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Chapter 2: Early Societies of Africa and West Asia, to 500 B.C.E.

Contents and Focus Questions

2.1 Early African Societies
What were the principal characteristics and contributions of early African societies?

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What were the main characteristics and contributions of early West Asian societies?

2.3 West Asia and North Africa: The Phoenician Connection
How would you describe and explain the main Phoenician contributions and connections?

2.4 The Israelites and Their God
How did the concept of monotheism develop among the Israelites?

Chapter Summary

Early African societies were as varied as the continent's geography and climate. Between 10,000 and 5000 B.C.E., North Africa was covered by grasslands and was home to herding and farming societies. From 5000 B.C.E., the grasslands retreated, and populations concentrated near the Nile River. The Nile River made possible the development of Egyptian civilization. The towns and villages along the Nile coalesced into small kingdoms that were eventually organized into the Egyptian Empire. Egyptian society seems to have been more stable than that of Mesopotamia and its worldview more optimistic. Egyptian life focused on family, farming, and the cycles of the Nile. The political history of ancient Egypt can be divided into major eras distinguished by three great "kingdoms," with long periods of stability interrupted periodically by intermediate periods. South of Egypt, the Nubians created a number of important states, including the kingdoms of Kush and Meroë. In sub-Saharan Africa, the Bantu migrations spread agriculture, ironworking, and their languages.

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The civilizations of West Asia emerged from the settled agricultural communities of the Tigris and Euphrates rivers. Villages grew into towns. Towns grew into cities, the earliest of which were the city-states of Sumer. These city-states developed a unique Sumerian culture, including the world's first states and the first empire. Conquest by the Akkadians facilitated the consolidation and spread of Sumerian culture to a broader region. Subsequent conquerors (including the Babylonians, the Indo-European Hittites, and the Assyrians) added their own cultural, political, and social elements to West Asian civilization.

The commercial maritime empire of the Phoenicians connected West Asia with North Africa and the western Mediterranean. The Phoenician alphabet was a major contribution to written communication throughout the Mediterranean and West Asia. One of the many commercial centers established by the Phoenicians—Carthage—came to dominate the western Mediterranean.

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The Hebrews developed a monotheistic faith that would serve as the basis for some of the world's most influential religions: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. The Hebrews developed a vision of the divine that was different than that of their neighbors.

Chapter Outline

Introduction
Map 2.0 Early North African and West Asian Societies
Discovery of the Rosetta Stone

2.1 Early African Societies
What were the principal characteristics and contributions of early African societies?
The earliest complex societies emerged in northeast Africa; elsewhere in Africa, a diverse range of societies developed as people adapted to different environments.

- 2.1.1 Climate, Geography, and Cultural Diversity
  - *How did African peoples adapt to the continent's diverse climate and geography?*
  - *Map 2.1 Africa's Diverse Environment*
  - Variations in topography and climate
  - River valleys and grasslands cover more than half of Africa's land surface
  - Adaptations to the environment
    - North Africa
      - Fishing, farming, and herding
      - Complex societies
      - Trading networks along the Nile River and the Mediterranean coast
    - Grasslands south of the Sahara
      - Herding and farming
      - Regional kingdoms
    - Southern Africa
      - Small groups of villages
      - Stateless societies
    - Central rain forests, the eastern plains, and the southwestern desert region
      - Foraging societies
      - Small, nomadic clans
- 2.1.2 Early Nile Valley Societies
  - *How did early Nile valley societies adapt to their environment and develop complex cultures?*
  - *Map 2.2 Egyptian Kingdoms and Imperial Expansion, 2700–1075 B.C.E.*
  - Farming and herding in North Africa
  - Settlements near the Nile River
  - Kingdom of Egypt
  - Egyptian Religion and Worldview
    - Belief in the prospect of life after death
    - Concept of *ma'at*
    - Role of pharaohs
    - **Mummification**

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Hieroglyphic Writing and Other Innovations
- Contributions to culture, knowledge, and communication
- **Hieroglyphics**
- **Papyrus**
- Rosetta Stone

Society, Family, Gender Roles, and Work
- Social stratification
  - Priests and state officials
  - Middle classes
    - Merchants
    - Scribes
    - Artisans
  - Lower classes
    - Peasants
    - Laborers
- Marriage and family
  - **Polygyny**
  - Gender roles
  - **Matrilineal** families
- Farming
- Flooding of the Nile

2.1.3 The Kingdoms of Egypt

What were the principal features and accomplishments of Egypt's kingdoms and empire?

Early Kingdoms and Hyksos Rule
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- Archaic Period (c. 3100–2700 B.C.E.)
  - Legendary King Narmer (Menes)
  - Unification of Upper and Lower Egypt
  - Divine kingship
  - Dynastic rule
- Old Kingdom (c. 2700–2200 B.C.E.)
  - Peace and stability
  - Centralized state
    - Effective bureaucracy
    - Efficient tax collection system
  - Trade connections
  - Pyramids
    - King Zoser
    - Great Pyramid
- First Intermediate Period (c. 2200–2050 B.C.E.)
- Middle Kingdom (2050–1700 B.C.E.)
  - Restoration of unity under Mentuhotep
  - Expansion of trade
  - Irrigation and land reclamation projects
- Second Intermediate Period (c. 1700–1570 B.C.E.)
  - Hyksos's conquest of Egypt
  - Expansion of cultural connections

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The Egyptian Empire
- New Kingdom (1570–1075 B.C.E.)
  - Hatshepsut: Female ruler
  - Thutmosis: First to claim title of pharaoh
  - **Monotheism** under Amenhotep and Nefertiti
  - Tutankhamon
  - Ramses II the Great
  - Attacks from the Sea Peoples
- Post-Imperial Period (1075–332 B.C.E.)

2.1.4 Nubia, Kush, and Meroë

What were the main connections and accomplishments of Nubia, Kush, and Meroë?

Map 2.3 Egypt, Kush, and Meroë, Second and First Millennia B.C.E.

- Nubia along the upper Nile
  - Egypt domination of northern Nubia
  - Kingdom of Kush in southern Nubia
  - Egyptian influence on Nubian culture
- Kingdom of Meroë
  - Reflected Nubians' southward orientation
  - Connections to sub-Saharan Africa
  - Nubian writing and religion
  - Enhanced political role for women
  - Iron smelting

2.1.5 Sub-Saharan African Societies

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How did sub-Saharan African societies compare and contrast with Northeast African societies?

- The Sudan
- The importance of cattle
- The Bantu Expansion
  - **Bantu**
  - Migration to equatorial savannas and forests
  - Spread of agriculture, ironworking, and Bantu language
- Families and Clans
  - Male family heads formed ruling councils
  - Families and clans foundation of social, cultural, and religious life
  - Patriarchy
  - Marriage as network of kinship ties and loyalties
- Traditional Religions
  - **Polytheistic** religious traditions
  - **Animism**
  - **Ancestor veneration**

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Cultural Expression
- Literature and poetry
  - Set to music in the form of chants or songs
  - Often had a religious function
- Dancing
- Religious incantations and folk legends
- Religious architecture
- Woodcarving

2.2 Early West Asian Societies

What were the main characteristics and contributions of early West Asian societies?

From its beginnings around 9000 B.C.E., farming spread in West Asia, leading to increasingly complex societies that contributed to the development of Mesopotamian civilization.

2.2.1 Early Mesopotamia: The City-States of Sumer

What were the principal cultural and technical contributions of the early Sumerians?

Map 2.4 Complex Societies Emerge in West Asia and Northeast Africa by 3000 B.C.E.

- Emergence of towns and cities in Mesopotamia
- Conflict and connections between Sumerian **city-states**
- Sumerian Religion and Worldview
  - *Epic of Gilgamesh*
  - Polytheistic religion
  - **Ziggurats**
- Commerce, Innovation, and Cuneiform Writing
  - Agriculture
  - Sea and overland trade
  - Advances in metalwork
  - Lunar calendar
  - **Cuneiform**

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2.2.2 Akkadian Connections and the Spread of Sumerian Culture

What connections developed between and among Sumer, Akkad, and Babylon?

