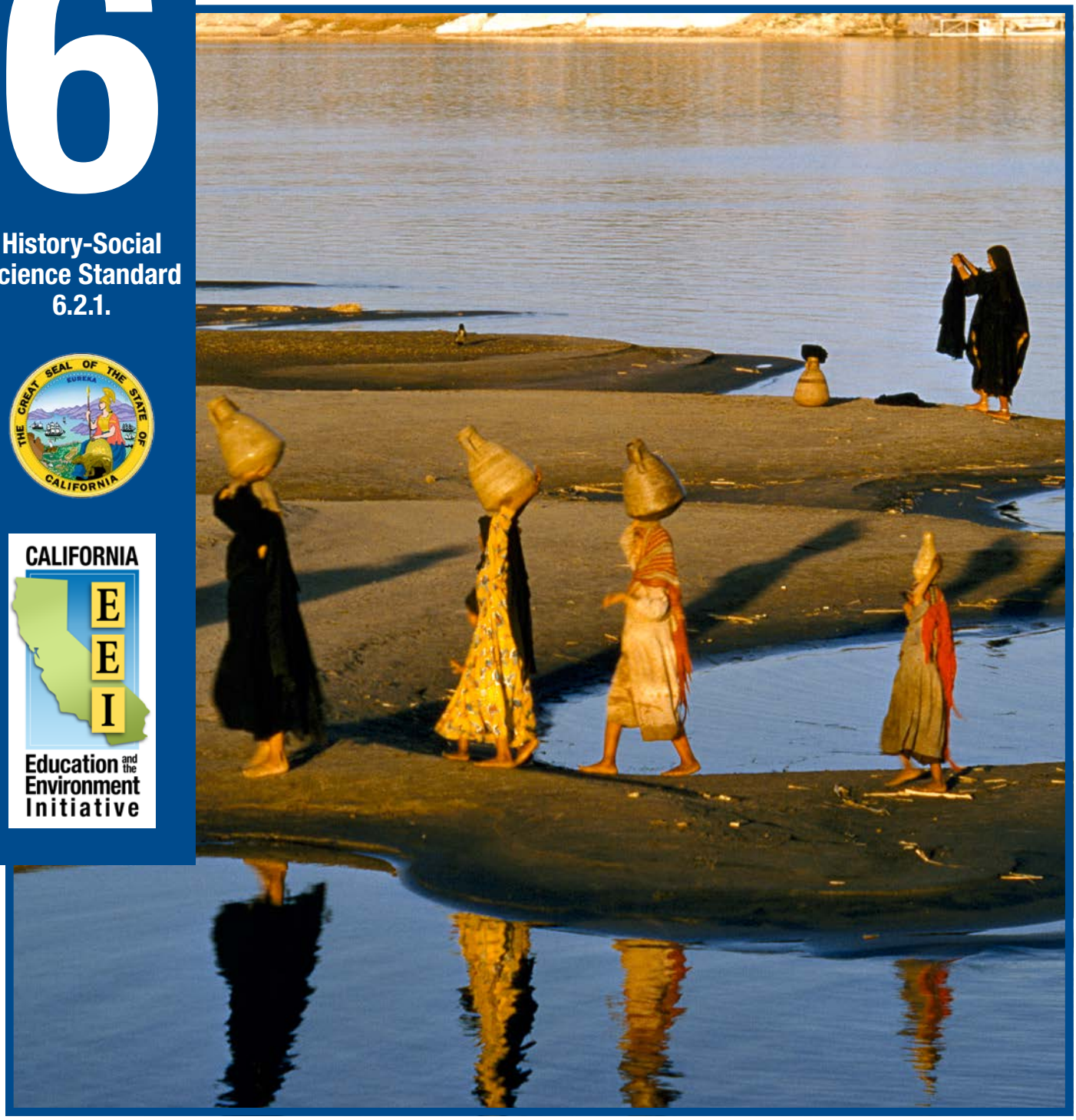
6

History-Social Science Standard 6.2.1.

Teacher's Masters

California Education and the Environment Initiative



River Systems and Ancient Peoples

California Education and the Environment Initiative

Approved by the California State Board of Education, 2010

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Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle)

Key Partners:

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Office of Education and the Environment

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None required for this lesson.

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None required for this lesson.

Lesson 4 Growing by the Banks

None required for this lesson.

