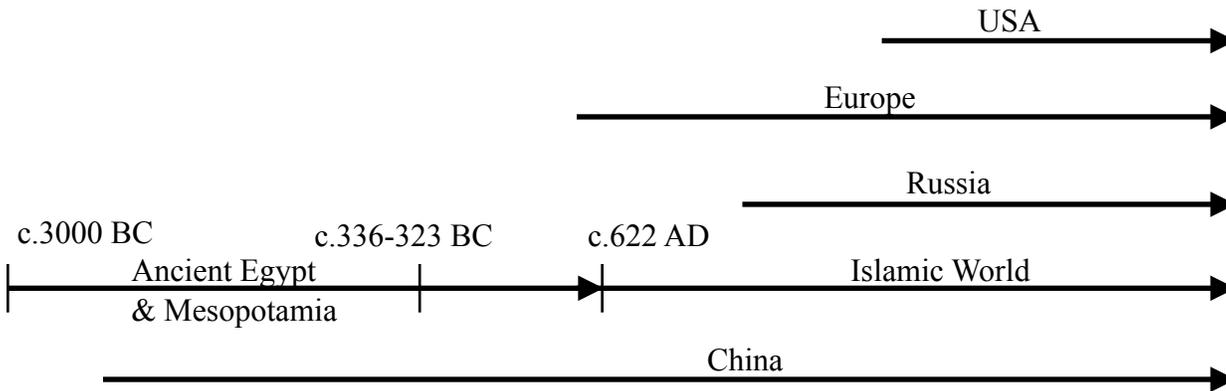


Part 1: Cultural Blocks and Anchor Facts

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.



(6 pts: 2.5 pts for cardinal cultures; 3 pts for anchor facts; 0.5 pts for spelling)

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?

The Nile made life in Egypt manageable by providing water in an otherwise desert setting. This contributed to the rise of a benevolent despotism known as pharaonic monarchy, in which the pharaohs postured as gods who could provide the needed flooding of the river in cooperation with the gods of Egypt so that the people would be able to grow food. In exchange the pharaohs were to be worshiped and followed as leaders. **(4 pts: 1 pt for water; 1 pt for desert setting; 1pt for supernatural benevolent despotism; 1 pt for spelling and grammar)**

Total Points This Page: 10 pts

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?

The pyramids were monument-tombs. They reminded the people of the godhood and power of the pharaohs—their benevolent despots. Later Egyptian history has no pyramids because the pharaohs started hiding their tombs instead. This shows that ostentatious tombs did not serve their purpose. The later period of Egypt is characterized by wars with other peoples, which absorbed too much energy, and ultimately led to the conquest of Egypt by Greece and then Rome...and much later, by Islam. **(4 pts: 1 pt for monument-tombs; 1 pt for change to tombs; 1 pt for wars and conquest; 1 pt for spelling and grammar)**

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?

The famous Hammurabi symbolizes the benevolent despotism of Mesopotamia. His code of laws is known for the tenet “an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth,” which promises that the punishment will fit the crime. The code also says it will protect the weak, but it actually favors the powerful. The most common punishment for crimes is death. **(4 pts: 1 pt for Hammurabi; 2 pts for features of the code; 1 pt for spelling and grammar)**

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

Ultimately the cultural block of Mesopotamia & Egypt was absorbed by Islamic culture. It had already been weakened by the conquests of Alexander the Great and the Romans. When the Roman Empire fell, there was a vacuum of power that was easily filled by the Arabs on their first jihad out of Arabia. **(3 pts: 2 pts for description of fall by conquest, including Islam; 1 pt for spelling and grammar)**

Total Points This Page: 11 pts

Total Points on Quiz: 21 points