Map 2.5 Akkadian Empire Unites Mesopotamia in 24th Century B.C.E.

- Sargon of Akkad and the conquest of Mesopotamia
- Akkadian adoption and spread of Sumerian culture
  - Calendar
  - Writing system
  - Computation methods

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2.2.3 Babylonian Society and Hammurabi's Code

How did Hammurabi's Code reflect the nature of Mesopotamian society?

- The Amorites
- Capital at Babylon
- Hammurabi's Code
  - Social hierarchy
  - Property rights
  - Patriarchal society
  - Marriage
    - Contractual
    - **Dowry**
  - Limited rights for women
- Public works projects

2.2.4 Indo-European Migrations

How did the Indo-European migrations create connections among Eurasian societies?

Map 2.6 Indo-European Migrations Connect Eurasian Societies, 3000–1000 B.C.E.

- **Indo-European** languages
- **Semitic** languages
- Indo-European domestication of horses
- Migration routes

2.2.5 The Hittite Connection

What were the principal Hittite contributions and connections?

Map 2.7 Hittite Connections and Conflicts, 1600–1200 B.C.E.

Indo-European migrants who had settled in Anatolia

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- Adaptation of Mesopotamian culture
- Development of ironworking techniques
- Hittite Empire
  - Centered on agriculture and warfare
  - Hierarchical and patriarchal

2.2.6 Later Mesopotamia: Assyrians and Chaldeans

What were the principal cultural contributions of the Assyrians and Chaldeans?

Map 2.8 The Assyrian and Chaldean (New Babylonian) Empires, 9th through 6th Centuries B.C.E.

- The Assyrians
  - Warfare and conquest
  - Nineveh
- The Chaldeans
  - Allied with the Medes to destroy Assyria
  - Chaldeans also called New Babylonians
  - King Nebuchadnezzar and restoration of Babylonian greatness

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2.3 West Asia and North Africa: The Phoenician Connection

How would you describe and explain the main Phoenician contributions and connections?

Map 2.9 Phoenician and Carthaginian Colonies, 12th Through 2nd Centuries B.C.E.

The Phoenicians were instrumental in making the Mediterranean a commercial region, aided by a common writing system.

- The Phoenician trading empire in the Mediterranean
- The Phoenician alphabet
- Carthage

2.4 The Israelites and Their God

How did the concept of monotheism develop among the Israelites?

The Hebrews developed a monotheistic set of beliefs that would be the foundation of three major world religions: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.

2.4.1 The Children of Israel

What role did the Bible play in defining the identity of the Hebrews?

- The Bible
  - Story of the early Hebrews
  - Hebrew cultural connections with Mesopotamia and Egypt
- **Covenant** with God
  - "Chosen People"
  - Ten Commandments
- Origins of the Israelites in Canaan

2.4.2 The Kingdoms of Israel

How did the kingdoms of Israel evolve under David and Solomon?

Map 2.10 Israelites and Their Neighbors, 12th Through 8th Centuries, B.C.E.

- Saul and unification of the Israelites
- David and Solomon
- Judah and Israel
- Dispersion and exile

2.4.3 The God of Israel

Why was Jewish monotheism so important in world history?

- Israelites developed their distinctive faith
- Concept of a single divinity

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Discussion Questions

1. What factors fostered connections among early African societies? What impeded connections?
2. Select one of the religions covered in the chapter and explain how it strengthened the political and social order.
3. Compare the Indo-European and Bantu migrations.
4. How were aspects of Egyptian religion reflected in its government and culture?
5. What was the basis of Egyptian power in North Africa?
6. What do trading empires and political empires have in common?
7. What led to the formation of the Kingdom of Israel? What led to its collapse?
8. What were the key characteristics of Hebrew monotheism? What relationship did the Hebrews posit between themselves and their God?
9. What role did rivers play in the development of early civilizations?
10. How did pastoral nomads shape the early history of Mesopotamia?

Connections

The relationship among the early Sumerian city-states was characterized by connection and conflict. Often in conflict with each other, the city-states were nevertheless tied by a shared culture and commerce.

The development of writing created both internal and external connections. Although used as a tool for rulers, writing also ultimately promoted connections between cultures.

The Akkadians created new connections through conquest. As conquerors, the Akkadians adopted and spread Sumerian culture.

The Indo-Europeans connected regions by the spread of their language and culture. As they migrated through already settled lands, the Indo-European peoples created an overlay of language and culture that united a large region.

The Hittites created new connections between West Asia and Africa. As conquerors, the Hittites were also influential in forging strong links between Mesopotamian and Egyptian culture.

The Assyrian Empire connected a huge region under one ruler. The Assyrians brought under their rule formerly independent regions, bringing the regions from Northeast Africa to the Iranian Plateau into closer contact.

The Egyptian Middle Kingdom rulers increased connections with other cultures. Both through increased trade and through conquest, rulers such as Ramses strengthened ties between Egypt and West Asia.

Nubians and Egyptians formed commercial and cultural connections. Egypt was connected to Nubia through trade and conquest.

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The Phoenicians created a region closely connected by trade. Trading throughout the Mediterranean, the Phoenicians demonstrated that strong international connections might be created without conquest.

The Hebrews built on and transformed connections within West Asia. The Jewish people developed a culture that forged new connections with neighboring peoples.

Revel Features

Reinforce what is covered in this chapter with the many documents, maps, and videos available in Revel.

Maps
Map 2.0 Early North African and West Asian Societies
Map 2.1 Africa's Diverse Environment
Map 2.2 Egyptian Kingdoms and Imperial Expansion, 2700–1075 B.C.E.
Map 2.3 Egypt, Kush, and Meroë, Second and First Millennia B.C.E.
Map 2.4 Complex Societies Emerge in West Asia and Northeast Africa by 3000 B.C.E.
Map 2.5 Akkadian Empire Unites Mesopotamia in 24th Century B.C.E.
Map 2.6 Indo-European Migrations Connect Eurasian Societies, 3000–1000 B.C.E.
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Map 2.8 The Assyrian and Chaldean (New Babylonian) Empires, 9th Through 6th Centuries B.C.E.
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Map 2.10 Israelites and Their Neighbors, 12thThrough 8th Centuries B.C.E.

Documents
Life and Death in Ancient Mesopotamia: Excerpts from *The Epic of Gilgamesh* (c. 2000 B.C.E.)
Sumerian Law Code: The Code of Lipit-Ishtar (c. 1868 B.C.E.)
Excerpts from Hammurabi's Code
Excerpts from the Hebrew Bible
Table with Ancient Hittite Letters
Artifacts as Evidence: Flood Tablet

Videos
Chapter 2: Introductory Video
History 360: Pyramid and Sphinx at Giza
Artifacts as Evidence: Flood Tablet

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Chapter 2: Early Societies of Africa and West Asia, to 500 B.C.E.

