

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## chapter 1

1. To the peoples of the ancient world, the characteristic benefits of civilization—safety and stability, government, art, literature, and science—were necessarily products of
  - a. rural life.
  - b. city life.
  - c. religion.
  - d. warfare.
  - e. nomadic life.
  
2. Cities were the result of innovations that began roughly
  - a. 13,000 years ago.
  - b. 25,000 years ago.
  - c. 38,000 years ago.
  - d. 50,000 years ago.
  - e. 1,000,000 years ago.
  
3. Primates with human characteristics originated roughly 4–5 million years ago in

- a. China.
  - b. Africa.
  - c. North America.
  - d. South America.
  - e. Northern Europe.
4. The ability of Neanderthals to make jewelry, bury their dead in distinctive graves, and create cave paintings suggests which of the following?
- a. Neanderthals were the most advanced ancient peoples.
  - b. Neanderthals engaged in some recognizable human activities.
  - c. Neanderthals likely became extinct as a result of famine.
  - d. Neanderthal women did the same work as men.
  - e. Neanderthal society was highly stratified.
5. Cave paintings, such as those found in Lascaux, France, are evidence of the development of
- a. a stratified society.
  - b. permanent settlement.
  - c. finely crafted and effective tools.

- d. the ability to travel great distances.
  - e. an artistic class.
6. Before 11,000 B.C.E., virtually all human societies were
- a. engaged in settled agriculture to produce crop surpluses for the gods.
  - b. able to use metal tools for arts, crafts, and building.
  - c. using men to do the hunting and women to do the gathering.
  - d. nomadic, moving incessantly in search of limited food.
  - e. settled in agricultural communities.
7. With the development of managed food production and the settlements that grew as a result,
- a. great disparities developed in individual wealth.
  - b. societies could be easily ruled by tribal kings.
  - c. societies practiced a policy of “divide, defeat, and conquer.”
  - d. individuals and communities could accumulate and store wealth on a large scale.
  - e. wild animals were used as beasts of burden.
8. The switch from subsistence through food gathering to food production

- a. required people to give up their faith in traditional gods.
  - b. resulted in the development of settlements.
  - c. meant that women were no longer part of the labor force.
  - d. prohibited raising domestic animals as livestock.
  - e. required seasonal movement, allowing for summer and winter settlements.
9. The Neolithic Revolution allowed women to
- a. produce cave art for the first time.
  - b. become the primary laborers in the growing of crops.
  - c. have fewer children and devote less time to child care.
  - d. engage in religious rituals for the first time.
  - e. have more children and devote more time to child care.
10. Why was life expectancy in early cities shorter than among nomadic hunter-gatherer peoples?
- a. The carbohydrate-rich diet was less nutritious.
  - b. The success of the cities and their stored supplies of food attracted attacks from outside, chiefly by nomadic peoples.
  - c. The process of in-home burial led to an increase in contagious disease.
  - d. Food was often portioned out according to social class and sex, resulting in an inadequate diet for women and the poor.

- e. People in early cities exercised less and ate more than people who lived in traditional hunter-gatherer societies.
11. Jericho, which eventually became a large and densely settled city, began as a
- a. defensive fortification.
  - b. religious center.
  - c. major burial site.
  - d. iron-producing settlement.
  - e. grain-producing settlement.
12. Agricultural surpluses and permanent settlements allowed for the unequal accumulation of wealth, and thus the emergence of
- a. primitive communism.
  - b. a government assuming social welfare responsibilities.
  - c. early banks and trust companies.
  - d. religious rituals dedicated to increasing agricultural production.
  - e. a socially, economically, and politically stratified society.
13. Which of the following was an important element in the development of early settlements?
- a. the development of coinage to make the exchange of goods easier

- b. the standardization of burial practices throughout the Near and Middle East
  - c. the discovery made during the last “Little Ice Age,” of freezing to preserve food
  - d. the establishment of first, local, and then, long-distance, trade routes throughout the Near East
  - e. the emergence of hereditary kingship
14. Why was Mesopotamia an uninviting environment for the first cities?
- a. The soil was sandy and the rivers flooded unpredictably.
  - b. It lacked sources of fresh water.
  - c. The marshy land between the rivers was a fertile breeding ground for malaria and other deadly diseases.
  - d. Treacherous mountains offered protection but also made farming and the construction of settlements impractical.
  - e. The region had no forests for timber or usable stone to quarry for building materials.
15. The earliest cities of Mesopotamia were founded by the
- a. Assyrians.
  - b. forerunners of the Egyptians.
  - c. Babylonians.
  - d. Ubaid peoples.

