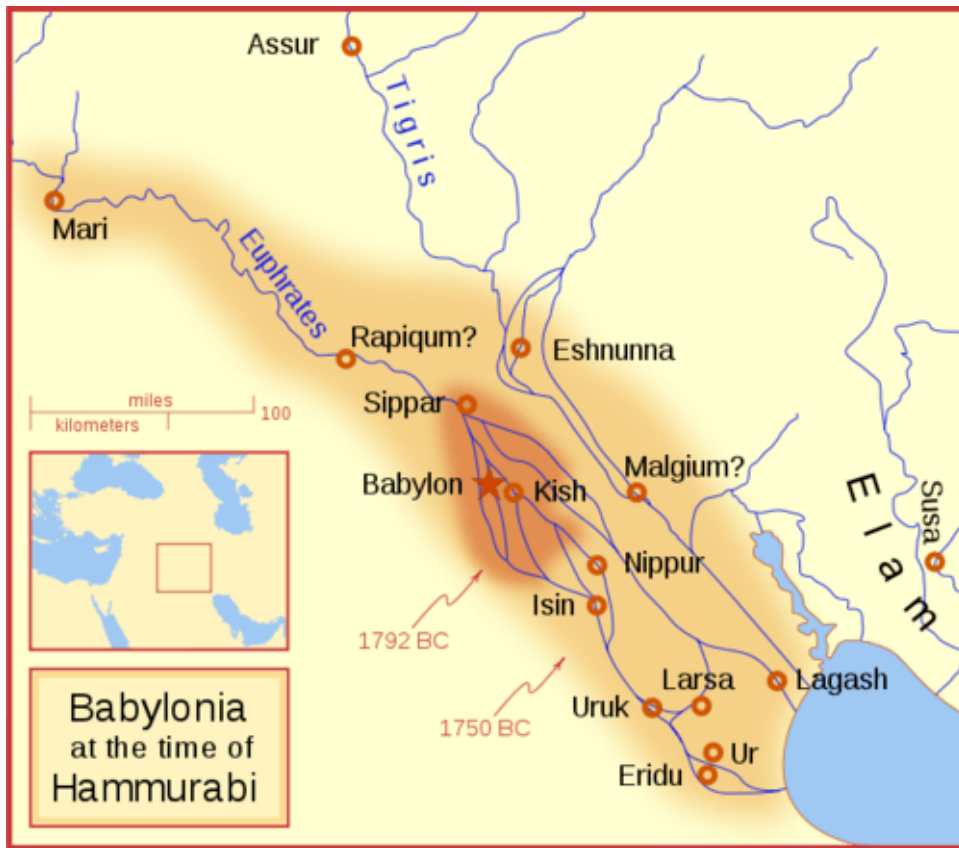


Constructed-Response Questions (CRQ) **EARLY RIVER CIVILIZATIONS (Mesopotamia)**

Document 1

Located about 60 miles (100 kilometers) south of Baghdad in modern-day Iraq, the ancient city of Babylon served for nearly two millennia as a center of Mesopotamian civilization. One of its early rulers, Hammurabi, created a harsh system of laws, while in later times the Babylonian language would be used across the Middle East as a way of communicating across borders.

- Livescience.com



Question 1:

Geographic Context: Where this historical development is taking place and why it is taking place there.

Using Document 1, Explain the geographic context that led to the action taking place in the document.

Document 2:

Agriculture was very important in ancient Mesopotamia, the land between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers. Because the climate of Mesopotamia was dry with little rainfall, farmers depended on the flooding of the Tigris and Euphrates rivers for water for their crops. The silt left behind from the flooding water made the soil fertile.. Crops The most important crops in Mesopotamia were wheat and barley. Farmers also grew dates, grapes, figs, melons, and apples. Favorite vegetables included eggplants, onions, radishes, beans, lettuce, and sesame seeds. Mesopotamians also raised sheep, goats, and cows. Hoping for a plentiful crop, farmers worshipped Baal. Baal was a major Mesopotamian god of the sun and good crops. They also worshipped Ashnan, the Sumerian goddess of grain

The farmers of Mesopotamia were inventive. They made bronze hand tools, like hammers, sickles, axes, and hoes. Mesopotamians were probably the first to use the wheel. By 3000 BCE, they had invented the plow and plow seeder. Mesopotamians even wrote handbooks that told how and when to plant crops. They had a calendar based on the moon to aid farmers, too.

Mesopotamians traded their extra grain for stone, wood, metal products, and other goods. They produced this extra grain by irrigation. They built canals, ditches and dikes to bring water to the land from the rivers. Because the rivers were higher than the surrounding plain, the water for irrigation flowed down into the fields. However, once the water was in the fields, it did not easily drain away. As the water evaporated, it left dissolved mineral salts behind. Evaporation also drew salts up from the lower levels of the soil. Over time the soil could no longer produce crops. By 2300 BCE, agricultural production in Mesopotamia had significantly decreased. Many fields were abandoned. Mesopotamian cuneiform tablets tell of crop damage due to mineral salts.

- Mesopotamian Agriculture, Mesopotamia. Kids InfoBits Presents Detroit: Gale, 2011.

Question 2:

Using document 2, explain the author’s purpose for writing Mesopotamian Agriculture.

Question 3a:

Identify (pinpoint) a similarity or difference regarding the map of the Babylonian Empire and Mesopotamian Agriculture in Documents 1 and 2.

