
1. The primary reason ancient peoples of the Nile River valley built levees, dikes, and reservoirs was to

- A) purify sacred waters
- B) create a shorter route to distant cities
- C) defend against invaders
- D) increase agricultural production**

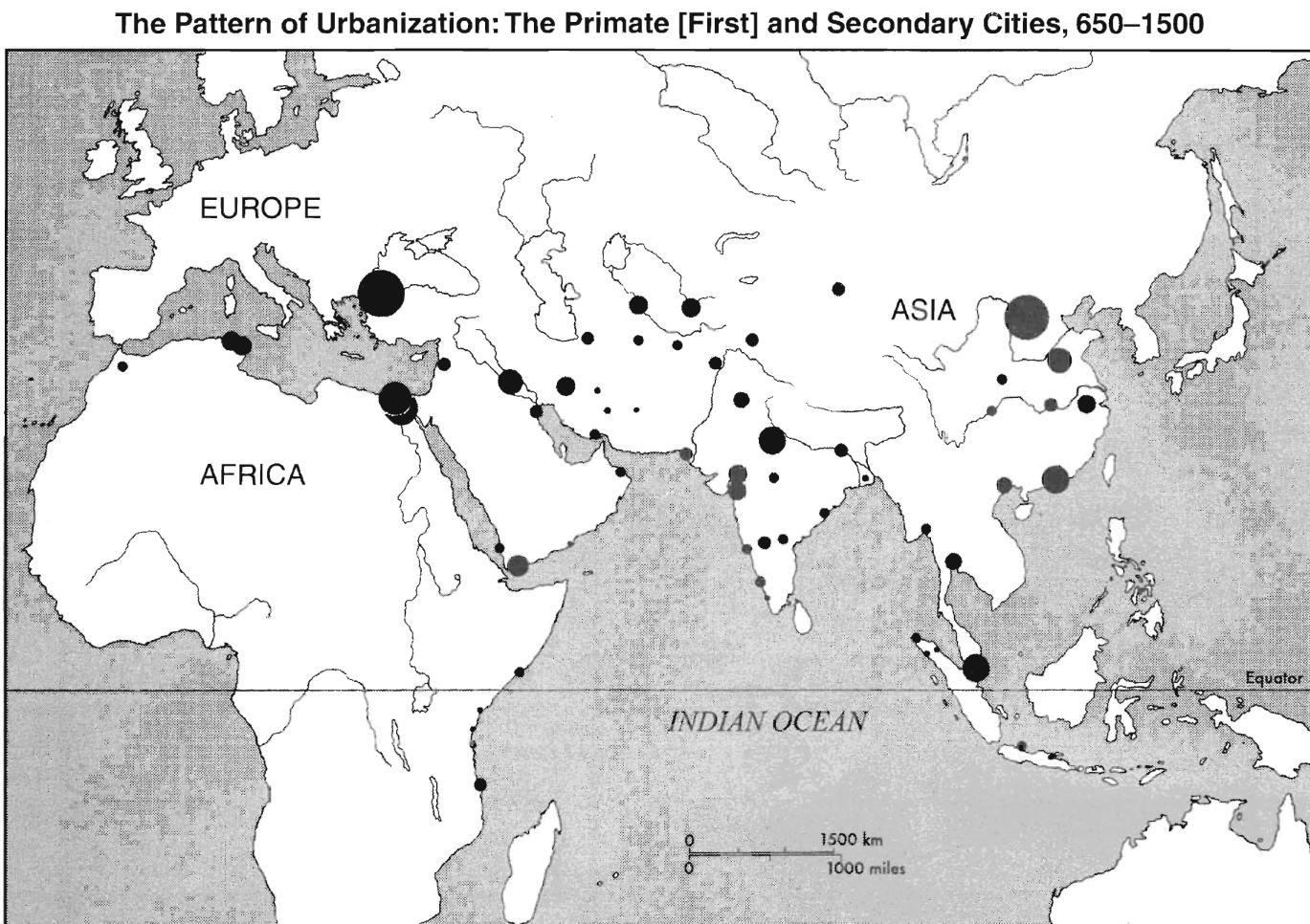
2. The Indus, Ganges, and Brahmaputra were important to ancient India because they were