Lesson 5 Finding Foundations

None required for this lesson.

Science Background Introducing a River System

None required for this lesson.

Assessments

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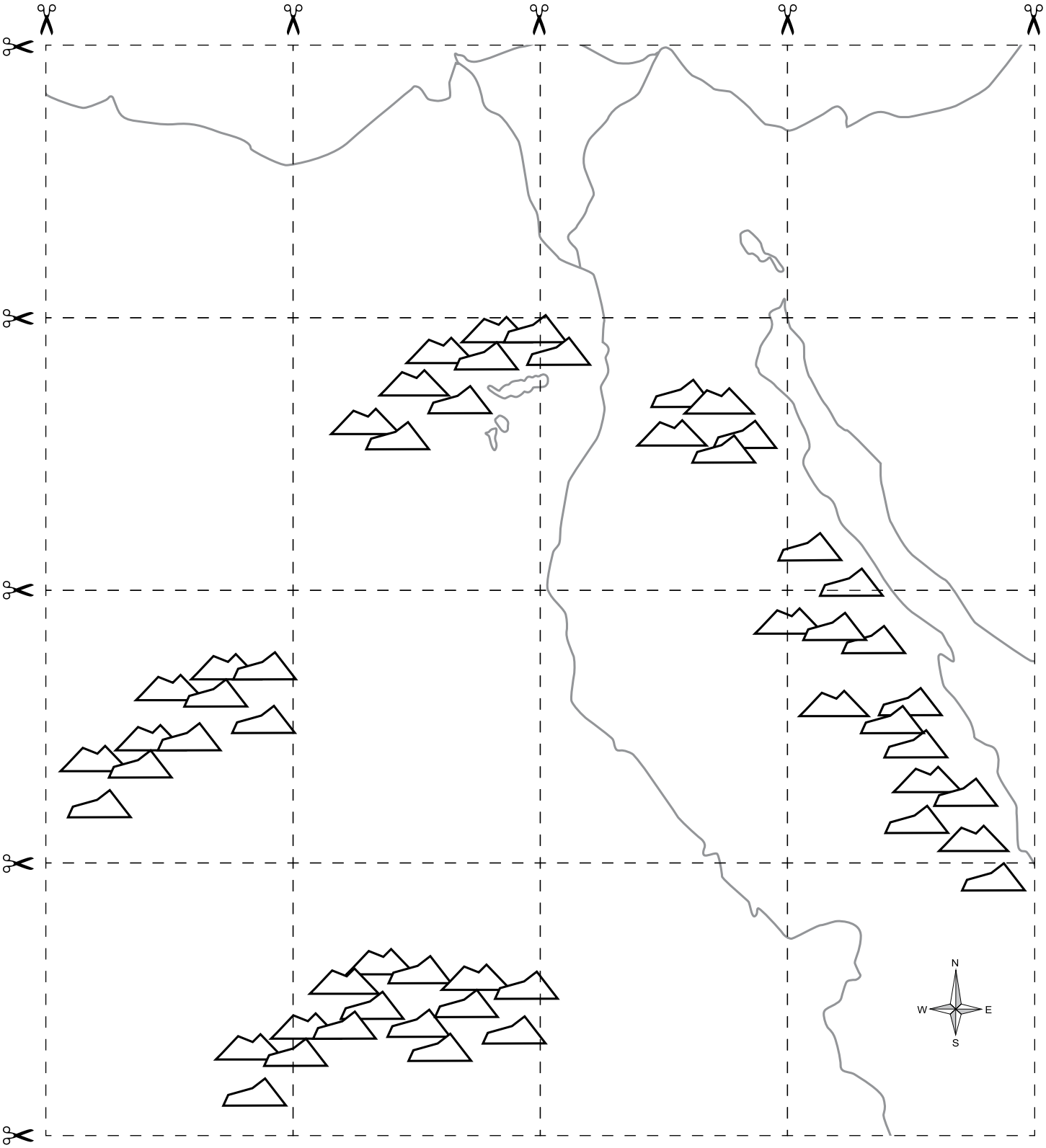
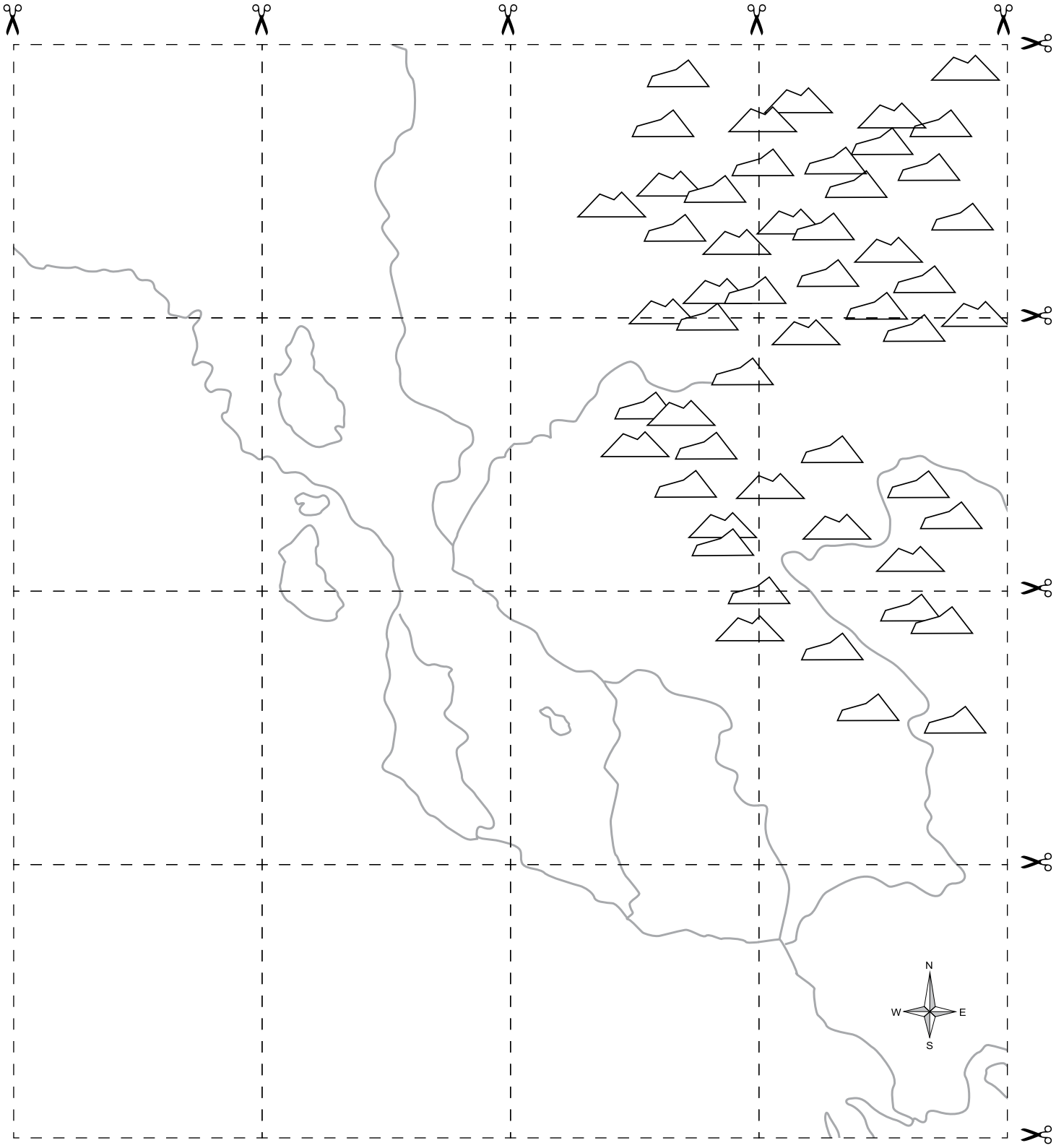
Map Squares (Egypt)

