

MILWAUKEE PUBLIC MUSEUM

CROSSROADS OF CIVILIZATION

ANCIENT WORLDS OF THE NEAR EAST AND MEDITERRANEAN

TEACHER GUIDE

Grades K-12



TABLE OF CONTENTS

TEACHER GUIDE

Crossroads of Civilization: Ancient Worlds of the Near East and Mediterranean

Introduction to Crossroads of Civilization	3-4
Exhibit Map	5
Exhibit Highlights by Section	6-7
The Making of Crossroads of Civilization	8
Mummy Profiles	9
Historical Background of the Ancient Near East and Mediterranean	10
Who Were They?	
Major Historical Figures	10-11
The Ramesside Era	12
Map of the Mediterranean and Near East	13
Timeline	14-15
Vocabulary	16
Student Activities	17-21
Resources	22

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9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday – Friday,

9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday and Sunday

Crossroads of Civilization investigates the confluence of ancient cultures at the junction of Africa, Asia, and Europe. Focusing on the well-developed societies of Mesopotamia, Egypt, Greece, and Rome, *Crossroads of Civilization* brings together interactive technologies with over 200 artifacts to lead visitors through this ancient hub of humanity. To explore this area’s role as an intellectual and physical crossroads, the exhibit focuses on six themes common to all civilizations: construction, communion, community, commerce, communication, and conflict.

Construction

Early civilizations are usually distinguished from other cultures by the presence of urbanism—life in cities. The monumental architecture of cities, including palaces, temples and tombs, and the building materials and techniques used, are among the hallmarks of ancient civilizations. Each ancient culture had its own distinct style of large-scale construction, and experienced peaks and declines in the amount of construction throughout its history.

One of the most well-known examples of large-scale construction is the Egyptian pyramid. In addition to the three pyramids in Giza, ancient Egyptians also built the Step Pyramid of Djoser at Saqqara, the earliest of a sequence of royal pyramids stretching over several centuries. This pyramid, built in the 27th century BCE, included a large courtyard memorializing pharaoh Djoser’s life and death. Another important ancient construction was the White Temple at Uruk, one of the oldest Sumerian cities. Built sometime between 3200 and 3000 BCE, the White Temple is a small addition on the top of a simple ziggurat, placed there to bring its priests closer to the heavens.

Communion

Central to early civilizations are religious and political belief systems, which frequently overlap. Most ancient civilizations, such as the Egyptians, Greeks, and Romans, practiced religions that featured large pantheons of deities. Early monotheism—the worship of a single deity—which survives today in the modern Abrahamic religions of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, originated in the ancient Near East.

Though the Egyptians, Greeks, and Romans had different religions and beliefs, the cultures had many similar gods and goddesses. Sometimes, they even adopted a deity from one of the other cultures. The ancient Greek historian Herodotus mentions some of these in his records. This table illustrates some examples of deities that were adapted from, or interpreted as, the equivalent of those of other cultures.



Egyptian	Greek	Roman
Horus the Child	Harpokrates	---
Bast	Artemis	Diana
Hathor	Aphrodite	Venus
Osiris	Dionysus, Hades	Bacchus, Pluto
Neith	Athena	Minerva
Horus	Apollo	Apollo
Amun	Zeus	Jupiter

Community

People of the ancient cultures had similar concerns to modern day societies. Social activities and work were all part of daily life. Attitudes and beliefs about the afterlife shaped many of the daily customs of family and communities. In addition to necessary objects and those with religious significance, people in the ancient world also often had luxury items.

The Egyptians used make-up in their daily lives, and it had practical and spiritual significance in addition to an aesthetic one. One of the more popular forms of make-up was kohl eye paint, which actually helped to prevent certain eye infections. Though the dramatic eye make-up that is now associated with the ancient Egyptians appears to have been important throughout all dynasties, the styles did change. They also used the henna plant to paint their nails and dye their hair.

Commerce

Early civilizations had complex systems of commerce and exchange, and with the exchange of goods came the exchange of ideas. Agricultural practices were exchanged between cultures, in addition to food, animals, and luxury items such as obsidian, lapis lazuli, and other precious stones. Long distance trade, made possible with the domestication of beasts of burden and the development of ships, played an important role in market economies. (See trade routes map, page 13)

Commerce progressed from bartering to standardized weights and measures to coinage. In Egypt, Cleopatra VII replaced the local system of bartering and coin-value based on weight with a standard weight coin. The value was denoted with a mark, similar to modern-day American paper currency.

Communication

Writing, though appearing in various forms, was vital to virtually all complex early civilizations. The written mechanism of script, as opposed to purely verbal communication, assisted in keeping economic records, codifying laws, and developing written history and literature. Each ancient culture devised its own writing system and language, despite trading with one another. The Egyptians used a hieroglyphic script, modified over time into simpler forms. Cultures in Mesopotamia developed a cuneiform writing system and Greeks adapted the Phoenician alphabet into one of their own. The Romans created the Latin alphabet, derived from the Greek, which is still used in many languages today, including English.

One of the most important examples of ancient communication was the Code of Hammurabi. Hammurabi, a Babylonian king, developed this code in the 18th century BCE to include 282 “laws” and punishments. The law of retribution, “an eye for an eye,” was one such punishment.

Conflict

Both internal and external conflicts shaped early civilizations. Legal codes and courts handled internal issues within individual states. Though conflicts between states often involved international diplomacy, warfare was common, with militaries employing varying styles of weaponry and tactics.

The first organized war that we know of occurred around 2700 BCE in Mesopotamia between Sumer and Elam. The Sumerian King of Kish led his armies to a victory over the Elamites. Despite being the first recorded battle, warfare predates this conflict by centuries. Pictographs show armies in Kish around 3500 BCE, and cemeteries suggest an even earlier date, as does other evidence from Egypt.

