# Hearths Across Time

Trace where early cultural centers developed and when.

**GHW.1.1** "Use maps, timelines, and other graphic representations to identify and describe the location, distribution, and main events in the development of culture hearths in Asia, Mesoamerica, and North Africa."

NAME _____ DATE _____

## 1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

**YOUR JOB** Underline each place name, circle each date, and number the four developments in order from earliest to latest. Use your marks to track both location and change over time.

### Three Regions, Different Paths

1 A culture hearth is a place where shared practices develop and spread. Rivers and coasts offered routes for moving people, goods, and ideas, but each region followed its own path. To track a hearth, locate its setting, then order major developments by date. Dates marked BCE count backward toward year 1.

2 In Southwest Asia, the Tigris and Euphrates flowed through Mesopotamia, in present-day Iraq. Waterways helped connect growing settlements, including Uruk. Farther west, the Nile ran north across Egypt toward the Mediterranean Sea. Communities along the Nile eventually formed a single kingdom. These river settings were far apart, even though both supported farming and travel.

3 Across the Atlantic, Mesoamerica included parts of present-day Mexico and Central America. Olmec centers developed on Mexico's Gulf Coast, first at San Lorenzo and later at La Venta. This sequence shows development within a coastal lowland rather than across every part of Mesoamerica. The table places these developments beside events in Asia and North Africa.

**DEVELOPMENTS BY PLACE AND DATE**

| Region | Place | Development and approximate date |
|---|---|---|
| Asia | Uruk, Mesopotamia | Large city by 3500 BCE |
| North Africa | Nile Valley, Egypt | Upper and Lower Egypt united around 3100 BCE |
| Mesoamerica | San Lorenzo, Gulf Coast | Major center by 1200 BCE |
| Mesoamerica | La Venta, Gulf Coast | Major center around 900 BCE |

## 2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Which two regions had the developments listed before 3000 BCE? Name the place in each region.

2. Which Olmec center became a major center first, and approximately how many years earlier was it?

3. Describe where the two Olmec centers were distributed within Mesoamerica.

4. What development took place between the rise of Uruk and the rise of San Lorenzo? Give its location.

## 3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a three-sentence museum label that puts all four developments in order, names each region, and describes one pattern in their locations.

ANSWER KEY

# Hearths Across Time

HIGH SCHOOL · GHW.1.1

## PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline each place name, circle each date, and number the four developments in order from earliest to latest. Use your marks to track both location and change over time. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

## PART 2 · ANSWERS

| # | QUESTION | ANSWER |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Which two regions had the developments listed before 3000 BCE? Name the place in each region. | **Asia: Uruk in Mesopotamia. North Africa: the Nile Valley in Egypt.** |
| 2 | Which Olmec center became a major center first, and approximately how many years earlier was it? | **San Lorenzo became a major center first, approximately 300 years before La Venta.** |
| 3 | Describe where the two Olmec centers were distributed within Mesoamerica. | **Both were on Mexico's Gulf Coast, within one coastal lowland rather than throughout Mesoamerica.** |
| 4 | What development took place between the rise of Uruk and the rise of San Lorenzo? Give its location. | **Upper and Lower Egypt united in the Nile Valley of North Africa around 3100 BCE.** |

## PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Uruk became a large city in Asia by 3500 BCE, and Upper and Lower Egypt united in North Africa around 3100 BCE. In Mesoamerica, San Lorenzo was a major center by 1200 BCE, followed by La Venta around 900 BCE. The developments occurred across three regions, while both Olmec centers were on Mexico's Gulf Coast.

Accept approximate dates and equivalent place names. The museum label should order all four developments correctly and identify a supported geographic pattern.