**River Valley Civilizations**

**Key Traits of Civilization**

1. Advanced Cities

2. Specialized Workers

3. Complex institutions

4. Record Keeping/writing

5. Advanced Technology

**Mesopotamia**

**(3500 B.C-1700 B.C)**

* The first river valley civilization.
* Developed between the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers (In present day Iraq)
* Mesopotamians were polytheistic, believing in as many as 2,000 different gods.
* Ruled by priest leaders, theocracy.
* Invented the earliest known form of writing, cuneiform.
* Their achievements included the wheel, sailboat and bronze and copper tools.
* The Babylonians the earliest written law code, the code of Hammurabi.

**Egypt (3200 B.C-500 B.C)**

* Located Northeast of Africa.
* The Nile River is the world’s largest and it runs through Egypt.
* The most powerful person in ancient Egypt is the pharaoh (king).
* They believed in preservation of the body for their afterlife.
* Egyptian accomplishments included medicine, pyramids, geometry and astronomy.
* They developed hieroglyphics as their form of writing.

**Indus/India (3300 B.C-1300 B.C)**

 Not much is known since their writing has not been deciphered.

 Farmers grew barley, wheat, dates and melons.

  Trade was an important part of their economy.

**China (4000 B.C)**

 Emerged in the fertile plains along the Huang He( Yellow River)

 It was ruled by a ruling family or a dynasty.

 They developed a form of writing called pictographs.

 They developed silk, superior weapons and superior bronze work.

**theocracy**:  A society governed by religious leaders.

**monarchy**: A system of government in which political power is held by one leader usually inherited.

**Judaism:**

**Judaism-**was the religion of the ancient Hebrews.  It began in the ancients lands now known as Israel.  Moses led Jews out of Egyptian slavery.

**Monotheism-** The belief in one god.

**Old Testament-** History of Jewish people is told in the first books of the Bible, known as the Old Testament.

**Ten Commandments -** Established a moral code of conduct.  This moral code of conduct emphasized living justly, belief in one god, honoring ones parents and not killing or stealing.

**Compare & Contrast Hammurabi’s Code& Judaism’s Ten Commandments:**

**Primary Sources:**original records or first-hand testimony of an event.

**Secondary Sources:**  writings and interpretations of later writings who have reviewed information in primary sources

**Point of View:** author’s opinion or view of the subject (background, education, social position)

**Frame of references:** assumptions under which a person, action or historical document must be understood.

**Historical Context:**the conditions or events taking place at the time the document was written.

**Bias:**a form of prejudice or opinion unsupported by facts.

**Roles of Women**

* Provided education and rearing for young children and their daughters.
* Often did agricultural activities such as crush grain.
* Wealthy women’s rights varied by society, including going to market and owning property.
* Some societies allowed for divorce

**Technological Advancements:**

**Mesopotamia:**

* **Ziggurats**-stepped pyramids
* **Wheel & Sailboat**
* **Metallurgy**-Bronze
* **12 month Calendar**
* **Cuneiform**-stylus marks on clay

**Egypt:**

* **Medicine-**embalming, setting fractures
* **Hieroglyphics**-writing based on picture symbols
* **Pyramids**
* **365 day Calendar-**based on Astronomy

**India:**

* **Urban planning-**public sewers and water supply
* **Cotton cloth**

**China:**

* **Millet-**type of grain
* **Silk textiles**
* **Characters -** pictographs