

## CHAPTER 2 Rivers, Cities, and First States 3500–2000 BCE

---

### Global Storylines

- I. Complex societies form around five great river basins.
- II. Early urbanization brings changes, including new technologies, monumental building, new religions, writing, hierarchical social structures, and specialized labor.
- III. Long-distance trade connects many of the Afro-Eurasian societies.
- IV. Despite impressive developments in urbanization, most people live in villages or in pastoral nomadic communities.

### Core Objectives

- 1. IDENTIFY the earliest river-basin societies, and ANALYZE their shared and distinctive characteristics.
- 2. EXPLAIN the religious, social, and political developments that accompany early urbanization from 3500 to 2000 BCE.
- 3. TRACE and EVALUATE the influence of long-distance connections across Afro-Eurasia during this period.
- 4. COMPARE early urbanization with the ways of life in small villages and among pastoral nomads.

### MULTIPLE CHOICE

- 1. Which city became the first large commercial and administrative center in the world?
  - a. Çatal Hüyük
  - b. Liangzhu
  - c. Harappa
  - d. Uruk

ANS: D                      DIF: Easy                      REF: p. 55                      OBJ: 1  
TOP: I                      MSC: Remembering

- 2. What was one effect of agricultural surpluses on early riverine urban societies?
  - a. People could specialize in making goods for the consumption of others.
  - b. People became isolated from those living in the countryside.
  - c. People relied on councils of elders to organize complex societies.
  - d. People abandoned trade, as they were now self-sufficient.

ANS: A                      DIF: Moderate                      REF: p. 57                      OBJ: 1  
TOP: I                      MSC: Applying

- 3. What led to the founding of the first Afro-Eurasian cities?
  - a. The development of long-distance trading networks
  - b. The rise of priestly classes that demanded sacrifices of labor and taxes to local gods
  - c. The collective efforts needed to build and maintain irrigation systems
  - d. The need to defend against attacks from large predators

ANS: C                      DIF: Difficult                      REF: p. 57                      OBJ: 1  
TOP: I                      MSC: Applying

- 4. Why was copper one of the most sought-after raw materials imported into riverine cities from the hinterlands?
  - a. It was easy to smelt and shape, and could be used to create bronze.
  - b. It was considered to be the “tears of the sun,” a sacred metal.
  - c. It was needed to make plows.
  - d. It was used in the making of pottery.

ANS: A                      DIF: Moderate                      REF: p. 60                      OBJ: 3  
TOP: III                      MSC: Applying

5. Which of the following permitted pastoral nomads to move their herds frequently to new pastures?
- Learning to breed and ride horses
  - Developing the compound bow
  - Creating war chariots
  - Learning to forge iron

ANS: A                      DIF: Moderate                      REF: p. 60                      OBJ: 4  
TOP: IV                      MSC: Analyzing

6. Which of the following accurately describes communities of transhumant herders in Afro-Eurasia around 3500 BCE?
- People settled in small mountain valleys where they could more easily keep watch over their herds.
  - People lived in the coastal lands where water supplies were easily available for their herds.
  - Oxen became a crucial component of survival so that nomadic pastoralists could move their villages.
  - Herders traded meat and animal products for grains, pottery, and tools with settled agricultural communities.

ANS: D                      DIF: Moderate                      REF: p. 60                      OBJ: 4  
TOP: IV                      MSC: Understanding

7. What did engineers need to develop before the floodplain in Mesopotamia could become a breadbasket?
- Horse-drawn copper plows
  - Levees and canals
  - Sturdy defensive walls
  - Monumental architecture such as temples

ANS: B                      DIF: Moderate                      REF: p. 62                      OBJ: 1  
TOP: I                      MSC: Analyzing

8. Why did people in Sumer trade with distant regions such as Lebanon, Turkey, and Iran?
- Sumerians wanted to cement political alliances by tying potential enemies to them in mutual trade.
  - Sumerians lacked natural resources apart from fertile soil, mud, and water.
  - Sumerian religions required sending missionaries to foreign lands.
  - Sumerians needed to trade for food to support their growing population.