Multiple-Choice Questions

1) Which of the following constitute more than half of Africa's land surface?
A) lakes and seas
B) desert and scrub
C) tropical and mountain forests
D) river valleys and grasslands
Answer: D
Topic: 2.1.1 Climate, Geography, and Cultural Diversity
Learning Objective: 2.1 What were the principal characteristics and contributions of early African societies?
Skill Level: Remember the Facts
Difficulty Level: Easy

2) Which of the following provides the most favorable conditions for farming and herding in Africa?
A) Niger river valley
B) central rain forests
C) eastern plains
D) southwestern region
Answer: A
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Topic: 2.1.1 Climate, Geography, and Cultural Diversity
Learning Objective: 2.1 What were the principal characteristics and contributions of early African societies?
Skill Level: Remember the Facts
Difficulty Level: Easy

3) Stateless societies were most common in which part of Africa?
A) north
B) south
C) west
D) east
Answer: B
Topic: 2.1.1 Climate, Geography, and Cultural Diversity
Learning Objective: 2.1 What were the principal characteristics and contributions of early African societies?
Skill Level: Remember the Facts
Difficulty Level: Easy

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4) Which of the following dominates North Africa?
A) Congo River
B) Niger River
C) Sahara Desert
D) Lake Victoria
Answer: C
Topic: 2.1.2 Early Nile Valley Societies
Learning Objective: 2.1 What were the principal characteristics and contributions of early African societies?
Skill Level: Remember the Facts
Difficulty Level: Easy

5) The concept of *ma'at* reflected ancient Egyptians' view of _____.
A) the cosmic order
B) a single divinity
C) life after death
D) gender relations
Answer: A
Topic: 2.1.2 Early Nile Valley Societies
Learning Objective: 2.1 What were the principal characteristics and contributions of early African societies?
Skill Level: Understand the Connections
Difficulty Level: Moderate

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6) The Egyptian god Amon-Re represented the _____.
A) earth
B) sun
C) moon
D) wind
Answer: B
Topic: 2.1.2 Early Nile Valley Societies
Learning Objective: 2.1 What were the principal characteristics and contributions of early African societies?
Skill Level: Remember the Facts
Difficulty Level: Easy

7) Who was the legendary ruler credited with being the first to unite Upper and Lower Egypt?
A) Khufu
B) Menes
C) Zoser
D) Ahmose
Answer: B
Topic: 2.1.3 The Kingdoms of Egypt
Learning Objective: 2.1 What were the principal characteristics and contributions of early African societies?
Skill Level: Remember the Facts
Difficulty Level: Easy

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8) The Great Pyramid was built for _____.
A) Nefertiti
B) Hatshepsut
C) Khufu
D) Amenhotep
Answer: C
Topic: 2.1.3 The Kingdoms of Egypt
Learning Objective: 2.1 What were the principal characteristics and contributions of early African societies?
Skill Level: Remember the Facts
Difficulty Level: Easy

9) Whose conquests ended the Middle Kingdom?
A) Akkadians
B) Assyrians
C) Hyksos
D) Hittites
Answer: C
Topic: 2.1.3 The Kingdoms of Egypt
Learning Objective: 2.1 What were the principal characteristics and contributions of early African societies?
Skill Level: Remember the Facts
Difficulty Level: Moderate

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10) During which period did Egyptian rulers create an empire?
A) Archaic Period
B) First Intermediate Period
C) Old Kingdom
D) New Kingdom
Answer: D
Topic: 2.1.3 The Kingdoms of Egypt
Learning Objective: 2.1 What were the principal characteristics and contributions of early African societies?
Skill Level: Understand the Connections
Difficulty Level: Moderate

11) Which of the following was a female Egyptian ruler?
A) Hatshepsut
B) Narmer
C) Akhenaton
D) Tutankhamon
Answer: A
Topic: 2.1.3 The Kingdoms of Egypt
Learning Objective: 2.1 What were the principal characteristics and contributions of early African societies?
Skill Level: Understand the Connections
Difficulty Level: Moderate

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12) Which Egyptian pharaoh became known as Akhenaton?
A) Thutmosis III
B) Hatshepsut
C) Ramses II
D) Amenhotep IV
Answer: D
Topic: 2.1.3 The Kingdoms of Egypt
Learning Objective: 2.1 What were the principal characteristics and contributions of early African societies?
Skill Level: Remember the Facts
Difficulty Level: Easy

13) Which Egyptian ruler's religious reforms moved in the direction of monotheism?
A) Mentuhotep
B) Thutmosis III
C) Akhenaton
D) Tutankhamon
Answer: C
Topic: 2.1.3 The Kingdoms of Egypt
Learning Objective: 2.1 What were the principal characteristics and contributions of early African societies?
Skill Level: Understand the Connections
Difficulty Level: Moderate

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14) The name of which region is believed to mean "gold" or "black"?
A) Egypt
B) Nubia
C) Mesopotamia
D) Sumer
Answer: B
Topic: 2.1.4 Nubia, Kush, and Meroë
Learning Objective: 2.1 What were the principal characteristics and contributions of early African societies?
Skill Level: Remember the Facts
Difficulty Level: Easy

15) Which of these had the greatest cultural impact on Nubia?
A) Egypt
B) Syria
C) Israel
D) Persia
Answer: A
Topic: 2.1.4 Nubia, Kush, and Meroë
Learning Objective: 2.1 What were the principal characteristics and contributions of early African societies?
Skill Level: Understand the Connections
Difficulty Level: Moderate

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16) Which kingdom claimed the titles and continued the traditions of Egyptian pharaohs?
A) Kush
B) Akkad
C) Babylon
D) Judah
Answer: A
Topic: 2.1.4 Nubia, Kush, and Meroë
Learning Objective: 2.1 What were the principal characteristics and contributions of early African societies?
Skill Level: Understand the Connections
Difficulty Level: Moderate

17) What symbolized status and wealth in the Sudan?
A) goats
B) sheep
C) horses
D) cattle
Answer: D
Topic: 2.1.5 Sub-Saharan African Societies
Learning Objective: 2.1 What were the principal characteristics and contributions of early African societies?
Skill Level: Remember the Facts
Difficulty Level: Easy

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18) It can be reasonably surmised that the regions of sub-Saharan Africa that had ironworking technology after the sixth century B.C.E. interacted with the _____.
A) Chaldeans
B) Bantu
C) Philistines
D) Sea Peoples
Answer: B
Topic: 2.1.5 Sub-Saharan African Societies
Learning Objective: 2.1 What were the principal characteristics and contributions of early African societies?
Skill Level: Analyze It
Difficulty Level: Difficult

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19) Which of the following was a feature of Bantu society?
A) centralized government
B) foraging lifestyle
C) patriarchal structure
D) monotheistic religion
Answer: C
Topic: 2.1.5 Sub-Saharan African Societies
Learning Objective: 2.1 What were the principal characteristics and contributions of early African societies?
Skill Level: Analyze It
Difficulty Level: Difficult

20) Like those who practiced ancestor veneration, those who practiced _____ assumed that spirits influenced the human world.
A) animism
B) polygyny
C) monotheism
D) mummification
Answer: A
Topic: 2.1.5 Sub-Saharan African Societies
Learning Objective: 2.1 What were the principal characteristics and contributions of early African societies?
Skill Level: Analyze It
Difficulty Level: Difficult

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21) In early Africa, what material was usually used to build religious structures?
A) mud
B) thatch
C) wood
D) stone
Answer: D
Topic: 2.1.5 Sub-Saharan African Societies
Learning Objective: 2.1 What were the principal characteristics and contributions of early African societies?
Skill Level: Remember the Facts
Difficulty Level: Easy

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22) Which of the following played a ceremonial role in religious rituals in early Africa?
A) papyrus
B) masks
C) wheels
D) spears
Answer: B
Topic: 2.1.5 Sub-Saharan African Societies
Learning Objective: 2.1 What were the principal characteristics and contributions of early African societies?
Skill Level: Remember the Facts
Difficulty Level: Easy

23) Mesopotamia was in present-day _____.
A) Iraq
B) Iran
C) Syria
D) Israel
Answer: A
Topic: 2.2 Early West Asian Societies
Learning Objective: 2.2 What were the main characteristics and contributions of early West Asian societies?
Skill Level: Remember the Facts
Difficulty Level: Easy

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24) Which of the following contributed to the rise of Mesopotamia?
A) access to the ports of Asia
B) proximity to Europe
C) fertility of its soil
D) abundance of gold
Answer: C
Topic: 2.2 Early West Asian Societies
Learning Objective: 2.2 What were the main characteristics and contributions of early West Asian societies?
Skill Level: Understand the Connections
Difficulty Level: Easy

25) The *Epic of Gilgamesh* tells us a great deal about Mesopotamian _____.
A) commerce
B) agriculture
C) beliefs
D) technology
Answer: C
Topic: 2.2.1 Early Mesopotamia: The City-States of Sumer
Learning Objective: 2.2 What were the main characteristics and contributions of early West Asian societies?
Skill Level: Understand the Connections
Difficulty Level: Moderate