EXHIBIT MAP

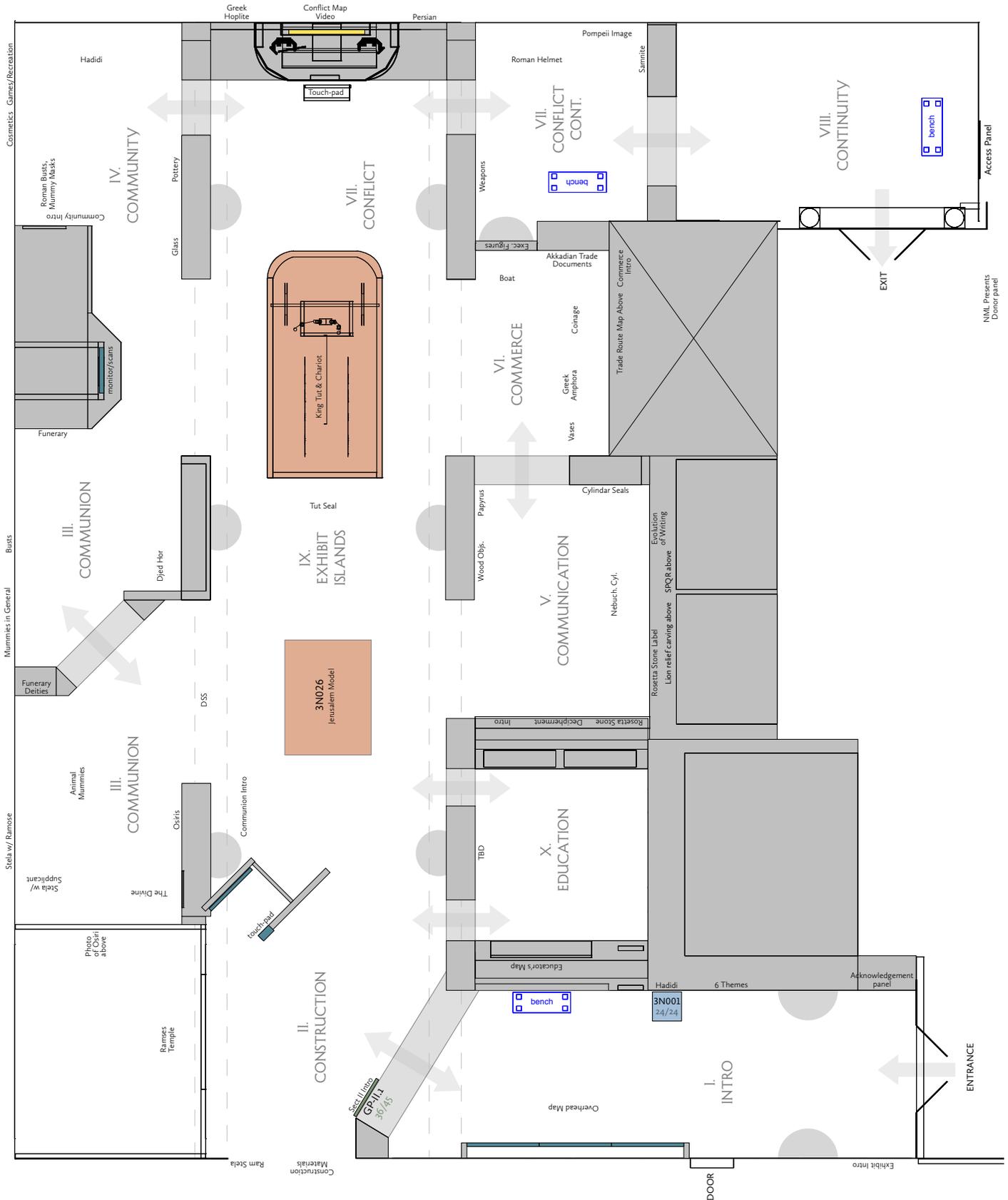


EXHIBIT HIGHLIGHTS BY SECTION

Construction

Face and Torso of Early Ramesside King (c. 13th - 12th cent. BCE): The Ramesside Era, named after the eleven kings named Ramesses, stretched from approximately 1292-1077 BCE. The artistic style of the time, represented on this stele, was characteristic of the massive construction projects of Ramesses II, and may actually depict that great ruler.

Bronze Lion Head Door Pulls (c. 2nd-3rd cent. CE): Bronze was a common material for door knockers or pulls in ancient cultures. This example from Antioch, Syria, a Roman city, features a lion head. The lion in ancient cultures is often associated with strength, myth, and a sense of majesty.

Communion

Corn Mummy with Osiris Effigy (c. 399-343 BCE): This corn mummy, a mud-figure packed with grain, is shaped like Osiris. Corn mummies such as this one represent the power of regeneration and were placed in tombs to magically assist the deceased to be resurrected.

Roman god Janus Bronze *aes grave* (c. 250-225 BCE): Coins depicting different deities were common in ancient Greece and Rome. This large Roman coin portrays Janus, the god of beginnings and transitions, who looks towards both the past and the future.

Canopic Jars (c. 875-775 BCE): Ancient Egyptians frequently placed the organs of deceased individuals who were being mummified in jars such as these. The lids portray the four Sons of Horus, Duamutef, Qebehsenuef, Hapy, and Imsety, who were tasked with protecting the stomach, lungs, liver, and intestines.



Communication

Babylonian Cylinder: This hollow clay cylinder was found buried in the site of Marad, in southern Iraq, beneath buildings from the time of Nebuchadnezzar II (605-561 BCE). Cylinders with cuneiform writing, such as this one, stated (to future rulers) that the king had carried out major constructions and renovations.

Coffin Fragment Hieroglyphic (c. 1000-970 BCE): The fragment, made during the 21st dynasty of Egypt, is stylistically representative of Thebes. Though no name is visible on the fragment, the hieroglyphs identify numerous gods in the traditional Egyptian manner.

Commerce

Model Boat from an Egyptian Tomb (c. 2100-1800 BCE): Boats represent the main form of travel for ancient Egyptians along the essential Nile River, allowing for trade. Though this piece emphasizes the importance of boat travel and the Nile, it was actually a funerary model placed inside a tomb. Models such as this one would allow the deceased to travel along the rivers of the Duat, or netherworld, just as they would have traveled the Nile in life.



Community

Marble Bust of Roman Lady Named Julia T. (c. 1st cent. CE): Roman portraits and busts aimed to accurately depict the individual, unlike idealized Egyptian portraits. Roman culture respected the face as a portrayal of personality, wisdom, and virtue, so these qualities were featured in portraits such as this one.

Greek Hydria (c. 460-450 BCE): This hydria, or water-jar, depicts a woman playing a lyre, attended by servants holding cosmetic items. Not only does this illustrate some traditions kept by the Greeks, but it also emphasizes the focus that the culture placed on cosmetics and appearance.

