**Chapter 2 Reading Guide**

1. The introduction of the chapter discusses some peoples’ desire to “escape from civilization”- if you decided to go off the grid and eave civilization, what do you think you’d miss the most? The least?
2. What distinguished “civilizations” from earlier Paleolithic and Neolithic Societies?

**I. Something New: The Emergence of Civilizations**

1. When and where did the first civilizations emerge? (hint: use Map 2.1 for the locations)

**A. Introducing the First Civilizations**

1. The College Board defines a “**civilization**” as having all of the following characteristics:
   1. Use agriculture and have surpluses that allow for specialized labor (enough food is grown that not everyone had to be a farmer)
   2. Contained cities
   3. Had complex institutions: this could be any or all of the following
      1. A state (government)
      2. Armies
      3. Religious hierarchies
      4. Record keeping (writing)
   4. Had social hierarchies (not everyone had equal status in society)
   5. Engaged in trading relationships

Select **2** of the civilizations discussed in detail in this section (Notre Chico, Indus Valley, Shang China, Oxus, or Olmec) and describe each of these characteristics in terms of how they were uniquely expressed in that particular civilization by completing the chart below:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Name of civilization** |  |  |
| 1. How they engaged in agricultural production |  |  |
| 2. Describe their cities |  |  |
| 3. Describe their complex institutions |  |  |
| 4. Describe their social hierarchies |  |  |
| 5. Who did they trade with? |  |  |

1. Important vocabulary:
   1. Define “**quipu**”:
   2. Explain the concept of the “Son of Heaven” and the “**Mandate of Heaven**”:

**B. The Question of Origins**

1. What is the one cause for the development of civilizations that historians can agree on?
2. Historians argue that since not all agricultural societies developed into “civilizations” there must have been other factors involved in creating civilizations. List some of the other theories historians have given as to why civilizations emerged.

**C. An Urban Revolution**

1. Cities often had two defining features- monumental architecture and urban planning
   1. Give an example of monumental architecture created in the Mesopotamian city of Uruk:
   2. Describe the Urban planning in the city of Mohenjo Daro in Indus River Valley (How was the city purposefully designed?):
2. What was the role of cities in the early civilizations? (What purpose did they serve?)

**II. The Erosion of Equality**

1. Define “**specialization of labor”**

**A. Hierarchies of Class**

1. In what ways was social inequality expressed in early civilizations?
2. Your text makes the argument that “ From the days of the earliest civilizations until the 19th century, the practice of ‘people owning people’ was an enduring feature of state-based societies everywhere.” How was slavery in ancient civilizations different than the slavery that existed in the Americas during recent centuries?

**B. Hierarchies of Gender**

1. Your text argues that the emergence of civilizations also led to the emergence of patriarchy. Define “**patriarchy**” (patriarchal):
2. In what ways have historians tried to explain the origins of patriarchy? (List at least 3)

**C. Patriarchy in Practice**

1. How did Mesopotamia and Egyptian patriarchy differ from each other?

**III. The Rise of the State**

1. Define “**state**”
2. How were most early states organized/run?

**A. Coercion and Consent**

1. What were the sources of state authority in the First civilizations? (How did they justify their right to rule?) – 3 ways

**B. Writing and Accounting**

1. How did writing reinforce the authority of kings and the status of the elites in society?
2. Early writing was used primarily for record keeping purposes- give at least 2 examples of writing being used to keep records in early civilizations.
3. What was the world’s first written language and where was it developed?

**C. The Grandeur of Kings**

1. How did kings use rituals and art/architecture to reinforce their power?

**IV. Comparing Mesopotamia and Egypt**

\*\*\* complete the following chart while reading\*\*\*

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Mesopotamia | Both | Egypt |
| Environment |  |  |  |
| Culture |  |  |  |
| State |  |  |  |
| Cities |  |  |  |
| Interaction and Exchange 9focus on what they traded and whom they traded with) |  |  |  |

1. List some ways that Mesopotamia and Egypt influenced other cultures
   1. Mesopotamia
   2. Egypt
2. List some examples of Mesopotamia and Egypt being influenced by other civilizations.

**V. Reflections: “Civilization”: What’s in a Word?**

1. What are Strayer’s 2 reservations with using the term “civilization?”
2. List some of the positives and negatives of the development of civilizations
   1. Positives:
   2. Negatives: