

River Valley Civilizations

Name: _____ Date: _____ Period: _____

Directions: Use the "Rand McNally Historical Atlas of the World" to complete the activity and answer the questions. It will involve some historical research (flipping to the glossary) to find some of the geographic features and draw your conclusions.

On the map you must do each of the following:

1. Color each River Valley Civilization
 - a. China
 - b. Mesopotamia
 - c. Ancient Egypt
 - d. Indus Valley

2. Label the following key rivers:
 - a. Nile
 - b. Tigris
 - c. Euphrates
 - d. Indus
 - e. Huang He (Yellow)
 - f. Chang Jiang (Yangtze)

3. Label the following continents:
 - a. Africa
 - b. Asia
 - c. Europe

4. Indicate the key physical features and bodies of water:
 - a. Himalayas
 - b. Gobi Desert
 - c. Arabian Peninsula
 - d. Indian Ocean
 - e. Bay of Bengal
 - f. Yellow Sea
 - g. Red Sea
 - h. Persian Gulf
 - i. Mediterranean Sea
 - j. Black Sea
 - k. Caspian Sea

River Valley Civilizations & Geography

1. What key geographical feature do all these civilizations have in common?
2. How did the above geographical feature help civilizations to develop?
3. Which civilization(s) had the most natural land barriers?
4. What effects could the presence of natural land barriers have on how the civilization(s) developed?
5. Which civilization(s) had the fewest natural land barriers?
6. What effects could the lack of natural land barriers have on how the civilizations(s) developed?
7. In what other ways could geographical features influence these early civilizations? Give two other examples & be specific.