Egyptian Old Kingdom Relief of Harpist (c. 2350-2200 BCE): Even as early as the Old Kingdom (c. 2649-2150 BCE), cultures were illustrating leisurely activities (for the elite) such as playing musical instruments like this harp.



Conflict

Luristan Daggers, Swords, and Spears (c. 1200-900 BCE): The Iron Age empire of the ancient mountains of southwestern Iran produced numerous weapons of war, such as these. However, they were also known for decorative horse gear. Little is known about the Luristan culture due to a lack of professional archaeological work in the area.

Samnite Helmet, Corselet, and Greaves: The Samnite culture ruled over the Appenine Mountains in Italy, and beginning in the 4th century BCE, quarreled with the Roman armies. Though the Romans eventually subdued the Samnites in 296 BCE, it was a hard-won victory that included major defeats for the Romans.

Continuity

Crossroads Collections, Taking a Closer Look: Through years of work by various interns, students, and volunteers, small but specialized collections have been researched to expand our knowledge of the ancient world. Some of these collections are Egyptian beads, Egyptian amulets, Roman unguentaria, and cuneiform tablets. In order to shed the most light on these collections, this case will periodically change to display some of these items.

THE MAKING OF CROSSROADS OF CIVILIZATION

Crossroads of Civilization, the museum's first new permanent exhibit in over ten years, resulted from decades of research, archaeological excavations, and exhibit design. While physical construction of the exhibit began in 2012, the idea was formulated in 2008. It represents years of work dedicated to not only understanding these ancient cultures, but also a way to better serve local schools, whose curricula include sections on these civilizations. The exhibit required the work of staff from multiple Museum departments, including exhibits, botany, education, and history. These staff members aimed to not just create an exhibit, but to create an environment where details make all the difference.

This exhibit focuses on reinterpreting some of the Museum's collections to incorporate recent findings and better understandings of the ancient world. *Crossroads* also utilizes state-of-the-art digital interactives, such as maps, a time-line, and a recreation of the inner rooms of Ramesses III's temple. Technological advances have enabled the exhibit to more fully and accurately interpret updated CT scans of the two Egyptian mummies, Padi-Heru and Djed-Hor. These recent scans reveal a relatively rare and previously unexpected medical procedure that had been performed on Djed-Hor.

The exhibits team, using medical research, created an accurate, life-size model of the pharaoh Tutankhamun riding in a chariot as the centerpiece of the exhibit. The Arabian horses pulling the chariot were created after a thorough study of live horses and were finished with actual horse hair. Similarly, the exhibit also displays a new Persian archer and a Greek Hoplite warrior from a previous display. These individuals were modeled from members of the exhibits team, and some of their clothing was created based on specimens from the British Museum.

Unlike many other exhibits, *Crossroads of Civilizations* was designed to allow for updates. As more research is accomplished and new interpretations emerge, the Museum can incorporate these findings without having to drastically recreate the entire exhibit. Besides these interactive enhancements, the exhibit showcases examples from the Museum's collections of ancient coins, jewelry, pottery, and weaponry. These artifacts are displayed according to their thematic relevance (community, construction, commerce, etc) rather than their cultural affiliation (Egyptian, Greek, etc). This organization allows visitors to see the specific differences between individual cultures while appreciating broad generic similarities among these civilizations at the crossroads.



MUMMY PROFILES

Djed-Hor: The mummy of Djed-Hor was acquired by donation in 1887. It can be dated to about 600 BCE, based on the style of the coffin and radiocarbon tests on the linen. Hieroglyphs on the coffin state that the deceased was an attendant, or priest, in a temple dedicated to the god Min in the city of Akhmim. Other texts are prayers for the afterlife, some taken from the Book of the Dead.

The coffin of Djed-Hor is a standard Saite (26th dynasty) design with an anthropoid (human-shaped) form. There is a painted cartonnage chest panel imitating a pectoral or broad collar. The coffin lid depicts a pectoral of a different style, suggesting that the cartonnage pectoral may not belong to this mummy.



CT scans indicate that the man was aged 45-50 years when he died, possibly from a surgical procedure. The surgery, trepanation, involved removing bone from the skull, presumably to relieve pressure from an apparent infection in his left eye socket. The internal organs and the brain have been removed. The head is no longer attached to the body, though this does not indicate decapitation before death. Due to the fragile condition of mummies, the neck often breaks years after mummification.

The British Museum has an extremely similar coffin for a man also named Djed-Hor. The dual parentage (mother and father) listed on each coffin is identical and the title for the individual is only slightly different, suggesting that both coffins may have been made for the same individual at different points in his life. However, since there are mummies inside each of these coffins, it is unclear which mummy is actually that of Djed-Hor, priest of the Temple of Min.

Padi-heru: As with Djed-Hor, the mummy of Padi Heru, or Pa-di-heru-pa-khered, was acquired by the Museum in 1887 (for a mere \$74.68). Padi-Heru was a stolist priest in the temple of the god Min, attending to the clothing, cleansing, and nourishment of the figure of Min in the temple. Pa-di-heru-pa-khered translates roughly into “the one whom Horus-the-child has given.”



The type of embalming and stylistic analysis of the coffin design suggests the mummy of Padi-Heru is from around 250 BCE. Padi-Heru is also from Akhmin, and died when he was about 20-22 years old. The mummy shows no obvious trauma that may have led to his death, but CT scans indicate that his right femur had a lesion on it, possibly resulting in infection and death.

Though the mummy of Padi-Heru is in excellent condition and there is no evidence of unwrapping, the cartonnage typical of mummies from these early Ptolemaic times is missing. The brain has been removed completely, though four bundles containing the internal organs were returned to the body rather than being placed in canopic jars as in other eras. His arms are positioned straight at his sides which emphasizes the youth of the individual.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Historical Background of Ancient Near East and Mediterranean

The intersection of northern Africa, southern Europe, and western Asia is known as the birthplace of the first civilizations of the world, dating back thousands of years. These civilizations began to develop as early as the 7th millennium BCE with the appearance of the early settlement of Çatal Hüyük in Turkey, and true cities began to thrive around 4500 BCE. The ancient world lasted until the 5th century when various European “barbarian” groups began conquests resulting in the decline and dismemberment of the Western Roman Empire.

WHO WHERE THEY?

Major Historical Figures



Narmer (c. 31st century BCE) An Egyptian pharaoh credited with first unifying Upper and Lower Egypt. He is considered by many to be the founder of the First Dynasty, thus the first pharaoh of united Egypt, based on the archaeological evidence of a carved stone palette. Narmer is sometimes also identified as the pharaoh Menes, whose name appears at the head of king lists recorded by Egyptians centuries later.

