Mesopotamia:
- Means "land between the rivers"
- Physical features = Tigris River, Euphrates River
- Natural resources = fertile soil called silt was deposited when rivers flooded
- Built canals from the river to irrigate the land to grow crops; built dams and levees to protect cities from flooding
- Moved ideas about fertilization and construction
- Invented wheel and plow

Egypt:
- Nile River
- Crops were easier to grow because they used the river to irrigate fields
- Physical features = desert, river, climate was very hot and dry
- It is in the northeast part of Africa
- Challenges = heat, hard to grow crops in the desert region; hard to find cool/appropriate shelter; the Nile flooded
- Built dams to keep Nile from flooding land

Indus Valley:

- Physical features = Himalayan Mountains, Indus River, Ganges River, Arabian Sea
- Natural resources = teak wood, monsoons were large rain storms that helped water the crops, wheat and barley
- Challenges = hot climate, flooding
- Adapted by finding ways to irrigate, moved the water from the river to water the crops, built sewer system, put flat roofs on their buildings so breeze would cool down area, cities were built in grid pattern to run canals and sewer system efficiently

China:

- Moved people, goods, and ideas along the Silk Road; it was called the Silk Road because the Chinese sold silk along this road; China was only place to have silk because they couldn't export silkworms
- Physical features = deserts, rivers (Yellow and Yangtze), Himalayan Mountains
- Challenges = there were a variety of temperatures throughout the civilization that impacted farming; isolated by others because they were surrounded by physical features that were difficult to navigate (mountains and deserts)
- Adapted by building dams and levees and using terrace farming

Greece:

- Cities = Athens, Sparta, Thebes
- Physical features = Mediterranean Sea, mountains
- Climate = hot, dry
- Traded with other civilizations around the Mediterranean Sea; fishing was a resource and provided jobs
- Challenges = mountains had little fertile soil and wasn't good for farming; mudslides were possible due to mountainous geography
- Natural resources = coal, ore, nickel, fish
- Adapted by building smaller city-states within Greece, not one big civilization like others did

Rome (was an empire, now a city in Italy):

- Physical features = mountains, Tiber River, Seven Hills
- Natural resources = precious metals, wood, prey (animals to hunt)
- Used aqueducts to bring fresh water to the city
- Challenges = disease, floods, did not have fresh water

Mayan Civilization

Physical Features:

- Mountains
- Rivers
- Peninsula (surrounded by water on 3 sides)

Natural Resources:

- Jade
- Gold, copper, obsidian, clay
- Produced corn, peppers, other crops

How did they adapt/modify the environment:

- Terrace farming; slash and burn forests to make soil richer for farming
- Dug holes in steps to grow crops

Challenges:

- Lack of farmland due to rainforest and mountains; lack of freshwater

Incas:

Physical features:
- Andes Mountains
- very mountainous terrain
- Amazon rainforest
- Coastline deserts

Challenges:
- Difficult to farm and grow crops

Ways adapted/modified environment:
- Built roads and rope bridges to move goods and people (and ideas)
- Had messenger system that worked like a relay race
- Had big bonfires to warn others of danger
- Llamas to move goods around regions
- Used terrace farming and built canals

<u>Aztecs:</u>

Physical features = swamp; lake; basins, volcanoes, plateaus

Natural resources = fish, duck, obsidian, volcanic ash

Challenges = flooding; lack of farmland; swampy; climate was drastically different in the different areas of civilization

Adapted to geography = chinampas or floating gardens so they would have more farmland; use canals and causeways to get around island/area