

Classical Change Makers

Trace people, events, and ideas across four classical civilizations.

SS.6.W.3 "Recognize significant events, figures, and contributions of classical civilizations (Phoenicia, Greece, Rome, Axum)."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each contribution, circle each named person, and number each event described in the passage. These marks will help you identify how people, events, and ideas shaped classical civilizations.

Connections Across Classical Civilizations

- ① Along the eastern Mediterranean coast, the Phoenicians built port cities such as Tyre and Sidon. Skilled sailors, they used sturdy ships to trade purple dye, cedar wood, glass, and other goods. Their voyages linked many coastal communities. One lasting Phoenician contribution was an alphabet with symbols for sounds. Greek traders later adapted this alphabet, and it helped make writing more useful for business and communication. Phoenician settlers also founded Carthage in North Africa, a city that became an important trading center.
- ② In ancient Greece, independent city-states sometimes fought, but they also shared language and religious traditions. Athens developed a form of direct democracy in which eligible male citizens voted in the Assembly. This political experiment influenced later ideas about citizen participation. During the fifth century BCE, the leader Pericles supported rebuilding Athens after Persian attacks. The Parthenon, built on the Acropolis, showed Greek advances in architecture. Greek thinkers, including Socrates, used questions and reason to examine ideas about knowledge, justice, and public life.
- ③ Rome changed from a republic, where elected officials shared power, into an empire after years of civil war. Julius Caesar's rise helped bring this crisis to a turning point. His adopted heir Augustus became Rome's first emperor in 27 BCE. Roman engineers built roads, bridges, and aqueducts that carried water into cities. Roman law and engineering influenced later societies. In East Africa, the kingdom of Axum grew wealthy through Red Sea trade. King Ezana adopted Christianity in the fourth century CE. Axum also minted coins and used written records, showing its government and trade connections.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What Phoenician contribution did Greek traders adapt, and how did it make writing more useful?

2 What political contribution developed in Athens, and who could vote in it?

3 Which Roman figure became Rome's first emperor, and what form of government did Rome have afterward?

4 What decision did King Ezana make, and when did he make it?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write four sentences comparing one significant person, event, or contribution from two different civilizations in the passage. Explain why each mattered, then state which had the wider influence and use a passage detail to support your choice.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each contribution, circle each named person, and number each event described in the passage. These marks will help you identify how people, events, and ideas shaped classical civilizations. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What Phoenician contribution did Greek traders adapt, and how did it make writing more useful?	The Phoenician alphabet. It made writing more useful for business and communication.
2	What political contribution developed in Athens, and who could vote in it?	Athens developed direct democracy. Eligible male citizens could vote in the Assembly.
3	Which Roman figure became Rome's first emperor, and what form of government did Rome have afterward?	Augustus became the first emperor, and Rome became an empire.
4	What decision did King Ezana make, and when did he make it?	King Ezana adopted Christianity in the fourth century CE.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The Phoenician alphabet was a major contribution because Greek traders adapted it for writing. Rome's roads and aqueducts were important engineering contributions because they connected places and carried water to cities. Both civilizations created tools that helped communities work and communicate. Rome's engineering had the wider influence because Roman law and engineering influenced later societies.

Accept equivalent descriptions that match the passage. For the open response, accept either civilization as having wider influence when the student compares two civilizations and supports the claim with an accurate passage detail.