

COMMON CORE
Lessons & Activities

ANCIENT CIVILIZATIONS

Reading for Information

Higher-Order Thinking

Writing Prompts

Primary Source Analysis

Vocabulary

Graphic Organizers

Map Activities

& More!

REPRODUCIBLE

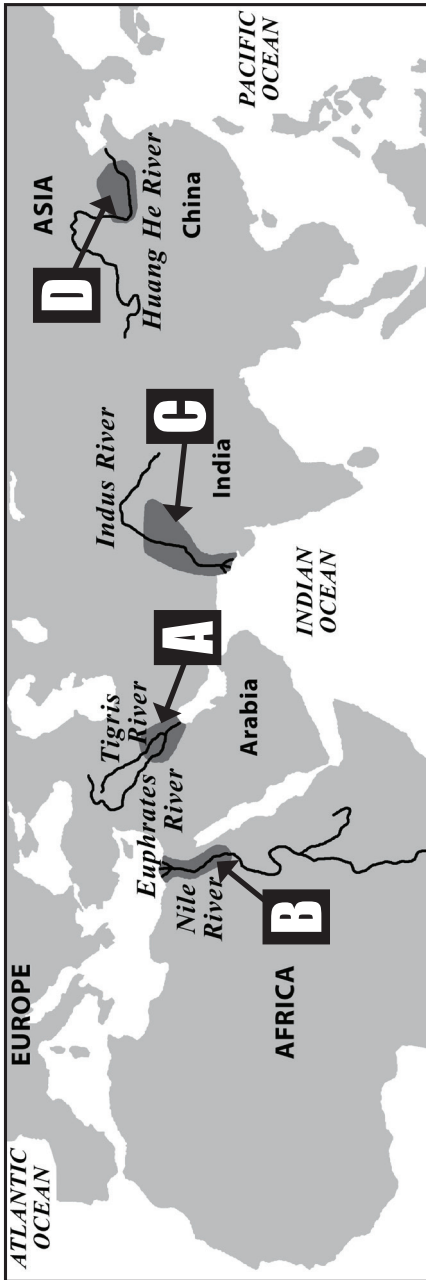
One teacher is allowed to make copies for use in her/his classroom!



MAP ACTIVITY

River Valley Civilizations

Study the map and answer the questions.



Where did ancient river valley civilizations develop?

A Ancient Mesopotamia: developed near the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers

B Ancient Egypt: developed on the Nile River

C Ancient India: developed on the Indus River

D Ancient China: developed on the Huang He, or Yellow River

River valleys provided a beneficial environment for developing ancient civilizations. The rivers offered a constant source of water for people and crops. The river valleys flooded regularly, replenishing the soil and creating a fertile environment for farming. The rivers also provided transportation, protection from invasions, and access to other natural resources.

PART A: Use the map to determine whether each statement is **true** or **false**.

1. _____ Ancient Mesopotamia developed in Africa.
2. _____ The Indus River flows into the Indian Ocean.
3. _____ Ancient China developed in the Western Hemisphere.
4. _____ All of the ancient river valley civilizations developed in Asia.

PART B: Write the name of the correct civilization in each blank.

5. This civilization developed in southwestern Asia. _____
6. This civilization developed in the Indian subcontinent. _____
7. This civilization developed in eastern Asia. _____
8. This civilization developed in northern Africa. _____

PART C: Complete the activities below.

9. Describe 3-5 ways that living in river valleys benefited ancient civilizations.
10. Use classroom and online resources to research why yearly flooding of the Nile River was beneficial to crop growth. Explain.
11. How did the transportation provided by rivers benefit ancient civilizations? Use online research to support your answer.
12. Create a computer presentation with graphics describing one of the four ancient river valley civilizations. Be sure to explain how the river affected the survival of the civilization. Present your research to the class and discuss.

VOCABULARY

Civilizations Vocabulary

Use the dictionary and other resources to complete the graphic organizer for each vocabulary word.

archaeology

conquer

gods

caste system

culture

hieroglyphics

city-state

dynasty

religion

civilization

empire

warrior

DEFINITION	FACTS/CHARACTERISTICS
WORD	
EXAMPLES	NON-EXAMPLES