- e. Sumerians.
16. Tens of thousands of Sumerian clay tablets have survived,
- a. but unfortunately the key to the language has not.
  - b. documenting the United Sumerian empire, which lasted from 2900 to 2500 B.C.E.
  - c. telling us more about Sumer than we know about any other human society at the time.
  - d. probably because the Sumerians kept them in special underground archives.
  - e. but all deal with the priestly class and reveal nothing about Sumerian society.
17. Slavery in Sumerian society was
- a. based on the color of a person's skin.
  - b. usually the result of capture during war.
  - c. perpetual, with no chance for the slaves to gain their freedom.
  - d. limited to men.
  - e. limited to non-Sumerians.
18. An individual who successfully led a Sumerian city-state's army in battles was
- a. known as a tyrant and feared by freedom-loving citizens.

- b. able to acquire prestige and power as a *lugal*.
  - c. associated with distant countries where the gods supposedly lived.
  - d. declared a god-king by his city's priests.
  - e. allowed by the gods to carouse with the wives and daughters of the nobles.
19. In the *Epic of Gilgamesh*, Enkidu's death and Gilgamesh's inability to revive him illustrate the Sumerians' belief that
- a. a powerful *lugal* owes no allegiance to the gods.
  - b. human effort was futile to stop the forces of nature.
  - c. even the gods' power had its limits.
  - d. the afterlife rewarded those who lived a good life.
  - e. some Sumerians did not believe in gods and goddesses.
20. The common religion of the Sumerians
- a. was an early form of monotheism that influenced other peoples.
  - b. required city-states to settle their differences peacefully.
  - c. guaranteed free food for the poorest members of society.
  - d. included many gods, each of which had a reciprocal relationship with their human servants.
  - e. was the only aspect of Sumerian society that survived the society's collapse.



21. Because of their relationship with what was often a harsh and inhospitable environment, the Sumerians
- a. became highly knowledgeable about the weather.
  - b. became self-reliant and innovative.
  - c. became self-centered and uninterested in the world around them.
  - d. experienced what we know today as posttraumatic stress disorder.
  - e. developed strong, closely knit families.
22. Shortly before 3000 B.C.E., people in the Near East discovered that bronze could be produced by
- a. applying advances in Sumerian mathematics and astronomy.
  - b. heating copper to extremely high temperatures in pottery furnaces.
  - c. combining copper with iron.
  - d. combining copper with arsenic or tin.
  - e. combining iron with tin or arsenic.
23. After 2500 B.C.E., the tombs of Sumerian *lugals* often included armor and jewelry. This both demonstrates the wealth of the *lugals* and shows that the Sumerians believed that
- a. gifts to the gods were necessary at death.
  - b. there was no afterlife.

- c. the dead had to pay a toll to enter the land of the dead.
  - d. all their possessions should be buried with them.
  - e. items such as these would be useful in the afterlife.
24. Sargon of Akkad (c. 2350 B.C.E.) is significant because he
- a. was the first *lugal* to conquer neighboring city-states.
  - b. subdued Sumer and exerted influence from Ethiopia to the Indus Valley.
  - c. built observatories and introduced the more accurate Akkadian calendar.
  - d. introduced a common law code across his empire.
  - e. was the first ruler in history to take the title of “emperor.”
25. The fact that Sargon installed Akkadian-speaking governors in the cities he controlled and attempted to merge Akkadian and Sumerian deities suggests that he
- a. was married to a Sumerian woman.
  - b. wanted to create an empire.
  - c. was skilled in foreign policy.
  - d. relied on the guidance of skilled advisers.
  - e. hoped to establish a new capital in Sumer.
26. Following the decline in Akkad, a new dynasty under the leadership of \_\_\_\_\_ arose in

the Sumerian city of Ur.

