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Easy Language

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跟着 美国课本 学英文阅读

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本书精选美国课堂教材，内容广泛，涉及历史、人文、科学、数学、语言、艺术等多个方面，通过跨学科学习，学习者可以深入了解各类趣味知识，扩展知识面。

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江苏凤凰科学技术出版社

跟着



美国课本
学英文阅读



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图书在版编目 (CIP) 数据

跟着美国课本学英文阅读. 3 / (美) 普特莱克著 ;
于妍译. — 南京 : 江苏凤凰科学技术出版社, 2018.11
(易人外语)

ISBN 978-7-5537-9573-7

I. ①跟… II. ①普… ②于… III. ①英语 - 阅读教
学 - 自学参考资料 IV. ①H319.4

中国版本图书馆CIP数据核字(2018)第185575号

跟着美国课本学英文阅读3

著 者	[美]普特莱克
译 者	于 妍
责任编辑	葛 昀
责任监制	曹叶平 方 晨

出版发行	江苏凤凰科学技术出版社
出版社地址	南京市湖南路1号A楼, 邮编: 210009
出版社网址	http://www.pspress.cn
印 刷	北京旭丰源印刷技术有限公司

开 本	718 mm × 1 000 mm 1/16
印 张	10.5
版 次	2018年11月第1版
印 次	2018年11月第1次印刷

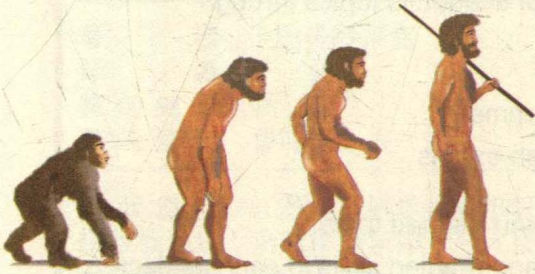
标准书号	ISBN 978-7-5537-9573-7
定 价	45.00元

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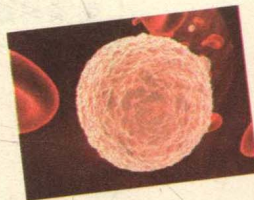
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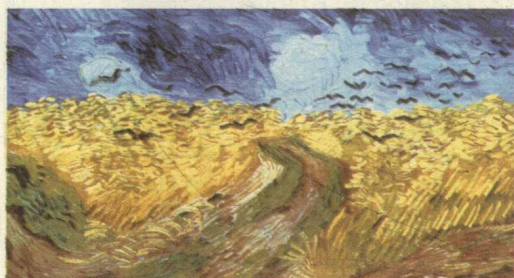
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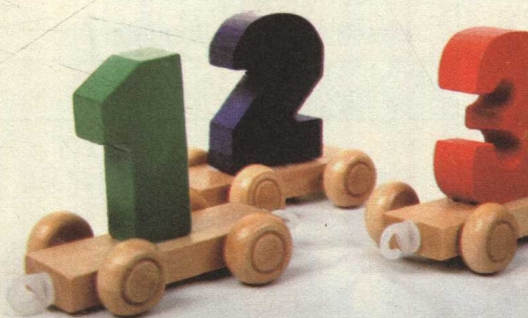
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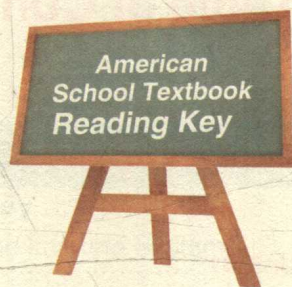
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The Best Preparation for Building Academic Reading Skills and Vocabulary



The Reading Key series is designed to help students to understand American school textbooks and to develop background knowledge in a wide variety of academic topics. This series also provides learners with the opportunity to enhance their reading comprehension skills and vocabulary, which will assist them when they take various English exams.

