

## Fertile Crescent Review: Lessons 1-8

**A** <sup>1</sup>The oldest urban civilizations existed in the Fertile Crescent. <sup>2</sup>Within the Fertile Crescent, the land between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers was called Mesopotamia. <sup>3</sup>These two rivers, and the Nile River, provided abundant resources for early civilizations.

**B** <sup>4</sup>Nearly all Fertile Crescent peoples were polytheistic and had strict class systems. <sup>5</sup>Powerful families dominated society, and it was impossible to move up economically.

**C** <sup>6</sup>Sumer was a collection of city-states. <sup>7</sup>Sumerians developed the first system of writing, called cuneiform, used wheeled vehicles, and created a lunar calendar.

**D** <sup>8</sup>The Babylonian Empire lasted for about three hundred years. <sup>9</sup>Its most important contribution was Hammurabi’s Code, a set of written laws that were publicly displayed. <sup>10</sup>The laws provided for protections and an orderly society that did not change with different rulers. <sup>11</sup>Written law is found in all important western civilizations from this point on.

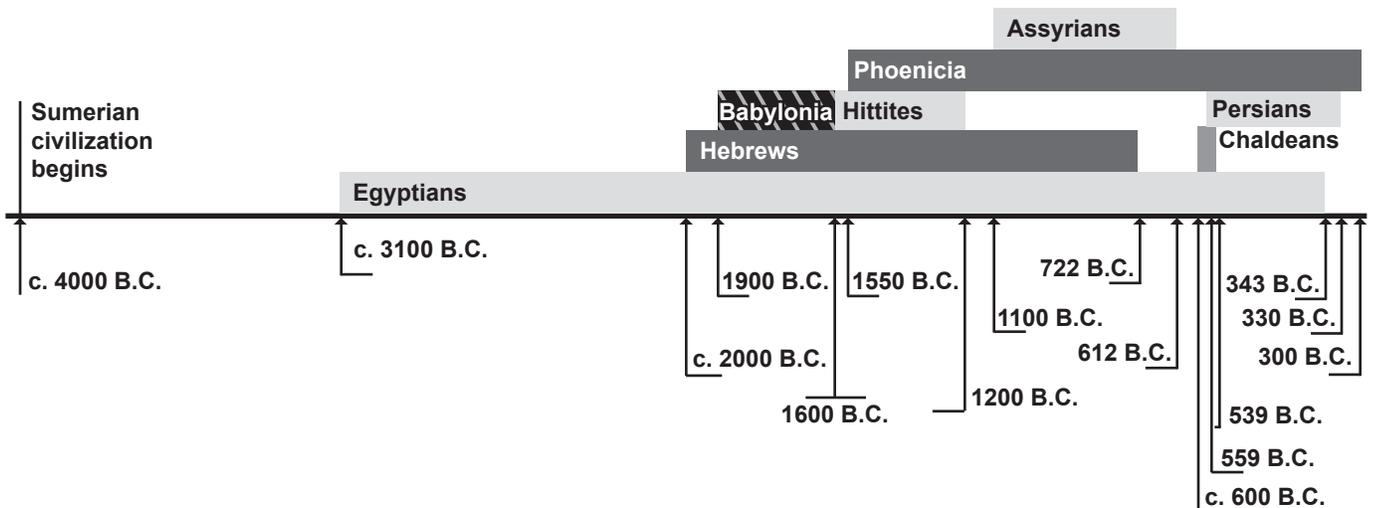
**E** <sup>12</sup>The Hittites conquered the Babylonians with superior iron weapons. <sup>13</sup>Hittite laws were also publicly displayed, but differed from Hammurabi’s Code: instead of severe physical punishments, fines were levied when the law was broken.

**F** <sup>14</sup>The Phoenicians established a society of merchants and sea traders on the Mediterranean Sea. <sup>15</sup>The Phoenicians also developed the world’s first alphabet; all words could be represented by 22 symbols. <sup>16</sup>The Phoenician alphabet became the basis for written languages in Greece, Rome, Europe, India, and parts of Asia.

**G** <sup>17</sup>The Hebrews were the first monotheists. <sup>18</sup>According to the Tanakh, the Hebrew Bible, God told Abraham he would be the father of a great nation and then later God gave Moses 613 laws, known as the Torah. <sup>19</sup>Among these were the Ten Commandments.

**H** <sup>20</sup>The Hebrew Kingdom was at its height under Kings Saul, David, and Solomon. <sup>21</sup>Judaism, the religion of the ancient Hebrews, is the foundation for religious belief in the western world and predates Christianity and Islam.

**I** <sup>22</sup>The Assyrians built a large empire using a cavalry and the battering ram. <sup>23</sup>Assyrian King Ashurbanipal built a large library in Ninevah and Assyrians built the ziggurat, a pyramid shaped temple.



**J** <sup>24</sup>The Chaldean's Empire lasted for around sixty years. <sup>25</sup>They were the first to divide a circle into 360 degrees and among the first to invent and use longitude and latitude. <sup>26</sup>The Chaldeans developed astrology, the study of the position of planets and stars. <sup>27</sup>King Nebuchadnezzar built the Hanging Gardens of Babylon.