- a. Hammurabi
  - b. Ur-Engar
  - c. Ur-Nammu
  - d. Enheduanna
  - e. Gilgamesh
27. Hammurabi's insistence that his subject territories worship the god Marduk was driven by his
- a. deep religious convictions.
  - b. concern for the moral well-being of his people.
  - c. desire to unite the territories.
  - d. desire to convert nonbelievers.
  - e. concerns about the eternal souls of his people.
28. Hammurabi's empire was founded on
- a. a policy of terror.
  - b. constant warfare.
  - c. complex trade networks.
  - d. military intelligence, diplomacy, and strategic planning.

- e. the loyalty of his blood kin.
29. The penalties in Hammurabi's Law Code
- a. were equal for all.
  - b. only applied to slaves.
  - c. were different depending on the class of an individual.
  - d. were different depending on whether an individual was a citizen.
  - e. were different depending on the age of the individual.
30. The civilization that emerged in ancient Egypt arose
- a. as a part of the Old Babylonian Empire.
  - b. at the same time as that of ancient Sumer.
  - c. significantly later than that of ancient Sumer.
  - d. significantly earlier than that of ancient Sumer.
  - e. as a result of Akkadian colonization.
31. Egypt was a rich agricultural region because of which of the following?
- a. the annual flooding of the Nile
  - b. primitive forms of artificial irrigation

- c. abundant rainfall
  - d. the blessings of their gods
  - e. the unique farming practices of the Egyptians
32. Historians typically divide ancient Egyptian history into \_\_\_\_\_ to facilitate the discussion of Egyptian politics and culture.
- a. intermediate eras
  - b. predynastic societies
  - c. pharaohs
  - d. kingdoms and periods
  - e. primary and secondary eras
33. The first Egyptian cities developed in
- a. Upper Egypt.
  - b. Lower Egypt.
  - c. the area near the Third Cataract.
  - d. the area near the Fourth Cataract.
  - e. the area near the Fifth Cataract.
34. Due to recent research, the method of numbering Egyptian dynasties now begins with

the \_\_\_\_\_ Dynasty.

- a. Zero
  - b. First
  - c. Initial
  - d. Primary
  - e. Scorpion
35. The Egyptian system of hieroglyphics was
- a. deciphered by Jean François Champollion using the Rosetta Stone.
  - b. a popular version of the more complex cuneiform.
  - c. used until the invention of printing with movable type.
  - d. not written on papyrus because papyrus was too expensive.
  - e. a phonetic system of writing based on the Ubaid language.
36. The Egyptians developed elaborate tombs and burial techniques
- a. to preserve their sacred cats in the harsh desert climate.
  - b. following the example of the Hebrews and other nomadic people.
  - c. because they believed deceased people would be reincarnated as animals.
  - d. to enable a person's afterlife and ensure he or she had all that was necessary there.

- e. to demonstrate their great respect for their ancestors.
37. The great Pyramids of Giza, built in the Fourth Dynasty, were
- a. used for athletic events, concerts, and political rallies.
  - b. lost in the desert sands and unknown to the Greeks.
  - c. a good supply of building stone for Rome and Carthage.
  - d. temples used for worship by the priestly class.
  - e. constructed by thousands of peasant workers who were not slaves.
38. One of the most significant developments of the late Old Kingdom was the
- a. declining influence of the pharaohs.
  - b. destruction of the pyramids.
  - c. destruction of the priestly cults.
  - d. mandate to worship Akhenaten.
  - e. increased reliance on trade.
39. Which of the following happened during Egypt's First Intermediate Period?
- a. Wealth became more evenly distributed.
  - b. Warfare became commonplace.