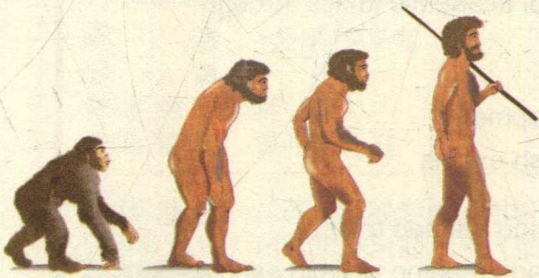
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- A wide variety of topics that cover American school subjects helps learners expand their knowledge of academic topics through interdisciplinary studies
- Intensive practice for reading skill development helps learners prepare for various English exams
- Building vocabulary by school subjects and themed texts helps learners expand their vocabulary and reading skills in each subject
- Graphic organizers for each passage show the structure of the passage and help to build summary skills
- Captivating pictures and illustrations related to the topics help learners gain a broader understanding of the topics and key concepts

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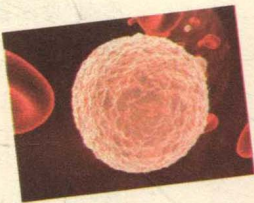
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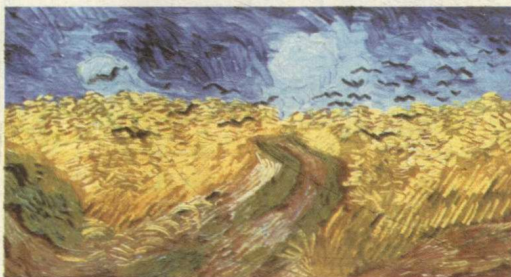
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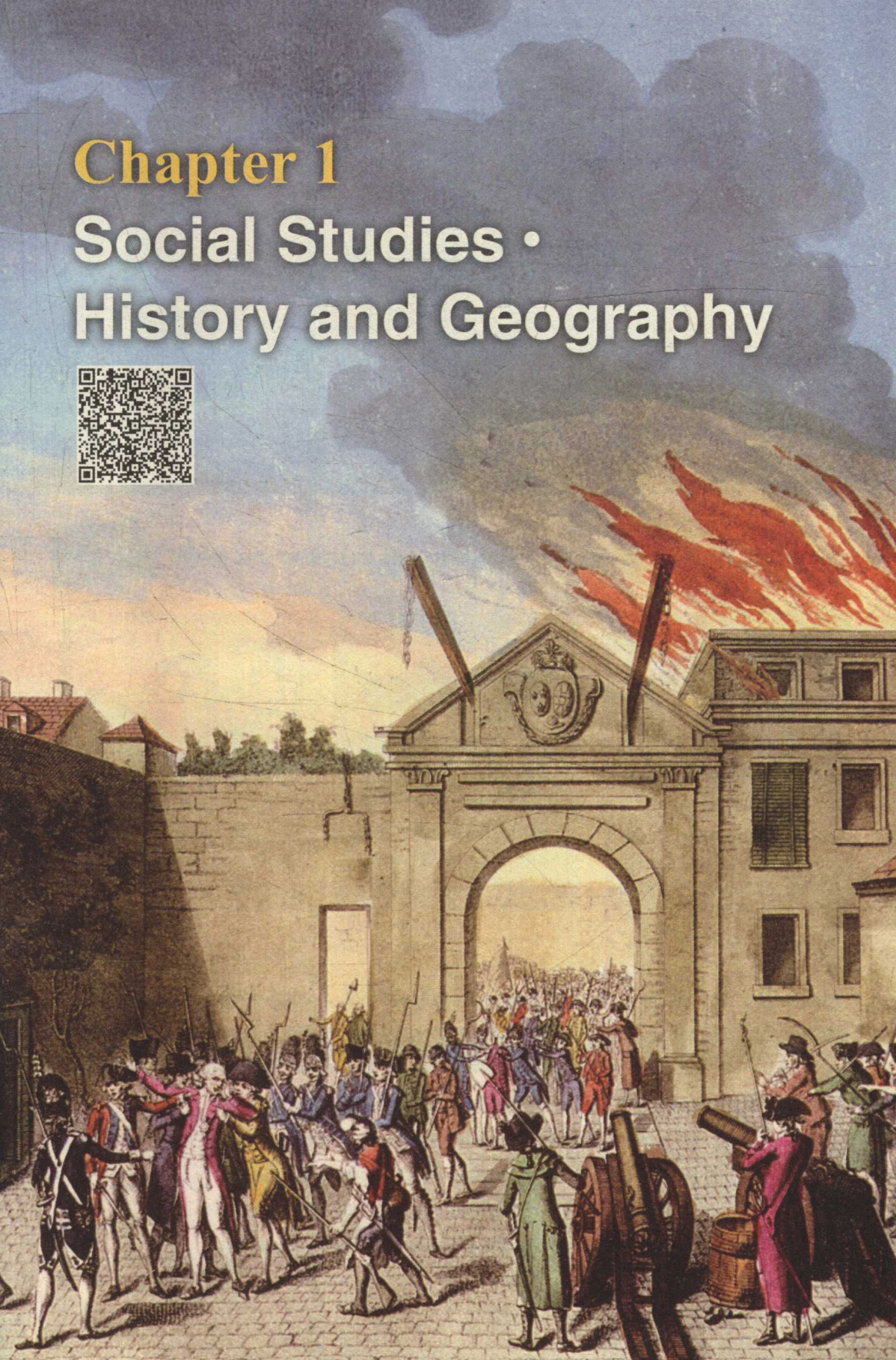
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	World History and Culture	The Fertile Crescent and the Kingdoms of Egypt
	World History and Culture	The Indus Civilization
	World History and Culture	Ancient Greece
	World History and Culture	The Roman Empire
	World History and Culture	From the Middle Ages to the Reformation
	World History and Culture	The Enlightenment and the French Revolution
Science	A World of Living Things	Cells, Reproduction, and Heredity
	The Earth's Oceans	Oceans and Ocean Life
	Our Earth	What We Can Learn from Fossils
	Force and Motion	Newton's Laws
	Matter and Energy	Light Energy
	The Universe	Eclipses
	The Human Body	Diseases and the Immune System
Mathematics	Numbers and Computation	Factors, Prime Numbers, and Exponents
	Geometry	Dimensions
Language and Literature	Literature	Pygmalion
	Language Arts	Sentences
Visual Arts	Visual Arts	From Baroque Art to Pop Art
Music	A World of Music	Gregorian Chants and Polyphonic Music

