Period 1: Technological and Environmental Transformations

c. to 600 BCE
5% of the AP Exam

The three to four key concepts per period define what is most essential to know about each period based upon the most current historical research in world history. This approach enables students to spend less time on factual recall, more time on learning essential concepts, and helps them develop historical thinking skills necessary to explore the broad trends and global processes involved in their study of AP World History.

Key Concept 1.1
Big Geography and the Peopling of the Earth
The term Big Geography draws attention to the global nature of world history. Throughout the Paleolithic period, humans migrated from Africa to Eurasia, Australia, and the Americas. Early humans were mobile and creative in adapting to different geographical settings from savanna to desert to Ice Age tundra. Humans also developed varied and sophisticated technologies.

1. Archeological evidence indicates that during the Paleolithic era, hunting-foraging bands of humans gradually migrated from their origin in East Africa to Eurasia, Australia, and the Americas, adapting their technology and cultures to new climate regions.
   - Humans developed increasingly diverse and sophisticated tools - including multiple uses of fire - as they adapted to new environment.
     - Humans used fire in new ways: to aid hunting and foraging, to protect against predators, and to adapt to cold environments.
   - People lived in small groups that structured social, economic, and political activity. These bands exchanged people, ideas, and goods.

A NOTE ABOUT PREHISTORY (BEFORE 3500 CE)

A basic type of periodization is to divide all of time into "prehistory" and "history." Usually the distinction is based on whether or not the people left written records, but the presence of written records is very closely tied to the beginnings of agriculture. Scholars are not entirely sure about when human beings first appeared on earth, but new discoveries continue to push the date further back in time. So "prehistory" lasted for millions of years.

The first humans probably emerged in eastern Africa, due to a happy confluence of availability of food and domesticable animals and favorable climate. For thousands of years humans sustained themselves as hunters and gatherers, and as a result were quite dependent on the abundance of food. Hunters gained skills in capturing and killing animals, and gatherers learned which plants and fruits were edible and nutritious. Technological inventions generally supported the fulfillment of these basic activities. Stones (and eventually metals) were shaped as tools and weapons, and techniques were developed for efficient gathering and storage of food.

By 8000 BCE, humans had migrated to many other areas, probably following the herds and other available food sources. Major migrations include:
- Early Africans to Australia, the Middle East, Europe, and Asia
- Asians across the land bridge to the Americas
Our knowledge of prehistoric people is limited, partly because they lived so long ago, and partly because they left no written records. However, archaeologists have found evidence of these generally shared characteristics of prehistoric people:

- **Social structure** - Most people traveled in small bands, and authority was based on family relationships. Men took leadership roles, but women were highly valued for their gathering skills. Labor was generally divided based on gender, with men as hunters and women as gatherers. However, status differences between men and women were generally not wide, with relative gender equality apparently characterizing their group life.

- **Beliefs** - Archaeological evidence suggests that prehistoric people were guided by their beliefs in spirits and sacred places. Their cave drawings and traces of their cultural objects indicate that they believed in an afterlife, although they probably did not practice polytheism, or a belief in many gods. Instead, polydaemonism / animism, or the belief in many spirits (not specific gods), probably describes their religion more accurately. Bushes, rocks, trees, plants, or streams could be inhabited by these spirits, who often appeared to communicate with humans.

**THE BIG PICTURE**

1) Interactions among different groups of people on the planet were usually limited to groups that were geographically nearby, but interactions increased steadily throughout the time period, both in frequency and distance.

2) Physical geography and the natural environment interacted with human activities to shape changes and continuities during the time period.

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**Key Concept 1.2**

*The Neolithic Revolution and Early Agricultural Societies*

In response to warming climates at the end of the last Ice Age, from about 10,000 years ago, some groups adapted to the environment in new ways, while others remained hunter-foragers. Settled agriculture appeared in several different parts of the world. The switch to agriculture created a more reliable, but not necessarily more diversified, food supply. Farmers also affected the environment through intensive cultivation of selected plants to the exclusion of others, the construction of irrigation systems, and the use of domesticated animals for food and for labor. Populations increased; village life developed, followed by urban life with all its complexity. Patriarchy and forced-labor systems developed, giving elite men concentrated power over most of the other people in their societies. Pastoralism emerged in parts of Africa and Eurasia. Like agriculturalists, pastoralists tended to be more socially stratified than hunter-foragers. Pastoralists’ mobility facilitated technology transfers through their interaction with settled populations.

