

Characteristics of River Societies

Mesopotamia (Tigris-Euphrates), India (Indus), Egypt (Nile River)

Overarching Essential Questions:

What is our PLACE in this world?

How do our core values, personal identity, and world view influence what we do?

How can we communicate the most effectively?

Topical Essential Questions:

How does reading allow us to make sense of our world?

How does personal experience drive what an author writes?

What are the cultural elements, which bind people together into societies?

How does society view and treat people who are different?

Core Understandings:

Understand the worldview, and how it was formed, of a specific culture.

Understand how the geography of an area affects the society.

Formulate the chronologies of the culture.

Understand how the key elements of the river valley cultures manifest in the society and which ones proved to be driving forces.

Discuss the cultural contributions of the ancient society and their importance still evident in today's world.

Get an understanding of the people's daily life.

Be able to compare and contrast this culture with other ancient cultures and our society today.

Essential Questions

Key NECC Standards for the River Civilization Essential Questions

Time, Continuity and Change

b. identify and use key concepts such as chronology, causality, change, conflict, and complexity to explain, analyze, and show connections among patterns of historical change and continuity.

c. identify and describe selected historical periods and patterns of change within and across cultures, such as the rise of civilizations, the development of transportation systems, the growth and breakdown of colonial systems, and others.

Key NECC Standards for the River Civilization Specific Characteristics

1. Similar Types of Natural Environment:

- mild climates
- available water and rich soil
- surplus of food

People, Places and Environments

h. examine, interpret, and analyze physical and cultural patterns and their interactions, such as land use, settlement patterns, cultural transmission of customs and ideas, and ecosystem changes.

j. observe and speculate about social and economic effects of environmental changes and crises resulting from phenomena such as floods, storms and drought.

People, Places and Environments

a. elaborate mental maps of locals, regions, and the world that demonstrate understanding of relative location, direction, size, and shape.

b. create, interpret, use and distinguish various representations of the earth such as maps, globes, and photographs.

2. Cities:

- high population density
- increased conflict
- more leisure time
- transportation and trade
- services to supply the city

3. Specialization of Jobs:

- specialized in different jobs- government officials, merchants, religious leaders and workers.

4. Complex Social Organizations:

- developed different classes of people
- need for a system of government.
- evolution of leaders to maintain order and establish laws, economic systems and religion.
- need for defense from outside sources.

Individuals, Groups and Institutions

a. demonstrate an understanding of concepts such as role, status, and social class in describing the interactions of individuals and social groups.

b. analyze group and institutional influences on people, events and elements of culture.

c. describe the various forms institutions take and the interactions of people with institutions.

Production, Distribution and Consumption

d. describe the role of specialization and exchange in the economic process.

f. explain and illustrate how values and beliefs influence different economic decisions.

Power, Authority and Governance

f. explain conditions, actions, and motivations that contribute to conflict and cooperation within and among nations.

h. Explain and apply concepts such as power, role, status, justice, and influence to the examination of persistent issues and social problems.

5. Record Keeping:

- systems of record keeping (writing, number systems, calendars)
- tax collection by the governments, storage of food, tracking of rituals on a yearly schedule lead to the three items.

Science, Technology and Society

c. describe examples in which values, beliefs, and attitudes have been influenced by new scientific and technological knowledge.

Individuals, Groups and Institutions

b. analyze group and institutional influences on people, events and elements of culture.

6. Advanced Technologies:

- New tools and technologies that came to solve problems that that many people living together had.
- Large building projects were done which reflected the beliefs and values of a society.

Science, Technology and Society

a. examine and describe the influence of culture on scientific and technological choices and advancement, such as transportation, medicine and warfare.

c. describe examples in which values, beliefs, and attitudes have been influenced by new scientific and technological knowledge.

7. Specific Cultural Attributes:

Culture

c. explain and give examples of how language, literature, the arts, architecture, other artifacts, traditions, beliefs, values and behaviors contribute to the development and transmission of culture.