

# Western Asia and Egypt, 3500–500 B.C.

## TOPIC SUMMARY

The Sumerians and Mesopotamians built the first civilizations. The Egyptian civilization, benefiting from the Nile River, developed and prospered over many centuries. Nomadic and trading peoples spread ideas throughout Southwest Asia. The Israelites' belief in one God distinguished them from the groups around them. Empire builders, such as the Assyrians and Persians, conquered vast territories and took over independent states and groups.

### Describing

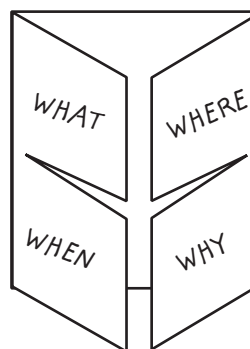
<i>Describe:</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Religion</i>	<i>Government/ Rulers</i>
Mesopotamia			
Egypt			

#### 📄 **Folded Table**

Students can examine two early civilizations—Mesopotamia and Egypt—by creating a Folded Table. In each column, students should write phrases that describe the location, religion, and government/rulers of each civilization. Alternatively, students could create a folded table with six columns and add descriptions of the culture and technology of each civilization.

**Materials Needed:** one sheet of 11" x 17" paper

### Organizing



#### 📖 **Four-Door Book**

Ask students to read the text related to the Code of Hammurabi and to do additional research about the code. Then have students organize their information by listing facts about the code in a Four-Door Book under the headings *What*, *Where*, *When*, and *Why*.

**Materials Needed:** one sheet of 8.5" x 11" paper and scissors

### Summarizing



#### 📖 **Layered-Look Book**

Students should create a Layered-Look Book to help them review the history of ancient Egypt. Students can use each layer to summarize the most important facts about each era of ancient Egypt: the Old Kingdom, from about 2700 to 2200 B.C.; the Middle Kingdom, from about 2050 to 1652 B.C., and the New Kingdom, from about 1652 to 1085 B.C.

**Materials Needed:** two sheets of 8.5" x 11" paper, stapler or glue