



**CALIFORNIA CONTENT
STANDARD 6.2**

Ancient River Civilizations (3500 B.C.–700s B.C.)

Overall Objective: Analyze the geographic, political, economic, religious, and social structures of the early civilizations of Mesopotamia, Egypt, and Kush.

Read the chart below to answer questions on the next page.

	Mesopotamia	Egypt	Kush
Geography	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flooding of Tigris and Euphrates rivers left fertile soil. Flooding was unpredictable. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flooding of Nile River left fertile soil. Flooding was predictable. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A wetter climate allowed agriculture to extend beyond valley of the Nile.
Economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> farming trade of surplus (extra) grain in exchange for other resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> farming and fishing trade with Africa, Arabia, and Mediterranean 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> center of trade network trade of ivory, animal skins, timber, and minerals trade along Nile
Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Priests, then kings, ruled early city-states. Hammurabi's law code organized all law. Law code was harsh but protected rights of people. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upper and Lower Egypt united around 3000 B.C. theocracy: ruled by a pharaoh, or god-king 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kush conquered Egypt in 700s B.C. Kush pharaohs ruled.
Culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> top: kings, priests, landowners, officials, merchants middle: farmers and artisans bottom: enslaved people; could not change rank women: landowners, artisans, priestesses, merchants writing: cuneiform, wedge writing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> top: pharaoh, priests, nobles, scribes, officials middle: artisans, merchants, farmers bottom: laborers, enslaved people; could change rank women: equal rights writing: hieroglyphics, picture writing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Egyptian-influenced art and architecture Egyptian customs, clothing, language, and writing system
Science & Technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> irrigation plow and wheel geometry principles to build irrigation systems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> irrigation first practical calendar papyrus surgery 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> smelting iron ore to obtain pure iron
Religion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> many gods bleak view of death priests with social power large temples called ziggurats 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> many gods life after death priests with social power pyramids, tombs for afterlife embalming, preserving bodies for life after death 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Egyptian and Kush gods combined