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26) What are the large brick structures that ascend upward in tiers in Sumerian cities called?
A) ziggurats
B) pyramids
C) hieroglyphics
D) papyrus
Answer: A
Topic: 2.2.1 Early Mesopotamia: The City-States of Sumer
Learning Objective: 2.2 What were the main characteristics and contributions of early West Asian societies?
Skill Level: Remember the Facts
Difficulty Level: Easy

27) Ziggurats in Mesopotamia reflect the relationship between _____.
A) innovation and tradition
B) literature and the arts
C) religion and politics
D) agriculture and commerce
Answer: C
Topic: 2.2.1 Early Mesopotamia: The City-States of Sumer
Learning Objective: 2.2 What were the main characteristics and contributions of early West Asian societies?
Skill Level: Understand the Connections
Difficulty Level: Moderate

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28) Scribes in Mesopotamia were trained to read and write _____.
A) Arabic
B) the Phoenician alphabet
C) cuneiform
D) hieroglyphics
Answer: C
Topic: 2.2.1 Early Mesopotamia: The City-States of Sumer
Learning Objective: 2.2 What were the main characteristics and contributions of early West Asian societies?
Skill Level: Understand the Connections
Difficulty Level: Moderate

29) Sargon of Akkad's conquests helped to spread _____ culture.
A) Hebrew
B) Egyptian
C) Nubian
D) Sumerian
Answer: D
Topic: 2.2.2 Akkadian Connections and the Spread of Sumerian Culture
Learning Objective: 2.2 What were the main characteristics and contributions of early West Asian societies?
Skill Level: Understand the Connections
Difficulty Level: Moderate

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30) Which city-state rose to power in southern Mesopotamia after the collapse of the Akkadian Empire?
A) Carthage
B) Ur
C) Rome
D) Tyre
Answer: B
Topic: 2.2.2 Akkadian Connections and the Spread of Sumerian Culture
Learning Objective: 2.2 What were the main characteristics and contributions of early West Asian societies?
Skill Level: Remember the Facts
Difficulty Level: Easy

31) What was the name of the empire established by the Amorites?
A) Sumer
B) Akkad
C) Babylon
D) Nubia
Answer: C
Topic: 2.2.3 Babylonian Society and Hammurabi's Code
Learning Objective: 2.2 What were the main characteristics and contributions of early West Asian societies?
Skill Level: Remember the Facts
Difficulty Level: Moderate

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32) Which culture most influenced the Babylonians?
A) Hebrew
B) Egyptian
C) Nubian
D) Sumerian
Answer: D
Topic: 2.2.3 Babylonian Society and Hammurabi's Code
Learning Objective: 2.2 What were the main characteristics and contributions of early West Asian societies?
Skill Level: Understand the Connections
Difficulty Level: Moderate

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33) Hammurabi was ruler of _____.
A) Ur
B) Babylon
C) Akkad
D) Meroë
Answer: B
Topic: 2.2.3 Babylonian Society and Hammurabi's Code
Learning Objective: 2.2 What were the main characteristics and contributions of early West Asian societies?
Skill Level: Remember the Facts
Difficulty Level: Easy

34) Hammurabi's Code reflects _____ law.
A) Greek
B) Hebrew
C) Mesopotamian
D) Egyptian
Answer: C
Topic: 2.2.3 Babylonian Society and Hammurabi's Code
Learning Objective: 2.2 What were the main characteristics and contributions of early West Asian societies?
Skill Level: Remember the Facts
Difficulty Level: Easy

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35) The custom of the bride's family paying for the wedding can be traced to the practice of the bride's family providing a _____.
A) papyrus
B) covenant
C) dowry
D) ring
Answer: C
Topic: 2.2.3 Babylonian Society and Hammurabi's Code
Learning Objective: 2.2 What were the main characteristics and contributions of early West Asian societies?
Skill Level: Understand the Connections
Difficulty Level: Moderate

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36) Which of the following did Hammurabi support?
A) adopting monotheism
B) ending slavery
C) decentralizing the government
D) building public projects
Answer: D
Topic: 2.2.3 Babylonian Society and Hammurabi's Code
Learning Objective: 2.2 What were the main characteristics and contributions of early West Asian societies?
Skill Level: Understand the Connections
Difficulty Level: Moderate

37) The domestication of which of the following had the greatest impact on warfare and travel?
A) horses
B) sheep
C) goats
D) cattle
Answer: A
Topic: 2.2.4 Indo-European Migrations
Learning Objective: 2.2 What were the main characteristics and contributions of early West Asian societies?
Skill Level: Understand the Connections
Difficulty Level: Easy

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38) Which of the following is classified as an Indo-European language?
A) Bantu
B) Persian
C) Arabic
D) Hebrew
Answer: B
Topic: 2.2.4 Indo-European Migrations
Learning Objective: 2.2 What were the main characteristics and contributions of early West Asian societies?
Skill Level: Remember the Facts
Difficulty Level: Moderate

39) The center of the Hittite Empire was _____.
A) Palestine
B) Mesopotamia
C) the Nile Valley
D) Anatolia
Answer: D
Topic: 2.2.5 The Hittite Connection
Learning Objective: 2.2 What were the main characteristics and contributions of early West Asian societies?
Skill Level: Remember the Facts
Difficulty Level: Easy

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40) Which of the following accurately describes Hittite society?
A) matrilineal
B) patriarchal
C) monotheistic
D) isolationist
Answer: B
Topic: 2.2.5 The Hittite Connection
Learning Objective: 2.2 What were the main characteristics and contributions of early West Asian societies?
Skill Level: Remember the Facts
Difficulty Level: Easy

41) The Ishtar gate is named after the _____.
A) founder of the Akkadian Empire
B) founder of the Assyrian Empire
C) Egyptian god of the sun
D) Sumerian goddess of fertility
Answer: D
Topic: 2.2.6 Later Mesopotamia: Assyrians and Chaldeans
Learning Objective: 2.2 What were the main characteristics and contributions of early West Asian societies?
Skill Level: Remember the Facts
Difficulty Level: Easy

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42) Which group conquered the Chaldean Empire?
A) Assyrians
B) Persians
C) Hittites
D) Egyptians
Answer: B
Topic: 2.2.6 Later Mesopotamia: Assyrians and Chaldeans
Learning Objective: 2.2 What were the main characteristics and contributions of early West Asian societies?
Skill Level: Remember the Facts
Difficulty Level: Easy

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43) Which of the following played the most important role in shaping the development of the Phoenician trading empire?
A) the Sahara Desert
B) the Mediterranean Sea
C) the Nile River
D) the Atlantic Ocean
Answer: B
Topic: 2.3 West Asia and North Africa: The Phoenician Connection
Learning Objective: 2.3 How would you describe and explain the main Phoenician contributions and connections?
Skill Level: Understand the Connections
Difficulty Level: Moderate

44) The Phoenicians' power was based on their _____.
A) use of horse-drawn chariots
B) large population
C) mastery of ironworking technology
D) control of commerce
Answer: D
Topic: 2.3 West Asia and North Africa: The Phoenician Connection
Learning Objective: 2.3 How would you describe and explain the main Phoenician contributions and connections?
Skill Level: Understand the Connections
Difficulty Level: Moderate TBEXAM.COM

45) Which group laid the foundations for the alphabets used throughout the West?
A) Philistines
B) Sumerians
C) Persians
D) Phoenicians
Answer: D
Topic: 2.3 West Asia and North Africa: The Phoenician Connection
Learning Objective: 2.3 How would you describe and explain the main Phoenician contributions and connections?
Skill Level: Remember the Facts
Difficulty Level: Easy

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46) Carthage was originally a colony founded by the _____.
A) Hittites
B) Egyptians
C) Phoenicians
D) Assyrians
Answer: C
Topic: 2.3 West Asia and North Africa: The Phoenician Connection
Learning Objective: 2.3 How would you describe and explain the main Phoenician contributions and connections?
Skill Level: Remember the Facts
Difficulty Level: Easy