- A) high mountain ranges that protected India from invasion
- B) great rivers that flowed through India's fertile northern plain**
- C) Aryan gods to whom the priests prayed for rain
- D) ruling dynasties that united the people of Harappa and Mohenjo-Daro

3. Which river was essential to the survival of the West African kingdoms of Ghana, Mali, and Songhai?

- A) Thames
- B) Niger**
- C) Indus
- D) Euphrates

4. Base your answer to the following question on the map below and on your knowledge of social studies.



Source: K. N. Chaudhuri, *Trade and Civilisation in the Indian Ocean*, Cambridge University Press (adapted)

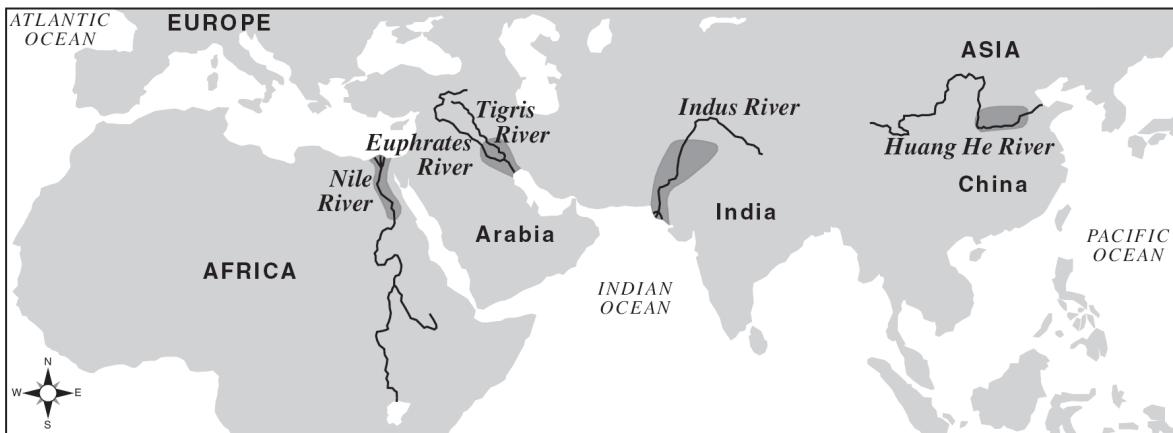
Based on the information provided by this map, which statement about urban areas between 650 and 1500 is accurate?

- A) Most urbanization occurred in the Southern Hemisphere.
- B) Most urbanization is associated with a tropical climate.
- C) Most urban areas were located in Europe.
- D) Most urban areas developed near waterways**

5. Which geographic factor had a major influence on the development of both Egyptian and Babylonian civilizations?

- A) river valleys**
- B) cool temperatures
- C) locations near a strait
- D) mountains

6. Base your answer to the following question on the map below and on your knowledge of social studies.



Source: Charles F. Gritzner, *Exploring Our World, Past and Present*, D. C. Heath and Company (adapted)

The main purpose of this map is to illustrate the location of

- A) overseas trade routes
- B) early belief systems
- C) river valley civilizations**
- D) burial sites of ancient rulers

7. What geographical feature most contributed to the growth of Ancient Egypt and Mesopotamia?

- A) river valleys**
- B) networks of caves
- C) annual monsoons
- D) surrounding mountains

8. Which heading best completes this partial outline?

- I. _____
- A. Natural boundaries of desert, mountains, and the sea
 - B. Yearly flooding to enrich farmlands
 - C. Old and Middle Kingdoms
 - D. Production of papyrus plant