- c. Trade and diplomacy with other nations increased.
  - d. Agriculture declined due to drought.
  - e. The population declined dramatically.
40. The two gods that were the most fundamental to Egyptian religious belief were
- a. Seth and Osiris.
  - b. Isis and Osiris.
  - c. Seth and Isis.
  - d. Isis and Anubis.
  - e. Anubis and Horus.
41. Before entering an enjoyable afterlife, the deceased Egyptian supposedly
- a. would be judged by Osiris and forty-two other divine judges.
  - b. confessed all sins.
  - c. had to buy access to heaven with offerings to the gods.
  - d. had to build a pyramid, which was large or small according to social status.
  - e. had to find their soul in the Duat.
42. The rituals involved in the Egyptians' preservation of the dead were created in order to



- a. honor the cat goddess, Bastet.
  - b. re-create the death of Anubis.
  - c. emulate the preservation of Osiris's body.
  - d. ensure a bountiful harvest.
  - e. protect the bodies against the elements.
43. Egyptian coffin books, or books of the dead, contained
- a. lists of prominent persons who died each year.
  - b. funeral regulations for members of the royal family.
  - c. instructions about preserving bodies after death.
  - d. magic spells, formulas, and incantations needed in the afterlife.
  - e. lamentations and consoling writings to aid the bereaved in their time of sorrow.
44. Originally, the elaborate funerary rituals and preparations were reserved for
- a. all Egyptians.
  - b. Egyptian men.
  - c. Egyptian women.
  - d. the royal family.
  - e. the priests.

45. *Ma'at*
- a. refers to the pharaoh's strength and power.
  - b. was an idea introduced to Egypt from Mesopotamia during the New Kingdom.
  - c. was a male god who made the universe move forward in time.
  - d. referred to the chaotic forces that existed beyond the Nile River, which were often associated with the desert and barbarism.
  - e. includes ideas of order, justice, and truth.
46. The Egyptians made notable advances in
- a. mathematics.
  - b. measuring time.
  - c. metalworking.
  - d. philosophy.
  - e. science.
47. It is possible that the Egyptians did not develop many labor-saving devices such as the wheel because
- a. there was a very large pool of available manpower in Egypt.
  - b. many craftsmen in Egypt were dedicated to designing monumental architecture.

- c. Egypt did not have trade contacts with areas in which labor-saving devices had been developed.
  - d. the Egyptian way of farming did not lend itself to using devices such as the wheel.
  - e. any and all technology that was produced was owned by the pharaoh.
48. During the Pharaonic Period, women in Egyptian society
- a. were the legal responsibility of their husbands.
  - b. could not own property.
  - c. could stand before the courts as individuals, without male representation.
  - d. could practice sexual freedom.
  - e. were not recognized as persons in their own right.
49. Which period saw Egypt expand its borders, abandon its isolationism, and change its ideal of the pharaoh from a god to a “good shepherd”?
- a. Old Kingdom
  - b. Middle Kingdom
  - c. First Intermediate Period
  - d. Second Intermediate Period
  - e. New Kingdom

50. The Egyptian and Mesopotamian civilizations shared
- a. a melding of religious and political leadership.
  - b. in massive building projects.
  - c. a technique of writing, which helped them expand their influence.
  - d. a belief in the value of long-distance trade and record keeping.
  - e. a process of political consolidation in the third millennium B.C.E.
51. Egypt's trading partner, Nubia, possessed numerous rich \_\_\_\_\_ deposits located in its sandy soil.
- a. gold
  - b. silver
  - c. copper
  - d. tin
  - e. coal
52. Middle Kingdom Egypt's close ties with Nubia were significant because
- a. they allowed for Nubian cultural ideas to transform Egyptian society.
  - b. they caused Egyptians to question their own beliefs about the world.
  - c. Nubia served as a gateway for Egyptian expansion further down the Nile.