47) The Egyptian pharaoh Amenhotep IV's worship of which god resembles the Jews' worship of the God of Israel?
A) Aton
B) Amon
C) Isis
D) Osiris
Answer: A
Topic: 2.1.3 The Kingdoms of Egypt; 2.4.1 The Children of Israel; 2.4.3 The God of Israel
Learning Objective: 2.1 What were the principal characteristics and contributions of early African societies?; 2.4 How did the concept of monotheism develop among the Israelites?
Skill Level: Analyze It
Difficulty Level: Difficult

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48) Which man was also called "Israel"?
A) Moses
B) Abraham
C) Jacob
D) David
Answer: C
Topic: 2.4.1 The Children of Israel
Learning Objective: 2.4 How did the concept of monotheism develop among the Israelites?
Skill Level: Remember the Facts
Difficulty Level: Easy

49) Which of the following is described in the Hebrew Bible and the *Epic of Gilgamesh*?
A) a great flood
B) a battle between gods
C) ancestor veneration
D) animist rituals
Answer: A
Topic: 2.4.1 The Children of Israel
Learning Objective: 2.4 How did the concept of monotheism develop among the Israelites?
Skill Level: Understand the Connections
Difficulty Level: Moderate

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50) Who was the first warrior king to unite the Israelites?
A) Saul
B) Abraham
C) Jacob
D) Moses
Answer: A
Topic: 2.4.2 The Kingdoms of Israel
Learning Objective: 2.4 How did the concept of monotheism develop among the Israelites?
Skill Level: Remember the Facts
Difficulty Level: Easy

51) Who built a temple in Jerusalem to Israel's God?
A) Saul
B) Solomon
C) David
D) Moses
Answer: B
Topic: 2.4.2 The Kingdoms of Israel
Learning Objective: 2.4 How did the concept of monotheism develop among the Israelites?
Skill Level: Remember the Facts
Difficulty Level: Easy

52) Who allowed the Jews to return to Jerusalem and rebuild their temple?
A) Assyrians
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B) Chaldeans
C) Persians
D) Egyptians
Answer: C
Topic: 2.4.2 The Kingdoms of Israel
Learning Objective: 2.4 How did the concept of monotheism develop among the Israelites?
Skill Level: Remember the Facts
Difficulty Level: Easy

53) Which city served as the center of worship for the Israelites?
A) Nineveh
B) Jerusalem
C) Carthage
D) Uruk
Answer: B
Topic: 2.4.3 The God of Israel
Learning Objective: 2.4 How did the concept of monotheism develop among the Israelites?
Skill Level: Understand the Connections
Difficulty Level: Easy

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54) Christianity and Islam were most influenced by the religious beliefs of which group?
A) Hebrews
B) Phoenicians
C) Nubians
D) Babylonians
Answer: A
Topic: 2.4.3 The God of Israel
Learning Objective: 2.4 How did the concept of monotheism develop among the Israelites?
Skill Level: Understand the Connections
Difficulty Level: Easy

55) In contrast to Egypt's expansion during the New Kingdom, _____ expansion did not involve military conquest.
A) Akkadian
B) Hittite
C) Nubian
D) Bantu
Answer: D
Topic: Conclusion
Learning Objective: None
Skill Level: Analyze It
Difficulty Level: Difficult

True/False Questions

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1) The symbols inscribed on the Rosetta Stone have not yet been deciphered.
Answer: FALSE
Topic: Introduction
Learning Objective: None
Skill Level: Remember the Facts
Difficulty Level: Easy

2) Africa is the largest continent.
Answer: FALSE
Topic: 2.1.1 Climate, Geography, and Cultural Diversity
Learning Objective: 2.1 What were the principal characteristics and contributions of early African societies?
Skill Level: Remember the Facts
Difficulty Level: Easy

3) The Sumerians were pioneers in the use of the wheel.
Answer: TRUE
Topic: 2.2.1 Early Mesopotamia: The City-States of Sumer
Learning Objective: 2.2 What were the main characteristics and contributions of early West Asian societies?
Skill Level: Remember the Facts
Difficulty Level: Easy

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4) The Phoenician trading empire was centered in the Nile Valley.
Answer: FALSE
Topic: 2.3 West Asia and North Africa: The Phoenician Connection
Learning Objective: 2.3 How would you describe and explain the main Phoenician contributions and connections?
Skill Level: Remember the Facts
Difficulty Level: Easy

5) The "ten lost tribes" refer to the people who had lived in the Kingdom of Israel.
Answer: TRUE
Topic: 2.4.2 The Kingdoms of Israel
Learning Objective: 2.4 How did the concept of monotheism develop among the Israelites?
Skill Level: Remember the Facts
Difficulty Level: Easy

Short Answer Questions

1) Scribes in which civilization wrote on papyrus?
Answer: Egypt
Topic: 2.1.2 Early Nile Valley Societies
Learning Objective: 2.1 What were the principal characteristics and contributions of early African societies?
Skill Level: Understand the Connections
Difficulty Level: Easy

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2) What were the main form of military transport until World War II?
Answer: horses
Topic: 2.2.4 Indo-European Migrations
Learning Objective: 2.2 What were the main characteristics and contributions of early West Asian societies?
Skill Level: Remember the Facts
Difficulty Level: Easy

3) How did the Hittites succeed in making iron weapons after other groups had failed?
Answer: They learned to bring it to a higher temperature.
Topic: 2.2.5 The Hittite Connection
Learning Objective: 2.2 What were the main characteristics and contributions of early West Asian societies?
Skill Level: Understand the Connections
Difficulty Level: Moderate

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4) What was the name of the commercial metropolis that explored the African and British coasts?
Answer: Carthage
Topic: 2.3 West Asia and North Africa: The Phoenician Connection
Learning Objective: 2.3 How would you describe and explain the main Phoenician contributions and connections?
Skill Level: Remember the Facts
Difficulty Level: Moderate

5) Who regard themselves as a Chosen People?
Answer: Israelites (also referred to as Hebrews and Jews)
Topic: 2.4.1 The Children of Israel
Learning Objective: 2.4 How did the concept of monotheism develop among the Israelites?
Skill Level: Remember the Facts
Difficulty Level: Easy

Essay Questions

1) How have climate and geography shaped the development of Africa and West Asia?
Answer: The ideal answer should include:

a. Regions with favorable conditions for agriculture tended to develop complex societies.
b. In Africa, the Nile and Niger river valleys and the savannah flanking the equatorial rain forests supported farming and herding.
c. In West Asia, the Tigris and Euphrates rivers supported a productive agriculture.
d. Egypt in North Africa and Mesopotamia in West Asia are examples of how civilizations developed in areas where the environment provided favorable conditions for agriculture.
e. By contrast, the central rain forests, the eastern plains, and the southwestern desert region made farming and herding difficult.
f. In these areas, foraging remained the main way of life, and stateless societies were the norm.

Topic: 2.1.1 Climate, Geography, and Cultural Diversity; 2.2 Early West Asian Societies
Learning Objective: 2.1 What were the principal characteristics and contributions of early African societies?; 2.2 What were the main characteristics and contributions of early West Asian societies?
Skill Level: Analyze It
Difficulty Level: Difficult

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2) How were politics and religion intertwined in ancient Egypt and Mesopotamia?
Answer: The ideal answer should include:

a. In both civilizations, rulers claimed divine sources of authority.
b. Egyptians regarded their rulers as gods.
c. Egyptian pharaohs' job was to maintain *ma'at*, the universe's elemental order.
d. Sumerian ziggurats served political and religious purposes.
e. At the top of the ziggurat was a shrine for religious rituals.
f. Ziggurats also symbolized royal power and were used as lookout towers.

