It All Together

Directions

Using the documents, your answers from Part A, and your knowledge of social studies, write a well-organized essay about the following:

How did the ancient cultures of Mesopotamia and Egypt develop into successful civilizations?

In your essay remember to:

- Include information about beliefs, way of life, and leadership.
- Describe the role of a pharaoh as well as priests of Mesopotamia.
- Include an introduction, a body, and a conclusion.
- Include details, examples, or reasons to develop your ideas.
- Use information from the documents in your answer.

Helpful Hints

- Use your graphic organizer for the documents
- Use the graphic organizer for writing the essay
- Edit your work
- Use the documents to feed the essay; however do not forget outside information!!

GRAPHIC ORGANIZER

DOCUMENTS	TOPIC	INSIDE INFORMATION	OUTSIDE INFORMATION
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			

6th Grade Social Studies Rubric for DBQ's

5

- Thorough discussions; a full & balanced response to the question
- Uses nearly all documents
- Incorporates accurate & relevant outside information
- Contains no significant factual errors or misinterpretation of documents
- Presents analysis which reflects understanding of complex issues
- Recognizes patterns & distinctions, draws conclusions, & evaluates relative importance
- Recognizes point of view where applicable
- Writes a well developed essay consistently demonstrating clear & logical organization, including a strong introduction & conclusion and a clearly stated thesis

4

- A good response, but may be unevenly developed
- Uses most of the documents
- Includes some supplementary information
- Contains mostly accurate information and interpretation of documents
- Shows some understanding/ analysis of complex issues
- Evaluates evidence & formulates generally accurate conclusions
- Well developed essay demonstrating clear plan of organization including a strong introduction & conclusion and a general thesis

3

- Competent response to the question
- Uses some of the documents
- Contains little or no supplementary information
- Attempts to formulate some conclusions: may contain some factual errors
- Essay may be unevenly developed with a general plan of organization
- Thesis missing, merely restates question or task

2

- An incomplete response
- Uses little information from the documents
- No supplemental information
- Draws vague conclusions; many serious errors
- Writes a poorly organized essay lacking focus, vague or missing introduction or conclusion

1

- Confused response
- No use of documents
- Misunderstands the question and/or responds in a dazed & vague manner
- Essay demonstrates major weakness in organization, vague or missing introduction or conclusion

0

- Fails to address the question
- No response
- Blank paper or illegible or indecipherable