

Civilizations Take Root

Compare how early societies grew in different environments.

SS.6.W.2.10 "Compare the emergence of advanced civilizations in Meso and South America with the four early river valley civilizations."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two details that show a similarity between American and river valley civilizations. Circle two details that show a difference in how they used water or adapted to their environments.

Growing Civilizations in Two Regions

- ① Many of the first large civilizations grew beside rivers. In Southwest Asia, cities rose between the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers. Egypt developed along the Nile, the Indus civilization grew beside the Indus River, and early Chinese states formed near the Yellow River. Rivers supplied water for crops and travel. Seasonal floods could leave rich soil, but floods could also destroy homes and fields. Farmers produced food surpluses, so some people became craftspeople, traders, priests, or rulers. They built walls, temples, and systems for recording information.
- ② Advanced societies also emerged in Mesoamerica and South America, although their settings differed. In Mesoamerica, the Olmec built major centers in the Gulf Coast lowlands. Later Maya cities grew in areas without one great river valley. People farmed maize, beans, and squash, and they managed water through canals or reservoirs in some places. In South America, the Norte Chico civilization developed in coastal river valleys, while later Andean societies farmed highlands. They used irrigation and terraces to bring water and soil to crops.
- ③ Like the river valley civilizations, American civilizations relied on farming surpluses to support growing populations. Both regions developed cities or ceremonial centers, social classes, trade networks, religious leaders, and organized governments. People also changed their environments to grow more food. Yet the four early river civilizations were closely tied to major rivers that supported their first cities. In the Americas, societies adapted to several environments, including tropical lowlands, coastal valleys, and mountains. For example, Andean farmers cut terraces into slopes, while some Maya communities stored rainwater. These choices helped civilizations grow in places with different water supplies.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What did farming surpluses allow people to do in both the river valley civilizations and American civilizations?

2 How were the locations of the four early river valley civilizations different from the locations of American civilizations?

3 Give one example of how people in South America adapted their environment for farming. Then give one example of how early river valley peoples benefited from rivers.

4 Name two features that both American civilizations and the early river valley civilizations developed.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write a three-sentence comparison claim. Sentence 1 must state a similarity, sentence 2 must explain a difference in environmental adaptation, and sentence 3 must explain how the difference still helped both regions grow. Use at least three details from the passage.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline two details that show a similarity between American and river valley civilizations. Circle two details that show a difference in how they used water or adapted to their environments. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What did farming surpluses allow people to do in both the river valley civilizations and American civilizations?	Surpluses supported growing populations and allowed some people to do jobs besides farming, such as craftspeople, traders, priests, or rulers.
2	How were the locations of the four early river valley civilizations different from the locations of American civilizations?	The four early river civilizations were closely tied to major rivers. American civilizations grew in several settings, including tropical lowlands, coastal valleys, and mountains, and Maya cities did not grow in one great river valley.
3	Give one example of how people in South America adapted their environment for farming. Then give one example of how early river valley peoples benefited from rivers.	Andean farmers built terraces and used irrigation. River valley peoples used river water for crops and travel, and seasonal floods could leave rich soil.
4	Name two features that both American civilizations and the early river valley civilizations developed.	Answers may include cities or ceremonial centers, social classes, trade networks, religious leaders, organized governments, and farming surpluses.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Both American and early river valley civilizations used farming surpluses to support people who did jobs besides farming. The river civilizations began near major rivers, while Andean farmers built terraces in highlands and some Maya stored rainwater. Different water strategies helped each region produce enough food for larger communities.

Accept accurate comparisons supported by the passage. For the open response, check for exactly three sentences, a similarity, an environmental difference, an explanation of growth, and at least three passage details.