

The background is a detailed wall painting from an ancient Egyptian tomb. It features several figures in traditional attire. On the left, a woman in a leopard-print dress holds a lotus flower. In the center, a man in a white kilt performs a ritual with a lotus. To his right, a woman kneels before a seated figure. Further right, a figure with a ram's head (Anubis) stands near a stupa. The scene is framed by columns of hieroglyphs. At the bottom, a bull and a dog are depicted walking. The overall style is characteristic of the Late Period of ancient Egypt.

**SSWH1 The student will analyze the origins, structures, and interactions of complex societies in the ancient Eastern Mediterranean from 3500 BCE to 500 BCE.**

a. Describe the development of Mesopotamian societies; include the religious, cultural, economic, and political facets of society, with attention to Hammurabi's law code.

- Mesopotamia:

- Early civilization developed along the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers due to the rich soil used for agriculture



# Mesopotamia

- Religion: Polytheistic
- Culture:
  - Patriarchal
  - Ruled by a council of elders which developed into city-states
  - Women could own property
  - Written language
  - Music
- Economics: Agriculture was the a main economic force, especially along the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers

# Code of Hammurabi

- After years of constant fighting by Mesopotamian city-states, Hammurabi came to power
- The first ruler of Babylon, Hammurabi set up a code, or set of laws for the people to follow
- He wanted to rule fairly and promote the welfare of the people



b. Describe the relationship of religion and political authority in Ancient Egypt.

- Egyptian Pharaohs (kings) were considered to be living gods
- The rule based on religious authority is called a theocracy
- Pharaohs continued to help rule after their deaths
- Pyramids were built to house the pharaoh and everything he would need in the after life



c. Explain the development of monotheism; include the concepts developed by the ancient Hebrews, and Zoroastrianism.

- Monotheism: the belief in one god

- Zoroastrianism

- a monotheistic religion founded in ancient Persia (modern day Iran)

- Believed in good and evil, and a final judgment based on how well a person fought for goodness

# Ancient Hebrews



- Believed that their god had power over all people and that he would protect them
- Their god gave them laws or commandments to obey (Ten Commandments)
- The history of the Hebrews is written in their bible, the Torah

d. Describe early trading networks in the Eastern Mediterranean; include the impact Phoenicians had on the Mediterranean World.

- Many of the ancient trade routes were water based
- The Minoans were one of the first successful civilizations to trade throughout the Mediterranean (Crete)





# Phoenicians

- The Phoenicians developed a series of powerful city-states along what is now Lebanon
- Colonized a large area



# Phoenicians



- The Phoenicians were great sailors and shipbuilders
- This enabled them to explore and set up city-states throughout the Mediterranean
- These city-states were used for trading posts for goods found throughout the region

e. Explain the development and importance of writing; include cuneiform, hieroglyphics, and the Phoenician alphabet.

- Cuneiform: Created by Sumerian scribes as a means to keep records; written into moist clay which was then dried



# Hieroglyphics

- In early Egyptian hieroglyphics, pictures stood for an idea.
- As they developed, the pictures came to represent sounds
- Egyptians used a form of paper called papyrus to write on
- Writing allowed civilizations to record their history, religious, and cultural beliefs



# Phoenician alphabet

- Developed as a means of recording trade transactions-spread throughout the Mediterranean
- Was a phonetic system: one sign represented one sound
- Other cultures based their alphabet on the Phoenicians (Greece)