1. **Beginning about 10,000 years ago, the Neolithic Revolution led to the development of new and more complex economic and social systems.**
   - Possibly as a response to climatic change, permanent agricultural villages emerged first in the lands of the eastern Mediterranean. Agriculture emerged independently in Mesopotamia, the Nile River Valley, Sub-Saharan Africa, the Indus River Valley, the Yellow River (or Huang He) Valley, Papua New Guinea, Mesoamerica, and the Andes.
   - People in each region domesticated locally available plants and animals.
   - Pastoralism developed in Afro-Eurasia grasslands, negatively affecting the environment when lands were overgrazed.
   - Agricultural communities had to work cooperatively to clear land and create the water control systems needed for crop production, drastically affecting environmental diversity.

2. **Agriculture and pastoralism began to transform human societies.**
   - Pastoralism and agriculture led to more reliable and abundant food supplies, which increased the population and led to specialization of labor, including new classes of artisans and warriors, and the development of elites.
   - Technological innovations led to *improvements in agricultural production, trade, and transportation.*

**Illustrative examples:**

- Pottery
- Plows
- Woven textiles
- Metallurgy
- Wheels and wheeled vehicles

   - Patriarchal forms of social organization developed in both pastoralist and agrarian societies.
MARKER EVENTS
The invention of fire
The Neolithic Revolution (Agricultural Transformation)
1) People settle down; first concept of private property
2) Division of labor
3) Social inequality (accumulation of land; specialized occupations)
4) Gender inequality (loss of women’s economic power; superior strength of men for agriculture)
5) The importance of surplus (not everyone needed to be a farmer; food supplies more reliable)
6) Religious changes (shift from spirits to many “gods” with human characteristics; focus on fertility and nature)
7) Emergence of craft industries (pottery, metallurgy – copper then bronze then iron, textiles)
8) The growth of towns and cities
   ● 7000 BCE - Jericho (Jordan River) and Catal Huyuk (southern Turkey)
The Mandate of Heaven
From polytheism to monotheism (Hebrews were first)

TIME PERIODS
● The Paleolithic Age refers to about 12,000 BC. During this time people were nomadic.
● The Neolithic Age refers to the age from about 12,000 BC to about 8000 BC. It is during this time that people settled in communities and civilization began to emerge.
● River Valley Civilizations refers to about 3500 to 1500 BC. – Tigris-Euphrates, Nile, Indus, and Huang He Rivers; community cooperation to manage irrigation and flood control

Key Concept 1.3
The Development and Interactions of Early Agricultural, Pastoral, and Urban Societies
From about 5,000 years ago, urban societies developed, laying the foundations for the first civilizations. The term civilization is normally used to designate large societies with cities and powerful states. While there were many differences between civilizations, they also shared important features. They all produced agricultural surpluses that permitted significant specialization of labor. All civilizations contained cities and generated complex institutions, such as political bureaucracies, armies, and religious hierarchies. They also featured clearly stratified social hierarchies and organized long-distance trading relationships. Economic exchanges intensified within and between civilizations, as well as with nomadic pastoralists.

As populations grew, competition for surplus resources, especially food, led to greater social stratification, specialization of labor, increased trade, more complex systems of government and religion, and the development of record keeping. As civilizations expanded, people had to balance their need for more resources with environmental constraints such as the danger of undermining soil fertility. Finally, the accumulation of wealth in settled communities spurred warfare between communities and/or with pastoralists; this violence drove the development of new technologies of war and urban defense.

