

Mesopotamia

Geography: The region is located between the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers, with unpredictable flooding.

Political Structure: Mesopotamia consisted of city-states, each with its own ruler (e.g., Ur, Babylon, Sumer).

Writing System: Cuneiform was used for record-keeping, trade, and communication.

Religion: Polytheistic with each city-state having patron deities; gods were often linked to natural forces.

Architecture: Ziggurats were built as temples for the gods, with towering, stepped structures.

Economy: Based on agriculture, trade, and the use of irrigation from the rivers. Trade with distant regions was common.

Law: The Code of Hammurabi, one of the earliest law codes, was used to maintain order and justice.

Social Structure: Society was divided into classes: rulers, priests, merchants, farmers, and slaves.

Writing Purpose: Primarily for record-keeping, trade transactions, and legal purposes.

Military: Mesopotamia was often at war with neighboring city-states, with frequent conflicts over territory and resources.

Early/Archaic Egypt & Old Kingdom

Geography: Egypt is located along the Nile River, with predictable, annual flooding that supports agriculture.

Political Structure: Egypt was unified under one pharaoh, with a centralized, theocratic government.

Writing System: Hieroglyphs were used for religious texts, monumental inscriptions, and record-keeping.

Religion: Polytheistic, but gods were more unified under a central, divine order, with the pharaoh considered a god on earth.

Architecture: Pyramids, especially the Great Pyramid of Giza, were built as tombs for pharaohs, with monumental stone structures.

Economy: Primarily agricultural, with extensive use of the Nile for irrigation. Less reliant on trade compared; isolated

Law: Egyptian law was influenced by the divine authority of the pharaoh, and justice was administered through royal decrees.

Social Structure: Similar class system, with the pharaoh at the top, followed by priests, scribes, artisans, and peasants.

Writing Purpose: Used for religious texts, monumental inscriptions, and to record the achievements of the pharaoh.

Military: The Egyptian military was mainly focused on defense and maintaining the borders; few internal conflict.