

HUMANITIES 9 *HONORS*

SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENT

PART 1: THREADS

As we study ancient civilizations, we will use the THREADS framework to see how each civilization functioned. Over the course of the year, we will trace the “threads” of each culture as it shapes the foundations of Western Civilization.

- You will complete TWO THREADS notes pages. Please handwrite them.
- These are designed to be brief, general notes about each civilization. You are building a general understanding. There is no need to delve into details. Consider THREADS a snapshot of an ancient civilization, not a National Geographic article.
- The information you find may not go in the same order as the textbook. Use your best understanding and critical thinking skills to determine what category the information you find fits in.
- Add a page number for each bullet point you add to your notes.
- The first two categories have been done for you as an example.

[DOWNLOAD THREADS WORKSHEETS](#)

THREADS: Origins of Civilization covers textbook pages 1-6.

THREADS: Ancient Mesopotamians covers textbook pages 7-17.

PART 2: WRITTEN RESPONSE

Each response should answer the question, provide text evidence, and use commentary to explain how the answer is supported by the text.

Read Historical Voices: The Code of Hammurabi on page 12 of your textbook and handwrite your responses to the key question:

- What do the laws of Hammurabi reveal about Mesopotamian society?

Read Historical Voices: The Advice of Shuruppag on page 15 of your textbook and handwrite your responses to the key question:

- What does this document tell you about the position of men and women in Sumerian society? How would you compare ancient Sumerian values with those of Hammurabi and those of today?

Read Opposing Viewpoints--The Great Flood: Two Versions on page 16 of your textbook and handwrite your responses to the key question:

- What does this selection from Epic of Gilgamesh tell you about the relationship between the Mesopotamians and their gods? How might you explain the similarities and differences between the Mesopotamian account and the flood story in Genesis?

PART 3: MUSEUM ARTIFACT

[WEBSITE LINK](#)

1. Visit the University of Chicago's Institute for the Study of Ancient Cultures website. Use the drop down links to look at artifacts from Mesopotamia. Choose one artifact.
2. Create a SINGLE SLIDE on CANVA with a picture of the item and a description:
 - a. Item Details: *What is the item? Where did it come from?*
 - b. What do you think it reveals about the lives of the ancient people who used/interacted with this item? *(Be specific! Does it demonstrate what or how they ate? Who/what/how they worshiped? What they valued as a culture? Etc.)*



TIME: *When did this civilization exist in history? (dates/eras, major events)*

- PALEOLITHIC “old stone” (ca. 2,500,000-10,000 BCE) p.3
- NEOLITHIC “new stone” emerges after last ice age (ca. 10,000-4000 BCE) p.3
- BRONZE age (3,000 to 1200 BCE) p. 5

HOMELAND: *How did geography affect this civilization? (location, climate, natural resources)*

- PALEOLITHIC: Basic subsistence existence relied on hunting/gathering/fishing (no agriculture or raising of livestock) p. 3
- NEOLITHIC: areas near the Tigris and Euphrates rivers were “initially more conducive to systematic farming” p.4

RELIGION: *What did this civilization believe? How did it shape their everyday life? (gods, rituals, structures, afterlife)*

ECONOMY: *How did people get what they needed to survive? (farming, trade, jobs, currency, labor systems, resources)*

ACHIEVEMENTS: *What did this civilization create or discover that had a lasting impact? (inventions, discoveries, or any other major advancements in science, literature, engineering, etc.)*

DIPLOMACY: *How was the civilization governed? How did it interact with other civilizations? (laws, leaders, wars, alliances, etc.)*

SOCIETY: *What was daily life like? How were different groups of people viewed? (class, gender, education, social expectations, etc.)*

FOCUS QUESTION: *What characteristics do scholars use for defining civilization? (Hint: pg 5)*



THREADS Ancient Mesopotamians: Sumerians, Akkadians, & Babylonians

<p>TIME: <i>When did this civilization exist in history?</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sumerians: by 3000 BCE, had “established a number of independent cities” p.7 • Akkadians: 2340 BCE, est. dynastic empire spreading to West in Mediterranean p.9 • Third Dynasty (2112-2000 BCE); King Ur-Nammu (flourished) p. 10 • Hammurabi (Babylonian) (1792-1750 BCE) p. 10
<p>HOMELAND: <i>How did geography affect this civilization?</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Area between Tigris & Euphrates Rivers; receive little rain, but floods during spring deposit fertile silt; unpredictable, so utilizing complex irrigation necessary p.7 • climate resulted in “the world was controlled by supernatural forces” beliefs
<p>RELIGION: <i>What did this civilization believe? How did it shape their everyday life?</i></p>	
<p>ECONOMY: <i>How did people get what they needed to survive?</i></p>	
<p>ACHIEVEMENTS: <i>What did this civilization create or discover that had a lasting impact?</i></p>	
<p>DIPLOMACY: <i>How was the civilization governed? How did it interact with other civilizations?</i></p>	
<p>SOCIETY: <i>What was daily life like? How were different groups of people viewed?</i></p>	
<p>FOCUS QUESTION: <i>What elements do you notice being key to a civilizations potential rise and success? Why?</i></p>	