

## Characteristics of Ancient Civilizations Chart

### Objectives:

Understand that the concept of historic time is vast and some ancient civilizations existed thousands of years apart and others overlapped in time.

See that every civilization is built upon common concepts and structure, distinguished by unique resources available to the region.

- 1) Choose a civilization.
- 2) Complete the chart to explain all aspects of this civilization. **You must answer the questions completely for each characteristic.** These can be written as paragraphs, in a chart, as illustrations with captions, or as slides. You can decide how to write the information as long as it's all there.

### Civilizations:

Sumerians (5300-1940 BCE)

Chinese Yellow River Xia Dynasty (2100-1600 BCE)

Chinese Shang Dynasty (1600-1046 BCE)

Chinese Zhou Dynasty (1046-256 BCE)

Indus River (3300-1900 BCE)

Phoenicia (2300-65 BCE)

Mycenian (1600-1100 BCE)

Minoan (3650-1170 BCE)

Babylonian (1894-539 BCE)

### Civilization characteristics:

- Stable food/water supply - What were the primary food sources? Where did fresh water come from?
- Social structure – Who was at the top? The bottom? The middle? Was it a strictly enforced system? Could people work hard and rise?
- Government – Who made the key societal decisions? How was the law enforced?
- Religion – Who held religious leadership? Was it the same as the government? What were the deities like?

- Monumental architecture – What did it look like, what was it made out of? How and why was it built?
- Art – Who were the artists? What did they produce? Why? Out of what materials?
- Trade – Who were the trade partners of this civilization? What did this civilization bring to trade and what did it get in return?
- Warfare and conflict – How were conflicts over land and resources resolved? Did this civilization use original war tactics or technology?
- Geographic boundaries/nature and climate – What was the natural landscape for this civilization? How did the location help establish the civilization? How did seasons and climate affect the people?
- Writing and technology – What was the recording/writing system? What did it look like? When was it deciphered? What new innovations did this civilization bring to the world?