ANS: B                      DIF: Moderate                      REF: p. 63                      OBJ: 3  
TOP: III                      MSC: Analyzing

9. How did religious practices in Mesopotamian society circa 3500 BCE differ from those of earlier societies?
- Workers in a temple were required to focus solely on spiritual activities to maintain their ritual purity, whereas shamans in earlier societies engaged in trade and other economic activities.
  - Temple priesthoods rejected long-distance trade as bringing “foreign” elements into the community, whereas earlier societies eagerly sought trade.
  - Temples reflected increased wealth and social stratification, whereas earlier societies had less monumental architecture and concentration of wealth.
  - Temple priesthoods maintained a strict separation of state and religion, whereas earlier societies were ruled by priest-kings.

ANS: C                      DIF: Difficult              REF: pp. 63–64              OBJ: 4  
TOP: II                      MSC: Applying

10. Which of the following best describes the first cities in Mesopotamia?
- They grew very rapidly when new crops were introduced into the region.
  - They were dominated by the central city of Eridu.
  - They developed in a haphazard manner without planning or organization.
  - They were spiritual, economic, and cultural centers.

ANS: D                      DIF: Easy                      REF: p. 64                      OBJ: 1  
TOP: I                      MSC: Remembering

11. Which of the following typifies Mesopotamian urban design?
- A strong defensive wall encircling the entire population
  - A ziggurat at city center, with neighborhoods marking different occupational specialties on both sides of a central canal
  - Houses showing little distinction between social classes
  - King's palace at city center, representing permanent secular, military, and administrative authority

ANS: B                      DIF: Moderate              REF: p. 64                      OBJ: 2  
TOP: II                      MSC: Understanding

12. Which of the following is an accurate comparison between Egyptian pyramids and Mesopotamian ziggurats?
- Both were designed as temples, and housed an elaborate bureaucracy.
  - Pyramids were primarily tombs for the semi-divine pharaoh, while ziggurats were temples.
  - Both were created to project the might and grandeur of the territory's secular ruler.
  - The ziggurat of Marduk was larger than the Great Pyramid.

ANS: B                      DIF: Moderate              REF: pp. 65, 73–74  
OBJ: 2                      TOP: II                      MSC: Analyzing

13. Which of the options below best characterizes the average Mesopotamian family?
- Egalitarian relations between husbands and wives
  - Polygamous, with most men having several wives as well as concubines
  - Monogamous and patriarchal
  - Equal inheritance of property between sons and daughters

ANS: C                      DIF: Moderate              REF: p. 66                      OBJ: 2  
TOP: II                      MSC: Applying

14. Which of the following statements is supported by the Hittite text shown on page 68 (*bottom left photo*)?
- Hittites spoke and wrote in a Semitic language.
  - People in Mesopotamia adapted and used demotic hieroglyphics for everyday communication.
  - The Hittite language and writing system was used primarily to create epic poems.
  - Cuneiform writing was adapted and used by many different cultures.

ANS: D                      DIF: Difficult              REF: p. 68                      OBJ: 2  
TOP: II                      MSC: Evaluating

15. Sargon the Great, in creating the first territorial state, relied heavily on:
- the might of Sumerian cavalry.
  - earlier Mesopotamian innovations in irrigation, record-keeping, and urban development.

- c. excluding foreign influence that might undermine his authority.
- d. negotiating a peace between the independent city-states of Sumer and Uruk.

ANS: B                      DIF: Moderate              REF: p. 70              OBJ: 2  
TOP: II                      MSC: Analyzing

16. Which of the following is an accurate comparison between ancient Egypt and Mesopotamia?
- a. Both were strongly shaped by the unpredictability of river flooding.
  - b. Both were surrounded by vast desert lands, which held nothing of value.
  - c. Both granted their rulers immense authority and built irrigation networks.
  - d. Both were ruled by priesthoods that controlled many city-states along their respective rivers.

