

Chapter 1—section 3: beginnings of civilization



**ASSIGN
BUSTER**

One of the best tributes to the ancient world are the great pyramids of Egypt. Over 10, 000 men worked on these projects and built them without modern building machinery. Without the help of modern civilization, these monuments would not exist today! A civilization is a highly organized social ladder.

In ancient Egypt, the ladder reached all the way from the working peasants, to the leaders of the government to finally, the Pharaoh. Most civilizations overseas were mainly along a river where there was fish to eat, water to drink and travel on and rich soil to grow food. They all started out as villages and as farmers started to grow excess food, people kept moving and moving in until it became a full working city. Most ancient cities were built and surrounded with the large walls that would stop the enemy from gaining access. They were also built with large temples, churches and wide avenues so that public events could be held without the risk of property damage and overcrowding. With the growing size of the cities, more food was required to feed all, everywhere and more and more water was needed.

To cope with these new necessities, a city government was formed. At first, the priests probably had the greatest power according to historians. Then, as warriors arose, they were then giving the high and holy power. As time went on, the governments became more complicated when they started passing laws, collecting taxes and organizing armies and defenses. According to historians, people of early civilizations like their ancestors were probably polytheistic, meaning that they believed in many gods. There were many dances and ceremonies to please the gods.

They believed that if they pleased the Gods, good things would happen to their town. Once specialty objects were required, such as tools and weapons, people went out and became “artisans” which are skilled craft workers.

There were also Metalworkers were also very important in this civilization.

When ancient rulers became more powerful, they began what is now called imperialism. Imperialism is the belief of one country taking over another.

As this expansion grew, city-states and empires were created. City-states are a political unit that included a city and its surrounding land and villages.

These became very common in Mesopotamia. As the empires grew, there was more interaction between people. Ideas, customs and technologies were shared.

In conclusion as civilizations expanded, the needs of those civilizations also grew. Civilizations had to increase their resources and make rules in order to prevent chaos.