

Throughout the AP framework, possible examples of historical content are provided as an illustration of the key concept, but these illustrative examples are not required features of the course or required knowledge for the exam. Instead, the illustrative examples are provided to offer teachers a variety of optional instructional contexts that will help their students achieve deeper understanding. In this way the framework provides teachers freedom to tailor instruction to the needs of their students and offers flexibility in building upon their own strengths as teachers.

ITEM/TERM	DESCRIPTION/DEFINITION	IMAGE	SIGNIFICANCE	
WEAPONS				
COMPOUND BOW	A weapon that developed in the Paleolithic time period and evolved over time usually made from wood, animal ligaments, and leather.		The bow and arrow allowed for more efficient hunting, as well as warfare.	
IRON WEAPONS	Following the Bronze Age, the Iron Age (1200 BCE-600 CE) was a period dominated by the use of iron weapons and tools. Blacksmiths hammered iron into shape. Chronologically, it has no real value as there is no agreed upon time span.		Iron, and subsequently steel, are far stronger, harder, and of the same weight as bronze. Weapons and tools made from steel are far superior to stone or bronze ones allowing those wielding them to gain more crop yields and/or more victories on the battlefield.	
AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION				
PLOW	Tool used in farming for the cultivation of soil in preparation for planting crops. The goal is to overturn the top layer of soil bringing fresh nutrients to the top. Initially pulled by oxen, they were later pulled by horses and mules.		With Mesopotamia's and Harappa's domestication of the ox around 6000 BCE, the plow or plough became a crucial tool in agriculture. The plow is a key step forward during the Neolithic revolution in several river valley civilizations.	
IRRIGATION & WATER SYSTEMS	The science of artificial application of water to the land or soil.		Initially began in Mesopotamia, irrigation allows for water to be channeled to places where crop growth would otherwise be impossible.	
			TRADE	



Egypt traded with its neighbors in all directions (Crete, Mesopotamia, and Nubia). Nubia, was rich in gold and mineral deposits, building stone, ebony, ivory, ostrich feathers and eggs, as well as livestock and cattle.



Trade fostered the spread of ideas and technology. Egypt went to Nubia to get materials it otherwise would not have had on its own (building stones, ivory, cattle, etc.)

ITEM/TERM

DESCRIPTION/DEFINITION

MESO. **INDUS**

Mesopotamia did not have an abundance of natural resources, so it had to trade with foreign powers such as Egypt and the Indus river valley.

IMAGE



SIGNIFICANCE

Trade fostered the spread of ideas and technology. Mesopotamia traded with the Indus valley to obtain materials it otherwise would not have had on its own in proper numbers (cotton, lumber, grain, etc.)

TRANSPORTATION

CHARIOTS

HORSE-

BACK

RIDING

Wheeled vehicle used in ancient times in both peace and war. With the invention of the spoked wheel around 2000 BCE, the Chariot became a major weapon/vehicle in the ancient world. The chariot ceased to be used militarily around 400 BCE. (Races still lasted until around 600 CE)

Domesticated around 4500 BCE, horse use actually dates back to around 6000 BCE. There is some evidence showing horses using bits (in the mouth) from wear on ancient horse teeth.



The horse played an important role throughout human history all over the world, both in warfare and in peaceful pursuits such as transportation, trade and agriculture. Horses lived in North America, but died out

Chariots began in what is today southern

Russia. The chariot spread over a course of

centuries until by 500 BCE (in England) the

entire known world had this technology.

at the end of the Ice Age.

MONUMENTAL ARCHITECTURE

ZIGGURAT

Step pyramid structures built in the center of Sumerian citystates, such as Ur, and used as a place for religious ceremonies.

2500 BCE by the Egyptians. The Egyptian pyramids are some of the world's greatest 1311 CE) as the world's tallest structures. It world.



The central location of ziggurats shows early urban planning, as well as the importance placed on religion. A social hierarchy can be traced, with those with more power residing closer to the ziggurat.

Egyptian pyramids (138 known to exist) were used as burial chambers for the pharaohs. Many theories remain as to the purpose of the pyramid shape and how it specifically worked in the afterlife.

PYRAMID

First built by the Mesopotamians as Ziggurats, Pyramids, as we know them, were built around archaeological feats and stood for centuries (until remains the only surviving wonder of the ancient



URBAN PLANNING



A road is a route between two places. Some believe roads began as animal trails (but few animals actually travel the same way constantly). Human roads were in use around 10,000 BCE. Stone paved streets date back to around 4000 BCE in Ur (Mesopotamia).



Harappa had the world's earliest known system of flush toilets. These existed in many homes, and were connected to a common sewerage pipe. Most houses also had private water well.



Streets and roads allowed for greater levels of transportation and trade between and amongst ancient civilizations.



The Indus Valley Civilization was prominent in hydraulic engineering, and had many water supply and sanitation devices that were the first of their kind.

IMAGE

ARTS/ARTISANSHIP				
POTTERY	The earliest piece of pottery dates back nearly 30,000 years!(a fertility statue). But, pottery vessels (like pots) date back to around 15,000 BCE. In Mesopotamia, the invention of the potter's wheel in 6000 BCE revolutionized pottery production.		Pottery allowed for greater storage and transportation of goods.	
WOVEN TEXTILES	Woven cloth predates civilization (back to 34,000 BCE!). Cloth provides for warmth, clothing, and protection from the elements.		Archalogically, seeing what types of clothing people wore allows scientists to know what types of technology was available at the time as well as what types of materials were native or traded for in that region.	
METALLURGY	Dating back to around 5000 BCE, metallurgy is the manipulation of metal. Around 3500 the melting of copper and tin to make bronze ushered in the bronze age.		Metallurgy allowed for the creation of better farming tools (for higher crop yields) and better weapons.	
RELIGION				
HEBREW MONOTHEISM	Judaism believes that there is only one god, Jehovah or Yahweh as told in the Torah.	X	The Hebrews stand out historically as one of the first and the oldest remaining religions that strictly adheres to monotheism.	
VEDIC RELIGION	The Vedic religions (based on the Vedas) are the historical predecessor to the world's oldest religion, Hinduism. Written in Sanskrit, the Vedas encompass the early history, religion, and society of ancient India.	ÖŚ	The vedic religions that led to the belief system now known as Hinduism represent one of the earliest and the oldest remaining religion on the planet.	
ZOROASTRIANISM	Religion and philosophy based on the teachings of prophet Zoroaster and was formerly among the world's largest religions. It was probably founded some time before the 6th century BCE in Persia (Iran).		In some form, it served as the national or state religion of a significant portion of the Iranian people for many centuries. It is believed that key concepts of Zoroastrian eschatology and demonology have had influence on the Abrahamic religions. On the other hand, Zoroastrianism itself inherited ideas from other belief systems and, like other "practiced" religions, accommodates some degree of syncretism	