

# Ch. 2 - Early River Valley Civilizations

They had fertile land for farming

SA1

TS

Out of the four river valley civilizations, Ancient Egypt was the best.

They had a developed Culture SA2

EV: "The pyramids also reflect the strength of the Egyptian civilization." (Pg 38, par 2.)  
+R: These structures show that Egypt possessed the skill, money, power, leadership, and organization needed to carry out this huge task.

EV: "Religion played an important role in the lives of Egyptians." (Pg 38, par 3)

+R: Their society was centered around religion. Thinking about existence and greater powers involved a higher order of thinking. That was different than focusing on survival.

EV: "The Egyptians were not locked into their social classes." (Pg 40, par 3)

+R: Although they had a caste of some sort to organize society, lower classes still had the chance to move up through hard work or marriage.

They had an advanced Society SA3

EV: "Scribes quickly developed a more flexible writing system called hieroglyphics." (Pg 40, par 4)

+R: This allowed them to record ideas and information. They also created a writing system for arithmetic, which benefited people like tax collectors and architects.

EV: "When the river receded in October, it left behind a rich deposit of fertile black mud called silt." (Pg 35, par 4)  
+R: Since civilizations there were built upon agriculture, being able to grow abundant crops was very important.

EV: "Compared to the unpredictable Tigris and Euphrates, the Nile was as regular as clockwork." (Pg 35, par 7)  
+R: Because the Nile had a predictable flooding schedule, farmers could plan ahead and prepare for the planting season.

Ancient Egypt was the greatest river valley civilization because of its fertile, farmable land, its developed culture, and its advanced social structure/society.