- d. it represented Egypt's only diplomatic partner until after the New Kingdom Period.
  - e. they permitted Egypt to access Nubia's vast supply of silver and copper.
53. The discovery of funerary texts written in the Meroitic language reveal what about Egypt's sub-Saharan neighbors?
- a. Their written language was closely related to Sumerian cuneiform.
  - b. The region known today as Somalia was settled by Egyptians in the Old Kingdom.
  - c. Nubian law was based on the proclamations of religious leaders.
  - d. Nubia was a matrilineal society, where both women and men traced their ancestry through the female line.
  - e. Women enjoyed a relatively low social status in Nubia compared to Egypt.
54. The legend of the Tower of Babel may have circulated long before its inclusion in the Bible. What was its crucial message?
- a. not to build towers that were too tall
  - b. to consult with the gods before undertaking a major project
  - c. that human beings are powerful when they share a common goal
  - d. that it is important to learn other languages
  - e. that the monuments of men would eventually turn to dust

55. Çatalhöyük
- a. is where the first evidence of written language was discovered.
  - b. is where the Neolithic Revolution began.
  - c. was a densely populated settlement made possible by agriculture but whose residents also continued to engage in traditional hunting and gathering activities.
  - d. offered its residents a relatively high life expectancy.
  - e. had wide, paved streets and boulevards that allowed for the movement of people.
56. The earliest cities in Mesopotamia were settled by the \_\_\_\_\_ peoples around 5900 B.C.E.
- a. Uruk
  - b. Egyptian
  - c. Phoenician
  - d. Ubaid
  - e. Akkadian
57. Some scholars have argued that the Neolithic Revolution marked the beginning of the Anthropocene, a new epoch in the history of our planet. This Anthropocene is defined as the epoch when
- a. the first evidence for *homo sapiens* appears.

- b. humans began to alter the Earth's ecosystems.
  - c. writing first appears, allowing for the study of a historical record.
  - d. humans began to create art and practice spiritual beliefs.
  - e. only one hominid species walked on earth.
58. Which of the following appeared for the first time in Ubaid settlements?
- a. central temple structures built of mud bricks
  - b. trade between settlements
  - c. the division of labor
  - d. intensive agriculture
  - e. pottery
59. Writing first evolved in Mesopotamia as a recording technology to support \_\_\_\_\_ pursuits.
- a. religious
  - b. economic
  - c. literary
  - d. political
  - e. diplomatic

60. By 3100 B.C.E., Sumerian scribes were trained to write in a script known as
- hieroglyphics.
  - hieratic.
  - demotic.
  - Sanskrit.
  - cuneiform.
61. In assembling and promoting his law code, Hammurabi presented himself as
- a king who cared for his people and ruled justly rather than based on his desires.
  - a bureaucrat, who was concerned with regulation.
  - someone who was unconcerned by class distinctions within society.
  - someone who promoted the idea that men and women were equal under the law.
  - someone who was content to rule the same way as many kings had done before him.
62. In the Old Babylonian Empire, slaves
- were only kept for a period of three years, after which they were granted citizenship.
  - consisted entirely of men and women who had been captured in war.
  - made up a small portion of society, in contrast to slavery in Sumer and Akkad.



- d. were treated more harshly than in previous societies.
  - e. only came from outside Mesopotamia.
63. Scholars believe that the greater relative political unity of Egypt compared to Mesopotamia can be attributed to
- a. the Nile River.
  - b. the oppressive conditions of the deserts in Egypt.
  - c. the threat posed by outside groups.
  - d. the influence of Sumerian *lugals*.
  - e. Egypt's early incorporation into Hammurabi's Old Babylonian Empire.
64. The term *pharaoh* is best translated as
- a. "big man."
  - b. "high priest."
  - c. "great household."
  - d. "god-king."
  - e. "divine servant."
65. Egyptian papyrus
- a. was very durable, so as a result, we have a great quantity of it today.

- b. was imported from Nubia and sub-Saharan Africa for use within the kingdom.
  - c. was made from recycled cotton rags that had been worn out from long use.
  - d. was lighter, easier to write on, and more transportable than Sumerian clay tablets.
  - e. was seen as the property of the gods and could only be produced in religious temples.
66. Myths can be considered an early form of history.
- a. True
  - b. False
67. Hierarchical structures of leadership were uncommon in early hunter-gatherer societies.
- a. True
  - b. False
68. Labor among Paleolithic peoples was strictly divided along gender lines, as men did the hunting and women the gathering.
- a. True
  - b. False
69. Agricultural surplus made it possible for early societies to become more stable and to expand in population, yet also kept early societies socially stagnant as all labor was focused on the land and the cultivation of more grain.

