

Subject:- History and Civics

Teacher:- Mili Bhatnagar

Chapter 1 The River Valley Civilizations

Good Morning Students!

In this chapter we will study about the civilizations that arose near river valleys in ancient world. Civilizations that arose in Mesopotamia, Egypt, Harappa and China were the earliest in the world.

The word 'civilization' comes from the Latin word 'civitas', meaning a city. Civilization is an advanced stage of human development, where we find growth in the field of writing, social and economic institutions, arts and sciences. A civilization has the following features:-

1. People live in towns and cities
2. Trade exists between far-flung areas.
3. Written language exists, which helps in the transfer of knowledge.
4. Social and economic divisions exist in society. Some groups are more powerful than others.
5. A government exists to maintain law and order.
6. Different religious beliefs and art-forms exist.

A number of factors help in the development of a civilization.

1. The climatic conditions are favourable.
2. There is increase in the agricultural production. This leads to surplus production and subsequently creates new occupation which are not dependent upon agriculture.

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The ancient river valley civilizations developed there due to the following reasons

1. The rivers provide sufficient water to support large settlements.
2. The land near the rivers are fertile and hence people could grow more crops.
3. The rivers served as means of transport.

Major civilizations developed on the banks of these rivers.

1. Indus Valley Civilization - Indus river
2. Mesopotamian Civilization - Tigris and Euphrates.
3. Egyptian Civilization - Nile
4. Chinese Civilization - Hwang Ho

Multiple choice questions

1. a) 3500 BC
b) Agriculture
c) All of these
d) Both (a) and (b)
e) Nile

2. State whether 'True' or 'False'

1. True
2. True
3. True
4. False
5. False

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Fill in the blanks

- | | |
|----------------|-------------|
| 1. 3500 BC | 4. Hwang Ho |
| 2. Agriculture | 5. 2770 BC |
| 3. Irrigation | |

Match Column 'A' with Column 'B'

Column A

Column B

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. The Egyptian Civilization | |
| 2. Herodotus | The Greek historian |
| 3. Rivers | |
| 4. The Indus river | |
| 5. The Mesopotamian Civilization | |