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# 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<br>It was impossible to grow crops in the desert region around the Nile<br>Cataracts made trade and travel on the river difficult | They built dams to control flooding<br>They built their cities along the banks of the Nile and the Nile Delta  |
| China        | The mountains and deserts isolated China<br>The Yellow River flooded<br>Part of China was mountainous  | China made technologies and inventions<br><b>Built dams and levees</b><br><b>They terrace farmed</b>   |
| Greece       | Very mountainous<br>Rocky soil   | Developed small, separate city-states instead of one united civilization<br>Relied on the sea for fish and trade   |
| Rome         | Lack access to fresh water   | Built <b>aqueducts</b> to bring fresh water into the cities from the mountains   |
| Maya         | Lack of farmland and land to build homes due to dense rainforest<br>Lack of freshwater<br>Mountains make it hard to farm                                     | Slash and burn<br>Built reservoirs to collect rainwater<br>Terrace farming   |
| Aztec        | Swampy island in the middle of the lake - lack of farmland   | Built floating gardens to increase amount of farmland ( <b>chinampas</b> )<br>Built <b>causeways</b> to get on and off island and <b>canals</b> to get around island |

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