

Name:

Date:

Class Period:

ANCIENT CIVILIZATIONS GEOGRAPHY STUDY GUIDE

1. List the important body or bodies of water for each civilization

Mesopotamia: **Tigris and Euphrates Rivers**

Egypt: **Nile River**

Indus Valley (India): **Indus and Ganges Rivers**

China: **Yellow River and Yangtze River**

Greece: **Mediterranean Sea**

Rome: **Mediterranean Sea and Tiber River**

2. Define the terms

Monsoon: **seasonal winds that bring moist air for part of the year and dry air the rest of the year**

Cataract: **rapids along the Nile**

Red Lands: **refers to the desert region of Egypt**

Black Lands: **refers to the area along the Nile River where silt deposits create fertile soil**

Aqueduct: **technology used by the Ancient Romans to bring fresh water into their city**

Chinampa: **floating gardens built by the Aztecs to increase their amount of farmable land**

Delta: **triangle shaped area located at the mouth of a river**

3. Answer the following questions

How did the people of the Indus Valley (India) design their cities to adapt to their environment

and climate? **They built their cities in a grid like pattern that allowed sewers and fresh water to run through their cities. They built buildings with flat roofs so people could catch the breeze in the hot climate.**

How did the Incas move people, goods and ideas around their civilization? **The Inca built roads and rope bridges across their civilization. They had a messenger system that worked like a relay race. They also lit giant bonfires to warn cities of danger. They used llamas to transport goods.**

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How did ancient river valley civilizations control the flooding of the rivers? **They built dams and levees to protect their cities from the floods.**

Why was the Yellow River sometimes called “China’s Sorrow”? **It’s yearly flooding has been responsible for the death of millions of people.**

What geographic factors contributed to China’s isolation from the rest of the world? **The mountains and deserts were impassable making it almost impossible for people from China to access the countries around them or for people from outside China to get to them.**

4. Complete the chart

Civilization	What challenges did the geography cause for the people in this civilization?	How did they adapt to their geographic challenges
Mesopotamia	Each year, the rivers flooded	They built dams and levees to control the flooding and built canals to channel the water for irrigation
Egypt	Each year the Nile flooded It was impossible to grow crops in the desert region around the Nile Cataracts made trade and travel on the river difficult	They built dams to control flooding They built their cities along the banks of the Nile and the Nile Delta
China	The mountains and deserts isolated China The Yellow River flooded Part of China was mountainous	China developed a unique culture and many technologies and inventions themselves Built dams and levees They terrace farmed
Greece	Very mountainous Rocky soil	Developed small, separate city-states instead of one united civilization Relied on the sea for fish and trade
Rome	Lack access to fresh water	Built aqueducts to bring fresh water into the cities from the mountains
Maya	Lack of farmland and land to build homes due to dense rainforest Lack of freshwater Mountains make it hard to farm	Slash and burn Built reservoirs to collect rainwater Terrace farming
Aztec	Swampy island in the middle of the lake - lack of farmland	Built floating gardens to increase amount of farmland (chinampas) Built causeways to get on and off island and canals to get around island

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Inca	Mountainous terrain	Terrace farmed and used canals to bring fresh water to crops Built rope bridges and roads to get around the mountains
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