

Early Civilizations
c.4000 B.C.E. – 600 B.C.E.

Directions: List the major characteristics of the following civilizations based on your synthesis of Chapters 1-6.

	S ocial	P olitical	I nteractions	C ultural	E conomic
Mesopotamia					
Egypt					
Indus River Valley					
Huang He River (China)					
Olmecs					
Chavin					

AP WORLD HISTORY THEMES: SPICE

SOCIAL: Development and Transformation of Social Structures

This theme is about relations among human beings. All human societies develop ways of grouping their members as well as norms that govern interactions between individuals and social groups. Social **stratification comprises** distinctions based on **kinship** systems, ethnic associations and **hierarchies** of gender, race, wealth and class. The study of world history requires analysis of the processes through which social categories, roles and practices were created, maintained and transformed. It also involves analysis of the connections between changes in social structures and other historical shifts.

POLITICAL: State-Building, Expansion and Conflict

This theme refers to the processes by which **hierarchical** systems of rule have been constructed and maintained and to the conflicts generated through those processes. In particular, this theme encourages the comparative study of different **state** forms (for example, kingdoms, empires, nation-states) across time and space, and the interactions among them. Students should examine and compare various forms of state development and expansion in the context of various productive strategies (for example, agrarian, pastoral, mercantile), various cultural and **ideological** foundations (for example, religions, philosophies, ideas of nationalism), various social and gender structures, and in different environmental contexts. This theme also discusses different types of states, such as autocracies and constitutional democracies. Finally, this theme encourages students to explore **interstate relations**, including warfare, diplomacy, commercial and cultural exchange, and the formation of international organizations.

INTERACTION Between Humans and the Environment

The interaction between humans and the environment is a fundamental theme for world history. The environment shaped human societies, but increasingly human societies also affected the environment. During prehistory, humans interacted with the environment as hunters, fishers and **foragers**, and human migrations led to the peopling of the earth. As the Neolithic revolution began,

humans **exploited** their environments more **intensively**, either as farmers or **pastoralists**. Environmental factors such as rainfall patterns, climate, and available flora and fauna shaped the methods of exploitation used in different regions. Human exploitation of the environment **intensified** as populations grew and as people migrated into new regions. As people flocked into cities or established trade networks, new diseases emerged and spread, sometimes devastating an entire region.

CULTURAL: Development and Interaction of Cultures

This theme explores the origins, uses, **dissemination** and **adaptation** of ideas, beliefs, and knowledge within and between societies. Studying the dominant belief system(s) or religions, philosophical interests, and technical and artistic approaches can reveal how major groups in society view themselves and others, and how they respond to multiple challenges. When people of different societies interact, they often share components of their cultures, **deliberately** or not. The **processes** of adopting or adapting new belief and knowledge systems are **complex** and often lead to historically **novel** cultural blends. A society's culture may be investigated and compared with other societies' cultures as a way to reveal both what is unique to a culture and what it shares with other cultures.

ECONOMIC: Creation, Expansion and Interaction of Economic Systems

This theme surveys the diverse patterns and systems that human societies have developed as they exploit their environments to produce, distribute and consume desired goods and services across time and space. It stresses major transitions in human economic activity, such as the growth and spread of agricultural, pastoral and industrial production; the development of various labor systems associated with these economic systems (including different forms of household management and the use of coerced or free labor); and the ideologies, values and institutions (such as capitalism and socialism) that sustained them. This theme also calls attention to patterns of trade and commerce between various societies, with particular attention to the relationship between regional and global networks of communication and exchange, and their effects on economic growth and decline.