1. Core and foundational civilizations developed in a variety of geographical and environmental settings where agriculture flourished.
   ○ Students should be able to identify the location of all of the following required examples of core and foundational civilizations
     ● Mesopotamia in the Tigris and Euphrates River Valleys
     ● Egypt in the Nile River Valley
     ● Mohenjo-Daro and Harappa in the Indus River Valley
     ● Shang in the Yellow River (or Huang He) Valley
     ● Olmecs in Mesoamerica
     ● Chavin in Andean South America
2. **The first states emerged within core civilizations.**
   - States were powerful new systems of rule that mobilized surplus labor and resources over large areas. Rulers of early states often claimed divine connections to power. Rulers also often enjoyed military support.
   - As states grew and competed for land and resources, the more favorably situated — including the Hittites, who had access to iron — had greater access to resources, produced more surplus food, and experienced growing populations, enabling them to undertake territorial expansion and conquer surrounding states.
   - Pastoralists were often the developers and disseminators of new weapons and modes of transportation that transformed warfare in agrarian civilizations.
     
     **Illustrative examples of new weapons**
     - Compound bows
     - Iron weapons

     **Illustrative examples of new modes of transportation**
     - Chariots
     - Horseback riding

3. **Culture played a significant role in unifying states through laws, language, literature, religion, myths, and monumental art.**
   - Early civilizations developed monumental architecture and urban planning.
     
     **Illustrative examples:**
     - Ziggurats
     - Pyramids
     - Temples
     - Defensive walls
     - Streets and roads
     - Sewage and water systems
   - **Systems of record keeping** arose independently in all early civilizations and subsequently spread.
     
     **Illustrative examples:**
     - Cuneiform
     - Hieroglyphs
     - Pictographs
     - Alphabets
     - Quipu

   - States developed legal codes that reflected existing hierarchies and facilitated the rule of governments over people.
     
     **Illustrative examples:**
     - Code of Hammurabi (Babylonia)
     - Code of Ur-Nammu (Sumer)

   - New religious beliefs developed in this period continued to have strong influences in later periods.
     
     **Required examples:**
     - The Vedic religion
     - Hebrew monotheism
     - Zoroastrianism

   - Trade expanded throughout this period from local to regional and interregional, with civilizations exchanging goods, cultural ideas, and technology.
     
     **Illustrative examples of interregional trade:**
     - Between Mesopotamia and Egypt
     - Between Egypt and Nubia
     - Between Mesopotamia and the Indus Valley

   - Social hierarchies, including patriarchy, intensified as states expanded and cities multiplied.
**WHAT IS A CIVILIZATION?**

1) Reliable surpluses of food  
2) Highly specialized occupations (more complex jobs including government, trade, religion)  
3) Clear social class distinctions  
4) Growth of cities  
5) Complex, formal governments with legal codes  
6) Long-distance trade  
7) Advanced technology  
8) Organized writing systems (communication for trade, religion, taxes, and politics; Incas were an exception – no writing system)

*Diverse interpretations*

What are the issues involved in using “civilization” as an organizing principle in world history? This is a very “politically correct” topic. Civilization is a “western word” that is defined as having: 1) a food producing based that generated surpluses, 2) an increase in population, 3) specialization of labor, 4) a social hierarchy, 5) growth of trade, 6) centralization of political and religious authority, 7) monumental building, and 8) the development of writing and written records. Many historians would suggest that a better way of organizing world history is through studying human creativity. Civilization often implies superiority. Not all settled agricultural societies had monumental architecture or writing systems, so they appear to be "lesser" than those that did.

