

Lesson plan:

1. Ask and discuss the following questions with students:
 - a. What does the word 'civilization' mean?
 - b. Why is the word very controversial? How might it be bias?
2. Divide students into 5 groups. Give each group a different numbered Civilization Constructed instruction sheet and Selected AP World History Terminology and Definitions hand-out.
3. Students should use the environmental profile on their sheet to create a civilization in that environment. They should answer the AP World History Theme questions and draw an illustrated map of their civilization. Students should incorporate vocabulary words from the AP World History Jargon hand-out into their descriptions. Give students different roles: recorder, artist, reporter, vocabulary editor etc.
4. Have groups present their civilizations using the document camera.
5. After each presentation have the class guess the real location of the civilization and show students maps/images of those civilizations.

Civilization Constructed #1 **Mesopotamia**

Imagine you are a group of nomadic hunter-gathers. One of the members of your group decided to keep an animal to help with the work. No one thought it would work, but it did! "Could this work for other animals?" The group asked. As you moved back toward the location you usually go to in the summer, you realized that the seeds you left behind from last summer grew into more plants. For the first time, there seems to be an abundance of food. "Wow! Extra time!" someone exclaimed. Do you think we could do this again? The group asked. The group decides to try and answer their questions by attempting to stay in one spot. To make it work, what are some of the things they might build develop and organize.

Your task is to create a civilization in the following environment. Also draw an illustrated map of your civilization:

Topography: Sandy soil, swampy plain lying between two rivers that empty to a large sea. To the north lies a dry plateau and past the foothills to the mountains. Beyond the rivers on both sides lies a desert. There are large clay deposits. Subject to severe rivers, unpredictable flooding in the spring that has produced extremely fertile soil. Also creates natural dikes and wet marshy basins. Location is open and river connection can make it a crossroads for trade and invasion. There is easy access to the sea.

Climate: Hot, little rainfall, but tropical with high humidity. Rainfall is in the winter and averages under 10 inches annually. There is intense heat in the summer.

Vegetation: Date palms, reeds, and barley are the major plants.

Animals: Sheep, goats and pigs

Resources: Few metal deposits or trees.

Apply the WHAP Themes and answer the following questions as you create your civilization:

THEME 1 INTERACT WITH THE ENVIRONMENT

Use the resources and conditions of your environment to find/build shelter, food, water and necessities of life.

Where will you live?

What will you eat?

How will you deal with the dangers of the environment?

THEME 2 DEVELOP CULTURE

What are your basic religious beliefs?

How do you express yourself artistically?

Do you have written language?

What scientific or technological innovations might you make?

THEME 3 CREATE A GOVERNANCE AND PROTECTION SYSTEM (POLITICAL SYSTEM)

Who is in charge? How are decisions made for the civilization?

What type of laws do you have?

How are laws enforced?

How do you protect yourselves?

Will you try to expand and conquer others?

THEME 4 CREATE AN ECONOMIC SYSTEM

Will land be owned individually or communally?

Who will do the labor?

How will the products of that labor be allocated?

Will you trade- how?

THEME 5 DEVELOP SOCIAL STRUCTURES

Is there a social hierarchy or is everyone equal?

How are different genders treated?

How are families organized?

THEME 6 INNOVATE AND CREATE TECHNOLOGY

What technology would you like to invent to deal with your environment or to accomplish your political or economic goals?

Civilization Constructed #2 China- Huang He

Imagine you are a group of nomadic hunter-gathers. One of the members of your group decided to keep an animal to help with the work. No one thought it would work, but it did! “Could this work for other animals?” The group asked. As you moved back toward the location you usually go to in the summer, you realized that the seeds you left behind from last summer grew into more plants. For the first time, there seems to be an abundance of food. “Wow! Extra time!” someone exclaimed. Do you think we could do this again? The group asked. The group decides to try and answer their questions by attempting to stay in one spot. To make it work, what are some of the things they might build develop and organize.