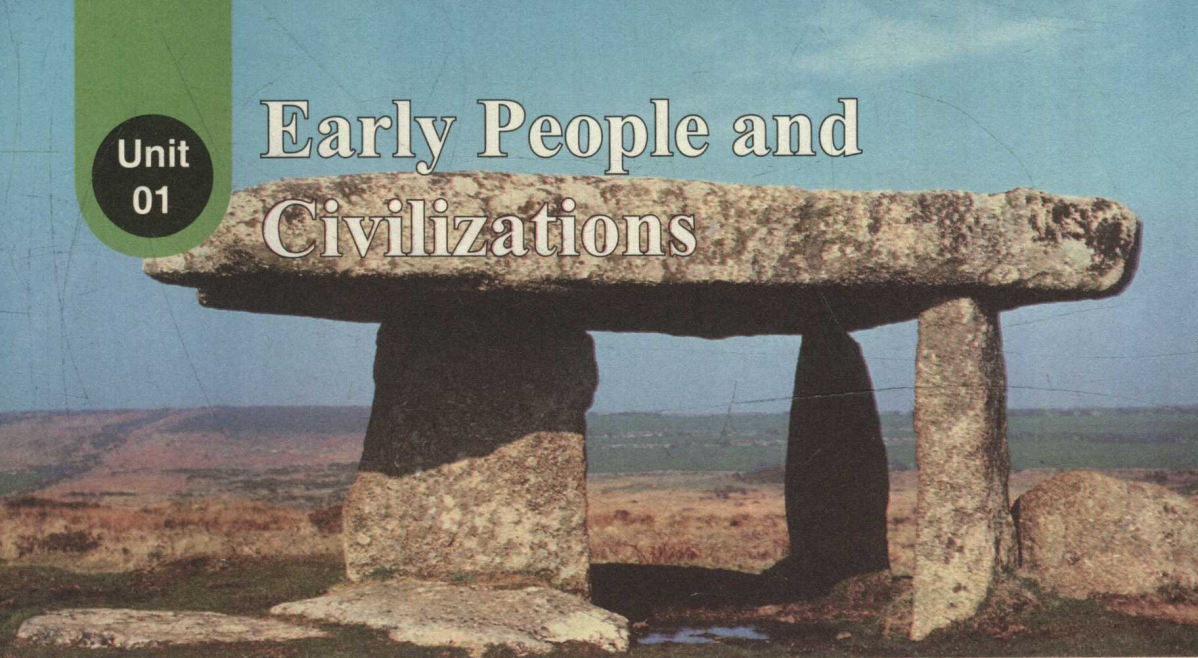
Chapter 1

Social Studies •

History and Geography



Early People and Civilizations

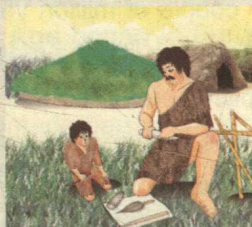


Visual Preview

What are some of the prehistoric ages in human history?



During the Stone Age, humans were hunter-gatherers who made simple tools from stone.



During the Bronze Age, humans learned to make tools from bronze.



During the Iron Age, humans learned to make tools from iron and began to develop real civilizations.

● **Vocabulary Preview** | Write the correct word next to its meaning.

Ice Age Bronze Age Stone Age Iron Age hunter-gatherer

1. _____ : the period when much of the Earth was cold and covered with glaciers
2. _____ : the period when humans only used simple tools
3. _____ : the period when humans learned to work with copper and tin
4. _____ : the period when humans learned to work with iron
5. _____ : a person who hunts animals and gathers wild plants for food



Early People



▲ primitive humans

A couple of million years ago, **primitive** humans were nothing like the modern humans of today. They were simplistic creatures that shared characteristics with both humans and apes. For much of this time, the Earth was extremely cold. It **endured** a very long **Ice Age**. During the Ice Age, much of the Earth's surface was covered by huge sheets of ice called glaciers. However, around 12,500 years ago, the Ice Age ended. The ice and glaciers receded. And humans began to evolve, to spread out, and to become more civilized.

Archaeologists have created a three-age system to describe **prehistoric** cultures. They are the Stone Age, the Bronze Age and the Iron Age.

The **Stone Age** is often divided into the Old Stone Age and the New Stone Age. The Old Stone Age was the first part of the Stone Age and began around 2,000,000 B.C. The New Stone Age was the last part of the Stone Age and began around 10,000 B.C.

During the Old Stone Age, humans lived as **hunter-gatherers**. They hunted animals and gathered wild plants

for food. People could only make simple tools out of stone. Yet people learned how to make fire during this age. Having fire changed humans' lives a lot. Fire provided light and helped people stay warm. Most of all, people could cook their food.

In the New Stone Age, there began to be some more improvements. People learned to farm the land. People also learned to **domesticate** wild animals such as dogs, sheep, and goats. Some people began to settle in villages where there was **fertile soil** for farming. Since they could grow their own crops and raise their own animals, they no longer had to live as **nomads**. However, they still used stone tools, so this time is called the New Stone Age.

Around 3000 B.C., the **Bronze Age** began in some parts of the world. During it, humans started working with soft metals such as copper and tin. They learned how to create tools and weapons out of bronze. And pottery became more common during this time.

Around 1500 B.C., the **Iron Age** began in Europe. Of course, it started earlier in some places and later in other places. During the Iron Age, humans began working with iron. Also, the first real cities began to appear, and trade between cities became more commonplace. It was during this age that human civilization started to develop much more quickly than ever before.