- a. True
  - b. False
70. Sumerian distrust of nature and fear of the world were paralyzing to their culture as they lacked motivation to make significant advances in science, technology, and trade.
- a. True
  - b. False
71. Sumerian innovations are directly responsible for the thirty-day calendar that we still use today.
- a. True
  - b. False
72. The practices of Hammurabi led later rulers to allow greater religious freedom.
- a. True
  - b. False
73. Hammurabi's Law Code is the first law code that exacted equal punishment for crimes across the social spectrum.
- a. True
  - b. False

74. Women were denied any rights or protections under Hammurabi's Law Code.
- a. True
  - b. False
75. Because Egyptian society was in constant turmoil, the Egyptians grew accustomed to change and welcomed new ideas.
- a. True
  - b. False
76. The early pharaohs had difficulty establishing their rule over all Egypt due to the power of local civic and religious authorities.
- a. True
  - b. False
77. Much of what we know of Old Kingdom Egypt—and the accomplishments of the pharaohs, in particular—comes from funerary texts.
- a. True
  - b. False
78. Egyptian and Mesopotamian hieroglyphic writing developed independently of one another.
- a. True
  - b. False

79. Egypt in the Old and Middle Kingdoms was maintained chiefly through conquest.
- a. True
  - b. False
80. The First Intermediate Period refers to a period in which Egypt ceased to be unified.
- a. True
  - b. False
81. To what degree can Çatalhöyük be seen as a stepping stone toward civilization?
82. What innovations characterize the Neolithic Revolution, and how did these innovations impact Neolithic society?
83. How did the Ubaid culture contribute to the development of urban civilization in Mesopotamia?
84. How did the geography of Mesopotamia and Egypt shape the regions' cultures?
85. Compare and contrast Sumerian and Egyptian forms of religion.
86. How did Sumerian advances in technology help shape society in the Fertile Crescent?

87. In what ways can Hammurabi's rule be described as innovative?
  
88. How was Egyptian society shaped by the Nile River and in what ways did the environment shape the authority of the pharaoh?
  
