

Essential Question: To what degree does geography determine culture?

Focus Questions

- How does the archaeological record shape our understanding of prehistoric hominids and early humans?
- How did the first humans adapt to and modify their environment?
- Why was the Neolithic Revolution a significant turning point in world history?
- What characteristics did early river valley civilizations share?
- What are the achievements and contributions of early river civilizations?

Connected Academic Vocabulary

timeline	chronology	era	millennium	century	decade
excavate	hominid	hunter-gatherer	agriculture	Paleolithic	revolution
Mesolithic	domestication	Neolithic	sedentary	civilization	society
Mesopotamia	Tigris/Euphrates	silt	irrigation	tributaries	

Student Outcomes

What the student should know and be able to do by the end of the unit:

Content, Concepts, Understandings, and Skills

- Explore the evolution of early humans
- Explore the relationship between the physical environment and Paleolithic humans
- Study the archaeological record through the analysis of artifacts and Paleolithic and Neolithic remains
- Gather evidence about the ways that Paleolithic humans lived
- Examine the technologies that supported the Neolithic Revolution
- Weigh and present evidence to explain how the Neolithic Revolution was a turning point
- Identify the characteristics of civilizations and explore perspectives on how these characteristics can best describe the development of river valley civilizations
- Explore the relationship between geographic location on the development of river valley civilizations
- Explore the historical and archaeological and historical records of early river valley civilizations
- Explore how river valley civilizations adapted to and modified their environments to meet their basic needs of food, clothing, and shelter
- Compare and contrast the characteristics of the two-river valley civilization

Performance Tasks and Formative Assessments

Pre-Unit:

- Students will answer an anticipation guide to demonstrate prior knowledge of the content.

Mid-Unit:

- Students will identify the best evidence to support claims about the Neolithic Revolution.

End-Unit:

- Students will analyze document sets and answer short response questions about each set of documents using evidence from the documents to support their claims.