

Take a Stand! Ancient Civilizations

Socratic Discussion in History

Student's Edition

DEDICATION

Dedicated to Zdenka and the De Gree Kids

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Grammar for Week One
The Fertile Crescent and the Sumerians

1. What is an urban settlement with a high development of agriculture? Civilization
2. What is a crescent-shaped area in the Middle East called? Fertile Crescent
3. What do we call the land between the Euphrates and Tigris rivers? Mesopotamia
4. Name the Sumerians' writing system. Cuneiform
5. What are you called if you believe in many gods? Polytheism
6. What is the world's first advanced civilization? Sumer
7. Name possibly the oldest written story. The Epic of Gilgamesh
8. Who invented the wheel? Sumeria
9. What did the Sumerians invent?
 - a. astronomy
 - b. lunar calendar
 - c. wheel
 - d. cuneiform
10. About when did the Sumerian culture exist? C. 4000 B.C. to 1900 B.C.

Fact or Opinion?

Fact

A **fact** in history is a statement that is accepted as true and is not debatable. A fact often refers to a date, a person, or a document. For example, “The Declaration of Independence was written and signed in 1776.” We know this happened because we have the original document, the men who wrote and signed this document wrote about it, and observers wrote about it as well. There is no doubt in anybody’s mind whether the facts in this statement are true.

Which of these sentences are facts and which are not?

Fact or Not a Fact?

- 1. The first Egyptian settlements were near the Euphrates River.
- 2. Early civilizations often settled near major rivers.
- 3. Another way of saying Old Stone Age is Paleolithic.
- 4. Early man used guns to hunt buffaloes.
- 5. California has the best waves to surf in the United States.

Opinion

An **opinion** is an expression of somebody’s ideas and is debatable. Opinions that are based on facts and good reasoning are stronger than opinions not based on facts. In history, opinions alone tend to be less persuasive than when a person supports his opinions with facts.

Are the following opinions or facts?

Opinion or Fact?

- 1. Life for early man was more peaceful than our life today.
- 2. Teachers who are nice don’t assign homework.
- 3. Almost everybody’s favorite food is pizza.
- 4. Mesopotamia means “the land between two rivers.”
- 5. Sumerians were the first people to use wheeled vehicles.

Now that you've learned the difference between fact and opinion, read the example paragraphs below and answer the questions. These two students attempted to answer the question "Did the ancient civilizations of Mesopotamia contribute much to world civilizations?"

Student 1: The ancient civilizations of Mesopotamia contributed much to the world. These societies rocked! When there was a really big war, the Sumerians and Assyrians knew how to fight hard. These societies would use a lot of arrows in their battles, and the enemy wouldn't know how to respond. Most of the time, the enemy would just die, or quit. Also, everyone knows that Mesopotamia had the best kind of clothing. Have you seen pictures of the great Babylonian kings? Their clothing was "tight." And, Mesopotamia was the land between two rivers, so therefore this area had to have a lot of water. All in all, the ancient civilizations of Mesopotamia contributed much to the world.

Student 2: The ancient civilizations of Mesopotamia contributed much to the world. The Sumerians created the first written language. We call this "Cuneiform." Sumerians also were the first people to use the wheel for transportation. The Babylonian king Hammurabi established one of the first written law codes, known as Hammurabi's Code. These laws helped the weak against the strong, protected women's property rights, and regulated doctors' fees. Also, the Hittites discovered how to use iron, which at that time was the strongest metal in the world that humans could work with. Phoenicians gave us the world's first alphabet, with 22 symbols. In addition, the Hebrews were the first people ever to worship only one God. Yes, the ancient civilizations of Mesopotamia contributed much to the world.

Questions

1. Which of these two students uses more opinion than fact? _____
2. Copy one sentence that is an opinion. _____
3. Copy one sentence that details at least one fact. _____
4. Which of these two students' writings is more persuasive? Why? _____

Judgment

Judgment in social studies means a person's evaluation of facts. For example, if we use the fact that the Romans believed citizens could vote, we can judge from this that the Romans looked somewhat favorably on democracy. Good judgment is very persuasive but bad judgment is not.