Topic: 2.1.2 Early Nile Valley Societies; 2.2.1 Early Mesopotamia: The City-States of Sumer
Learning Objective: 2.1 What were the principal characteristics and contributions of early African societies?; 2.2 What were the main characteristics and contributions of early West Asian societies?
Skill Level: Analyze It
Difficulty Level: Difficult

3) Which innovations most influenced the ancient world?
Answer: The ideal answer should include:

a. The development of hieroglyphs, cuneiform, and the Phoenician alphabet revolutionized communication.
b. These innovations allowed the Egyptians and Mesopotamians to record their stories, laws, rituals, and history.
c. The wheel, most likely invented by northern nomads but associated with the Sumerians, facilitated transport.
d. After the domestication of the horse, horse-drawn chariots played an important role in warfare.
e. Ironworking technology revolutionized farming and warfare.

Topic: 2.1.2 Early Nile Valley Societies; 2.1.5 Sub-Saharan African Societies; 2.2.1 Early Mesopotamia: The City-States of Sumer; 2.2.4 Indo-European Migrations; 2.2.5 The Hittite Connection; 2.3 West Asia and North Africa: The Phoenician Connection
Learning Objective: 2.1 What were the principal characteristics and contributions of early African societies?; 2.2 What were the main characteristics and contributions of early West Asian societies?; 2.3 How would you describe and explain the main Phoenician contributions and connections?
Skill Level: Analyze It
Difficulty Level: Difficult

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4) Evaluate the influence of patriarchy in early civilizations.
Answer: The ideal answer should include:

a. Most early societies were patriarchal.
b. In sub-Saharan Africa, men headed households, led religious rituals, and handled matters of governance.
c. In Sumer, men dominated the government, society, and family.
d. Hammurabi's Code shows how men had more rights and higher status than women.
e. In the Hittite kingdom, women were subordinate to men, although they could sometimes reject husbands chosen by their parents.
f. Some societies were matrilineal (e.g., in parts of sub-Saharan Africa and Egypt), but men still dominated governance and warfare.
g. Women sometimes rose to power (e.g., in Egypt and Nubia), but these were more exceptions than the rule.
h. Hatshepsut broke Egypt's tradition of male rule, although she assumed a male persona as ruler.
i. Hittite queens sometimes played key roles in diplomacy and religion.

Topic: 2.1.2 Early Nile Valley Societies; 2.1.3 The Kingdoms of Egypt; 2.1.4 Nubia, Kush, and Meroë; 2.1.5 Sub-Saharan African Societies; 2.2.1 Early Mesopotamia: The City-States of Sumer; 2.2.3 Babylonian Society and Hammurabi's Code
Learning Objective: 2.1 What were the principal characteristics and contributions of early African societies?; 2.2 What were the main characteristics and contributions of early West Asian societies?; 2.2.5 The Hittite Connection
Skill Level: Analyze It
Difficulty Level: Difficult

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5) How did contact with Egypt shape the development of Nubian culture?
Answer: The ideal answer should include:

a. Nubian culture reflects the synthesis of Egyptian and local traditions.
b. The Nubians adapted hieroglyphic writing to express their languages.
c. Some of their deities reflected a synthesis of Egyptian and Nubian gods and goddesses.
d. The Nubian rulers of the Kush claimed the titles and continued the traditions of Egyptian pharaohs.
e. In Meroë, Nubian rulers were entombed beneath pyramids.

Topic: 2.1.4 Nubia, Kush, and Meroë
Learning Objective: 2.1 What were the principal characteristics and contributions of early African societies?
Skill Level: Analyze It
Difficulty Level: Difficult

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6) How did the Bantu expansion shape the development of sub-Saharan Africa?
Answer: The ideal answer should include:

a. Around 1000 B.C.E., some Bantu began migrating to the savannas and forests flanking the equator.
b. The Bantu introduced agriculture and ironworking technology to the areas they settled.
c. Bantu language and customs spread throughout sub-Saharan Africa.
d. As they spread through eastern, central, and southern Africa, they sometimes displaced foraging communities that inhabited those regions.

Topic: 2.1.5 Sub-Saharan African Societies
Learning Objective: 2.1 What were the principal characteristics and contributions of early African societies?
Skill Level: Analyze It
Difficulty Level: Difficult

7) What do Hammurabi's Code and the *Epic of Gilgamesh* tell us about the Mesopotamian world?
Answer: The ideal answer should include:

a. The *Epic of Gilgamesh* reveals the polytheistic beliefs of Mesopotamian religion.
b. Mesopotamians associated the gods with the natural world (e.g., earth, sun, water, sky, fertility, and storms).
c. Mesopotamians believed humans had to serve unpredictable and spiteful gods in the hopes of gaining assistance and good fortune.
d. Hammurabi's Code highlighted the centrality of the principle of retribution in Mesopotamian views of justice. TBEXAM.COM
e. The code reveals a society that was stratified along class and gender lines.

Topic: 2.2.1 Early Mesopotamia: The City-States of Sumer; 2.2.3 Babylonian Society and Hammurabi's Code
Learning Objective: 2.2 What were the main characteristics and contributions of early West Asian societies?
Skill Level: Analyze It
Difficulty Level: Difficult

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8) How did the Sumerians influence later civilizations?
Answer: The ideal answer should include:

a. Conquest was key to the spread of Sumerian culture.
b. As a result of Sargon of Akkad's conquests, Sumerian culture spread across Mesopotamia and into the eastern Mediterranean region.
c. The Amorites adapted Sumerian political and writing systems to create the Babylonian empire and culture.
d. Sumerian languages were adopted by Akkadians and Babylonians.
e. The Ishtar gate built by the Chaldeans was named after the Sumerian fertility goddess.

Topic: 2.2.2 Akkadian Connections and the Spread of Sumerian Culture; 2.2.3 Babylonian Society and Hammurabi's Code; 2.2.4 Indo-European Migrations; 2.2.6 Later Mesopotamia: Assyrians and Chaldeans
Learning Objective: 2.2 What were the main characteristics and contributions of early West Asian societies?
Skill Level: Analyze It
Difficulty Level: Difficult

9) Evaluate the use of the Hebrew Bible as a historical text.
Answer: The ideal answer should include:

a. The stories told in the Hebrew Bible were passed down orally before they were written down, so they may not accurately reflect what happened.
b. The Hebrew Bible is a religious text, which influences what is recorded and how it is recorded.
c. For example, the Bible says that Solomon had 700 wives, and some were from Arabia, Phoenicia, Anatolia, and Egypt.
d. From a historical perspective, this can be read as evidence that the Hebrews had connections with other regions.
e. The account of a great flood, which is also described in the *Epic of Gilgamesh*, indicates a connection between the Hebrews and Mesopotamia.
f. However, the depiction of the Exodus in which the Egyptian army drowned in the Red Sea is not corroborated by existing Egyptian accounts.

Topic: 2.4 The Israelites and Their God
Learning Objective: 2.4 How did the concept of monotheism develop among the Israelites?
Skill Level: Analyze It
Difficulty Level: Difficult

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10) How did the Hebrews depart from the religious traditions of the time?
Answer: The ideal answer should include:

a. Most religious traditions of the time were polytheistic.
b. The Hebrews' belief in a single God suggested that there was a universal God for all of humanity.
c. The Hebrews believed their God was forgiving, just, and faithful to his covenant with them, his Chosen People.
d. By contrast, the gods of polytheistic traditions were often vengeful, unfair, and capricious.
e. The Hebrews envisioned their God as an invisible and transcendent spirit.
f. By contrast, the gods of polytheistic traditions often took human form.

Topic: 2.4.3 The God of Israel
Learning Objective: 2.4 How did the concept of monotheism develop among the Israelites?
Skill Level: Analyze It
Difficulty Level: Difficult

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Revel Quizzes

The following questions appear at the end of each module and at the end of the chapter in Revel for *Connections: A World History, Combined Volume,* Fourth Edition.