Lesson 2



Map Squares (Mesopotamia)

Lesson 2



Name: _____

Part 1

Instructions: Select the best answer and circle the correct letter. (2 points each)

1. The area stretching from the Nile to the Tigris-Euphrates rivers is called the "Fertile Crescent" because _____.
   a. it is dry and hot, allowing many fruits to grow
   b. this is where the first humans lived
   c. these river systems supported growing populations
   d. the land receives a large amount of rain each year

2. Why have most cities along the Tigris-Euphrates and Nile rivers been built in the deltas or on the floodplains?
   a. These areas are close to the mountains.
   b. Floodplains provide natural barriers for defense.
   c. The soil in these areas is good for growing crops.
   d. These areas receive less rainfall each year.

3. Which statement is true about the flood cycles of the Nile and the Tigris-Euphrates rivers?
   a. The Nile floods each fall; the Tigris-Euphrates floods in the spring, at harvest time, and sometimes unexpectedly.
   b. The Tigris-Euphrates floods every winter, and the Nile floods every summer.
   c. The Nile and Tigris-Euphrates flood at the same time, but only every three years.
   d. The Tigris-Euphrates floods unexpectedly, but the Nile never floods.

4. Distances along the Nile River are marked by _____.
   a. deltas
   b. tributaries
   c. watersheds
   d. cataracts

5. What is the source of the Nile's flooding?
   a. snowmelt in the mountains of eastern Turkey
   b. heavy rains in central Africa
   c. very high tides in the Nile Delta
   d. flooding of the Tigris-Euphrates rivers

Name: _____

6. Which is true about Mesopotamian and Egyptian flood myths?
   a. Both tell the story of a flood that lasts seven days and seven nights.
   b. The gods of the rivers in both myths want to help people.
   c. The gods of the rivers in both myths are angry and want to destroy people.
   d. Both myths tell the story of a flood that covers the whole world.

7. The name, "Mesopotamia," means _____.
   a. dry, hot land
   b. lush, fertile land
   c. between the rivers
   d. land of the Nile

8. Ancient people used river systems for _____.
   a. transportation
   b. a water supply
   c. a food source
   d. all of the above

9. Both Mesopotamians and Egyptians used natural resources from rivers to help them keep records. Ancient Mesopotamians wrote on tablets made of clay, and Egyptians wrote on paper made from _____.
   a. rocks
   b. reeds
   c. papyrus
   d. leather

10. Which is true about the ancient cities of Ur, Uruk, and Babylon?
    a. They were all located along the Tigris and Euphrates rivers.
    b. They were all located along the Nile River.
    c. They are all cities in Iraq today.
    d. They are all cities in Egypt today.

11. What role did rivers play in King Hammurabi's laws?
    a. The river was where King Hammurabi wrote the laws.
    b. The law said that no one owned the river; but you could own land near the river.
    c. The river decided a person's innocence; if you drowned, you were guilty.
    d. The laws would be changed every time the river flooded.

Name: _____

Part 2

Instructions: Read each question and write your answer in the space provided.

12. How were the gods of the ancient world connected to river systems? Compare how ancient Mesopotamians and ancient Egyptians viewed these gods. (10 points)

Name: _____

13. Describe three ways ancient people depended on the river systems of the Fertile Crescent. (10 points)

Name: _____

Part 1

Instructions: On the map below identify the Tigris-Euphrates and Nile rivers and four physical features (for example: mountains, seas and/or gulfs, and deserts). (10 points)

Name: _____

Part 2

Instructions: Write an essay in response to the following questions. Use the **River Systems of the Ancient World Scoring Tool** on the next page to guide your work. (12 points)

Why did ancient people settle next to the Tigris-Euphrates and Nile rivers? How did rivers help them survive and shape their economies, politics, and religious beliefs?

Name: _____

River Systems of the Ancient World Scoring Tool

Component	4 points	3 points	2 points	1 point
River systems and features important to early civilizations	Correctly identifies the Tigris-Euphrates and Nile river systems and includes four physical features.	Correctly identifies the Tigris-Euphrates and Nile river systems and includes three physical features.	Correctly identifies the Tigris-Euphrates and Nile river systems and includes two physical features.	Correctly identifies the Tigris-Euphrates or Nile River systems and includes two physical features.
Seasonal river cycles in major river system that benefitted humans	Describes seasonal cycles in a major river system and three ways it benefitted humans and settlement of early civilizations.	Describes seasonal cycles in a major river system and two ways it benefitted humans and settlement of early civilizations.	Identifies a seasonal cycle in a major river system and one way it benefitted humans and settlement of early civilizations.	Identifies a seasonal cycle in a major river system.
Importance of water and river systems to human life and social systems	Describes the importance of water and river systems to human life and four social systems.	Describes the importance of water and a river systems to human life and three social systems.	Describes the importance of water and a river systems to human life and one social system.	Identifies water or a river system as important to human life.

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