89. What factors contributed to the fall of the Old Kingdom?
  
90. How did Egypt's role in the ancient world change during the Middle Kingdom?

## Answer Key

### chapter 1

1. Answer: B

2. Answer: A

3. Answer: B

4. Answer: B

5. Answer: C

6. Answer: D

7. Answer: D

8. Answer: B

9. Answer: E

10. Answer: A

11. Answer: E

12. Answer: E

13. Answer: D

14. Answer: A

15. Answer: D

16. Answer: C

17. Answer: B

18. Answer: B

19. Answer: B

20. Answer: D

21. Answer: B

22. Answer: D

23. Answer: E

24. Answer: B

25. Answer: B

26. Answer: C

27. Answer: C

28. Answer: D

29. Answer: C

30. Answer: B

31. Answer: A



32. Answer: D

33. Answer: A

34. Answer: A

35. Answer: A

36. Answer: D

37. Answer: E

38. Answer: A

39. Answer: A

40. Answer: B

41. Answer: A

42. Answer: C

43. Answer: D

44. Answer: D

45. Answer: E

46. Answer: B

47. Answer: A

48. Answer: C

49. Answer: B

50. Answer: D

51. Answer: A

52. Answer: C

53. Answer: D

54. Answer: C

55. Answer: C

56. Answer: D

57. Answer: B

58. Answer: A

59. Answer: B

60. Answer: E

61. Answer: A

62. Answer: D

63. Answer: A

64. Answer: C

65. Answer: D

66. Answer: A

67. Answer: A

68. Answer: B

69. Answer: B

70. Answer: B

71. Answer: A

72. Answer: B

73. Answer: B

74. Answer: B

75. Answer: B

76. Answer: A

77. Answer: A

78. Answer: A

79. Answer: B

80. Answer: A

81. Answer: For reasons that are not entirely understood, the people of Çatalhöyük began to cluster together and formed a closely knit community. Çatalhöyük's population was quite large for its time, numbering perhaps 8,000 people. Among this population, a highly advanced society developed, which was capable of producing pottery and works of art to adorn the walls of their home. From the Cappadocian Mountains, they imported obsidian which was used to make weapons and tools. They developed numerous funerary rites for the burial of their dead. In addition to being hunters and gatherers, they also relied on agriculture and had a diverse food supply. In other respects, however, Çatalhöyük was less advanced than fully developed civilizations, which are characterized by their stability (although Çatalhöyük lasted for roughly a thousand years), government, art, literature, and science. It might be said that Çatalhöyük was a protocivilization.
82. Answer: Substantial numbers of humans began to domesticate animals and raise crops, making possible permanence and stability in settlement patterns. Increased food supply made a larger population sustainable. The managed production of agriculture required storage to preserve grain for the large population between harvests. Storage allowed a constant food supply and seed for sowing. Sowing allowed for higher yields that could support even larger populations. People could also compensate for natural disasters, such as flooding or fire. A larger supply of grain also made it possible for large animals to be domesticated and used for labor purposes. The need to protect these stores resulted in early walled or protected dwellings or buildings and some of the first cities. The ability to grow a surplus of grain made it possible for some members of society to spend some of their labor on specialized crafts, resulting in a more stratified society.
83. Answer: The Ubaid brought their village culture with them when they moved into Sumer in the sixth millennium B.C.E. They developed irrigation systems consisting of sophisticated canals and pools, which were lined with stone so that they would last from season to season. The Ubaid constructed dikes and levees to control seasonal flooding. Their sophisticated agricultural technologies resulted in large harvests and the ability of many members of society to specialize in other crafts such as weaving, pottery making, metalwork, and construction. They also built religious structures that quickly evolved from humble shrines to massive temple complexes that controlled trade and much of the economy.

84. Answer: Mesopotamia: Unpredictability of weather, irregular flooding of rivers, and inhospitable soil ensured that the Sumerian people believed that natural forces were unpredictable and dangerous. The religion that developed in ancient Sumer reflected this belief. Large populations and competition for access to water and arable land, along with each city's perception that they owed service to different gods, ensured that warfare was common and contributed to the rise of the lugal, or warrior-kings. Egypt: The desert made a natural protective border, isolating Egypt from much of the trade and technologies available from the Mesopotamian cultures. The predictable nature of the Nile gave a cyclical nature to life, religion, events, and understanding of history. Regular and abundant harvests due to the flooding of the Nile yielded a large food supply and therefore a large population. The lack of contact and invasion produced an ethnically homogeneous people and an ethnocentric worldview, in which peoples were grouped as Egyptian or "non-Egyptian."

85. Answer: Similarities: Both the Sumerian and Egyptian religions were pantheistic and both had powerful priestly classes, which served the gods from earth. Both religions also allowed for the interconnection of religious and political leadership, and temples in both religions served as important religious and secular places. Both religions also believed in an afterlife. Differences: In the Sumerian religion, each city supported a different patron god, which resulted in warfare between cities for the honor of the gods. This pattern continued until the rise in Babylon of Hammurabi, who insisted that all people in the territory he controlled must recognize the primacy of Babylon's patron god, Marduk. This decree allowed for the beginnings of not only religious, but also political, unity. In Egypt, in contrast, the foundation myth of Osiris's death and dismemberment and the subsequent dispersal of his remains to all parts of Egypt allowed all areas to lay claim to Osiris, which may have more easily allowed for religious and political unity under the divine leadership of the pharaoh. Furthermore, while the uncertain and difficult nature of producing food in Mesopotamia led to a belief that the gods were capricious and nature was not to be trusted, the regular flooding of the Nile in Egypt allowed for a more optimistic worldview and understanding of human and divine interaction.