**THE WEB OF COMMERCE & CULTURES**

- Egypt  
- Mesopotamia  
- Hittites  
- Nubians  
- Minoans / Mycenaens

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CULTURE</th>
<th>POLITICS</th>
<th>SOCIAL STRUCTURE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Mesopotamia** | ● “land between the waters”  
● Cuneiform  
● Extensive trade with Egypt and the Indus Valley  
● *Epic of Gilgamesh*  
● Early use of bronze tools, chariots  
● Advanced astronomy; math based on 60  
● Pessimistic view of world, perhaps due to irregular, unpredictable flooding of the rivers  
● Polytheism - gods powerful and often cruel  
● Kings powerful, but not divine  
● Ziggurats – brick temples  
● City-states and warrior kings  
● Sumerians = first true civilization  
● Assyrians = first true cavalry army  
● Babylonians = Hammurabi  
● Hittites = first to smelt iron – weapons; main rival of the Egyptians; use of chariots  
● Hammurabi’s Code  
● Competition among city states as well as frequent invasions led to less political stability than in Egypt  
● Job specialization - farmers, metallurgist, merchants, craftsmen, political administrators, priests  
● Social classes – skill determined income  
● Marriage contracts, veils for women  
● Women of upper classes less equal than lower class counterparts  
● Family plays large role in society  |  
| **Egypt** | ● Concerned with decorative arts, shipbuilding, some medical knowledge  
● Less advanced in math and astronomy than Mesopotamians  
● Less extensive trade, especially in earlier eras  
● Polytheism, with pharaoh as a god  
● Optimistic view of life (regular, controllable flooding of the river)  
● Strong belief in the afterlife;  
● *Book of the Dead* Hieroglyphics - complex, pictorial language  
● Divine kingship - the pharaoh  
● Highly centralized, authoritarian government  
● Generally stable government throughout the 3 kingdoms  
● Extensive bureaucracy  
● Pharaoh’s power channeled through regional governors  
● Old Kingdom = pyramids  
● Middle Kingdom  
● New Kingdom = largest expanse; Ramses II  
● Smaller nobility than Mesopotamia  
● Fewer merchants  
● Some social mobility through the bureaucracy  
● Priests have high status (only ones who understand the complex hieroglyphic written language)  
● Women - probably higher status than in Mesopotamia  
● Love of poetry indicates some importance placed on male/female relationships  
● One female pharaoh - Hatshepsut  
Influential wife of pharaoh - Nefertiti |
### CULTURE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indus Valley</th>
<th>Yellow River</th>
<th>Mesoamerica</th>
<th>Oceania</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Writing system only recently decipherable</td>
<td>- Oracles bones used to communicate with ancestors</td>
<td>- Olmecs in Mesoamerica:</td>
<td>- Language group – Austronesian brought from Asia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Soapstone seals that indicate trade with both Mesopotamians and China</td>
<td>- Pattern on bones formed basis for writing system; writing highly valued, complex pictorial language with 3000 characters by end of dynasty</td>
<td>- Highly developed astronomy; used to predict agricultural cycles and please the gods</td>
<td>- Chiefs and nobles gained semi-divine status</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Pottery making with bulls and long-horned cattle a frequent motif</td>
<td>- Uniform written language became bond among people who spoke many different languages</td>
<td>- Polytheism; religious rituals important, shamans as healers</td>
<td>- Public rituals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Small figurines of women</td>
<td>- Bronze weapons and tools, horse-drawn chariots</td>
<td>- Ritual ballgames</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Cruder weapons than Mesopotamians - stone arrowheads, no swords</td>
<td>- Geographical separation from other civilizations, though probably traded with the Indus Valley</td>
<td>- Irrigation and drainage canals</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Polytheism - naked man with horns the primary god; fertility goddesses</td>
<td>- Silk production</td>
<td>- Giant carved stone heads; probably with religious significance</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Two cities: Harappa and Mohenjo-Dara</td>
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<td>- Jaguar symbol important</td>
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### POLITICS

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<tr>
<td>- Assumed to be complex and thought to be centralized</td>
<td>- Centralized government, power in the hands of the emperor</td>
<td>- Olmecs: apparently not united politically; unusual for ancient civilizations</td>
<td>- Hereditary chiefdoms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Limited information, but large granaries near the cities indicate centralized control</td>
<td>- Government preoccupied with flood control of the rivers Job specialization - bureaucrats, farmers, slaves</td>
<td>- Chavin: probably political unification; public works operated by reciprocal labor obligations; had a capital city</td>
<td>- Physical contests for leadership roles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Eventually replaced by the Aryans who migrated to the region</td>
<td>- Mandate of Heaven</td>
<td>- Olmec: craft specializations; priests have highest status; most people were farmers</td>
<td>- Migration to ease tensions</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### SOCIAL STRUCTURE