End of Module Quiz: 2.1 Early African Societies

EOM Q2.1.1
Which region of Africa provides favorable conditions for farming and herding?

a. savannah north and south of the rain forests
b. tropical rain forests near the equator
c. southwestern desert region
d. eastern mountain ranges

Answer: a
Consider This: Farming depends on a consistent and steady supply of water. See 2.1.1 Climate, Geography, and Cultural Diversity.
Learning Objective: 2.1 What were the principal characteristics and contributions of early African societies?
Module: Early African Societies
Difficulty: Moderate
Skill: Understand the Concepts

EOM Q2.1.2
Which term refers to the rulers of Egypt?

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a. pharaohs
b. hieroglyphics
c. colonies
d. ziggurats

Answer: a
Consider This: Egypt's rulers were viewed as powerful, godlike figures whose main responsibility was to maintain cosmic order. See 2.1.2 Early Nile Valley Societies.
Learning Objective: 2.1 What were the principal characteristics and contributions of early African societies?
Module: Early African Societies
Difficulty: Easy
Skill: Remember the Facts

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EOM Q2.1.3
The period of pyramid building occurred during the _____.

a. Old Kingdom
b. Middle Kingdom
c. First Intermediate Period
d. Second Intermediate Period

Answer: a
Consider This: The Great Pyramid was built during this period. See 2.1.3 The Kingdoms of Egypt.
Learning Objective: 2.1 What were the principal characteristics and contributions of early African societies?
Module: Early African Societies
Difficulty: Easy
Skill: Remember the Facts

EOM Q2.1.4
Which of the following provides evidence of the influence of Egypt's culture on Nubia?

a. blending of Amon-Re and Isis into the Nubian religion
b. shift from horses to camels as animals used for transport
c. development of iron smelting technology
d. rejection of the practice of entombing rulers beneath pyramids

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Answer: a
Consider This: The Nubians established the Kingdom of Kush and imitated the Egyptian pharaohs. See 2.1.4 Nubia, Kush, and Meroë.
Learning Objective: 2.1 What were the principal characteristics and contributions of early African societies?
Module: Early African Societies
Difficulty: Difficult
Skill: Analyze It

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EOM Q2.1.5
The Bantu expansion contributed to the spread of _____ throughout sub-Saharan Africa.

a. agriculture
b. foraging
c. hieroglyphics
d. monotheism

Answer: a
Consider This: Bantu speakers developed iron implements that allowed them to clear forests efficiently. See 2.1.5 Sub-Saharan African Societies.
Learning Objective: 2.1 What were the principal characteristics and contributions of early African societies?
Module: Early African Societies
Difficulty: Moderate
Skill: Understand the Concepts

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End of Module Quiz: 2.2 Early West Asian Societies

EOM Q2.2.1

The Sumerian civilization developed a writing system known as _____.

a. cuneiform
b. steppe
c. scribe
d. hieroglyphic

Answer: a
Consider This: Sumerians etched symbols from right to left, using wedgelike characters. See 2.2.1 Early Mesopotamia: The City-States of Sumer.
Learning Objective: 2.2 What were the main characteristics and contributions of early West Asian societies?
Module: Early West Asian Societies
Difficulty: Easy
Skill: Remember the Facts

EOM Q2.2.2

King Sargon of Akkad is credited with establishing the first _____.

a. empire
b. city-state
c. legal code
d. religion

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Answer: a
Consider This: Sargon conquered most of Mesopotamia. See 2.2.2 Akkadian Connections and the Spread of Sumerian Culture.
Learning Objective: 2.2 What were the main characteristics and contributions of early West Asian societies?
Module: Early West Asian Societies
Difficulty: Easy
Skill: Remember the Facts

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EOM Q2.2.3
Which of the following examples from Hammurabi's Code highlights the hierarchical nature of Mesopotamian society?

a. A noble who hit a commoner was fined, but a commoner who hit a noble was whipped.
b. A noble who knocked out another noble's tooth would have his own tooth knocked out.
c. Merchants and artisans were penalized for providing poor-quality goods.
d. Women could inherit, own, and pass on property as well as own businesses.

Answer: a
Consider This: The code treated people of different social statuses differently. See 2.2.3 Babylonian Society and Hammurabi's Code.
Learning Objective: 2.2 What were the main characteristics and contributions of early West Asian societies?
Module: Early West Asian Societies
Difficulty: Difficult
Skill: Analyze It

EOM Q2.2.4
Which of the following belongs to the Semitic language family?

a. Arabic
b. Celtic
c. Germanic
d. Hellenic

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Answer: a
Consider This: Scholars place the languages spoken by the Akkadians and Babylonians in the Semitic language family. See 2.2.4 Indo-European Migrations.
Learning Objective: 2.2 What were the main characteristics and contributions of early West Asian societies?
Module: Early West Asian Societies
Difficulty: Moderate
Skill: Understand the Concepts

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EOM Q2.2.5
What was the name of the city that was the center of the Assyrian Empire?

a. Nineveh
b. Ur
c. Uruk
d. Meroë

Answer: a
Consider This: The palace in this city was decorated with sculptured reliefs portraying battle scenes and animal hunts. See 2.2.6 Later Mesopotamia: Assyrians and Chaldeans.
Learning Objective: 2.2 What were the main characteristics and contributions of early West Asian societies?
Module: Early West Asian Societies
Difficulty: Moderate
Skill: Remember the Facts

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End of Module Quiz: 2.3 West Asia and North Africa: The Phoenician Connection

EOM Q2.3.1
The Phoenicians connected West Asia with North Africa and _____.

a. the western Mediterranean
b. the Iranian plateau
c. sub-Saharan Africa
d. Indus river valley

Answer: a
Consider This: The Phoenicians established city-states and colonies in North Africa, Sicily, Sardinia, and modern-day Spain. See 2.3 West Asia and North Africa: The Phoenician Connection.
Learning Objective: 2.3 How would you describe and explain the main Phoenician contributions and connections?
Module: West Asia and North Africa: The Phoenician Connection
Difficulty: Moderate
Skill: Understand the Concepts

EOM Q2.3.2
The Phoenicians traveled primarily on _____.

a. ships
b. camels
c. horses
d. foot

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Answer: a
Consider This: The Phoenicians created a trading empire in the Mediterranean. See 2.3 West Asia and North Africa: The Phoenician Connection.
Learning Objective: 2.3 How would you describe and explain the main Phoenician contributions and connections?
Module: West Asia and North Africa: The Phoenician Connection
Difficulty: Easy
Skill: Remember the Facts

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EOM Q2.3.3

What made the Phoenician system of writing easier to learn and use?

a. Symbols represented sounds.
b. Cuneiform represented ideas.
c. Hieroglyphs represented phrases.
d. Vowels represented sentences.

Answer: a
Consider This: Words could be expressed by combining 22 symbols. See 2.3 West Asia and North Africa: The Phoenician Connection.
Learning Objective: 2.3 How would you describe and explain the main Phoenician contributions and connections?
Module: West Asia and North Africa: The Phoenician Connection
Difficulty: Difficult
Skill: Analyze It

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End of Module Quiz: 2.4 The Israelites and Their God

EOM Q2.4.1

What term is used to describe the binding agreement between the God of Israel and his "Chosen People"?

a. covenant
b. ziggurat
c. dowry
d. polygyny

Answer: a
Consider This: The God of Israel directed his Chosen People to follow the Ten Commandments.
See 2.4.1 The Children of Israel.
Learning Objective: 2.4 How did the concept of monotheism develop among the Israelites?
Module: The Israelites and Their God
Difficulty: Easy
Skill: Remember the Facts

EOM Q2.4.2
Which of the following correctly matches the king to his accomplishment?

a. David – established Jerusalem as the capital
b. Saul – decisively defeated the Philistines
c. Solomon – conquered Judah
d. Ramses II – united the Israelites

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Answer: a
Consider This: Which ruler made his kingdom a prominent power in Palestine? See 2.4.2 The Kingdoms of Israel.
Learning Objective: 2.4 How did the concept of monotheism develop among the Israelites?
Module: The Israelites and Their God
Difficulty: Moderate
Skill: Understand the Concepts

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EOM Q2.4.3
In contrast to West Asian and Egyptian gods, the God that Jews worshipped was _____.

a. forgiving
b. vengeful
c. fickle
d. human

Answer: a
Consider This: Jews saw their God as remaining true to his covenant even when his Chosen People turned away. See 2.4.3 The God of Israel.
Learning Objective: 2.4 How did the concept of monotheism develop among the Israelites?
Module: The Israelites and Their God
Difficulty: Moderate
Skill: Understand the Concepts

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End of Chapter 2 Quiz: Early Societies of Africa and West Asia, to 500 B.C.E.