- A) Egypt—Gift of the Nile**
- B) Mesopotamia—Land Between the Rivers
- C) China's Sorrow—Huang He River
- D) Harappa—City on the Indus

9. One reason the Euphrates, Indus, Nile, and Tigris valleys became centers of early civilization is that these valleys had

- A) borders and elevations that were easy to defend
- B) rich deposits of coal and iron ores
- C) the means for irrigation and transportation**
- D) locations in regions of moderate climate and abundant rainfall

10. One way in which the Huang Ho, the Indus, and the Nile civilizations were similar is that they each

- A) flourished by trading salt and gold
- B) developed monotheistic religions
- C) suffered repeated invasions
- D) originated in river valleys**

11. The development of early civilizations usually depended on

- A) the formation of democratic governments
- B) a location near large deposits of gold and silver
- C) the existence of large armies
- D) a plentiful water supply and fertile land**

12. Which factor led to the prosperity and success of the world's early civilizations?
- formation of democratic governments
 - development of monotheism
 - acceptance of gender equality
 - location in river valleys**
13. Which statement concerning how geography has influenced Africa is most accurate?
- The lack of natural barriers has made it easy to conquer Africa.
 - The expanse of the Sahara Desert has encouraged trade to develop in this region.
 - The rainfall in the Sahel has provided Africa with most of its crops.
 - The topography of Africa has limited migration and economic development.**
14. The river valleys of the Tigris-Euphrates, Huang Ho (Yellow River), and Indus were centers of early civilization because they
- had rich deposits of iron ore and coal
 - were isolated from other cultural influences
 - contained rich soils from annual floods**
 - were easy to defend from invasion
15. Base your answer to the following question on the map below and on your knowledge of social studies.
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- What does this map show about the Nile River in ancient Egypt?
- It was important for the transportation of soldiers and resources.**
 - It was needed for trade between the Red Sea and the Western Desert.
 - It brought fresh water from the Mediterranean Sea to the Valley of the Kings.
 - It flowed through a populated region in Arabia.
16. Which factor influenced the development of ancient civilizations along river valleys?
- fertile soil
 - dry climate
 - oil-rich tundra
 - dense rain forests
17. Which statement best explains why most of the population of the People's Republic of China live in the eastern third of the nation?
- The best agricultural land is in the east.**
 - The largest forests are in the east.
 - The best fishing areas are off the eastern coast.
 - The largest oil deposits are in the east.

18. Which is the main reason for the heavy population concentration in the eastern regions of the People's Republic of China?
- A) The Chinese capital is located in the east.
B) Most of China's fertile farmland is located in the east.
C) Most of China's oil resources are located in the Yangtze River Valley.
D) Overland trade with China's neighbors declined.
19. The early civilizations of the Nile River Valley, Mesopotamia, and the Yellow River Valley were similar because they were
- A) industrialized societies
B) monotheistic
C) dependent on fertile land
D) dependent on each other for trade
20. Discoveries by the Leakeys and other archaeologists have provided evidence that
- A) humans have existed for only 1,000 years
B) early humans lived in eastern Africa
C) early humans failed to invent tools
D) river valleys hindered cultural development
21. A study of the Indus, Nile, Hwang Ho, Tigris, and Euphrates rivers would be most important in understanding the
- A) causes for the decline of the Mayan Empire
B) role of geography in the development of early civilizations
C) reasons that ancient empires were based on nomadic civilizations
D) rise in power of the Muslim empire
22. Which characteristic did the early civilizations that developed along the Nile, the Tigris-Euphrates, and the Huang Ho (Yellow River) have in common?
- A) Each society's religious beliefs were based on monotheism.
B) Urban communities were built using iron and steel tools.
C) The form of government in each community was based on male suffrage.
D) Transportation and communication were promoted by a mild climate, fertile soil, and natural waterways.
23. One way in which the Indian leaders Asoka and Akbar the Great are similar is that they are both best known for promoting
- A) religious toleration**
B) enslavement of prisoners
C) special taxes for Hindus
D) the spread of Buddhism
24. The Egyptians used hieroglyphics in the same way as the Sumerians used
- A) ideographs B) calligraphy
C) cuneiform D) letters
25. Discovery of streets arranged in a grid-like pattern and a system of pipes for moving water in Harappa and Mohenjo-Daro suggest that these ancient river valley cities in South Asia had
- A) organized governments**
B) subsistence-based economies
C) polytheistic beliefs
D) rigid social classes
26. One way in which the ancient Sumerians, Egyptians, and Mayas are similar is that these civilizations developed
- A) irrigation systems**
B) iron weapons
C) wheeled vehicles
D) block printing systems
27. The rule of Shi Huangdi, legalism, and the tomb of terra cotta soldiers are most closely associated with the
- A) Maurya Empire **B) Qin dynasty**
C) Persian Empire D) Hellenistic culture
28. One way in which *The Epic of Gilgamesh*, *The Odyssey*, and *The Mahabharata* are similar is that they are
- A) sets of written legal principles that spell out the rights of citizens
B) stories that are tied to monotheistic religious beliefs
C) paintings that depict heroes and cultural values
D) works of literature that give historians information about early civilizations