Your task is to create a civilization in the following environment:

Topography: A 2400 mile river carries a yellow soil called loess from a plateau to the north. Its severe floods deposit the silt making the land around the river fertile. The river also connects to a sea to the southeast which then connects to a larger ocean. A desert to the west and large mountain range to the southwest protect from invasion. Grassy plains lay to the northeast allow for invasion.

Climate: Temperate (Warm year round. Not too hot or cold, mild variation in winter and summer- in other words not Chicago!) Predictable seasonal rains in the Spring often causes flooding.

Vegetation: Soybeans, millet, rice

Animals: Pigs, chickens, silk producing worms

Resources: Copper and jade deposits.

Apply the WHAP Themes and answer the following questions as you create your civilization. Also draw an illustrated map of your civilization:

THEME 1 INTERACT WITH THE ENVIRONMENT

Use the resources and conditions of your environment to find/build shelter, food, water and necessities of life.

Where will you live?

What will you eat?

How will you deal with the dangers of the environment?

THEME 2 DEVELOP CULTURE

What are your basic religious beliefs?

How do you express yourself artistically?

Do you have written language?

What scientific or technological innovations might you make?

THEME 3 CREATE A GOVERNMENT AND PROTECTION SYSTEM (STATE BUILDING)

Who is in charge? How are decisions made for the civilization?

What type of laws do you have?

How are laws enforced?

How do you protect yourselves?

THEME 4 CREATE AN ECONOMIC SYSTEM

Will land be owned individually or communally?

Who will do the labor?

How will the products of that labor be allocated?

Will you trade- how?

THEME 5 DEVELOP SOCIAL STRUCTURES

Is there a social hierarchy or is everyone equal?

How are different genders treated?

How are families organized?

Civilization Constructed #3 Indus Valley

Imagine you are a group of nomadic hunter-gathers. One of the members of your group decided to keep an animal to help with the work. No one thought it would work, but it did! “Could this work for other animals?” The group asked. As you moved back toward the location you usually go to in the summer, you realized that the seeds you left behind from last summer grew into more plants. For the first time, there seems to be an abundance of food. “Wow! Extra time!” someone exclaimed. Do you think we could do this again? The group asked. The group decides to try and answer their questions by attempting to stay in one spot. To make it work, what are some of the things they might build develop and organize.

Your task is to create a civilization in the following environment. Also draw an illustrated map of your civilization:

Topography: Its severe floods deposit the silt making the land around the river fertile. The river also connects to a sea in the south which then connects to a larger ocean. A desert to the Southeast and large mountain range to the North protect from invasion.

Climate: Little rainfall except during the late-summer/fall and winter when seasonal winds called monsoons bring heavy rainfall and flooding. Very warm in the summer. Cooler in the winter, but not extreme.

Vegetation:., wheat, barley, trees, dates, cotton

Animals: cows, water buffalo, goats

Resources: Nearby deposits of copper, gold, silver, lapis azuli, clay

Apply the WHAP Themes and answer the following questions as you create your civilization:

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Where will you live?

What will you eat?

How will you deal with the dangers of the environment?

THEME 2 DEVELOP CULTURE

What are your basic religious beliefs?

How do you express yourself artistically?

Do you have written language?

What scientific or technological innovations might you make?

THEME 3 CREATE A GOVERNMENT AND PROTECTION SYSTEM (STATE BUILDING)

Who is in charge? How are decisions made for the civilization?

What type of laws do you have?

How are laws enforced?

How do you protect yourselves?

THEME 4 CREATE AN ECONOMIC SYSTEM

Will land be owned individually or communally?

Who will do the labor?

How will the products of that labor be allocated?

Will you trade- how?

THEME 5 DEVELOP SOCIAL STRUCTURES

Is there a social hierarchy or is everyone equal?

How are different genders treated?

How are families organized?

