

Ancient Civilizations Comparison Chart

	Ancient Mesopotamia	Ancient Egypt	Ancient Israel	Ancient China	Ancient India
Geography • Landscape • Water	1. Tigris River 2. Euphrates River 3. River Valley 4. Persian Gulf 5. Flooding	1. Nile River 2. River Valley 3. Sahara Desert 4. Cataracts 5. Red Sea 6. Nile Delta 7. Flooding	1. Syrian Desert 2. Dead Sea 3. Jordan River 4. Mediterranean Sea 5. Mount Sinai	1. Haung He River 2. Chang Jiang River 3. South China Sea 4. Himalaya Mt. 5. Plateau of Tibet 6. Taklimakan Desert 7. Gobi Desert China is surrounded by mountain ranges and large bodies of water.	1. Indus River 2. Ganges River 3. Himalaya Mt. 4. Deccan Plateau 5. Subcontinent 6. Arabian Sea 7. Bay of Bengal 8. Indian Ocean
Cities	1. Babylon 2. Ur 3. Nineveh	1. Giza 2. Memphis 3. Thebes	1. Jerusalem 2. Canaan 3. Jericho	1. Anyang 2. Luoyang	1. Harappa 2. Mohenjio-Daro
Leaders	1. Sargon 2. Hammurabi 3. Nebuchadnezzar	1. Narmer / Menus 2. Hatshepsut 3. Ramses II 4. Tutankhamen	1. Abraham 2. Moses 3. David 4. Solomon	1. Confucius 2. Laozi 3. Hanfeizi 4. Qin Shihuangdi	1. Siddhartha Gautama 2. Chandragupta Maurya 3. Emperor Asoka
Laws or Moral Codes	Hammurabi's Code of Law	Pharaoh's word is law	Rule of Law / Ten Commandments	Confucius's Golden Rule Legalism	Buddha's Eightfold Path
Government	1. Ruled by priests. 2. Later, kings ruled the people; they believed kings had divine approval. Empires: First kings were priests than warriors. Empires • Akkadians • Babylonians • Assyrians • Chaldeans	Theocracy Pharaoh was a ruler-priest and a god. He owned everything. Dynasties broken up into 3 time frames. Three Kingdoms: 1. Old Kingdom 2. Middle Kingdom 3. New Kingdom	1. Early Israelites were led by judges. 2. Later, they were led by kings and prophets. • King Saul • King David • King Solomon	1. A king or emperor ruled the country. 2. Aristocrats ran the provinces. 3. Dynasties • Shang • Zhou • Qin • Han	1. The warrior class ran the government, usually ruled by a king. 2. Small kingdoms were forced to unit when foreigners invaded. 3. Dynasties • Mauryan Dynasty - Emperor Asoka • Gupta Empire

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Social Class	1. Upper class - Kings - Priests - Government officials 2. Middle Class - Artisans - Merchants - Farmers - Fishermen 3. Lower class - Slaves	1. Pharaoh 2. Priests & nobles 3. Traders, artisans, shopkeepers & scribes 4. Farmers & herders 5. Unskilled workers 6. Slaves	No real social class but judges and prophets were most respected. Women did not have as many rights as men.	1. Upper class - Landowning aristocrats 2. Middle class - Peasant Farmers 3. Lower class - Merchants	Caste System 1. Brahmins – Priests 2. Kshatriyas - Rulers & warriors 3. Vaisyas – Common people 4. Sudras – Unskilled laborers, servants Not fit for the system 5. Untouchables – collecting trash, skinning animals, or handling dead bodies.
Religion	Polytheism (Many gods) Marduk (king of the gods) Ishtar (love) Adad (storm god)	Polytheism (Many gods) Re – Sun god Osiris - Afterlife	Judaism Monotheism (One God)	Worship of Ancestors Polytheism Confucianism Daoism Buddhism (not god centered)	Hinduism (Many forms of Brahman) Buddhism (not god centered)
Writing System	Cuneiform	Hieroglyphics	Hebrew	Pictographs – word pictures Calligraphy	Sanskrit
Literature	<i>Epic of Gilgamesh</i> <i>Hammurabi's Code of Law</i>	<i>Egyptian Book of the Dead</i>	<i>Torah & Hebrew Bible</i> (Old Testament) <i>Dead Sea Scrolls</i>	<i>Analects</i> (Confucius) <i>Dao De Ching</i> (Lao-tzu)	1. <i>Upanishads</i> 2. <i>Vedas of India</i> 3. <i>Epic of Mahabharata</i> 4. <i>Epic of Ramayana</i>
Buildings	1. Ziggurat 2. Hanging Garden of Babylon	1. Pyramids 2. Sphinx 3. Temples	1. Holy Temple 2. Synagogue	1. Great Wall of China 2. Qin's Terra-cotta Army	1. Stupa 2. Mandir

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Accomplishments	1. Number system based on 60 2. 12 – Month Calendar 3. Wagon Wheel 4. Sailboat 5. Plow 6. Irrigation System	1. 365 – Day Calendar 2. Number system based on 10 3. Medicine 4. Papyrus Paper 5. Machines to move water to crops 6. Irrigation System	1. Spread the idea of one God. 2. Started Judaism 3. Wrote the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament) 4. Influenced Christianity and Islam 5. Passed on the ideas of justice, fairness and compassion in society and government.	Abacus Acupuncture Cannon Cast iron Clock Coins Compass Decimal System Fireworks Gunpowder Ink Kite Martial Arts Matches Paper Paper money Porcelain Printing Silk Tea Umbrella Wheelbarrow	1. Developed 2 major religions (Hinduism & Buddhism) 2. Concept of zero 3. Symbols for numbers 1-9 4. Algorithms 5. Astronomy – The earth revolved around the sun. 6. Gold coins 7. Metal mirrors 8. Plastic surgery 9. Chess
Vocabulary	Artisan Astronomer Caravan City-state Civilizations Cuneiform Empire Irrigation Polytheism Province Scribe Ziggurat	Artisan Delta Deity Dynasty Embalming Hieroglyphics Irrigation Mummy Obelisk Papyrus Polytheism Pyramid Pharaoh Savanna Scribe Social Class Sphinx Theocracy Tribute	Alphabet Covenant Empire Exile Messiah Monotheism Prophet Proverb Rabbi Sabbath Synagogue Torah Tribe	Acupuncture Aristocrat Bureaucracy Calligraphy Confucianism Dao Daoism Dynasty Filial Piety Ideography Legalism Mandate of Heaven Pictograph Social Class Terra-cotta Trade Routes	Brahman Brahmins Caste Dharma Dynasty Ganesh Guru Karma Krishna Monsoon Nirvana Pilgrimage Pilgrims Raja Reincarnation Sanskrit Shiva Stupa Subcontinent Theocracy Vishnu