29. One way in which the actions of Alexander the Great, Saladin, and Shaka Zulu are similar is that each implemented

- A) **military strategies to defeat opponents**
- B) constitutions to define political powers
- C) policies to increase religious persecution
- D) legal changes to protect human rights

30. The Code of Hammurabi and Chinese legalism both rely on the idea that

- A) governments must provide their people with rights
- B) harsh laws are needed to control society**
- C) all subjects are equal under the law
- D) religion and government must be brought closer together

31. The Indus and Huang He (Yellow) rivers are both closely associated with

- A) border disputes
- B) sacred biblical sites
- C) cradles of early civilization**
- D) oil discoveries

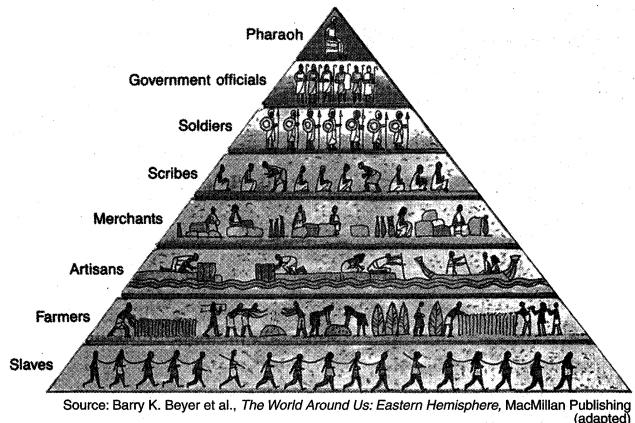
32. The development of the concept of zero, the use of a decimal system, and the Buddhist cave paintings at Ajanta are all achievements of the

- A) Inca Empire
- B) Gupta Empire**
- C) Roman Republic
- D) Kingdom of Songhai

33. One similarity found in both Egyptian and Sumerian civilizations is that each developed a

- A) monotheistic religion
- B) compass
- C) ziggurat
- D) written language**

34. Base your answer to the following question on the illustration below and on your knowledge of social studies.



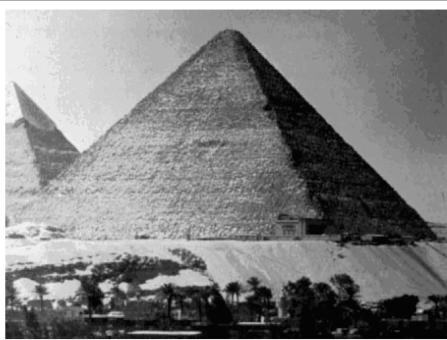
Based on the information in this illustration, which statement about the society of ancient Egypt is accurate?

