

Part 1: Cultural Blocks and Anchor Facts

1. Draw a diagram of the cardinal cultures of world history in the space below. Label the lines, and label the diagram with the dates of the three cardinal anchor facts of ancient Egypt & Mesopotamia.

Part 2: Ancient Egypt

2. The ancient Greek historian Herodotus called Egypt “the gift of the river.” How did the Nile make life possible there? In what setting? How did it contribute to the rise of benevolent despotism in Egypt, and in what form?

3. What were the pyramids to the early Egyptians? Why is later Egyptian history devoid of pyramids, i.e. what was the main challenge of that civilization, and how did it lead to Egypt's downfall?

Part 3: Mesopotamia

4. What famous Mesopotamian king symbolizes benevolent despotism in the region? What are some of the features of his code of laws that reveal how he ruled?

5. What ultimately happened to the combined cultural block of Mesopotamia and Egypt?
