

Let's Settle Down

Characteristics of Civilization

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Published by *K20 Center*

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Grade Level	9th – 12th Grade	**Time Frame**	90 minutes
Subject	Social Studies	**Duration**	2 periods
Course	World History		

Essential Question

What are the characteristics of a civilization? Why do civilizations develop in certain locations?

Summary

In this lesson, students analyze ancient river civilizations to understand how the environment impacts both human settlement and the characteristics of a civilization. Then, students connect the characteristics of civilization to the one they live in. This is a multimodality lesson, which means it includes face-to-face, online, and hybrid versions of the lesson. The attachments include a downloadable Common Cartridge file, which can be imported into a learning management system (LMS) such as Canvas. The cartridge includes interactive student activities and teacher's notes.

Snapshot

Engage

Students examine a map and choose where they would want to settle.

Explore

Students explore how rivers supported the development of early civilizations.

Explain

Students analyze an ancient river valley civilization.

Extend

Students examine elements of their own civilization.

Evaluate

Students reflect on what they learned about civilizations and respond to the lesson's essential questions.

Standards

ACT College and Career Readiness Standards - Reading (6-12)

IDT402: Identify a clear central idea or theme in somewhat challenging passages or their paragraphs
REL402: Identify clear comparative relationships in somewhat challenging passages

ACT College and Career Readiness Standards - Writing (6-12)

I&A 401: Understanding the task and writing with purpose. A score in this range indicates that the writer is able to: -Generate a clear thesis that establishes a perspective on a contemporary issue -Engage with other perspectives on the issue

Oklahoma Academic Standards SOCIAL STUDIES (Modern World History)

AWH.C.1.5: Describe how the development of agriculture (the cultivation of crops and the domestication of animals) related to settlement, population growth, and the emergence of civilization.
AWH.C.1.6: Identify the major characteristics of civilizations (e.g., geographic boundaries and political institutions, economies that produce food surpluses, the formation of cities and states, social classes and hierarchical organization, developed systems of religion, learning, art, and architecture, and systems of writing and record keeping).

Oklahoma Academic Standards SOCIAL STUDIES (Modern World History)

MWH.C.1.1: Explain how geographical and environmental factors impacted settlement and cultural development.

Attachments

- Common Cartridge—Let's Settle Down.zip
- Lesson Slides—Let's Settle Down.pptx
- PERSIA—Let's Settle Down.docx
- PERSIA—Let's Settle Down.pdf
- Pick a Place to Settle—Let's Settle Down.docx
- Pick a Place to Settle—Let's Settle Down.pdf
- River Valley Civilizations—Let's Settle Down.docx
- River Valley Civilizations—Let's Settle Down.pdf

Materials

- Lesson Slides (attached)
- PERSIA handout (attached; one copy per three students)
- Large paper or whiteboard
- Pencils or pens
- Student devices with internet access

10 minutes

Engage

Use the attached **Lesson Slides** to guide the lesson. Display **slide 3** and ask students to imagine that they are with a nomadic group of people and need to pick a place to live. Ask them to examine the grid map on the slide and use the map to choose a location to settle. Have them indicate their choice using the coordinates (for example, A5). Invite several students to share out the location they chose and their reasoning for selecting it.

Move through **slides 4–5** to share the essential question and learning objectives for the lesson.

15 minutes

Explore

Display **slide 6** and introduce the I Notice, I Wonder strategy to students. Ask students to examine the image on the slide, which depicts locations of four ancient river civilizations. Ask students to think of something they notice, or observe, and something they wonder, or a question they have. After providing time for students to think, have them discuss what they notice and wonder with a partner. Ask several volunteers to share out what they notice and wonder.

Possible Student Responses

- All four locations are near rivers and large bodies of water.
- All locations are near a coastline.

Move to **slide 7** and share that students will watch a short video on farming. Share that they should consider how farming leads to the development of civilizations as they watch.

Display **slide 8** and play the video *Mankind: The Story of All of Us: Birth of Farming*.

Embedded video
https://youtube.com/watch?v=bhzQFIZuNFY

Have students find a partner and discuss with their partners how farming led to civilizations. Then, invite volunteers to share their thoughts.

Possible Student Responses

- Farming allowed people to develop settlements, which turned into cities.
- Farming helped grow the population.

30 minutes

Explain

Teacher's Note: Lesson Preparation

Prior to the lesson, prepare six large pieces of paper with the following headings: political, economic, religion, social, intellectual, and area. Alternatively, write the headings on a whiteboard.

Organize students into groups of three. Assign each group one of the following four civilizations: Mesopotamia, Nile River Valley, Indus River Valley, Huang He River Valley.

Pass out the attached **PERSIA** handout to each group and introduce the PERSIA Graphic Organizer strategy to students. Display **slide 9** and have students access the link k20.ou.edu/rivercivs to read about their assigned civilization. Have students complete their PERSIA handouts in their groups using the information.

Teacher's Note: PERSIA Scaffolding

Multiple groups will read about the same civilization. If desired, divide the PERSIA categories among groups that have the same civilization to reduce the categories each group takes notes over.

Have students then add details about their assigned civilizations under the headings you prepared on paper or a whiteboard. Ensure that students include the name of the civilization with each detail.

Move to **slide 10**. Have students read everything about all four civilizations added to the six categories. Ask students to look for similarities between each civilization. Have a class discussion about the characteristics of each civilization.

Possible Student Responses

- All four civilizations are centered around rivers.
- All four civilizations were led by absolute monarchs.
- All four civilizations had advanced technology.

20 minutes

Extend

Display **slide 11** and provide each group of students with a blank piece of paper. Have students create PERSIA charts about the civilization they live in today.

Lead a class discussion about the civilization students live in today. Have students compare and contrast the civilization they live in with the river valley civilizations.

10 minutes

Evaluate

Display **slide 12** and have students take out a piece of notebook paper. Have students respond to the lesson's essential questions on their paper: What are the characteristics of a civilization? Why do civilizations develop in certain locations?

Collect the responses to review and check for student understanding of the lesson content.

Resources

- The History Channel. (2012, December 2). *Mankind: The story of all of us: Birth of farming | History* [Video]. YouTube. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bhzQFIZuNFY
- K20 Center. (n.d.). *Ancient river valleys* [Infographic]. Infogram. https://infogram.com/1pxdpmv6enrx23sq1xmv9dgyy5unkr126wp?live
- K20 Center. (n.d.). I notice, I wonder. Strategies. https://learn.k20center.ou.edu/strategy/180
- K20 Center. (n.d.). PERSIA graphic organizer. Strategies. https://learn.k20center.ou.edu/strategy/113