Question 3B:

Explain (describe) the similarity or difference that you identified regarding the map of the Babylonian Empire and Mesopotamian Agriculture in Documents 1 and 2.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Global History and Geography 9

Constructed-Response Questions (CRQ) **EARLY RIVER CIVILIZATIONS: Mesopotamia**

Document 1: Hammurabi's Code



Hammurabi is best known for The Code of Hammurabi. This was one of the first codified or written law codes. It was written around 1754 BC. It was written on a stele, or a large stone monument, and placed in a public place so that all could see it. Even though it was visible for all to see, few were literate enough to read the cuneiform writing. A carving at the top of the stele shows King Hammurabi receiving the laws from the god Shamash. The inscription states that King Hammurabi was chosen by the gods of his people to bring the laws to them.

The Code of Hammurabi contained 282 laws. These laws were written by scribes on 12 tablets. The Code consists of rules and the punishments for if those rules were broken. The structure of the code is very detailed: each offense receiving a particular punishment.

Hammurabi's law code set the standard for future codes because it dealt with the evidence of the crime. What decide one's guilt or innocence was something called the Ordeal. During the Ordeal, the accused person was sentenced to perform a certain task such as being thrown into a river or swimming a certain distance across a river and, if they succeeded, they were innocent. If they did not survive the ordeal, they were considered guilty.

Adapted by New Visions from [Hammurabi](#) by Joshua J. Mark which is published on Ancient History Encyclopedia under the [CC BY-NC-SA 3.0 Unported](#) license

Historical Context—refers to the historical circumstances that led to this event/idea/historical development.

Question 1:

Explain the historical context that led to the action taking place in the document one above.

Document 2a: The code of Hammurabi- Women

1	138. If a man wishes to separate from his wife who has borne him no children, he shall give her the amount
2	of her purchase money and the dowry which she brought from her father's house, and let her go.
3	
4	
5	141. If a man's wife, who lives in his house, wishes to leave it, plunges into debt, tries to ruin her house,
6	neglects her husband, and is judicially convicted: if her husband offer her release, she may go on her way,
7	and he gives her nothing as a gift of release. If her husband does not wish to release her, and if he take
8	another wife, she shall remain as servant in her husband's house.
9	
10	143. If she is not innocent, but leaves her husband, and ruins her house, neglecting her husband, this
11	woman shall be cast into the water.
12	
13	148. If a man take a wife, and she be seized by disease, if he then desire to take a second wife he shall not
14	put away his wife, who has been attacked by disease, but he shall keep her in the house which he has built
15	and support her so long as she lives

Source: "Code of Hammurabi." Translated by L.W. King. *The Eleventh Edition of the Encyclopaedia Britannica*. 1915. Found on the Fordham University's Ancient History Sourcebook: <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/ancient/hamcode.asp>

Document 2b: The code of Hammurabi- Women

1	199. If he put out the eye of a man's slave, or break the bone of a man's slave, he shall pay one-half of its
2	value.
3	
4	202. If any one strike the body of a man higher in rank than he, he shall receive sixty blows with an ox-
5	whip in public.
6	
7	203. If a free-born man strike the body of another free-born man or equal rank, he shall pay one gold
	mina.

Source: "Code of Hammurabi." Translated by L.W. King. *The Eleventh Edition of the Encyclopaedia Britannica*. 1915. Found on the Fordham University's Ancient History Sourcebook: <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/ancient/hamcode.asp>

Question 2:

- a. Using document 2a and 2b, identify the audience that the primary source was intended for.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Global History and Geography 9

Constructed-Response Questions (CRQ) **EARLY RIVER CIVILIZATIONS: Indus River Valley**

Document 1

The Indus Valley Civilization (3300-1700 BCE)



The first confirmed permanent settlements of humans in India appeared 9000 years ago and by 5100 BCE, people in the Indus Valley were farming and establishing permanent settlements.

The Indus River Valley Civilization was the first civilization in India. It developed along the Indus River on the Indo-Gangetic Plain. The civilization was well-known for sophisticated cities like Harappa and Mohenjo-Daro that included a grid street pattern and drainage systems. The Indus Civilization may have had a population of over five million. Over 2500 cities and settlements have been found. Around the middle

of the second millennium BCE, the Indus River basin dried up, and the sites were abandoned.

Many historians believe the original Indo-European speakers lived on the flat, open steppes of Russia and Ukraine north of the Black and Caspian Seas. They were seminomadic pastoralists (that is, they herded sheep and cattle and moved regularly with their herds). They may have been first to master horse riding and the use of horse-driven chariots for warfare. Some historians say they did this around 4500–3500 BCE. This photo from the early 1900s shows a horse and rider near this part of the steppes. The scene may not be too different from what the original Indo-European speakers were used to.

Document 2

Information on the source: In the 1780s, Sir William Jones of Great Britain was a judge for the British East India Company in Calcutta, India. Great Britain was then gaining control over all of India. Jones was also a scholar who studied the ancient Indian language of Sanskrit. In 1786, he called attention to similarities between many European languages and Sanskrit. His discovery led others to research the Indo-European language family, which includes ancient Latin and Greek, Celtic, Slavic, Norse, German, English, Persian, Sanskrit, and more. This passage is from Jones's speech to the Asiatic Society in Calcutta on February 2, 1786.

"The Sanskrit language, whatever be its antiquity, is of a wonderful structure; more perfect than the Greek, more copious [having more cases] than the Latin, and more exquisitely refined than either, yet bearing to both of them a stronger affinity, both in the roots of the verbs and in the forms of the grammar, than could possibly have been produced by accident; so strong indeed, that no philologer could examine them all three, without believing them to have sprung from some common source, which, perhaps, no longer exists; there is a similar reason... for supposing that both the Gothic and the Celtic... had the same origin with the Sanskrit; and the old Persian might be added to the same family"