EOC Q2.1

Complex societies and trading networks first emerged in which part of Africa?

a. along the Nile River
b. in the central rain forests
c. on the eastern plains
d. in the southwestern desert region

Answer: a
Consider This: In the relatively mild climate of North Africa, people fished, farmed, and herded livestock. See 2.1 Early African Societies
Learning Objective: 2.1 What were the principal characteristics and contributions of early African societies?
Module: Early African Societies
Difficulty: Moderate
Skill: Understand the Concepts

EOC Q2.2

What was the writing system created by Egyptians called?

a. hieroglyphics
b. papyrus
c. cuneiform
d. animism

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Answer: a
Consider This: Symbols were used to refer to people, animals, and objects as well as convey ideas and sounds. See 2.1 Early African Societies.
Learning Objective: 2.1 What were the principal characteristics and contributions of early African societies?
Module: Early African Societies
Difficulty: Easy
Skill: Remember the Facts

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EOC Q2.3
The intermediate periods in Egyptian history are best characterized as periods of _____.

a. political weakness
b. military consolidation
c. empire building
d. cultural decline

Answer: a
Consider This: The intermediate periods were periods when the smooth succession of one Egyptian ruler after another was disrupted. See 2.1 Early African Societies.
Learning Objective: 2.1 What were the principal characteristics and contributions of early African societies?
Module: Early African Societies
Difficulty: Moderate
Skill: Understand the Concepts

EOC Q2.4

What contributed to Egypt's decline during the reign of Amenhotep IV?

a. religious reform
b. political intrigue
c. natural disasters
d. military expansion

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Answer: a
Consider This: Amenhotep promoted the worship of a universal deity called Aton and changed his own name to Akhenaton, meaning "Aton is pleased." See 2.1 Early African Societies.
Learning Objective: 2.1 What were the principal characteristics and contributions of early African societies?
Module: Early African Societies
Difficulty: Difficult
Skill: Analyze It

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EOC Q2.5
In the sixth century B.C.E., Nubian rulers made which city the base of their kingdom?

a. Meroë
b. Carthage
c. Jerusalem
d. Tyre

Answer: a
Consider This: The city connected sub-Saharan Africa to the Mediterranean world. See 2.1 Early African Societies.
Learning Objective: 2.1 What were the principal characteristics and contributions of early African societies?
Module: Early African Societies
Difficulty: Moderate
Skill: Remember the Facts

EOC Q2.6
Which of the following was widely practiced in sub-Saharan Africa and China?

a. ancestor veneration
b. mummification
c. monotheism
d. Islam

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Answer: a
Consider This: People in sub-Saharan Africa and China believed that the spirits of the dead influenced the lives of their descendants. See 2.1 Early African Societies.
Learning Objective: 2.1 What were the principal characteristics and contributions of early African societies?
Module: Early African Societies
Difficulty: Moderate
Skill: Understand the Concepts

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EOC Q2.7
The city-states of the early Sumerian civilization arose between the _____ rivers.

a. Tigris and Euphrates
b. Nile and Niger
c. Indus and Ganges
d. Yangzi and Yellow

Answer: a
Consider This: By 3500 B.C.E. a number of cities, including Ur and Uruk, had emerged in a region called Sumer, near where the two rivers in question connect. See 2.2 Early West Asian Societies.
Learning Objective: 2.2 What were the main characteristics and contributions of early West Asian societies?
Module: Early West Asian Societies
Difficulty: Easy
Skill: Remember the Facts

EOC Q2.8
The *Epic of Gilgamesh* reveals that early Mesopotamian religion was _____.

a. polytheistic
b. monotheistic
c. optimistic
d. matrilineal

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Answer: a
Consider This: The epic featured deities such as Ishtar and her father, who appeared in human form. See 2.2 Early West Asian Societies.
Learning Objective: 2.2 What were the main characteristics and contributions of early West Asian societies?
Module: Early West Asian Societies
Difficulty: Moderate
Skill: Understand the Concepts

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EOC Q2.9
Which of the following correctly matches the ruler to the kingdom he headed?

a. Hammurabi – Babylon
b. Sargon – Kush
c. Tutankhamon – Israel
d. Saul – Egypt

Answer: a
Consider This: Which Mesopotamian ruler had a law code carved on a pillar? See 2.2 Early West Asian Societies.
Learning Objective: 2.2 What were the main characteristics and contributions of early West Asian societies?
Module: Early West Asian Societies
Difficulty: Moderate
Skill: Understand the Concepts

EOC Q2.10

The widespread use of horses in Eurasia can be attributed to the migrations of _____.

a. Indo-Europeans
b. Bantu speakers
c. Egyptians
d. Israelites

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Answer: a
Consider This: These pastoral nomads originally from the steppes northeast of the Black Sea were among the first to domesticate horses. See 2.2 Early West Asian Societies.
Learning Objective: 2.2 What were the main characteristics and contributions of early West Asian societies?
Module: Early West Asian Societies
Difficulty: Difficult
Skill: Analyze It

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EOC Q2.11
The Hittites are credited with developing _____.
a. ironworking
b. writing
c. monotheism
d. mummification

Answer: a
Consider This: The development of this technology contributed to the advance of agriculture and warfare. See 2.2 Early West Asian Societies.
Learning Objective: 2.2 What were the main characteristics and contributions of early West Asian societies?
Module: Early West Asian Societies
Difficulty: Moderate
Skill: Remember the Facts

EOC Q2.12
Both Phoenicia and Carthage created empires based on _____.
a. trade
b. slavery
c. agriculture
d. ironworking

Answer: a
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Consider This: Phoenicia was on the eastern Mediterranean coast, and Carthage was on the North African coast. See 2.3 West Asia and North Africa: The Phoenician Connection.
Learning Objective: 2.3 How would you describe and explain the main Phoenician contributions and connections?
Module: West Asia and North Africa: The Phoenician Connection.
Difficulty: Moderate
Skill: Understand the Concepts

EOC Q2.13
Which of the following provides evidence of Hebrew cultural connections with Mesopotamia?
a. the flood narrative in the Bible and the *Epic of Gilgamesh*
b. the construction of ziggurats in Jerusalem
c. the practice of polygyny in Israel and Kush
d. the centrality of animism in the Hebrew Bible

Answer: a
Consider This: Stories were circulated by word of mouth long before they were written down. See 2.4 The Israelites and Their God.
Learning Objective: 2.4 How did the concept of monotheism develop among the Israelites?
Module: The Israelites and Their God.
Difficulty: Difficult
Skill: Analyze It

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EOC Q2.14
Israel reached its height of power and splendor during the reign of _____.

a. Solomon
b. David
c. Saul
d. Moses

Answer: a
Consider This: This king sponsored lavish construction projects that made Jerusalem a cosmopolitan city. See 2.4 The Israelites and Their God.
Learning Objective: 2.4 How did the concept of monotheism develop among the Israelites?
Module: The Israelites and Their God.
Difficulty: Easy
Skill: Remember the Facts

EOC Q2.15
Which of the following is regarded as the most significant contribution of the Hebrew heritage to world history?

a. the concept of a single divinity
b. the construction of ziggurats
c. the development of ironworking
d. the process of mummification

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Answer: a
Consider This: The Hebrew heritage made possible the emergence of Christianity and Islam. See 2.4 The Israelites and Their God.
Learning Objective: 2.4 How did the concept of monotheism develop among the Israelites?
Module: The Israelites and Their God.
Difficulty: Difficult
Skill: Analyze It

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