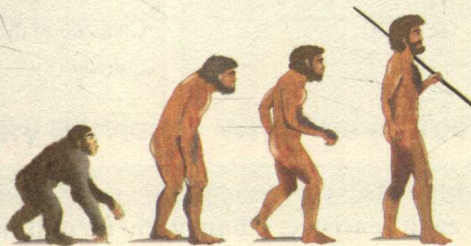
▲ a vessel from the Stone Age



▲ primitive art



▲ primitive tools



◀ the evolution of human beings

Quick Check

Check T (True) or F (False)

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1. The Stone Age happened before the Iron Age. | T | F |
| 2. During the New Stone Age, people learned to tame some animals. | T | F |
| 3. The Iron Age began in Europe around 3000 B.C. | T | F |

• Main Idea and Details

1. What is the passage mainly about?

- The different ages that prehistoric humans lived in.
- The achievements of Bronze and Iron Age humans.
- How the Ice Age affected the progress of humans.

2. People learned to farm and started to live in villages in the _____.

- Old Stone Age
- New Stone Age
- Bronze Age

3. How did fire help change humans' lives?

- They used it to farm the land.
- They were able to cook their food with it.
- They stopped living lives as nomads.

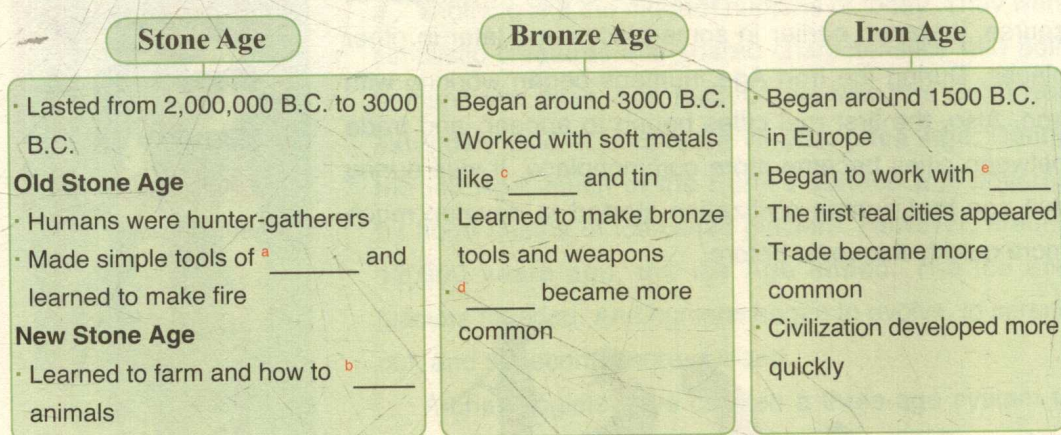
4. What does **endured** mean?

- approached
- practiced
- experienced

5. Complete the sentences.

- When the Ice Age ended, the ice and _____ began to recede.
- During the _____, humans learned to make tools out of copper and tin.
- The first real cities started to appear during the _____.

6. Complete the outline.



• Vocabulary Review Complete each sentence. Change the form if necessary.

primitive prehistoric domesticate fertile soil nomad

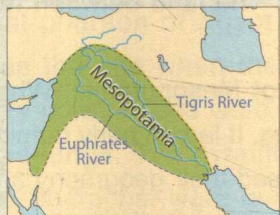
- Because some areas had _____, humans could easily farm the land.
- The _____ wandered on the grasslands while following herds of animals.
- During _____ times, there were no written records of human accomplishments.
- The word _____ means to tame or raise animals.
- _____ humans were simple hunter-gatherers who had few skills.

Unit 02

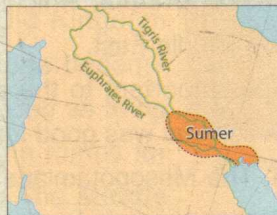
Rivers and Civilizations

Visual Preview

What are some ancient civilizations that were located beside rivers?



Ancient Mesopotamia was located between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers.



Sumer was also located by the Tigris and Euphrates rivers.