Write facts and judgments in the spaces provided. Discuss your judgments in class.

Fact:	11-year-old Maria Perez won the gold medal in the city 800-meter sprint.
Judgment:	Maria is a fast runner.
Fact:	Private Smith was killed in war and had one wife and 7 children.
Judgment:	Private Smith's death was a tragedy.
Fact:	Thursday's temperature in Santa Ana was 105 degrees Fahrenheit.
Judgment:	Thursday was very hot.

Make your own.

Fact:
Judgment:

Fact:
Judgment:

Fact:
Judgment:

Grammar for Week Two

Babylonian Empire

1. When was the Babylonian Empire? 1900 B.C. to 1600 B.C.
2. Were farmers successful in Babylon? Yes
3. What did Babylonians build with? Bricks
4. What did King Hammurabi create? Hammurabi's Code
5. If a son hit his father, what would his punishment be under Hammurabi's Code?
His hands would be chopped off.
6. What were some reasons Hammurabi's Code was important?
 - a. It was written
 - b. It was publicly displayed

Because of these two facts, everyone had to follow the Code, and the leaders couldn't change the law whenever they wanted to.

Supporting Evidence

Supporting evidence refers to everything you use to support your thesis. These include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Diaries and journals
2. Government documents such as birth certificates
3. Songs and stories
4. Coins, medals, jewelry
5. Artistic works such as pictures and paintings
6. Tools and pottery
7. Documents such as the Declaration of Independence
8. Weapons
9. Burial remains
10. Literature and customs

Good writers overwhelm the reader with so many pieces of supporting evidence that the writing will be quickly accepted. Also, the writer has a duty to explain carefully and logically the meaning of the evidence, showing how it supports the thesis. A writer must be careful, however, not to include unnecessary evidence. For example, the fact that Lincoln was born in a log cabin isn't evidence that he was a good president. Also, the dates a president was born and died may be evidence, but they would not support a thesis arguing who was the best president.

Practice

With your teacher discuss which of the following is evidence for the topic "Explain what daily life was like in the Roman Republic in the third century B.C."

1. A diary from 234 B.C: _____
2. A newspaper article from A.D. 250: _____
3. Your friend likes the subject: _____
4. A movie about life in the third century B.C: _____
5. A song Romans sang in the third century B.C: _____
6. A story on the crucifixion of Christ: _____
7. A painting of a Roman slave working in 299 A.D: _____

Primary or Secondary Source Analysis

A **primary source** is a piece of evidence authored by a person who witnessed or experienced a historical event. For example, diaries and journals are primary sources. It is usually better to find out something from a person who experienced a particular event than to hear about it secondhand. Primary source documents are usually the most useful for historians.

A **secondary source** is a piece of evidence that has been worked on by somebody who was not a witness to the historical event. Examples of secondary sources are textbooks, documentaries, and encyclopedias. Secondary sources are valuable but not as valuable as primary sources. Secondary sources contain the bias of the writer. This means that the writer of a secondary source will put his ideas into his explanation of the historical event, even when he may be trying not to.

Take a look at these two examples regarding the same event.

Event: Car accident outside of school

Example 1: "Oh no! I was in the back seat of my mom's car. This kid threw his friend's handball onto the street. All of a sudden, his friend jumped in front of my mom's car to get his ball. He didn't even look if a car was coming. My mom hit him and his body smashed against our windshield. Blood was everywhere!"

Example 2: "Did you hear what happened? Mario told me that his brother was walking home when he dropped his handball onto the street. After his brother looked both ways for cars, he stepped out onto the street to get his ball. Then this mad lady came speeding down the street and aimed her car at him. She hit him on purpose!"

Questions

1. Which is a primary source?
2. Which is a secondary source?
3. What is usually more believable, a primary or secondary source? Why? _____

Grammar for Week Three

Hittites and Phoenicians

1. What did the Hittites discover? A better way to make iron

2. Were Hittite laws written? Yes

3. Why is it so important to have written laws?

- a. It was written
- b. It was publicly displayed

Because of these two facts, everyone had to follow the law, and the leaders couldn't change the law whenever they wanted to.