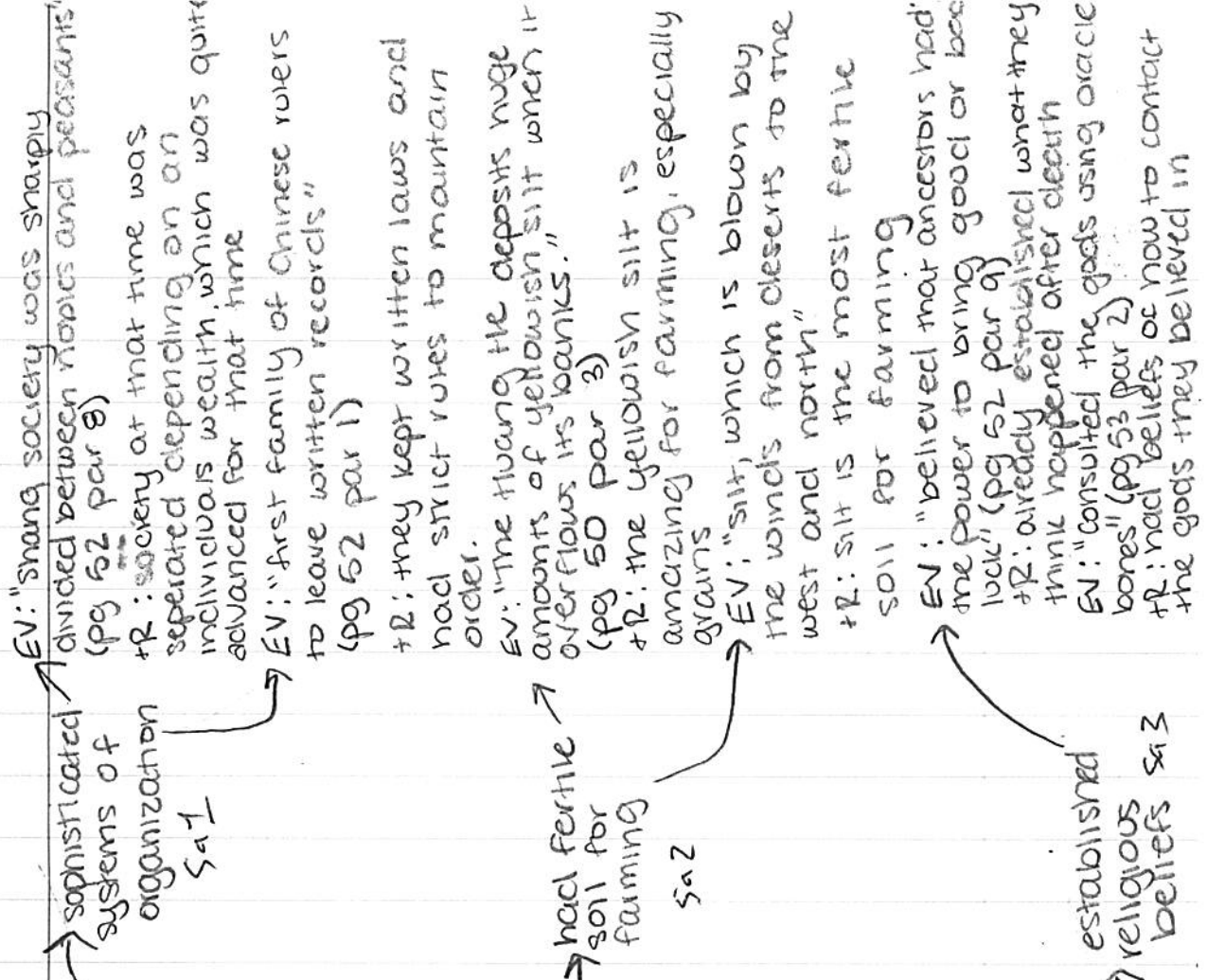


(LE)

Before the common era, there were four major early river-valley civilizations: Mesopotamia, Ancient Egypt, Indus Valley, and China.

TS

China was the best of the four river valley civilizations



EV: "Shang society was sharply divided between nobles and peasants" (pg 52 par 8)

R: society at that time was separated depending on an individual's wealth, which was quite advanced for that time

EV: "first family of Chinese rulers to leave written records" (pg 52 par 1)

R: they kept written laws and had strict rules to maintain order.

EV: "The Huang He deposits huge amounts of yellowish silt when it overflows its banks." (pg 50 par 3)

R: the yellowish silt is amazing for farming, especially grains

EV: "silt, which is blown by the winds from deserts to the west and north"

R: silt is the most fertile soil for farming

EV: "believed that ancestors had the power to bring good or bad luck" (pg 52 par 9)

R: already established what they think happened after death

EV: "consulted the gods using oracle bones" (pg 53 par 2)

R: had beliefs or how to contact the gods they believed in

EV: "Compared to the unpredictable Tigris and Euphrates rivers, the Nile was as regular as clockwork" (p. 35 par 7)  
 +R: This allowed farmers and civilians to govern and plan ahead to get their crops ready for the flood.

EV: "The Nile provided a reliable system of transportation between Upper and Lower Egypt." (p. 37 par. 1)  
 +R: Since the Egyptians knew when the river would flood, they could use it as a system of transportation in the meantime for trade.

EV: "However, the deserts shut out invaders." (p. 36 par 11)

+R: These deserts acted as the Egyptian's defense from neighboring civilizations, and when people would try and attack, they would be so worn out from their long hike across the desert with hardly any food or water, they wouldn't be able to defeat Egypt.

EV: "With nature so much in their favor, Egyptians tended to approach life more confidently and optimistically" (p. 38 par 3)  
 than their neighbors in the Fertile Crescent.

+R: Knowing that mother nature was taking care of them and allowing them to keep their land, the Egyptians lived without that burden on their backs.

EV: "When the river receded in October, it left behind a rich deposit of fertile black mud called silt." (p. 35 par 14)

+R: The silt that was left by the river allowed more fertility in the soil which helped farmers with their crops to help feed more of the civilization.

EV: "In an otherwise parched land, the abundance brought by the Nile was so great that the Egyptians worshipped it as a god who gave life and seldom turned against them."

+R: Egypt wouldn't have been able to prosper if the Nile hadn't given off silt because the deserts surrounding Egypt made it very dry.

SO 1  
The Nile had a regular flooding system

SO 2  
Protected from invaders

SO 3  
Silt left for villagers

(LE) → TS  
Ancient Egypt

(C) →