Tutankhamun (c. 1341-1323 BCE) Perhaps the most recognized name in the study of ancient Egypt, Tutankhamun reigned for a very brief period of time. Thought to be the son of the controversial pharaoh Akhenaten, “Tut” ruled during the late 18th Dynasty and re-opened temples to a multiplicity of gods after Akhenaten had implemented a sole belief system in the sun disk or Aten. His real fame rests on his tomb, found intact and filled with treasures when discovered by Howard Carter and Lord Carnarvon in 1922.



Solomon (c. 970-931 BCE) King Solomon is the third and last of the rulers of the united monarchy of ancient Israel. He is credited with building the First Temple in Jerusalem and is the focus of numerous legends and religious stories. In Judaism and Christianity, he is recognized for his wisdom, while in Islam, he is considered a prophet.

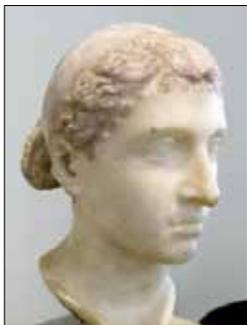
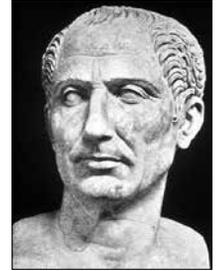
Nebuchadnezzar II (605-561 BCE) An Assyrian king of the Neo-Babylonian Empire, Nebuchadnezzar II is credited with expanding Babylonian influence across Aramea and Judah. He captured Jerusalem in 597 BCE and later destroyed the city and its rebels. Nebuchadnezzar also attempted to conquer Egypt. He commissioned the building of numerous aqueducts, canals, and temples in his city of Babylon.

Xerxes I of Persia (519-465 BCE) Xerxes I, more commonly known as Xerxes the Great, was the King of the Achaemenid Persian Empire. He is credited with suppressing revolts in Egypt and Babylon, and enlisted Assyrians, Egyptians, Phoenicians, Jews, and Babylonians into his army. In 480 BCE, Xerxes led the Persians in an invasion of the Greek mainland.



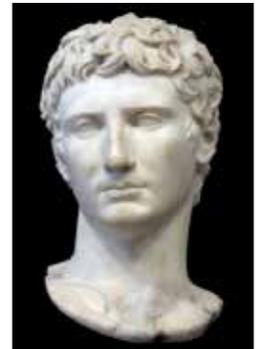
Alexander III of Macedon (356 – 323 BCE) Known more commonly as Alexander the Great, he was king of Macedonia on the Greek mainland. He formed a massive empire that encompassed the Persian Empire and beyond, extending from Greece to the Indus Valley in modern Pakistan. In 332 BCE, Alexander successfully conquered Egypt and claimed the pharaonic double crown. He created the city of Alexandria in 331 BCE, where he was likely buried, though he had actually died in Babylon from fever, not yet 33 years old.

Julius Caesar (100-44 BCE) Known for his military exploits, Caesar was named dictator for life of Rome in 45 BCE after success as a general and chief magistrate. He is also remembered as allying with the Egyptian Ptolemaic ruler Cleopatra VII. He was assassinated in 44 BCE by rebellious senators.



Cleopatra VII (69-30 BCE) Cleopatra was the final ruler of the Ptolemaic dynasty and the last pharaoh of Egypt. After her rule ended, Egypt became an official province of the Roman Empire. Though Cleopatra was Macedonian by descent, she embraced the Egyptian culture, speaking Egyptian and portraying herself as the reincarnation of Isis, an Egyptian goddess. She was an intelligent woman, authoring books, commanding a navy, and mastering numerous languages. Cleopatra charmed Julius Caesar and, after his assassination, Mark Antony, solidifying her connections to Rome. Caesar's heir, Octavian, opposed the power of Cleopatra and Antony, eventually defeating them at Actium. Antony committed suicide and Cleopatra took her own life, ending the Ptolemaic line of rulers. One of the principle changes she brought to Egypt was evident in the coinage. Coins, introduced into Egypt by the Persians, were previously valued based on the actual amount of metal they were made of. Cleopatra introduced coins with her image that were all of identical weight and appearance. The value of the coins was determined by a single mark on the metal.

Augustus (63 BCE-14 CE) Born as Gaius Octavius, Octavian was the nephew and heir of Julius Caesar. His conquest of Egypt and the rebellious Antony and Cleopatra led to his sole rule as the first emperor of Rome under the name Augustus. His rule ended the Roman civil wars and began a 200 year era called the Pax Romana (Roman Peace).



The Ramesside Era

The Ramesside Era, named for the eleven pharaohs named Ramesses, comprised most of the 18th and 19th dynasties. It constituted the second half of the New Kingdom, one of the most prosperous periods in Ancient Egypt. Though all eleven pharaohs named Ramesses were not from the same lineage, each one took the name to associate himself with the previous successful rulers of the same name. The Roman numerals attached to the Ramesses name are a modern construct to aid in clarification. Two of these pharaohs stand out for their accomplishments: Ramesses II and Ramesses III.