86. Answer: The Sumerians were self-reliant people whose several important technological advances made possible trade, booming economies, specialized goods, and empires in an area that was otherwise hostile to settlements and civilization. The constant warfare in the area promoted military technology such as metallurgy, especially the making of bronze. The new bronze weapons were more easily produced than stone or flint weapons and more effective in battle. Another advance that enabled the militaries of the area to be both fast and effective was the wheel. Although this new technology was not invented in the Fertile Crescent, the Sumerians made great use of it. Wheeled chariots were used in warfare and were extremely effective against the largely infantry armies of the ancient world. The wheel also increased the productivity of the Sumerian workforce, as more goods could be carried longer distances. The wheel for pottery also allowed the Sumerians to capitalize on their one great natural resource: clay. They produced high-quality clay vessels in great quantity with the potter's wheel, which allowed for greater trade to occur, involving both the pottery itself and the oil and other goods that traveled in the pots. Technologies in mathematics and astronomy made possible better irrigation systems and a relatively accurate calendar, as well as the building of the first domes and arches. Other resources had to be imported into Sumer, which expanded the trade and contact with other peoples and societies as far away as the Indus Valley, but trade occurred most regularly with the peoples of the Persian Gulf. Just as ideas and goods were brought into Sumer through trade routes, so too Sumerian ideas were carried out of Mesopotamia and into places throughout the Near Eastern world.

87. Answer: Hammurabi used military intelligence and diplomacy to encourage his powerful neighbors to fight each other. While pretending to have alliances with almost all his neighbors even as they entered into war with each other, Hammurabi was able to quietly increase the size of his army and, after his neighbors had exhausted themselves economically and militarily in war, he conquered their territories. Hammurabi was also innovative in his use of religion as a powerful tool for political unity. He elevated Marduk, the patron god of his own city of Babylon, to the primary god of all the regions he conquered and insisted that all his subjects owed their allegiance to this god. This legitimated Hammurabi's rule and gave his wars of aggression justification in Marduk's name. Finally, Hammurabi issued a law code that portrayed him as devoted to justice and to his people's welfare. He used this law to reform his administration, adding to his image as a just ruler.

88. Answer: Unlike Mesopotamia, which was a hostile environment in which resources were scarce and warfare was frequent, Egypt was comparably stable. Only about 5 percent of the country is inhabitable, making it far less likely that the Egyptians would experience invasion with the frequency of the Mesopotamians. For most of their history, they had little exposure to the outside world and no standing army. The Nile flooded annually, but it was not a devastating, destructive flood; instead, the floods deposited nutrients, and when the waters receded, the land was fertile and well-suited for agriculture. Consequently, Egyptian society was far more stable than that of Mesopotamia, and the Egyptian people have been described by historians as essentially an optimistic people. The pharaohs claimed to be closely associated with the divine forces that controlled the annual flooding. This gave the pharaoh a power that the rulers of Mesopotamia did not have. While unifying Egypt was a challenge, the pharaoh's divine association assured that his power was not likely to be challenged.
89. Answer: Increase in the power of the priestly class at the expense of the pharaohs; increase in the power of the local nobles, who were more readily available to protect nearby territories than the weakening, distant pharaohs; the positions of nobles in the pharaonic bureaucracy becoming hereditary; the costly building efforts of the previous Fourth Dynasty; climate changes that resulted in famine; the rise in the power of Nubian states, which may have restricted Egyptian access to mineral deposits, thus crippling the economy; and lack of *ma'at*, which contributed to a lack of power of, and support for, the pharaohs.
90. Answer: After the disruptions of the Old Kingdom, the Middle Kingdom was a period of remarkable stability, which was often characterized as a "golden age" for Egypt. A central government was reestablished at Thebes. There was a long succession of capable pharaohs, and the image of the pharaoh as inaccessible and remote evolved into that of the "shepherd of his people." Egyptians during this period has less of the inward focus of their predecessors and took a wider view of the world, becoming more engaged in trade.