ANS: C                      DIF: Moderate              REF: p. 70              OBJ: 2  
TOP: II                      MSC: Analyzing

17. In what way did ancient Egyptian villagers learn to exploit the Nile River?
- a. By building irrigation systems to constantly supply water to fields
  - b. By developing elaborate trade networks along its many western tributaries
  - c. By building irrigation systems that stored water in underground cisterns for use during dry seasons
  - d. By building basins that trapped rich silt as the Nile overflowed its banks

ANS: D                      DIF: Easy                      REF: p. 71              OBJ: 1  
TOP: I                      MSC: Remembering

18. Why was Egypt said to have been the most river-focused of the early cultures?
- a. Egypt had no fertile hinterland, since settlement was limited to the narrow Nile floodplain.
  - b. Egypt had many internal divisions, as the Nile River created multiple isolated geographical regions.
  - c. Egyptian religion focused exclusively on the role of the Nile in sustaining life.
  - d. Egypt relied heavily on its strong navy to conquer territory along the Nile.

ANS: A                      DIF: Difficult              REF: p. 71              OBJ: 2  
TOP: II                      MSC: Analyzing

19. How was the role of the pharaoh different from that of Mesopotamian rulers?
- a. Unlike Mesopotamian kings, the pharaoh did not need to establish a military, since Egypt was protected by natural borders of deserts.
  - b. Unlike Mesopotamian kings, the pharaoh created monumental architecture and tombs.
  - c. The pharaoh's most important role was as a bridge to the gods to ensure the regular flooding of the Nile, but in Mesopotamia, kings organized irrigation projects to control floods.
  - d. The pharaoh had the primary responsibility of ensuring that scribes were properly trained, but in Mesopotamia, that was the role of the priests.

ANS: C                      DIF: Difficult              REF: p. 73              OBJ: 2  
TOP: II                      MSC: Analyzing

20. Which of the following demonstrates the role of long-distance trade in the construction of the royal tombs at Giza?
- a. The architectural techniques used to build the tombs first came from Mesopotamia.
  - b. The slaves needed to construct the tombs were imported from Europe and Central Asia.
  - c. Mud bricks needed to build the tombs were imported from Mesopotamia by donkey caravans.
  - d. Wood from Byblos built the ships that transported precious metals and jewels from far

away.

ANS: D                      DIF: Moderate              REF: p. 74                      OBJ: 2  
TOP: II                      MSC: Analyzing

21. How did priests monopolize communication with spiritual powers and the people in ancient Egypt?
- By creating a special divine language that only they could use
  - By creating elaborate rules for selecting and training priests, and by forbidding all others from entering the temples' inner sanctuaries
  - By undercutting the ceremonial role of the local rulers
  - By using the tithes sent by worshippers to launch a campaign against practitioners of competing religions

ANS: B                      DIF: Moderate              REF: p. 75                      OBJ: 2  
TOP: II                      MSC: Understanding

22. What led many Egyptian villagers to pray at local shrines and believe in the power of magical amulets?
- Local villagers were physically far removed from temple life, and so turned to other means of satisfying their religious needs.
  - Villagers had a different set of gods and beliefs from those of the temples and court.
  - The priesthood in Egypt was weak and did not satisfy the needs of the local villagers.
  - Since villagers were illiterate, they could not participate in temple rituals.

ANS: A                      DIF: Difficult              REF: p. 75                      OBJ: 2  
TOP: II                      MSC: Applying

23. Which is an accurate comparison of the development of scribal cultures in both Mesopotamia and Egypt?
- Literacy immediately became important for all members of society.
  - Scribes at first had little concern with trade and commerce.
  - Scribes' status was increased by the small number of people who were literate.
  - Scribes were usually members of lower artisan classes.

ANS: C                      DIF: Moderate              REF: p. 76                      OBJ: 2  
TOP: II                      MSC: Applying

24. Which of the following contributed to the fall of the Old Kingdom in Egypt?
- The divide between rural and urban settings
  - Drought strained the irrigation system, resulting in famine.
  - The bureaucracy introduced too many changes into water management methods.
  - Invasion by the people of the Nubian regions of the Nile River

ANS: B                      DIF: Difficult              REF: p. 77                      OBJ: 2  
TOP: II                      MSC: Analyzing

25. Why did early agricultural settlements arise in the Indus Valley before the Ganges Valley?
- Annual floods replenished the soil in the Indus Valley but not in the Ganges Valley.
  - The Indus River, but not the Ganges River, brought plentiful water from its source in the Himalayas.
  - The Indus Valley suffered less from the yearly monsoons than did the Ganges Valley.
  - The Ganges Valley, unlike the Indus Valley, was surrounded by inhospitable deserts.