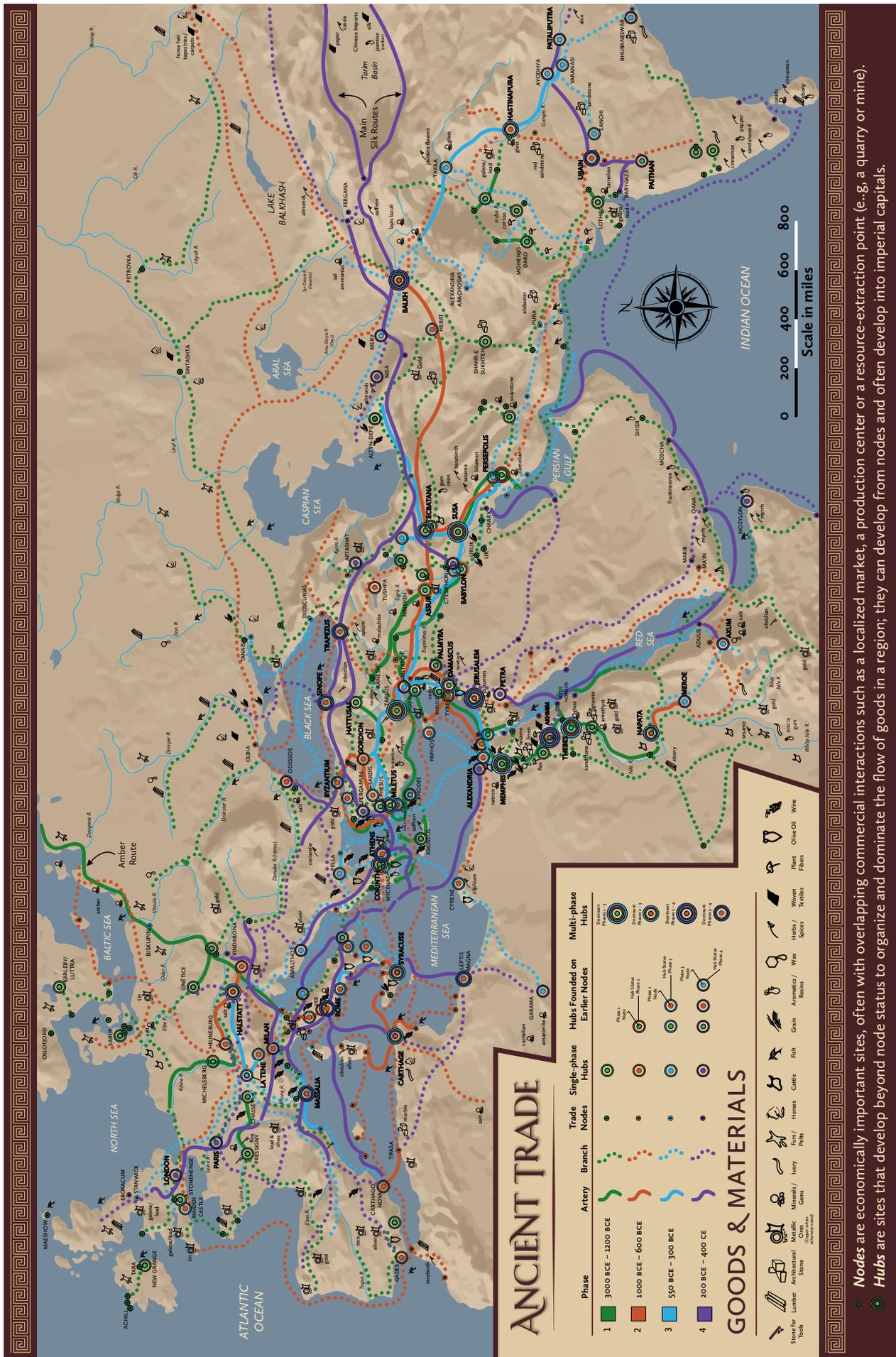
Ramesses II, reigning from 1279-1213 BCE, is often referred to as Ramesses the Great and is considered one of Egypt's most celebrated rulers. He ascended to the throne in his late teens, taking over from his father Seti I. Early in his reign, he began a campaign to return territories from the Nubians and Hittites to Egyptian control. Under Ramesses II, the Egyptian army was massive and secured numerous victories in battle. He defeated Sherden pirates, led numerous campaigns in Syria including the Battle of Kadesh, and is said to have conquered the Libyans.

Though the earlier pharaoh, Tutankhamun, had restored the old religion after Akhenaten's time, Ramesses the Great is credited with eradicating evidence of Akhenaten's Amarna Period. He defaced these monuments, replacing them with structures symbolic of the old religion. His construction projects were expansive and included statues, palaces, and temples, and his cartouche was carved on previous monuments. Two of the most prominent constructions were those of the Ramesseum and the massive temples of Abu Simbel; he also founded a new capital at Pi-Ramesses in the north of Egypt. Ramesses II died in his early 90s, an incredible age for the time period, and was buried in the Valley of the Kings. His reign had made Egypt wealthy and strong for a period of time. After such a long reign he was finally succeeded by his thirteenth son, Merneptah.

Ramesses III came to the throne in 1186 BCE and ruled until his death in 1155 BCE. A ruler of the 20th Dynasty, Ramesses III was named after Ramesses II, thus associating himself with the great ruler. He was the son of Setnakhte, and would prove to be a powerful ruler. His reign saw constant turmoil and war for Egypt, including financial problems and internal unrest. Though Egypt was attacked from both land and sea, Ramesses III presented a strong front to invading enemies such as the Libyans and the Sea Peoples. His conflicts were all about defense from outside invaders, not conquest of new territory, and the constant warfare drained Egypt's resources. The first recorded labor strike occurred during his reign.



Despite these hardships, Ramesses III aimed to emulate the massive construction projects of Ramesses II in an attempt to reassure the people of his power and stability. He constructed temples at Luxor and Karnak, as well as a massive temple at Medinet Habu, one of the most well-preserved and recognizable of Egypt's monuments. Records show evidence of a plot to assassinate Ramesses III, and his mummy bears a deep cut to the throat. He was succeeded by his son, Ramesses IV.



ANCIENT TRADE

Phase	Artery	Branch	Single-phase Hubs	Multi-phase Hubs	Earlier Nodes	Later Nodes
1	3000 BCE - 1200 BCE					
2	1000 BCE - 600 BCE					
3	550 BCE - 300 BCE					
4	200 BCE - 400 CE					

GOODS & MATERIALS

- Spoon for Lumber
- Sack for Grain
- Fish
- Cattle
- Horses
- Pelts
- Ivory
- Wool
- Amber
- Wax
- Spices
- Honey
- Silk
- Wine
- Olive Oil
- Furs

● **Nodes** are economically important sites, often with overlapping commercial interactions such as a localized market, a production center or a resource-extraction point (e.g., a quarry or mine).
● **Hubs** are sites that develop beyond node status to organize and dominate the flow of goods in a region; they can develop from nodes and often develop into imperial capitals.

TIMELINE

Based on the timeline featured in the exhibit.

