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# Sanjiv

*Refresher*

# HISTORY

Class-XI

Themes in World History

For English Medium Students

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Email : sanjeevprakashanjaipur@gmail.com  
Postal Address : Publication Department  
Sanjiv Prakashan,  
Dhamani Market, Chaura Rasta,  
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## History Class XI

# Themes in World History

## Section I : Early Societies

### Timeline I (6 MYA to 1 BCE)

Dates	Africa	Europe
6 mya-500,000 BP	Australopithecus fossils (5.6 mya) