Prehistory – River Valley Civilizations
I. Paleolithic (Old Stone Age) (2 million to 12000 BCE)

A. More Advanced Humans
B. Hunters/Gatherers
I. Paleolithic (Old Stone Age) (2 million to 12000 BCE) CONT

C. Migration
   1. Where???

D. 14,000 years ago (approx. 12,000 BCE) end of last GREAT ice age

E. More movement
Discussion Question

• Discuss some advantages AND disadvantages of the lifestyle of Hunters/Gatherers?
II. Neolithic (New Stone Age) (10,000-4000 BCE)

A. Agricultural Revolution

1. Invention of agriculture
2. Initially developed in the Middle East and independently arose in India, N. Africa, Americas, Asia and Europe
3. Transformation took time
Neolithic (New Stone Age) (10,000-4000 BCE) CONT.

4. Specialization of Labor
   a) New classes

5. Pastoralist
Neolithic (New Stone Age) (10,000-4000 BCE) CONT.

5. Technological Innovations

6. Role of women
Discussion Question:

• What were some of the benefits of the Neolithic Revolution for humans? What were some of the drawbacks? Would YOU have chosen to settle and begin farming?
Class Discussion

• Is the term Civilization a synonym for good?
  – For each of these characteristics of early civilization, identify benefits and disadvantages:
    • Gender inequality
    • Slavery
    • Warlike
    • Divisions in social-class – have/have nots
    • Diseases
    • Ruler and ruled
    • Destruction of environment
III. Civilization

A. Why Civilization?

B. Definition

1. Must contain all of the following:
   a) ???
   b) ???
   c) ???
   d) ???
   e) ???
   f) ???
   g) ???
IV. Characteristics of River Valley Civilizations

A. The “Big” 4 and the Americas

1. Mesopotamia (Tigris and Euphrates)
2. Egypt (Nile)
3. Mohenjo-daro / Harappa (Indus)
4. China (Hwang He or Yellow)
5. Chavin (Andean South America)
6. Olmecs (Mesoamerica)
The Four Old-World River Valley Cultures:

- **Mesopotamia**
  - Tigris & Euphrates

- **Egypt**
  - The Nile

- **India**
  - Indus & Ganges

- **Shang China**
  - Yellow R.

(Yangzi)
Egypt
China
Small Group Discussion Question:

• What do most/all of these River Valley Civilizations have in common? What are some key differences between the RVCs?
IV. Characteristics of River Valley Civilizations

B. Favorable Location and Access to Resources
   1. Example: Hittites and Iron

C. Independent Development vs. Borrowing
   1. Despite trade and connections...
IV. Characteristics of River Valley Civilizations

C. Similarities

1. Technology
2. Monumental Building / Specialization / Division of Labor
3. Arts promoted by religious and political elites
4. Writing Systems
IV. Characteristics of River Valley Civilizations

5. Trade

6. Complex political structures

7. Creation of Legal Codes
   a) Hammurabi’s Code
   b) Code of Ur-Nammu

8. Creation of new religions
   a) Vedic religions
   b) Hebrew monotheism
   c) Zoroastrianism
Writing

Papyrus Sheets

Cuneiform Tablet
Hieroglyphs
Writing Forms

Sumerian Writing

Hieroglyphics
Writing Forms

Sanskrit

Ancient Chinese
IV. Characteristics of River Valley Civilizations

D. Differences

1. Egyptian economy
2. Distinctive Writing Systems
3. Monumental Building
4. Chinese Intellectual Life

**Partner Question:**

What would allow China to emphasize education over other pursuits? Explain.
IV. Characteristics of River Valley Civilizations

E. Decline of River Valley Civilizations
Small Group Discussion Question:

• What did the first River Valley Civilizations leave behind? How were the civilizations that followed them effected?
V. Conclusion

A. RVCs created...

B. Civilization created division BUT trade created interconnection

C. Major Similarities / Major Differences
Closing Task

A. Identify and explain ONE similarity of the early River Valley Civilizations.

B. Identify and explain ONE difference of the early River Valley Civilizations.

C. Identify and explain ONE legacy of the early River Valley Civilizations.