CENTURY	EVENTS
3200 – 3100 BCE	Uruk (founded c. 4500 BCE) emerges as the “first city,” c.3200 BCE Otzi (the iceman) lived between 3350 – 3100 BCE
3100 – 3000 BCE	Unification of Egypt into first nation-state, c.3100 BCE Newgrange (Ireland) mound and passage grave, c.3100 BCE
3000 – 2900 BCE	Cuneiform writing appears in Sumer.
2900 – 2800 BCE	Cycladic art, 3300 – 2000 BCE
2800 – 2700 BCE	Egyptian dynasties 1 – 2, mastaba tombs at Abydos
2700 – 2600 BCE	The Step Pyramid of Djoser is built (Saqqara, Egypt), 2630-2600 BCE
2600 – 2500 BCE	Dynasty 4 pyramids at Giza are built. The first royal tombs of Ur are built.
2500 – 2400 BCE	The historical Gilgamesh may have ruled Ur at this time.
2400 – 2300 BCE	Sargon I of Akkad unites Mesopotamia into an empire, c.2300 BCE The Harrapan civilization in the Indus Valley reaches its peak.
2300 – 2200 BCE	First evidence for the Pyramid Texts (funerary spells), pyramid of Unas, Dynasty 5, c.2375 - 2345 BCE
2200 – 2100 BCE	Reign of Gudea of Lagash (Sumerian), c.2144 – 2124 BCE Ur becomes the capital of a new empire in Mesopotamia, c.2112 BCE
2100 – 2000 BCE	Ziggurat of Ur built, c.2100 BCE
2000 – 1900 BCE	The Dynasty 12 (Middle Kingdom) pyramids are built, c.1991 – 1802 BCE
1900 – 1800 BCE	First palace at Knossos (Minoan) built, c.1900 BCE
1800 – 1700 BCE	Reign of Hammurabi of Babylon, c.1794 – 1750 BCE
1700 – 1600 BCE	The Hyskos occupied northern Egypt, with their capital at Avaris.
1600 – 1500 BCE	The Hittites enter eastern Anatolia (modern Turkey), and establish a kingdom with their capital at Hattusa.
1500 – 1400 BCE	Hatshepsut rules Egypt as pharaoh, c.1508 – 1458 BCE
1400 – 1300 BCE	The Mycenaeans (mainland Greece) conquer Crete, eventually eradicating the Minoan culture, c. 1450 BCE Pharaoh Akhenaten transforms the religion and art of Egypt, c.1352 - 1332 BCE. Tutankhamun reigns in Egypt, c.1332 – 1323 BCE
1300 – 1200 BCE	Reign of Ramesses II (the Great) in Egypt, c.1279 - 1213 BCE
1200 – 1100 BCE	Reign of Ramesses III in Egypt, c.1186 - 1155 BCE, builder of Medinet Habu
1100 – 1000 BCE	Probable collapse of Mycenaean culture, c.1050 BCE

- 1000 – 900 BCE Reign of Solomon (Israel), c.971 - 931 BCE
- 900 – 800 BCE The Neo-Assyrian Empire, c.934 -609 BCE. Known for being militarily aggressive.
- 800 – 700 BCE The first Olympic Games are held, 776 BCE
Rome is founded, 753 BCE
- 700 – 600 BCE The Neo-Babylonian Empire replaces the Neo-Assyrian Empire, 612 BCE
- 600 – 500 BCE The Ishtar Gate is constructed by Nebuchadnezzar II, c.575 BCE
Rome becomes a republic, 509 BCE
Athens begins its experiment with democracy, 508 BCE
- 500 – 400 BCE The Persian king Xerxes invades Greece in 480 BCE; 300 Spartans under their King Leonidas, held off the huge Persian army for three days at Thermopylae
Major construction projects begin in Athens, including the Acropolis and the Parthenon, 449 BCE
- 400 – 300 BCE Alexander the Great begins his conquest of the known world in 336 BCE, he conquers Egypt in 332 BCE and founds Alexandria
- 300 – 200 BCE Carthaginian general Hannibal invades Roman Italy with his elephants, 218-203 BCE
The first emperor of China, Qin Shi Huang, begins the Great Wall and readying his tomb with thousands of life-size terracotta warriors, 259 - 210 BCE
- 200 – 100 BCE The Rosetta stone is carved, 196 BCE
Dead Sea Scrolls are written, c.200 BCE - 68 CE
- 100 BCE – 0 Julius Caesar is declared Dictator for life of Rome, 45 BCE, he is assassinated one year later, on the Ides of March
Cleopatra VII, last Egyptian ruler, commits suicide, 30 BCE
- 0 – 100 CE Founding of Christianity, c.30-50 CE
The destruction of the Second Temple in Jerusalem by Rome, 70 CE
Mount Vesuvius erupted in August, 79 CE, burying the towns of Pompeii and Herculaneum under volcanic rock and ash
The Coliseum in Rome was completed in 80 CE
- 100 – 200 CE Trajan's kiosk built on the island of Philae during the reign of Trajan, 98 - 117 CE
- 200 – 300 CE The Sassanian Empire (Persia) emerges
- 300 – 400 CE Last Egyptian hieroglyphic inscription in stone, Philae, c. 400 CE
Emperor Constantine converts to Christianity in Rome, 312 CE
- 400 – 500 CE The Visigoths, under Alaric I, sack Rome in 410 CE
- 500 – 600 CE The Hagia Sophia (in modern Istanbul) is constructed in 537 CE
- 600 – 700 CE Islam is founded by Muhammad in 610 CE

Vocabulary

Amulet – an ornament or small jewelry item worn to give protection or power

Cartouche – a length of knotted rope that encloses the name of an Egyptian royal person written in hieroglyphs

City – a defined, inhabited place larger (in population or size) than a town or village

Code – a system of laws and regulations

Cuneiform – a formal writing system used in Mesopotamia and Persia that used wedge-shaped characters

Deity – a god or goddess in a polytheistic religion

Empire – a group of countries and/or states under a single authority

Faience – A ceramic material composed of crushed quartz, or quartz sand, with small amounts of lime and plant ash or natron. Usually covered with a bright blue or green glaze

Fertile Crescent – fertile land located between the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers in the Middle East

Hieroglyphs – a formal writing system used by the ancient Egyptians that contained a combination of logographic (idea) and phonetic (sound) elements

Hoplite – a foot soldier of ancient Greece

Monotheism – the belief in a single god

Pantheon – all the gods of a people or religion

Papyrus – a thin, paper-like material made from the papyrus plant; frequently used in Egypt

Polytheism – the belief in more than one god

Reign – the period during which a sovereign holds power and rules

Scribe – an official writer and recorder of events or codes

Sovereign – the supreme ruler of a group of people

Stele (also stela) – an incised or carved stone slab commemorating an event or person

Tell – archaeological mound accumulated over long periods of time by human occupation

Terracotta – unglazed, red-brown earthenware

Unguentarium – a small ceramic or glass bottle used by Greeks and Romans to hold ointment

Ushabti – a funerary figurine used by the ancient Egyptians

Ziggurat – rectangular Mesopotamian towers, characterized by successively receding steps, and quite frequently topped with a temple

Did You Know?

