

Histories and Stories of Ways of Life in Ancient Civilizations

This worksheet helps you learn how ancient civilizations began. It shows how they grew and changed over time. You will see how their ways of life connect to our world today ([Topic](#), [Outcome](#)). You will study geography, government, trade, and social systems. These topics help you understand how people lived long ago. ([Outcome](#), [Outcome](#), [Outcome](#)).

Exercises

1. Matching: Civilizations and Rivers

Ancient civilizations often grew near rivers and coastlines. The land there was good for farming and travel ([Details](#)). Rivers gave people water for crops and for drinking. Coastlines helped people fish. They also helped people trade with other groups. Draw a line to match each civilization to the land feature that helped it grow.

Civilization	Geographic Feature
Egypt	A. Nile River valley with rich soil for farming
Greece	B. Coastline for trade and travel
China	C. Yellow River valley with rich soil for farming

2. Fill in the Blank: Rise and Fall

Use the word bank to finish each sentence. The sentences tell why civilizations rise and fall. ([Details](#)).

Word bank: leadership, environmental, innovations, rebellions

- a) Strong _____ can help a civilization grow powerful.
- b) New _____, such as writing or farming tools, can help a society succeed.
- c) _____ changes, like drought or flooding, can weaken a civilization.
- d) Uprisings called _____ can cause a civilization to decline.

3. Multiple Choice: Trade and Contact

Circle the best answer.

Which of these is a trade route? A trade route connected ancient civilizations. It let goods and ideas travel over long distances. ([Details](#))

- A) An irrigation canal
- B) The Silk Road
- C) A modern highway
- D) A local market

4. Short Answer: Primary and Secondary Sources

Historians and archaeologists use different kinds of evidence to learn about the past ([Details](#)). A **primary source** is an original document, artifact, or record. It was made during the time period being studied. An artifact is an object made by people long ago. A **secondary source** is a book or article written later. Someone who was not there writes it.

a) What is one example of a primary source a historian might study?

b) Why might our understanding of an ancient civilization change when new evidence is found?

5. Matching: Government Types

Match each type of government or social system to its description. Monarchy and dictatorship are forms of authoritarian government. In an authoritarian government, one leader or a small group holds all the power. An egalitarian system is a social system. In this system, power does not depend on gender.

Type of Government	Description
Monarchy	A. Ruled by a single leader who inherits power
Dictatorship	B. Ruled by one leader or a small group who took control by force
Egalitarian system	C. Power is not based on gender

6. Short Answer: Social Classes

In many ancient civilizations, society was split into social classes. Different classes had different amounts of power and freedom. For example, rulers and nobles had the most power. Farmers and workers had less power. Some people were enslaved. They had no freedom at all. ([Details](#)).

a) Describe one opportunity that people in the highest social class might have had.

b) Describe one challenge that people in a lower social class might have faced.

Answer key

1. Egypt, A, Greece, B, China, C ([Details](#))
2. a) leadership, b) innovations, c) environmental, d) rebellions ([Details](#))
3. B) The Silk Road ([Details](#))
4. a) Examples include an ancient artifact, building, or written record from the time period; b) New evidence or technology can change how historians interpret the past ([Details](#))
5. Monarchy, A, Dictatorship, B, Egalitarian system, C ([Details](#))
6. a) Examples include more wealth, education, or decision-making power; b) Examples include less freedom, fewer rights, or harder labour ([Details](#))