**K** <sup>28</sup>The Persians conquered all of the Fertile Crescent, parts of India, and much of Southeastern Europe in the west. <sup>29</sup>The Persians managed their empire using the 1,500-mile-long "Royal Road." <sup>30</sup>Persians believed in Zoroastrianism: they professed one god, Ahura Mazda, who represented good; and another god, Ahriman, who represented evil.

**L** <sup>31</sup>Along the banks of the Nile River, Egypt built an empire spanning 3,000 years until the fourth century B.C. <sup>32</sup>Egyptians were skilled farmers, mathematicians, surveyors, and builders. <sup>33</sup>They invented a system of geometry and a number system based on the number 10. <sup>34</sup>The Egyptians invented hieroglyphics and later made the Rosetta Stone which allowed modern man to read them.

---

## Questions

---

1. This lesson suggests one reason for the emergence of ancient civilizations in the Fertile Crescent was:
  - a. the belief in one God.
  - b. the invention of the lunar calendar.
  - c. the development of writing.
  - d. the existence of major rivers.

Which sentence best supports the answer?

\_\_\_\_\_

2. What is one thing Hammurabi's Code and Hittite laws had in common?
  - a. They were both written in cuneiform.
  - b. They both could be read by citizens.
  - c. They were both used by the Hittites.
  - d. If any law was broken, fines had to be paid.

Which sentences best support the answer?

\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_

3. Number the following in chronological order.
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_ The Hittites
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_ The Sumerians
  - c. \_\_\_\_\_ The Chaldeans
  - d. \_\_\_\_\_ The Hebrew empire ends.

4. Mark each statement T for true or F for false.
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_ Cuneiform, the Phoenician alphabet, and hieroglyphics were invented by Fertile Crescent civilizations.

Which sentences best support the answer?

\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_

- b. \_\_\_\_\_ The Persians were monotheists.

Which sentence best supports the answer?

\_\_\_\_\_

- c. \_\_\_\_\_ The Egyptian Empire lasted longer than any other Fertile Crescent empire.

Which sentence best supports the answer?

\_\_\_\_\_

- d. \_\_\_\_\_ Buddhism was the Hebrew religion.

Which sentence best supports the answer?

\_\_\_\_\_

5. What is one thing all the civilizations of the Fertile Crescent shared in common?

---



---

- 6. Hebrews believe the Ten Commandments are thought to have originated from:
  - a. King Nebuchadnezzar.
  - b. God.
  - c. Abraham.
  - d. Moses.

Which sentences best support the answer?

\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_

- 7. Mark each statement F for fact or O for opinion.
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_ The Hebrews are the most important people of the Fertile Crescent civilizations.
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_ The Chaldeans were the best mathematicians of the Fertile Crescent civilizations.
  - c. \_\_\_\_\_ The Egyptians had the longest lasting political organization of the Fertile Crescent civilizations.
  - d. \_\_\_\_\_ Sounds represented by characters are more useful than ideas represented by pictures, because new words can be created by combining characters together.

- 8. Which society was known for having the technology to break city walls?
  - a. Sumerians
  - b. Hebrews
  - c. Assyrians
  - d. Egyptians

Which sentence best supports the answer?

\_\_\_\_\_

- 9. Where did the Phoenicians create trading routes?
  - a. Mediterranean Sea
  - b. Nile River
  - c. Tigris River
  - d. Euphrates River

Which sentence best supports the answer?

\_\_\_\_\_

### Written Response Question

- 10. What is one important contribution from each ancient civilization?

Sumerians: \_\_\_\_\_

Babylonian Empire: \_\_\_\_\_

Hittites: \_\_\_\_\_

Phoenicians: \_\_\_\_\_

Hebrews: \_\_\_\_\_

Assyrians: \_\_\_\_\_

Chaldeans: \_\_\_\_\_

Persians: \_\_\_\_\_

Egyptians: \_\_\_\_\_

## Fertile Crescent Review: Lessons 1-8 Answers

1. d, sentence 3
2. b, sentences 9, 13
3. a. 2  
b. 1  
c. 4  
d. 3
4. a. T, sentences 7, 15, 34  
b. F, sentence 30  
c. T, sentence 31  
d. F, sentence 21
5. Key points: They settled along the Tigris, Euphrates, or Nile rivers.
6. b, sentences 18, 19
7. a. O  
b. O  
c. F  
d. O
8. c, sentence 22
9. a, sentence 14
10. Key points:

Sumerians: created the world's first wheeled vehicles.  
Also acceptable: They created the first system of writing.

Babylonian Empire: contributed Hammurabi's Code (written laws).

Hittites: laws were written and publicly displayed.

Phoenicians: established a great trading center.  
Also acceptable: The first alphabet.

Hebrews: were the first monotheists.

Assyrians: army used horses and the battering ram to conquer other peoples.  
Also acceptable: They had a large library and built the ziggurat.

Chaldeans: divided the circle into 360 degrees.  
Also acceptable: They developed astrology.

Persians: built the Royal Road.

Egyptians: invented a system of geometry and a number system based on the number 10.  
Also acceptable: The Rosetta Stone allowed modern man to read hieroglyphics.