- The Ancient Egyptians created one of the earliest known peace treaties. In 1259 BCE Ramesses II and Hittite King Hattusili II signed a peace treaty ending two centuries of fighting.
- In ancient Rome, it was considered treason for anyone other than the emperor to dress completely in purple.
- The ancient Greeks did not eat beans because they thought they contained the souls of the dead.
- The wheel, the plow, irrigation, and the sailboat were all invented in Mesopotamia.

PRE-VISIT STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Activity #1 Egyptian Hieroglyphs



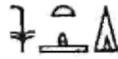
Djed _____



Ankh _____



Nefer _____



Hotep di Nesu _____

Egyptians used hundreds of hieroglyphic signs, some of which are extremely common on commemorative or funerary objects. These are just a few that can be found in the exhibit on coffins, stelae, figurines, and other stone reliefs. Using the resources provided, try to find what each of these hieroglyphs mean. Then, when you visit the exhibit, try to find an example of each of them.

Activity #2 Greek and Latin

There are many examples of how the ancient Greeks and Romans influenced today's society. One of these is language. Many of the words we use in English today have prefixes and suffixes that were borrowed from these ancient cultures. Using a dictionary, find the prefixes and suffixes listed below. What does each one mean and was it originally Latin or Greek? Can you think of words that you use every day that have these prefixes or suffixes? How does knowing the meaning of part of the word help you understand the whole word?

PREFIX/SUFFIX	CULTURE	MEANING	EXAMPLES
pre-			
geo-			
-cycle-			
anti-			
-able			
bio-			
re-			
tele-			

ON-SITE STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Activity #1

Greek and Latin

Part 1: While walking through *Crossroads of Civilization*, notice the objects that look similar to something that you use on a daily basis. Were these objects used in the same way in the ancient world as they are in today's society? What is different about them? Were any of these objects used for something different than the modern version? Pick one of these objects and explain the main ways that they are different than, and similar to, today's equivalent.

Differences: _____

Similarities: _____

Part 2: Now find some artifacts that don't look familiar. Before reading what they were used for, take a guess based on their shapes, colors, size, or pattern. Check the exhibit labels to see if you were correct. Are there any modern objects that are used for the same purpose but look very different? Pick one of these objects and explain why you think it is no longer used anymore, and what it might have been replaced by.

Activity #2

Unwrapping the Mummy Mysteries

Explore the area where the Egyptian mummies are exhibited. Make some observations, and answer these questions:

1. How are Padi-Heru and Djed-Hor different? _____

2. What internal organ is missing from Padi-Heru's mummy that is found in most mummies? _____

3. What is unusual about Djed-Hor's mummy? _____

4. Look at where Djed-Hor and Padi-Heru worked. Do you think these two men would have known each other? Why or why not? _____

Activity #3 Gods and Goddesses

Crossroads of Civilization explores multiple cultures and their religious beliefs. Find the following deities in the exhibit. Can you identify the culture that each deity is associated with, and the deity's name? Do you see any similarities among them? In what ways are they different?

A. _____



B. _____



E. _____



C. _____



D. _____



Activity #4 Ceramics

Look at the different types of ceramics in the case "A Sampling of Ceramics" in the Community section. What differences on the ceramics do you see based on the culture that the pottery is from? Look closely at the images below from the Metropolitan Museum of Art collection (www.metmuseum.org). Can you tell what culture these are from based on the examples in the exhibit?

A. _____



B. _____



C. _____



D. _____



Activity #5

The Exhibition Quest

Just as archaeologists discover artifacts, you can discover the answers to these questions about the exhibit.

1. According to the timeline, what two areas developed writing first? _____;

2. Entering the exhibit, you pass under an archway. What real archway is this modeled after? _____

3. What is unique about Sumerian clay “nails” that were used in places like Uruk? _____

4. Who was frequently depicted on Roman coins? _____

5. How many languages are on the Rosetta Stone? _____

a. Which languages are they? _____

b. Which three scripts are found on the stone? _____; _____; _____

c. Why is the stone so important? _____

6. What culture began the trend of making naturalistic portraits? _____

7. In the Conflict area, what are some ways that ancient cultures resolved conflicts besides war? _____

8. Look at “A Sumerian City at the Crossroads” panel near the exit. What kind of activities do you see the people doing? _____

9. Do you do any of these activities today? _____

ON-SITE STUDENT ACTIVITIES (ANSWER KEY)

Activity #1 Greek and Latin

Part 1: While walking through *Crossroads of Civilization*, notice the objects that look similar to something that you use on a daily basis. Were these objects used in the same way in the ancient world as they are in today's society? What is different about them? Were any of these objects used for something different than the modern version? Pick one of these objects and explain the main ways that they are different than, and similar to, today's equivalent.

Differences:

Observation/Opinion

Similarities:

Observation/Opinion

Part 2: Now find some artifacts that don't look familiar. Before reading what they were used for, take a guess based on their shapes, colors, size, or pattern. Check the exhibit labels to see if you were correct. Are there any modern objects that are used for the same purpose but look very different? Pick one of these objects and explain why you think it is no longer used anymore, and what it might have been replaced by.

Observation/Opinion

Activity #2 Unwrapping the Mummy Mysteries

Explore the area where the Egyptian mummies are exhibited. Make some observations, and answer these questions:

1. How are Padi-Heru and Djed-Hor different?

Observation/Opinion

2. What internal organ is missing from Padi-Heru's mummy that is found in most mummies?

The heart

3. What is unusual about Djed-Hor's mummy? *There is an opening in the skull made by a surgical procedure. (Also, the face is unwrapped, and teeth are visible, which tends to be unusual.)*

4. Look at where Djed-Hor and Padi-Heru worked. Do you think these two men would have known each other?

Why or why not? *No. Though they both served as priests in the same temple, they would not have known each other. Djed-Hor likely died and was mummified approximately 350 years before Padi-Heru.*

Activity #3 Gods and Goddesses

Crossroads of Civilization explores multiple cultures and their religious beliefs. Find the following deities in the exhibit. Can you identify the culture that each deity is associated with, and the deity's name? Do you see any similarities among them? In what ways are they different? *Observation/Opinion*

A. *Egyptian/Osiris*



B. *Roman/Apollo*



E. *Egyptian/Horus*



C. *Greek/Alexander the Great*



D. *Roman/Minerva*



Activity #4 Ceramics

Look at the different types of ceramics in the case “A Sampling of Ceramics” in the Community section. What differences on the ceramics do you see based on the culture that the pottery is from? Look closely at the images below from the Metropolitan Museum of Art collection (www.metmuseum.org). Can you tell what culture these are from based on the examples in the exhibit?