ANS: C                      DIF: Difficult              REF: p. 81                      OBJ: 1  
TOP: I                      MSC: Applying

26. Which of the following suggests that farmers in the Indus Valley were cultivating harvests that yielded a surplus circa 2600 BCE?
- a. Evidence of furrows, probably made by a plow
  - b. Evidence of the monsoon bringing water to dried-up paleochannels
  - c. Evidence of horse collars
  - d. Evidence of cities on the Indus River circa 3000 BCE

ANS: A                      DIF: Difficult                      REF: p. 81                      OBJ: 1  
TOP: I                      MSC: Applying

27. What indicated that the citadel in Mohenjo Daro was a center of political and ritual activities?
- a. It was built of sun-dried brick.
  - b. It housed well-made public facilities, such as the great bath.
  - c. It lacked fortification and was open to all people.
  - d. It contained long inscriptions describing rituals performed there.

ANS: B                      DIF: Moderate                      REF: p. 82                      OBJ: 2  
TOP: II                      MSC: Applying

28. What suggests to scientists that Harappan civilization was centralized and structured?
- a. Written language was used to provide a common culture throughout the Indus Valley.
  - b. The royal palace was an administrative center for the entire realm.
  - c. Royal tombs contained frescoes and records that showed the existence of regional laws.
  - d. Regional uniformity in urban planning; standardized weights and measures

ANS: D                      DIF: Moderate                      REF: p. 83                      OBJ: 2  
TOP: II                      MSC: Applying

29. Which of the following was an important difference between Harappan and Egyptian societies?
- a. Unlike the Egyptians, Harappans built no monumental structures for their communities.
  - b. Harappan farmers' cultivation yielded surpluses, while Egyptian farmers struggled to avoid famine.
  - c. Egyptian writing was limited to religious purposes, while Harappans composed epic poems.
  - d. Unlike the Egyptians, there is no indication that the Harappans had kings or built royal palaces or tombs.

ANS: D                      DIF: Moderate                      REF: p. 83                      OBJ: 2  
TOP: II                      MSC: Applying

30. Which of the following was essential to Harappan economic power?
- a. Control of salt deposits in the Indus River basin
  - b. Control of the extraction and trade of gemstones
  - c. Control of navigational techniques used by sailors along the Indian Ocean coast
  - d. Control of trade routes through northern India

ANS: B                      DIF: Difficult                      REF: p. 83                      OBJ: 3  
TOP: III                      MSC: Applying

31. In early riverine China, which of the following best describes the rate of urbanization and the factors that contributed to it?
- a. Urbanization took place more rapidly in China than in Egypt and Mesopotamia, as the rice-growing regions in the south shared information with the millet-growing regions in the north.
  - b. Urbanization in China was slower than in Egypt and Mesopotamia because China did not have outside trade.

- c. Urbanization in China was slower than in Egypt and Mesopotamia because of geographic barriers and lack of easily domesticated plants and animals.
- d. Urbanization in China took place more rapidly than in Egypt and Mesopotamia because China's open geography allowed for the rapid diffusion of intellectual and cultural breakthroughs from other parts of Afro-Eurasia.

ANS: C                      DIF: Moderate              REF: p. 84              OBJ: 1  
 TOP: I                      MSC: Analyzing

32. How did technologies such as bronze working first arrive in China?
- a. Through shipping lanes from the Korean peninsula
  - b. Through the overland caravan routes from the Indus Valley
  - c. Through indigenous invention in the Yangshao culture
  - d. Through pastoralist nomad migrations in the Mongolian steppes

ANS: D                      DIF: Moderate              REF: p. 84              OBJ: 4  
 TOP: IV                      MSC: Analyzing

33. What evidence supports the widespread economic influence of Longshan culture?
- a. Longshan kings forced tributary trade ties with steppe nomads.
  - b. Longshan silk scrolls have been found in the Indus Valley.
  - c. Longshan black pottery has been found as far away as Taiwan and Manchuria.
  - d. Longshan iron tools made their way to Japan.

