Characteristics of a Civilization

Mesopotamia and Egypt
Leaders created laws to settle disputes

Theocratic City-States ruled by temple priests

City-states became Dynasties (ruling families)

Empires
Religion - Mesopotamia

- Polytheistic
- Ziggurats built to give offerings to the gods
- Belief in afterlife - negative

Enlil – Sumerian god of storms and air
Specialized Jobs - Mesopotamia

- Leaders
- Builders
- Priests
- Farmers
- Soldiers
- Merchants
- Artisans
- Scribes
Record Keeping – Language: Mesopotamia

- Poem - *Epic of Gilgamesh*
- Cuneiform writing system
- Hammurabi’s Code – first written code of laws from Babylonian King
- Math
Advanced Technology - Mesopotamia

- Irrigation ditches
- Wheel, sail, plow
- Use of bronze
- Math
- Arches, columns, ramps
Advanced Cities (Trade) Mesopotamia

- Sumerians traded with people of the mountains and deserts
- Conducted long-distance trade with surplus food
Sumerian Social Classes

- 1. Kings, landholders, priests
- 2. Wealthy merchants
- 3. Ordinary workers
- 4. Slaves

Hammurabi’s Code set different punishments based on wealth
Government - Egypt

- Kingdom
- Dynasties
- Theocracy – pharaohs worshipped as gods
Religion - Egypt

- Worshipped Nile River as a god
- Worshipped pharaoh as a god
- Polytheistic
- Belief in afterlife - positive

Ra – Egyptian god of the sun
Specialized Jobs - Egypt

- Farmers
- Rulers / Kings / Pharaohs
- Engineers
- Soldiers
- Royal Treasurer
- Priests
- Scribes
- Architects
- Doctors
Record Keeping – Language: Egypt

- Collection of texts – *Book of the Dead*
- Hieroglyphics – pictures stood for ideas
- Calendar
- Written numbers for math

Egyptian Hieroglyphics
Advanced Technology - Egypt

- Irrigation ditches
- Sailboats
- Pyramids
- Mummification
- Papyrus for papermaking
- Calendar
- Math
Egyptian Mummification

1. Shave and wash the body
2. Pull brain out nose with hook
3. Cut left side of stomach and remove all internal organs
4. Cover organs with natron salt
5. Put lungs, liver, stomach, and intestines into special jars
6. Rinse inside of body with wine and spices
7. Cover entire body in salt for 70 days
8. After 40 days stuff the body with linen or sand
9. After 70 days wrap the body in bandages
10. Place body in sarcophagus
Egyptian Pyramids of Giza

- Constructed of 2,300,000 stone blocks weighing 2-30 tons each
- Weighs 5,955,000 tons
- Base is 592,000 square feet
- 481 feet tall – tallest structure on earth for over 3,800 years
- Built with ball and socket construction capable of withstanding heat expansion and earthquakes
- Mortar used is of unknown origins, cannot be reproduced, and is stronger than stone
- Original outer casting stones of limestone—no longer on the pyramid—would have acted as mirrors making pyramid visible from the moon as a shining star on earth

Constructed 2580 – 2560 BCE
Advanced Cities (Trade) - Egypt

- Trade between upper and lower Egypt
Social Hierarchy - Egypt

- 1. King, Queen, royal family
- 2. Wealthy landowners, government officials, priests, army commanders
- 3. Middle class merchants and artisans
- 4. Farmers and laborers
- 5. Slaves

Egyptian Social Classes