A. *Greek*



B. *Egyptian*



C. *Punic*



D. *Etruscan*



Activity #5

The Exhibition Quest

Just as archaeologists discover artifacts, you can discover the answers to these questions about the exhibit.

1. According to the timeline, what two areas developed writing first? *Sumer; Egypt*
2. Entering the exhibit, you pass under an archway. What real archway is this modeled after?
The Roman aqueduct at Caesarea, Israel
3. What is unique about Sumerian clay “nails” that were used in places like Uruk?
The heads of the nails were sometimes colored and used to form geometric patterns.
4. Who was frequently depicted on Roman coins? *Roman rulers*
5. How many languages are on the Rosetta Stone?
Two
 - a. Which languages are they?
Ancient Egyptian and ancient Greek
 - b. Which three scripts are found on the stone?
Hieroglyphic; demotic; ancient Greek
 - c. Why is the stone so important?
It provided the key for the deciphering of ancient Egyptian writing.
6. What culture began the trend of making naturalistic portraits? *Early Roman*
7. In the Conflict area, what are some ways that ancient cultures resolved conflicts besides war?
Marriage and treaties
8. Look at “A Sumerian City at the Crossroads” panel near the exit. What kind of activities do you see the people doing? *Baking, making pottery, tanning leather, farming/harvesting, trade, construction, playing music, herding animals, playing board games, etc.*
9. Do you do any of these activities today?
Observation/Opinion

POST VISIT STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Activity #1 Family Trees

Select and research an ancient historical family. Create a family tree including all of the major figures. How long was this family in power or prominent in the ancient world? What ended their reign? Did the family have any connections with another major family? Choose one of the major figures and write a short essay describing their relationship with and influences from other family members. Options for families might include: the Ptolemy Family, the family of Julius Caesar, the family of Akhenaten, or the family of Alexander the Great.

Activity #2 What's in a Name?

Ancient Egyptian pharaohs had five different names for one ruler: the Horus name, the Nebty name, the Golden Horus name, the prenomen, and the nomen. Each of these types of names had a very specific purpose. After reading about the different types of names below, select five pharaohs and research their names. Make sure to select pharaohs from different time periods. Are some of them known more commonly by one type of name while others are known by a different name? Is it possible for some rulers to not have all five names?

The **Horus** name was the oldest name, first appearing in the Predynastic Period. It was frequently written to include a falcon sitting on a serekh, which is a rectangle representing the king's palace. The king's name was written in hieroglyphs on this serekh. This name was meant to show the connection between the king, symbolized by the palace and his name, and the power of the falcon god Horus.

The **Nebty** (or Nebti) name was also known as the "Two Ladies" name. This name symbolized the protection that the king received from two different goddesses: Nekhbet (vulture) of Upper Egypt and Wadjet (cobra) of Lower Egypt. It also shows how, though Egypt was divided into Upper and Lower parts, it was a unified culture under the king. The Nebty name is always written beginning with a vulture and a cobra sitting on two baskets.

The **Golden Horus** name is not as well understood as the others, but is always written with the symbol for gold, and often the falcon god Horus is on top of this symbol. The name may represent the pharaoh's divinity, since the Egyptians considered gold to be eternal and associated it with the gods. The name may also be related to the color of the rising sun or to the god Set (Seth), who was the god of Naqada, a gold-trade city.

The **prenomen**, also known as the throne name or nsw-bi-ti name, references the dual nature of Egypt's land as Upper and Lower Egypt. The king, who kept these two areas unified, was given a name that connected him to the god Re when he became king. This was his prenomen, and it was often written in a cartouche following the hieroglyphs of a bee and a papyrus plant.

The **nomen** was most likely the pharaoh's birth name. It was also written in a cartouche, like the prenomen. Usually, the nomen was introduced by the hieroglyphs meaning "son of Re" or son of the sun.

SUGGESTED RESOURCES

LOWER ELEMENTARY

Allard, Denise. *The Romans*. ISBN 0836817168

Boyer, Crispin. *National Geographic Kids: Everything about Ancient Egypt*. ISBN 142630840X

Hewitt, Sally. *The Egyptians*. ISBN 1599200449

UPPER ELEMENTARY

Adamson, Heather. *Ancient Egypt: An Interactive History Adventure*. ISBN1429639067

Fagan, Brian. *The Seventy Great Mysteries of the Ancient World: Unlocking the Secrets of Past Civilizations*. ISBN 0500510504

Vanags, Patricia. *Empires and Barbarians from 500 BC to AD 600*. ISBN 0860201430

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Chrisp, Peter. *Ancient Egypt Revealed*. ISBN 0751341495

McGowen, Tom. *Adventures in Archaeology*. ISBN 0805046887

Moulton, Carroll. *Ancient Greece and Rome: An Encyclopedia for Students*. ISBN 0684805030

Wildwood, Gretchen. *Ancient Mesopotamian Civilization*. ISBN 1404280375

HIGH SCHOOL

Etienne, Roland. *The Search for Ancient Greece*. ISBN 0810928043

Gogerly, Liz. *Greeks*. 1435854950

Kuiper, Kathleen. *Ancient Rome: From Romulus and Remus to the Visigoth Invasion*. ISBN 1615301070

Nemet-Nejat, Karen. *Daily Life in Ancient Mesopotamia*. ISBN 0313294976

Reece, Katherine. *The Egyptians: Builders of the Pyramids*. ISBN 1595155058

WEB SOURCES

Ancient History from BBC. www.bbc.co.uk/history/ancient

Ancient History from History.com. www.history.com/topics/ancient-history

The British Museum. www.britishmuseum.org

The Metropolitan Museum of Art. www.metmuseum.org

The Milwaukee Public Museum. *The Making of Crossroads of Civilization* video. <http://www.mpm.edu/plan-visit/calendar/crossroads-civilization>