ANS: C                      DIF: Moderate              REF: p. 86              OBJ: 3  
 TOP: III                      MSC: Applying

34. In what way did China's social and political system diverge from those of other Afro-Eurasian societies?
- a. China's political and social system was hierarchical.
  - b. China's political and social system emphasized an idealized past and rule by sage-kings.
  - c. China's political and social system was not centralized.
  - d. China's political and social system relied on strong female rulers as well as males.

ANS: B                      DIF: Moderate              REF: p. 87              OBJ: 2  
 TOP: II                      MSC: Analyzing

35. In the ancient Aegean world, why was urban development slow, despite contact with Egypt and Mesopotamia?
- a. Everyday life was dominated by weaponry rather than writing and palaces.
  - b. Societies were dominated by priests and sages.
  - c. Geographical obstacles led to scattered settlements.
  - d. Crops from the Fertile Crescent did not produce surpluses in the Aegean world.

ANS: C                      DIF: Moderate              REF: p. 88              OBJ: 2  
 TOP: II                      MSC: Analyzing

36. Which of the following formed the basis of trade for Crete with Egypt and the Levant?
- a. Dried fish from Crete was exchanged for iron weapons.
  - b. Copper from Crete was exchanged for luxury objects.
  - c. Fine gems from Crete were exchanged for grain.
  - d. Tin from Crete was exchanged for gold jewelry.

ANS: B                      DIF: Moderate              REF: p. 88              OBJ: 3  
 TOP: III                      MSC: Understanding

37. Which of the following formed the basis of a common material culture in the northern European plain?

- a. The use of the plow and wheeled cart for farming
- b. Slash and burn agriculture
- c. The creation of corded ware pots
- d. The creation of megalithic structures

ANS: A                      DIF: Moderate      REF: pp. 89–91      OBJ: 2  
 TOP: II                      MSC: Understanding

38. What do scientists use to infer that Troy, Crete, and the Greek mainland participated in a trading system linking the Aegean and Southwest Asia?
- a. Similarities in writing systems
  - b. Similarities in citadel construction
  - c. Similarities in religious artifacts
  - d. Similarities in grave goods

ANS: D                      DIF: Moderate      REF: p. 89              OBJ: 3  
 TOP: III                      MSC: Understanding

39. What led to European social development being dominated by warfare?
- a. Struggles over resources between kinship groups
  - b. Religious emphasis on ritual combat
  - c. Need to control stone resources for the construction of megaliths
  - d. Lack of sufficient agricultural resources to support urban life

ANS: A                      DIF: Difficult      REF: p. 91              OBJ: 2  
 TOP: II                      MSC: Analyzing

40. Which of the following was true in both sub-Saharan Africa and the Americas before 2000 BCE?
- a. The population in both places declined because of persistent drought.
  - b. The population in both places grew rapidly, given the large number of animals that could be hunted.
  - c. Population growth increased in both places after the importation of cereal agriculture.
  - d. The population in both places grew slowly, but did not lead to the development of urban centers.

ANS: D                      DIF: Moderate      REF: p. 92              OBJ: 1  
 TOP: I                      MSC: Applying

## TRUE/FALSE

1. Royal burials, such as seen in the photo on page 66, reinforced the existence of social hierarchies by including humans sacrificed to accompany the rulers to the afterlife.

ANS: T                      DIF: Moderate      REF: pp. 65–66      OBJ: 2  
 TOP: II                      MSC: Applying

2. Lacking natural or geographical barriers, ancient Egyptian society was far more open to outsiders than most other riverine societies.

ANS: F                      DIF: Moderate      REF: p. 71              OBJ: 2  
 TOP: II                      MSC: Applying

3. While other riverine societies developed trade networks, Harappan cities remained isolated from the outside world.



ANS: F                      DIF: Moderate              REF: p. 81                      OBJ: 3  
TOP: III                      MSC: Understanding

4. Pastoralist communities declined around 3500 BCE as cities and their hinterlands grew.

ANS: F                      DIF: Moderate              REF: p. 87                      OBJ: 4  
TOP: IV                      MSC: Applying

5. By 3500 BCE, most people in the world still lived as hunter-gatherers, nomads, or in small agricultural societies.

ANS: T                      DIF: Moderate              REF: p. 87                      OBJ: 4  
TOP: IV                      MSC: Applying

## ESSAY

1. What factors spurred the development of written scripts? How did the development of written scripts affect the societies that developed them?