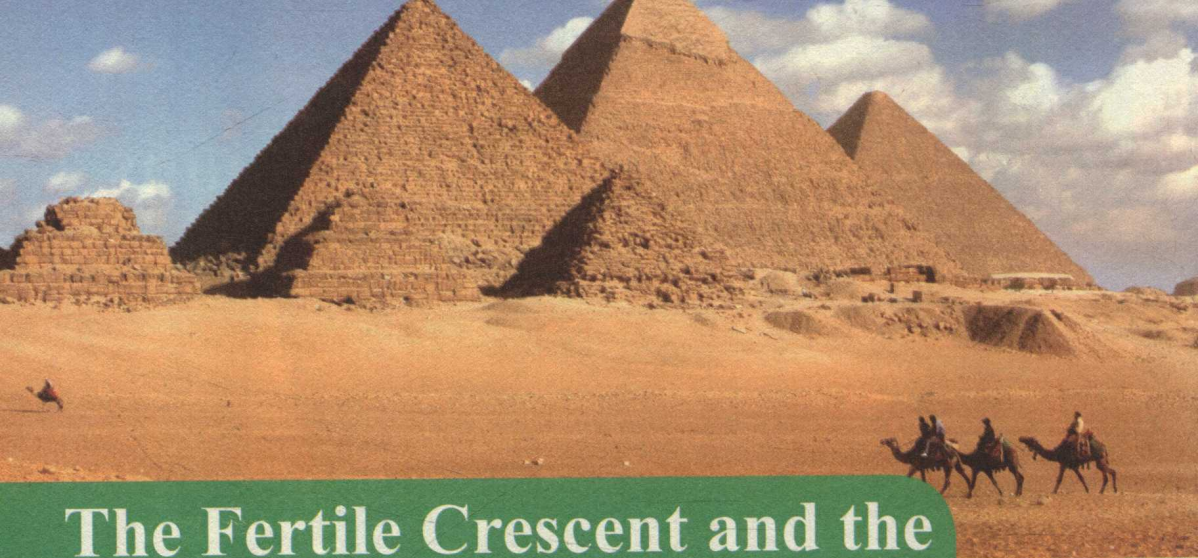


The civilization of ancient Egypt arose around the Nile River in Africa.

● Vocabulary Preview | Write the correct word next to its meaning.

Mesopotamia ancient Egypt Fertile Crescent cuneiform polytheism

1. _____ : an ancient region located between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers
2. _____ : an early civilization in the Fertile Crescent whose name means "the land between two rivers"
3. _____ : the civilization that was centered on the Nile River
4. _____ : the belief in many gods and goddesses
5. _____ : a writing system created by the Sumerians



The Fertile Crescent and the Kingdoms of Egypt

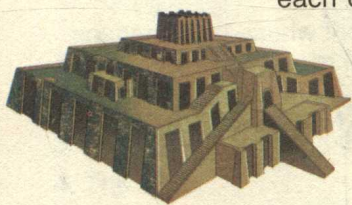
One of the world's first civilizations began in the **Fertile Crescent** in Southwest Asia. The Fertile Crescent region lies between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers. Later, people called this area **Mesopotamia**, which means "the land between two rivers." Today, we call this area the Middle East.

The two rivers were extremely important to the people of Mesopotamia. When these rivers flooded, they left rich soil that was good for farming. It led an early farming civilization to **arise** in this region. The Mesopotamians also used their geography and resources to their advantage. Mesopotamian farmers learned to use the waters of the Tigris and Euphrates to **irrigate** dry fields by using canals and pipes. They also constructed dams to store water in artificial lakes. They caught fish in the rivers and raised animals for food and clothing as well. By 3000 B.C., Mesopotamia's villages had grown into larger cities and eventually developed into city-states. Many of these city-states in southern Mesopotamia became known as Sumer.

The Sumerians had a very advanced civilization. They developed a **writing system** called **cuneiform** even before the ancient Egyptians created hieroglyphics. They practiced **polytheism** and built a massive **ziggurat** for their gods and goddesses in each city. They also developed basic mathematics and created the

12-month calendar that we use today. After the fall of Sumer, many empires rose and fell in Mesopotamia. Babylonia, Assyria, Hittite, and ancient Israel were all civilizations that were established there.

Around the same time, another great civilization was being



▲ ziggurat