4. What were the Phoenicians good at? Sailing

5. What was the commercial center for Phoenicia? Carthage

6. Why was purple the color of kings' clothing? Purple dye came from a rare shellfish

Grammar for Week Twenty-One
Ancient China: Xia, Shang, and Zhou Dynasties

1. Which civilization is the oldest surviving civilization in the world? China
2. What do we call a family who controls a country? Dynasty
3. Who did the Shang worship? They worshipped their ancestors
4. Who developed the first Chinese writing? The Shang developed characters
5. What would people in the Shang Dynasty use to tell the future? Oracle bones
6. What did the Zhou Dynasty introduce? Iron
7. During the Warring States period, what idea stated that laws needed to be clearly written and available to the public? Legalism
8. Who is the most well-known philosopher of ancient China? Confucius.

Ancient China

China has one of the world's oldest civilizations, beginning about 4,500 years ago. As in all early civilizations, geography was a key factor as to where the first settlements began. The first Chinese societies started near the rivers of the Yellow, the Yangtze, and the Hsi. These early societies would later develop into the great Chinese dynasties.

One of the greatest tasks Chinese leaders had was in unifying all the Chinese in one government. Answer the question "What made unifying ancient China so difficult?"

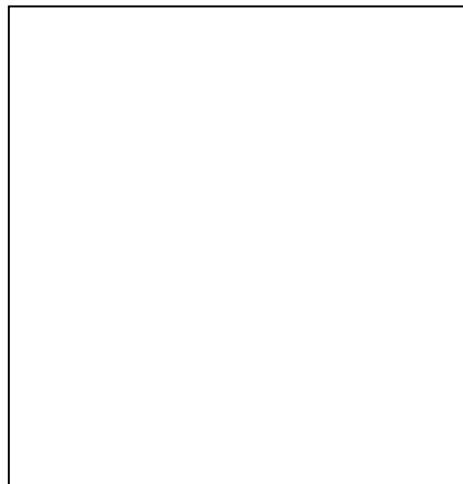
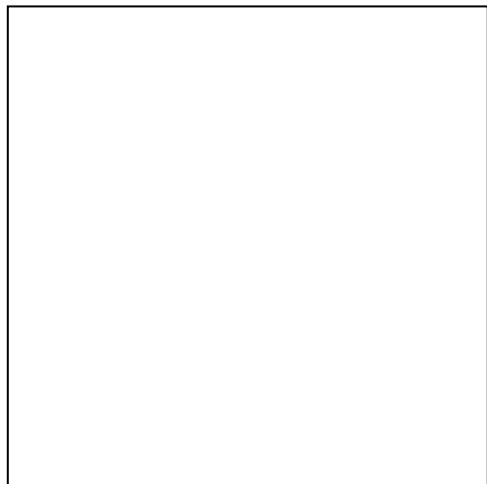
A. Calligraphy

Calligraphy is a Chinese way of writing. Instead of letters, which represent sound, in calligraphy small pictures represent whole words and ideas. Calligraphy was introduced to ancient China in the Shang period, over 3,500 years ago. Before calligraphy, Chinese could not communicate well with each other throughout all of China.

Written language was very important to China, as it made it possible for all Chinese people to communicate with each other. In ancient China, each Chinese settlement had a different way of speaking the Chinese language. These differences, called dialects, made it hard for people from different cities and villages to communicate with each other. Since calligraphy had pictures, which represented whole words or ideas, all Chinese could communicate with this new written language.

Chinese Writing – Calligraphy

Research calligraphy. Try to draw Chinese symbols in the boxes below. Write underneath what your symbol represents.



B. Geography of China

Take out a map of China, which shows deserts, mountains, and rivers. Imagine you are a very powerful and aggressive military leader who lived 4,000 years ago in China. Answer the following questions about the geography of China. After you have answered the questions, try to imagine yourself setting out with a strong army in ancient China to unify the country. What would be the most challenging aspect to unify China?

