

**New Jersey Department of Education
2006 Social Studies Standards Implementation Guide (SIG)**

STANDARD 6.3 (WORLD HISTORY) ALL STUDENTS WILL DEMONSTRATE KNOWLEDGE OF WORLD HISTORY IN ORDER TO UNDERSTAND LIFE AND EVENTS IN THE PAST AND HOW THEY RELATE TO THE PRESENT AND THE FUTURE.

Grade 8

6.3.8.A. The Birth of Civilization to 1000 BCE

1. Describe the physical and cultural changes that shaped the earliest human communities as revealed through scientific methods, including:
 - Early hominid development, including the development of language and writing
 - Migration and adaptation to new environments
 - Differences between wild and domestic plants and animals
 - Locations of agricultural settlements
 - Differences between hunter/gatherer, fishing, and agrarian communities
3. Compare and contrast the economic, political, and environmental factors (e.g., climate, trade, geography) that led to the development of major ancient civilizations including Mesopotamia (e.g., Hammurabi's Code), Egypt, the Indus Valley, the Yellow River, and Kush (Nubia).

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National World History Standards

ERA 3

Standard 1: Innovation and change from 1000-600 BCE: horses, ships, iron, and monotheistic faith.

Standard 2: The emergence of Aegean civilization and how interrelations developed among peoples of the eastern Mediterranean and Southwest Asia, 600-200 BCE.

Standard 3: How major religions and large-scale empires arose in the Mediterranean basin, China, and India, 500 BCE-300 CE.

Standard 4: The development of early agrarian civilizations in Mesoamerica.

Standard 5: Major global trends from 1000 BCE-300 CE.

Content Overview

This section covers the earliest human communities; the emergence of hunter/gatherer, fishing, agrarian communities; the development of major ancient civilizations such as Mesopotamia, Egypt, Indus Valley, Yellow River, and Kush (Nubia); beginnings of cities; and new forms of religion, law, culture, gender relations, calendar, and staple crops (wheat, rice, millet).

Essential Questions

How did geography shape the evolution of early Asian, African, and American societies?

How important were travel and migrations, transportation and communication?
 How were the Sumerians able to build the first civilization and the first writing system?
 Is the nature of civilization a particular way of organizing society or an historical phenomenon?
 Is it subject to transformation and/or collapse?
 What are some of the fundamental inventions, discoveries, institutions, and techniques that developed?
 What role does encounter and exchange play in the development of these civilizations?
 How important were cultural forms of the Neolithic Age to the emergence of all early civilizations?
 Social institutions? Practical techniques?

Teaching/ Resources

<http://www.geocities.com/Athens/Parthenon/2104/civilizations.html?20062>: A source for information and documents relative to Mesopotamian, Sumerian, Babylonian and Assyrian beginnings. Also links to scholarship which examines Biblical records.
www.ancienthistory.about.com: A free weekly newsletter which covers a variety of topics in this area.

Assessment

Students prepare a detailed, three column flow chart (see example below) for the rise of early Middle Eastern civilizations which must be placed in chronological order listing one major contribution of each civilization from Sumer (3500 B.C.) to the Assyrians (1800 BCE), the Hittites, the Israelites (1200 CE) , the Persians, the Greeks and the Egyptians down to the Romans.

Civilization	Location	Contribution
Sumer	Mesopotamia	Bronze tools