<table>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Priests have highest status, based on position as intermediaries between gods and people</td>
<td>- Social classes - warrior aristocrats, bureaucrats, farmers, slaves</td>
<td>- Olmec: craft specializations; priests have highest status; most people were farmers</td>
<td>- Chiefs and nobles organize public life</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Differences in house sizes indicate strong class distinctions</td>
<td>- Patriarchal society; women as wives and concubines</td>
<td>- Chavin: Priests have highest status; capital city dominated the hinterlands; most people were farmers</td>
<td>- Sophisticated maritime technology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Statues reflects reverence for female reproductive function</td>
<td>- Women were sometimes shamans</td>
<td>- Lapita traded pottery and obsidian</td>
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</tbody>
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### ECONOMIC SYSTEMS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of System</th>
<th>Type and rate of technology developed</th>
<th>Main geographic locations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agricultural societies</td>
<td>domestication of plants and animals iron tools writing systems constant development</td>
<td>River valleys in Mesopotamia, Nile River valley, India, China, Mesoamerica, Andes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cultivate crops 8,000 BCE</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pastoral societies</td>
<td>domestication of horses and camels</td>
<td>Steppes, grasslands, deserts, mountain ranges</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>domesticated animals 8,000 BCE</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foraging societies</td>
<td>baskets for gathering and storing and hunting tools</td>
<td>Everywhere until sedentary agricultural societies and then empires</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hunting and gathering</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
35,000 BCE took over the most fertile areas.
**Key Concept 1.1: Big Geography & the Peopling of the Earth**

**Big Geography—Global Scale of World History**
- By 10,000 BCE, everywhere humans are now, we were then
- Homo sapiens originated in Africa 200,000 years ago
- Homo sapiens left Africa about 60,000 years ago
  - Known as the “Out-of-Africa” theory
- Early humans adapted to their surroundings
  - From desert to forest to tundra
- Hunter/gatherer societies were egalitarian
  - Evident from the egalitarian nature of today’s H/G
- Humans were “behaviorally modern” before migration

**Human Use of Fire**
- Controlled human use of fire dates vary (from 300,000 years ago to 1.7 million years ago)
- Widespread use of human control of fire is accepted to have occurred around 125,000 years ago
- Most accepted earliest site was nearly 800,000 years ago in Israel
- Firesites have evidence of different meats (from birds to rhinos) & plants (from oats to grapes)
- Human use of fire allowed them to adapt to a wide range of climates/biomes/temperatures

**In Review**

**Human Use of Tools**
- Homo erectus (& later sapien) used tools to adapt
  - The first tool using hominids were Australopithecus afarensis (aka Lucy’s people) in Ethiopia
  - Hominids carved meat off of bones, extracted marrow, & general butchery
  - Meat consumption drove early tool use

**Hunter/Gatherers Survived in Small Kinship Bands**
- Small bands were based on family/kinship ties
- Full time leaders, bureaucrats, artisans, etc. could not be supported
- Mytil: Men hunt/women forage
  - Women & men shared in both hunting/foraging
- “Original affluent society” theory states that H/G lived much easier lives than we do
  - Hunter/gatherers worked much less & had more free time than we do today

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**Freeman-Pedia**
KEY CONCEPT 1.2: NEOLITHIC REVOLUTION & EARLY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETIES

NEOLITHIC REVOLUTION = 10-12,000 years ago the advent of farming created new socio-economic systems worldwide.

NEOLITHIC REVOLUTION DRASTICALLY CHANGED THE WORLD IN THE FOLLOWING WAYS:

PASTORIALISM
- Often overlooked in Hunter-Gatherer dynamic
- People tend herd animals
  - Herbs/vegetables
  - Follow their migratory animals

DOMESTICATION
- Both flora and fauna
  - SE Asia: Rice
  - Mexico: Maize
  - Andes: Potatoes
  - Fertile Crescent: Wheat, Goats
  - Africa: Yams, Cattle

IRRIGATION
- Man had to manipulate the environment to aide food production
  - Water wells, Qanats
  - Size of civilization depended on water supply

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT
- Humans began to impact the environments around them
- Pastoralists overgrazing led to erosion

POPULATION INCREASE
- SIMPLE MATH
  - Pastoralism + Agriculture = Population Increase
  - More food = More People

SPECIALIZATION
- Surplus = more food than needed
  - People begin to work on other things
  - Artisans, Traders, Warriors
  - Society begins to stratify...