Questions:

1. By looking at a map, how would you describe China? _____
2. What mountain range is to the southwest of China? _____
3. Where is the largest mountain in the world located and what is its name? _____
4. What mountain range is in the north of China? _____
5. What desert is to the northwest of China? _____
6. Name the major rivers of China and describe where they are.

7. Are there mountains all throughout China? _____
8. Would mountains make it difficult to conquer a country? Why or why not?

9. Would rivers make it difficult to travel in ancient China? Why or why not?

10. What do you think might be the most challenging part of unifying ancient China?

C. Socratic Discussion and Reflection

When you share ideas with other students, your ideas may be reinforced, rejected, or slightly changed. Listening to your classmates' ideas will help you form your own judgment. After the class discussion, write why Ancient China was so difficult to unite below.

Grammar for Week Twenty-Two
Ancient China: Qin and Han Dynasties

1. Which civilization is the oldest surviving civilization in the world? China
2. What do we call a family who controls a country? Dynasty
3. Who did the Shang worship? They worshipped their ancestors
4. Who developed the first Chinese writing? The Shang developed characters
5. What would people in the Shang Dynasty use to tell the future? Oracle bones
6. What did the Zhou Dynasty introduce? Iron
7. During the Warring States period, what idea stated that laws needed to be clearly written and available to the public? Legalism
8. Who is the most well-known philosopher of ancient China? Confucius.

Grammar for Week Twenty-Three
Ancient China: Qin and Han Dynasties

1. Which emperor started building the Great Wall of China? Emperor Qin.
2. What did Emperor Qin do to control Chinese? He made all Chinese turn in their weapons.
3. Which people used to invade China from the North? The Huns
4. What did Emperor Qin do to criminals? He had them cut in half.
5. Which dynasty adopted Confucianism? The Han Dynasty
6. Name a few inventions of the Han Dynasty. Paper, compass, wheelbarrow
7. What was the business road called that was used by businesspeople for trade? The Silk Road

Confucianism

Ancient China was arguably the world's most advanced civilization. Possibly the greatest philosophers of China lived in the fifth and sixth centuries B.C. Philosophers of ancient China taught that people should respect peace, honor families, be dutiful, and have good behavior. Two such philosophers were Confucius and Lao-tzu. This essay will focus on Confucius.

Confucius (551-479 B.C.) is sometimes called China's first philosopher and first teacher. The time in which Confucius lived was marked by much violence between kings and nobles.

Confucius taught his students through short sayings how to have a peaceful society. After he died his students wrote these sayings down in a book that is called Lunyu in Chinese and The Analects in English.

Read a small collection of Confucius' sayings on the following page. After reading, answer the following question. "For a society to be strong and peaceful, which two of these sayings do you think are most important?" Paraphrase these two sayings and explain why you think a society should follow these ideas.

A. Paraphrase Writings of Confucius

Paraphrase the following quotations by Confucius. On your own, research more words of Confucius.

1. "Before you embark on a journey of revenge, dig two graves."

Paraphrase: _____

2. "Forget injuries. Never forget kindnesses."

Paraphrase: _____

3. "He who will not economize will have to agonize."

Paraphrase: _____

4. "The superior man, when resting in safety, does not forget that danger may come. When in a state of security he does not forget the possibility of ruin."

Paraphrase: _____

5. "When anger rises, think of the consequences."

Paraphrase: _____

6. "I am not one who was born in the possession of knowledge; I am one who is fond of antiquity, and earnest in seeking it there."

Paraphrase: _____

7. "Hold faithfulness and sincerity as first principles."

Paraphrase: _____

8. "If a man withdraws his mind from the love of beauty, and applies it as sincerely to the love of the virtuous; if, in serving his parents, he can exert his utmost strength; if, in serving his prince, he can devote his life; if in his intercourse with his friends, his words are sincere - although men say that he has not learned, I will certainly say that he has."

Paraphrase: _____

B. Most Important Sayings

Rate the importance of the quotes on the preceding page for a society to be strong and peaceful and explain why you gave the verses this rating. A rating of 1 means “most important.”