ANS:

Writing transformed how human society functioned. It replaced the intimate oral culture of clan-based societies with a form of communication that functioned in the densely populated, more anonymous urban centers. It extended the human facilities of communication and memory. And it furthered the elites' abilities to control, produce, and trade goods; control property; and transmit ideas through literature, sacred texts, and historical records. It also sharpened the division between rural and urban worlds and enhanced social distinctions. In most cases, writing was tied to the expansion of commerce. Soon, its significance was recognized and writing was used to record histories, literature, poetry, sacred principles, and so on. Over time, writing became increasingly phonetic and abstract, which simplified the system and made it more accessible. However, in all cases, only an extreme minority was literate. This minority consisted of professional scribes, the royal family, bureaucrats, and religious leaders, all of whom wielded great social power. In Mesopotamia, cuneiform writing was made by pressing shapes into wet clay. It proved very adaptable and was soon adopted by other people speaking different languages. In Egypt, they developed two scripts, one for sacred and divine purposes (hieroglyphics) and one for everything else (demotic). In the Indus region, they had a script that seems to be Dravidian in origin but has yet to be translated.

DIF: Moderate              OBJ: 2                      TOP: II                      MSC: Analyzing

2. Compare the significance of bureaucratic and priestly classes in the emergence of Mesopotamia, Egypt, and China. What factors helped to empower certain groups? Analyze the ways in which their specific geographies shaped the early urbanization of Mesopotamia, Egypt, and China.

ANS:

The wide floodplain of the Tigris and Euphrates rivers led to the formation of city-states in Mesopotamia. As they competed with each other for scarce resources and populations grew, power became increasingly concentrated. Temples (ziggurats) were the center of Mesopotamian city-states, and priests controlled them much like a household. Temples owned land and livestock, maintained a labor force, and operated workshops. Later, as warfare increased in the region, the king became a power to rival the temples. Both priests and kings ensured their position in the social hierarchy by privileging their access to economic and political resources. In Sumer, the specialization of labor reinforced the social hierarchy.

The Nile basin was very narrow in contrast to Mesopotamia. Thus, Egyptian cities never became as large as Mesopotamian city-states, nor did they compete for scarce resources. Instead, the king was the center of Egyptian life. He was seen as divine and exerted absolute control. The predictability of the Nile was central to the success of Egyptian society. Thus, the king's primary responsibility was to preserve *ma'at*, or social order. He did this through worship of the gods. The king actively worshipped the gods, and in return Egypt received their blessings and protection. The priests reinforced this relationship by outlining the correct rituals and procedures for the king. It was a system to effectively maintain the status quo. The king essentially owned all the land and people in Egypt, and an elaborate bureaucracy was created to support that centralization.

In China, the geography encouraged the development of localized agrarian groups. The lack of easily domesticated plants and animals in addition to geographic barriers meant that China urbanized more slowly than Mesopotamia and Egypt. They gradually did become more centralized and develop evidence of localized politics, but extensive bureaucracies, secular and sacred, came later.

DIF: Difficult      OBJ: 2      TOP: II      MSC: Analyzing

3. Explain the importance of technological developments in the emergence of early Afro-Eurasian societies. How did different social needs spur technological developments? How did different technological developments shape certain societies?

ANS:

As people settled in urban areas, new technologies were developed to help in that process. The wheel was invented and used both for transportation and in mass-producing pottery. Vehicles like wagons appeared, as did advances in metallurgy and stoneworking. But two technologies stand out: irrigation and writing.

Irrigation was key to the development of early urban Afro-Eurasian societies. As population density increased agricultural need, communities had to work together to expand irrigation. In Mesopotamia, the unpredictable and violent flooding of the Tigris and Euphrates necessitated elaborate levees and canals. The bed of the Euphrates was higher than that of the Tigris, so Mesopotamians devised a method to have the Euphrates' floodwaters drain into the Tigris. This cooperative work developed social hierarchies, centralization, and the concentration of power. In Egypt, the Nile's flooding was predictable. There, people relied on the fertile silt that washed downstream to supplement the narrow arable floodplain. They built basins to hold the silt during flooding and then used the rich soil to plant their crops. In the Indus River valley, an elaborate network of sewers and drainage systems fed public baths, private showers, and toilets that fed into municipal sewers. This clearly indicates well-planned cities with a strong central authority.