AGRIC, TRADE & TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENTS
- Pottery (storage)
  - Plows (agriculture)
  - Woven Textiles
  - Metallurgy (metalworking)
  - Wheeled Vehicles (transportation)

STRATIFICATION
- Egalitarian ways of the Hunter-Gatherer dissipated
- Wealthy elites emerged
- Classes/Castes formed
- Hierarchies formed
- Patriarchy dominated

HISTORICAL CONSTANT: NEW TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATIONS LED TO IMPROVEMENT

THE FIRST PERMANENT AGRICULTURAL VILLAGES EMERGED AT DIFFERENT TIMES IN:

MESOPOTAMIA
NILE RIVER & SUB-SAHARAN
INDUS RIVER
YELLOW RIVER
PAPA NEW GUINEA
MESOAMERICA
ANDE

SYSTEMS OF RECORD KEEPING

Cuneiform
(Sumer 3000 BCE)

Hieroglyphics
(Egypt 3300 BCE)

Quipu
(Incan Empire 3000 BCE)
KEY CONCEPT 1.3: THE DEVELOPMENT & INTERACTIONS OF EARLY AGRICULTURAL, PASTORAL & URBAN SOCIETIES

ABOUT 5,000 YEARS AGO, “CIVILIZATION” BEGAN IN THE FOLLOWING FOUNDATIONAL AREAS:

1. HAMMURABI’s CODE, 1700 BCE (BABYLON)
2. EPIC OF GILGAMESH, 1700 BCE (BABYLON)
3. RIG VEDA, 1700 BCE (INDIA)
4. BOOK OF THE DEAD, 1500 BCE (EGYPT)
5. BOOK OF SONGS, 1000 BCE (CHINA)

THE COLLEGEBOARD DIVIDES THESE FOUNDATIONAL/CORE CIVILIZATIONS INTO TWO CATEGORIES:

IN REVIEW

CULTURE

- Monumental; Ziggurats, Walls, Roads, Sewers
- Promoted the arts from Sculpture to Weaving
- Cuneiform, Hieroglyphs, Alphabets, Quina
- Reflected the Hierarchies (see HAMMURABI)
- Developed here; huge impact later on
- Expanded to include ideas, technology, etc.
- Growth coincided with Empire/state growth
- Reflected the culture of the authors

POLITICS

- Mobilized surplus resources over large areas
- Usually DIVINE with support from the Army

LEADERS

- The better your location, the bigger your society (see Jared Diamond)
- Ex. Hittites had a huge Iron deposits
- Easier for them to build empires
  - Ex. Mesopotamia, Babylonia, Nile

COMPETITION FOR RESOURCES

PASTORAL INNOVATION

Developed/Disseminated new Weapons and Transportation methods to use against the more settled Agrarian Civilizations

PEOPLE TO KNOW

DOCUMENTS TO KNOW

1. HAMMURABI’s CODE, 1700 BCE (BABYLON)
2. EPIC OF GILGAMESH, 1700 BCE (BABYLON)
3. RIG VEDA, 1700 BCE (INDIA)
4. BOOK OF THE DEAD, 1500 BCE (EGYPT)
5. BOOK OF SONGS, 1000 BCE (CHINA)
ARTWORK TO KNOW

LASCAUX CAVE PAINTINGS 15,000 BCE (FRANCE)

PYRAMIDS OF EGYPT 2,500 BCE (EGYPT)

ZIGGURAT OF UR 2,000 BCE (IRAQ)

ORACLE BONES 1,200 BCE (CHINA)

COLOSSAL OLMEC HEADS 900 BCE (MEXICAN)