Quote #	Rating (1-4)	Reason for this Rating

Quote #	Rating (1-4)	Reason for this Rating

Quote #	Rating (1-4)	Reason for this Rating

Quote #	Rating (1-4)	Reason for this Rating

Socratic Discussion and Reflection

When you share ideas with other students, your ideas may be reinforced, rejected, or slightly changed. Listening to your classmates' ideas will help you form your own judgment. After the class discussion, write the answer to the following question, "For a society to be strong and peaceful, which two of these sayings do you think are most important?"

Grammar for Week Twenty-Four

Roman Republic

1. Who moved into Italy in 1500 B.C? The Latins
2. On what river is Rome built? Tiber River
3. Name one legend of the founding of Rome? Romulus and Remus
4. When did the Latins establish the Roman Republic? 509 B.C.
5. Which mountain range in the north of Italy runs east and west? Alpine mountains
6. Who did Romans believe
7. Name one modern country that can trace its form of government to the Roman Republic? The U.S.A.
8. How many branches did the government of the Roman Republic have? 3
9. What were the two types of Roman citizens called? Patricians and Plebeians.
10. What was written and publicly displayed in the Roman Republic? Twelve Tables
11. How many parts of government did the Roman Republic have? 3
12. Who controlled spending in the Roman Republic? The Senate
13. What does innocent until proven guilty mean? This means that the accuser must prove with evidence that someone is guilty of a crime. Government considers an accused person innocent.

Grammar for Week Twenty-Five

Roman Military and the Phoenician Wars

1. Who were the soldiers of the Roman Republic? the citizens
2. What is a mercenary? He is a soldier who is paid to fight.
3. What is one thing Romans built when they expanded the republic? roads
4. What were smaller, mobile units within the Roman Army called? Legions
5. What did each unit have when it went into battle? A standard
6. Which citizen became a dictator in war and then stepped down from power? Cincinnatus
7. Which American president was compared to Cincinnatus? George Washington
8. In ancient times, what was the fastest means of travel? Boat
9. Control of which body of water was crucial for power south of Europe? Mediterranean Sea
10. In which years were the three Punic Wars fought? 264 B.C. - 146 B.C.
11. What was the main city of Phoenicia? Carthage
12. Who took control of Carthage's army and fought successfully for a great deal of time against the Roman Republic? Hannibal
13. Which mountain range did Hannibal cross with elephants to invade Italy? The Alpine Mountains, or, The Alps
14. Who was victorious in the Punic Wars? The Roman Republic

Grammar for Week Twenty-Six

Decline of the Roman Republic

1. When did the Roman Republic exist? 509 B.C. to 27 B.C.
2. What made it difficult for small farm owners in the Roman Republic? Low slave prices made farming less expensive for large farm owners.
3. Who lost their farms and had to move to the cities at the end of the Roman Republic? many plebeians
4. What is a deficit? A deficit is when the government spends more money than it takes in in taxes.
5. Who are called by some as the founders of Socialism? The Gracchus brothers
6. Who fought Rome in the Servile Wars? Slaves
7. Who was given the title of dictator towards the end of the Roman Republic? Julius Caesar

The Roman Republic

Not enough can be said of the Roman Republic, which existed from 509 B.C. to 60 B.C. Its government was the model American Founders used to create the United States of America in 1789. Roman laws became the framework of legal systems in many countries, such as France, Great Britain, Spain, and the United States of America. The language of Rome is the ancestor of all romance languages, such as Portuguese, Spanish, French, and Romanian. Roman architectural structures are still in use today. Without a doubt, understanding the Roman Republic is essential to understanding Western civilization.

While there is no debate about the greatness of the Roman Republic, there are questions of what led to the success. Was it the government, the laws, the architecture, the army? Answer the questions "What are the two most important causes of the greatness of the Roman Republic? What allowed the Roman Republic to be a success for over 440 years?"

In your answer, know these terms as they relate to the Roman Empire:

Republic	Romulus and Remus	architecture
tribunes	veto	branches of government
Twelve Tables	Cincinnatus	written constitution
Roman Law	dictator	Roman army