In addition to irrigation, writing was a central development of early Afro-Eurasian cities. In most cases, it appears to be linked to commerce. In Sumer, where it developed first, they pressed signs into wet clay to form a writing called *cuneiform*. In Egypt, they developed two forms of writing, one devoted to sacred or divine issues (hieroglyphics) and one to secular issues (demotic). The Harappans had a symbol system of almost 400 signs that have not been translated. And in East Asia, there were early forms of writing. In all cases, writing transformed how human society functioned. It replaced the intimate oral culture of clan-based societies with a form of communication that functioned in the densely populated, more anonymous urban centers. It extended human facilities of communication and memory. And it furthered the elites' abilities to control, produce, and trade goods; control property; and transmit ideas through literature, sacred texts, and historical records.

DIF: Difficult      OBJ: 2      TOP: II      MSC: Analyzing

4. In what ways did the activities of pastoral peoples change circa 5500 BCE to 3500 BCE?

ANS:

Pastoral peoples appeared around 5500 BCE at the same time that others were settling down to become full-time farmers. Transhumant herders were closely linked to agricultural villages. Villagers exchanged grain, pottery, and textiles with the herders who provided meat, dairy products, and wool to the villages. Some families both farmed and herded, moving livestock seasonally to obtain better pasturage for their animals, often in the hills outside the settled villages. Transhumant herders often lived in the same dwellings in the valleys, season after season. By 3500 BCE, transhumant herders in Southwestern Asia continued to live in small groups, moving seasonally to nearby ranges. They continued to live alongside agricultural villages in their lowland pastures and traded meat and animal products for grain, pottery, and tools produced by their relatives in agricultural villages.

In the steppe areas of southern Eurasia, on land not suited to intensive agriculture, pastoralists often grazed their flocks over long distances. They domesticated horses and rode them to control the movements of cattle, sheep, or other flocks. They also hunted and fished. By 3500 BCE, pastoralists in the steppes focused more exclusively on animal breeding and herding. As their herds grew, pastoralists had to spread out across wide ranges of steppe lands. By the second millennium BCE, many steppe pastoralists had become true nomads, with no regular fixed abodes. These pastoral nomads transmitted ideas, technology, and people across long distances in Eurasia. Their expert horsemanship and development of new technology and weapons allowed them to periodically conquer settled people.

DIF: Difficult      OBJ: 4      TOP: IV      MSC: Analyzing (Multi-chapter)

5. How did the people outside the river valleys, such as in the Aegean, the Americas, and Sub-Saharan Africa, adapt to different physical environments as they established communities?

ANS:

In the Aegean, geography restricted urban development because of the fractured shoreline, mountainous landscape, and many islands. Local rulers fortified small, isolated settlements that controlled an agricultural hinterland. By the early third millennium BCE, people on Crete had begun metalworking and were trading with Egypt and coastal cities in the Levant. This trade helped introduce new technologies and ideas into the region.

Early settlements in the Americas were even more isolated than those in the Aegean, and lacked trade with other, more sophisticated societies. For example, in the Chicama Valley of Peru, small coastal villages subsisted on fishing, shellfish hunting, and growing beans, chili peppers, and cotton. Some began to produce pottery and to create irrigation systems and sluices to channel floods coming down from the mountains. The largest urban center in the Americas was Tehuacán, in central Mexico. Domestication of corn allowed a larger settled population to develop. People lived, however, not in large urban areas as in Mesopotamia but in clusters of independent villages. The population grew denser but did not urbanize.

In sub-Saharan Africa, the population also grew, but did not become urbanized. People moved from the desertification of the Saharan savanna to areas along the Niger River and the Sudan, where they grew yams, oil palms, and plantains. In the savanna regions, people built stone buildings and dug underground wells and food storage areas. Increasing population led people to move south and east, creating new villages. Population centers were widely separated, but a common style of pottery suggests that they maintained contact through trade.

DIF: Difficult      OBJ: 4      TOP: IV      MSC: Analyzing