

SOLUTIONS

Exercise 1:

Why did the first civilizations appear near large rivers?

Because large rivers provided the water needed for agriculture, made transport possible, allowed for the development of canals and dikes to prevent flooding, and created fertile land by depositing silt, which ensured good harvests and supported large populations

Why does silt improve harvests?

The silt left by the rivers contains minerals and nutrients that make the soil richer. This allows plants to grow better and produces higher crop yields.


Exercise 2: Complete the table

Place	Date	River	Writing
Mesopotamia	3200 BC	Tigris and Euphrates	Cuneiform
Egypt	2850 BC	Nile	Hieroglyphic
China	2000 BC	Yellow River	Chinese characters

Exercise 3:

Imagine you don't know how to write and you have to record these products that arrived by boat: five fish and three chickens.

1. Record this information in drawings:

- Draw five fish and three chickens. You could make simple sketches: repeat each animal the right number of times. 

2. Simplify the drawings and turn them into symbols:

- Fish can be shown by a simple fish shape, and chickens by an oval with a small crest.
- Repeat these symbols: ///// (five fish), /// (three chickens).

3. Explain to a classmate what each symbol means and why:

- "Each fish symbol means one received fish; each chicken symbol means one received chicken. This type of writing is pictographic,

which is how ancient civilizations started to write—using symbols for actual objects."1.jpg

In your notebook, write which social groups these people belong to:

- I'm in the army and I control the soldiers.
Privileged minority (e.g., king, army official)
 - I work the land and look after sheep and goats.
Unprivileged majority (farmer, herder)
 - I'm the property of my owner.
Slave
 - I am married to the king's sister and I don't have to work.
Privileged minority (aristocracy/family of king)
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Activity 7

Look at the picture and answer the questions:

a. Which social group can you identify?

- Slaves

b. Describe the characteristics of that group.

- Slaves had no rights and were considered the property of others. They worked in domestic service, construction, or in the fields. Many were prisoners of war or people who couldn't pay their debts. They had to do difficult or manual labor and could not make decisions about their own lives.

Here are the main exercises from the image, translated and answered in English:

CLIL Activities

1. Answer the questions in your notebook.

a. What's the difference between an empire and a city state?

- A city state is an independent city with its own government and territory, while an empire is a large political unit that controls several city states or territories under a single ruler.image.jpg

b. What did the Sumerians invent? What was established as a result of this invention?

- The Sumerians invented writing, specifically cuneiform writing. This led to the establishment of record-keeping, official documents, and the ability to transmit knowledge and culture over generations.image.jpg

c. Why were there frequent conflicts between the Sumerian cities?

- There were frequent conflicts because the city states were independent and competed with each other for resources, land, and control of trade routes. They often attacked or defended themselves from neighboring city states.image.jpg
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2. Listen to the documentary about the Sumerian city of Uruk.

- How many people lived there? What buildings or things were there?
 - The city of Uruk was one of the earliest and largest cities of ancient Mesopotamia. It is believed that tens of thousands of people lived there. The city contained massive ziggurats (temple towers), administrative buildings, defensive walls, and residential areas.image.jpg
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3. With a classmate, compare the map on page 224 to a modern Mesopotamian map. Which modern-day countries were part of Mesopotamia's empires?

- Modern countries that cover the territory of ancient Mesopotamia include Iraq, parts of Syria, Turkey, and Iran.image.jpg
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4. Research the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World.

- Write a short text explaining what they were, why they are called the Seven Wonders, which one possibly didn't exist and which one still exists today.
 - The Seven Wonders of the Ancient World were remarkable constructions admired by ancient travelers and listed by ancient Greek historians. They were: the Great Pyramid of Giza, the Hanging Gardens of Babylon, the Statue of Zeus at Olympia, the Temple of Artemis at Ephesus, the Mausoleum at Halicarnassus, the Colossus of Rhodes, and the Lighthouse of Alexandria. The Hanging Gardens might have never existed as no archaeological evidence has been found. The only wonder still standing today is the Great Pyramid of Giza.image.jpg

Here are the answers to the exercises from the image, translated and answered in English:

CLIL Activities

1. Draw a map

Draw a map in your notebook or print a map of Ancient Egypt. Mark the location of Upper and Lower Egypt, the fertile areas, and the important cities.

- Upper Egypt is the southern part of Egypt (towards the Nile's source).
 - Lower Egypt is the northern delta, where the Nile meets the Mediterranean Sea.
 - Fertile areas are along the Nile river (the Nile Valley and Delta).
 - Important cities: Memphis, Thebes, Alexandria.
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2. Listen and make notes about the developments during the Old, Middle, and Late Kingdoms to complete the table.

- **Old Kingdom:** Period of pyramid building (e.g., Giza), Memphis as capital, strong central government under the pharaohs.
 - **Middle Kingdom:** Expansion and reunification, Thebes as capital, advances in art, literature, and trade, more regional control.
 - **New Kingdom/Late Period:** Military expansion, empire reaches its greatest size, famous pharaohs (Hatshepsut, Akhenaten, Tutankhamun, Ramses II), construction of temples (Karnak, Luxor).
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3. Research the Pharaoh Tutankhamun and write a fact file about him. Include these words: born, worshipped, married, powerful, Hyksos.

- Tutankhamun was born around 1342 BC and became pharaoh very young.
- He worshipped the gods of the traditional Egyptian pantheon and restored old religions after Akhenaten's reforms.
- He was married to Ankhesenamun.

- Although he died young, as a pharaoh he was considered powerful but his reign was short and without major achievements.
 - The Hyksos were a foreign people who once ruled parts of Egypt before Tutankhamun's time.
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4. Listen to a teacher talking about Ramesses II. Answer the questions.

a. Who was he?

- Ramesses II, also known as Ramesses the Great, was one of Egypt's most famous pharaohs, best known for his military campaigns and building projects.

b. What were his achievements?

- Victories in battles (notably the Battle of Kadesh), signed one of the earliest known peace treaties, built massive temples (Abu Simbel), ruled for over 60 years.
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5. Discuss these questions with a classmate.

a. Look at the timeline. How many years passed between the Old Kingdom and the New Kingdom?

- The Old Kingdom ended around 2180 BC and the New Kingdom started around 1550 BC; about 630 years passed.

b. What were the capitals of Ancient Egypt?

- Memphis (Old Kingdom), Thebes (Middle and New Kingdom), Alexandria (later periods).

c. When did Egypt end?

- Egypt ended as an independent state with the Roman conquest in 30 BC.

d. What was the Ptolemaic dynasty?

- The Ptolemaic dynasty was a Greek ruling family in Egypt after Alexander the Great's conquest, lasting until Roman rule.