- A) The women had equal status to the men.
- B) The social structure was hierarchical.**
- C) Social mobility was unrestricted.
- D) Soldiers outnumbered farmers.

35. One way in which the Code of Hammurabi, the Twelve Tables, and the Justinian Code are similar is that each

- A) legalized monotheistic beliefs
- B) established legal standards**
- C) provided records of economic activity
- D) supported republican governments

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36. Base your answer to the following question on the pictures below and on your knowledge of social studies.



These architectural achievements best indicate that

- A) advanced technology existed in early civilizations
- B) religion was of little importance
- C) entertainment was important to these ancient societies
- D) trade routes existed between China and the Americas

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37. One similarity between the ancient civilizations in Egypt and in China is that they developed

- A) nomadic lifestyles
- B) monotheistic belief systems
- C) democratic governments
- D) written forms of communication

38. What is the main reason the Neolithic Revolution is considered a turning point in world history?

- A) Fire was used as a source of energy for the first time.
- B) Spoken language was used to improve communication.
- C) Domestication of animals and cultivation of crops led to settled communities.
- D) Stone tools and weapons were first developed.

39. Hammurabi's code of laws and Qin dynasty legalism are similar in that both promoted the idea that

- A) worship of leaders will maintain the power of an empire
- B) an informed citizenry will help maintain peace and prosperity
- C) equality of the people is the most important goal of government
- D) harsh punishments for crimes will lead to a more orderly society

40. Hebrew text: "Honor your father and mother. . .

You shall not murder.

You shall not steal,"

The Analects:

"In his [the leader] personal conduct, he was respectful.

In his serving his superiors, he was reverent.

In his nourishing the people, he was kind.

In governing the people, he was righteous."

— Confucius

These selections show that the ancient civilizations who developed these concepts placed emphasis on

- A) anarchy
- B) law
- C) trade
- D) architecture

41. The river valleys of the Tigres-Euphrates, the Nile, and the Indus were centers of civilization because they

- A) had rich deposits of iron ore and coal
- B) were isolated from other cultural influences
- C) were easy to defend from invasion
- D) provided a means of transportation and irrigation

-
42. The invention of writing systems and the growth of cities occurred only in civilizations that
- A) originated in South Asia
 - B) developed matriarchal leadership
 - C) developed complex institutions**
 - D) borrowed heavily from the Greeks and Romans

Answer Key
Geography and Comparison of Ancient Civilizations

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|-----|-----------------|-----|-----------------|
| 1. | <u>D</u> | 36. | <u>A</u> |
| 2. | <u>B</u> | 37. | <u>D</u> |
| 3. | <u>B</u> | 38. | <u>C</u> |
| 4. | <u>D</u> | 39. | <u>D</u> |
| 5. | <u>A</u> | 40. | <u>B</u> |
| 6. | <u>C</u> | 41. | <u>D</u> |
| 7. | <u>A</u> | 42. | <u>C</u> |
| 8. | <u>A</u> | | |
| 9. | <u>C</u> | | |
| 10. | <u>D</u> | | |
| 11. | <u>D</u> | | |
| 12. | <u>D</u> | | |
| 13. | <u>D</u> | | |
| 14. | <u>C</u> | | |
| 15. | <u>A</u> | | |
| 16. | <u>A</u> | | |
| 17. | <u>A</u> | | |
| 18. | <u>B</u> | | |
| 19. | <u>C</u> | | |
| 20. | <u>B</u> | | |
| 21. | <u>B</u> | | |
| 22. | <u>D</u> | | |
| 23. | <u>A</u> | | |
| 24. | <u>C</u> | | |
| 25. | <u>A</u> | | |
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| 33. | <u>D</u> | | |
| 34. | <u>B</u> | | |
| 35. | <u>B</u> | | |