Civilization Constructed #4 Olmec

Imagine you are a group of nomadic hunter-gathers. One of the members of your group decided to keep an animal to help with the work. No one thought it would work, but it did! “Could this work for other animals?” The group asked. As you moved back toward the location you usually go to in the summer, you realized that the seeds you left behind from last summer grew into more plants. For the first time, there seems to be an abundance of food. “Wow! Extra time!” someone exclaimed. Do you think we could do this again? The group asked. The group decides to try and answer their questions by attempting to stay in one spot. To make it work, what are some of the things they might build develop and organize.

Your task is to create a civilization in the following environment:

Topography: Fertile plains along the coast of a gulf intersected with many small rivers, swamps and rainforests.

Climate: Warm and humid with heavy rainfall

Vegetation: Palm nuts, beans, corn, squash, avocado, rubber trees,

Animals: Few animals besides fish, small reptiles and birds.

Resources: Obsidian, jade, basalt, abundant timber

Apply the WHAP Themes and answer the following questions as you create your civilization. Also draw an illustrated map of your civilization:

THEME 1 INTERACT WITH THE ENVIRONMENT

Use the resources and conditions of your environment to find/build shelter, food, water and necessities of life.

Where will you live?

What will you eat?

How will you deal with the dangers of the environment?

THEME 2 DEVELOP CULTURE

What are your basic religious beliefs?

How do you express yourself artistically?

Do you have written language?

What scientific or technological innovations might you make?

THEME 3 CREATE A GOVERNMENT AND PROTECTION SYSTEM (STATE BUILDING)

Who is in charge? How are decisions made for the civilization?

What type of laws do you have?

How are laws enforced?

How do you protect yourselves?

THEME 4 CREATE AN ECONOMIC SYSTEM

Will land be owned individually or communally?

Who will do the labor?

How will the products of that labor be allocated?

Will you trade- how?

THEME 5 DEVELOP SOCIAL STRUCTURES

Is there a social hierarchy or is everyone equal?

How are different genders treated?

How are families organized?

Civilization Constructed #5 Egypt

Imagine you are a group of nomadic hunter-gathers. One of the members of your group decided to keep an animal to help with the work. No one thought it would work, but it did! “Could this work for other animals?” The group asked. As you moved back toward the location you usually go to in the summer, you realized that the seeds you left behind from last summer grew into more plants. For the first time, there seems to be an abundance of food. “Wow! Extra time!” someone exclaimed. Do you think we could do this again? The group asked. The group decides to try and answer their questions by attempting to stay in one spot. To make it work, what are some of the things they might build develop and organize.

Your task is to create a civilization in the following environment:

Topography: A Valley made fertile by silt deposits from regulars floods of a river which flows northward and empties into a sea. Ideal for trade. The fertile valley is surrounded by desert on the East and West which protects it from invasion.

Climate: Hot and dry most of the year, rainfall during the winter which causes the river to flood.

Vegetation: Wheat, barley, papyrus plant

Animals: Donkeys, cattle

Resources: Copper, gold, salt, limestone and sandstone rock deposits. Few trees.

Apply the WHAP Themes and answer the following questions as you create your civilization:

THEME 1 INTERACT WITH THE ENVIRONMENT

Use the resources and conditions of your environment to find/build shelter, food, water and necessities of life.

Where will you live?

What will you eat?

How will you deal with the dangers of the environment?

THEME 2 DEVELOP CULTURE

What are your basic religious beliefs?

How do you express yourself artistically?

Do you have written language?

What scientific or technological innovations might you make?

THEME 3 CREATE A GOVERNMENT AND PROTECTION SYSTEM (STATE BUILDING)

Who is in charge? How are decisions made for the civilization?

What type of laws do you have?

How are laws enforced?

How do you protect yourselves?

THEME 4 CREATE AN ECONOMIC SYSTEM

Will land be owned individually or communally?

Who will do the labor?

How will the products of that labor be allocated?

Will you trade- how?

THEME 5 DEVELOP SOCIAL STRUCTURES

Is there a social hierarchy or is everyone equal?

How are different genders treated?

How are families organized?