

6

History-Social  
Science Standard  
6.2.2.



# Agricultural Advances in Ancient Civilizations

## **California Education and the Environment Initiative**

Approved by the California State Board of Education, 2010

### **The Education and the Environment Initiative Curriculum is a cooperative endeavor of the following entities:**

California Environmental Protection Agency  
California Natural Resources Agency  
California State Board of Education  
California Department of Education  
Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle)

### **Key Partners:**

Special thanks to **Heal the Bay**, sponsor of the EEI law, for their partnership and participation in reviewing portions of the EEI curriculum.

Valuable assistance with maps, photos, videos and design was provided by the **National Geographic Society** under a contract with the State of California.

### **Office of Education and the Environment**

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**Lesson 1 The Power of Agriculture**

None required for this lesson.

**Lesson 2 Radical Revolution: Ancient Agricultural Advancements**

None required for this lesson.

**Lesson 3 Subsistence to Surplus**

None required for this lesson.

**Lesson 4 Crowding Out the Crops**

Crowding Out the Crops Role Cards . . . . . 2

**Lesson 5 Sinking Civilizations**

None required for this lesson.

**Assessments**

Agricultural Advances in Ancient Civilizations—Traditional Unit  
 Assessment Master . . . . . 5

Cities Grow From Agriculture—Alternative Unit Assessment Master . . . . . 9



**Farmer**



**Artisan**



# Decision Maker



# Villager



# Family Member



# City Dweller

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Part 1**

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

1. Two of the earliest types of writing in the ancient world were \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. pictograms and characters
  - b. letters and numbers
  - c. hieroglyphics and cuneiform
  - d. clay tablets and painting
  
2. Which of the following correctly describes how ancient cities grew?
  - a. harvest, surplus, irrigation, civilization, population growth
  - b. population growth, harvest, irrigation, surplus, civilization
  - c. civilization, irrigation, harvest, population growth, surplus
  - d. irrigation, harvest, surplus, population growth, civilization
  
3. Which of the following is the name archeologists gave to the place where agriculture first developed?
  - a. The Fertile Crescent
  - b. The Nile River Valley
  - c. The Floodplain
  - d. The Great Central Valley
  
4. When salt builds up in the soil it is called \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. arable land
  - b. salinization
  - c. irrigation
  - d. drought
  
5. Which of the following inventions did not help increase agricultural production?
  - a. sickle
  - b. plow
  - c. potter's wheel
  - d. shaduf
  
6. Ancient farmers used seasonal cycles to \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. choose the best way to irrigate their crops
  - b. wash away soil
  - c. decide how much food to grow
  - d. predict planting and harvesting times

## Agricultural Advances in Ancient Civilizations

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

7. Which of the following natural cycles helped ancient humans with agriculture?
  - a. choosing which plants to sow in a particular location
  - b. the location of irrigation channels
  - c. migration of birds and other animals
  - d. all of the above
  
8. When ancient people settled in one area and created cities, what was one result?
  - a. They could predict when the river would flood.
  - b. They began to import food from farther away.
  - c. They stopped farming.
  - d. They used different tools to harvest their crops.
  
9. With a surplus of food, ancient people were able to \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. specialize in crafts and art
  - b. begin irrigating more land
  - c. control the flooding and drought cycles
  - d. stop farming
  
10. Which of the following came about from ancient people observing natural cycles?
  - a. digging stick
  - b. irrigation
  - c. plow
  - d. ibises

### Part 2

**Instructions:** Read the questions carefully and write complete answers in the spaces provided.

1. Can humans farm only in areas where there is a river? Why or why not? (5 points)

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**Agricultural Advances in Ancient Civilizations**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Farming methods: \_\_\_\_\_

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Division of labor: \_\_\_\_\_

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Decision making: \_\_\_\_\_

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## Cities Grow From Agriculture

Alternative Unit Assessment Master | page 1 of 2

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Instructions:** The important events in the chart on the next page need to be put in order, need examples, and need a picture or drawing of some kind to describe them. Your job is to complete the chart with all that you know and have learned about the beginnings of agriculture and the emergence of cities as centers of culture and power.

Follow these steps to complete the assignment:

- Number the events to show the order in which they occurred, starting with 1 (as the earliest). (1 point each)
- Give two examples for each event. (2 points each)
- Draw a picture of each event. (5 points each)

Your work is due on: \_\_\_\_\_



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Event or Situation	Examples	Illustration (Picture)
<p># _____ As agricultural techniques improved, food production increased, and more humans moved to emerging cities, there were direct and indirect effects on the environment.</p>		
<p># _____ The development of new farming and irrigation tools resulted in a surplus of agricultural products.</p>		
<p># _____ Early humans learned more about natural systems and used this knowledge to develop new agricultural techniques.</p>		
<p># _____ As humans settled in cities and populations grew, they had to import food and other goods from farther away.</p>		
<p># _____ Improvements to agricultural practices resulted in the growth of populations and the development of towns.</p>		









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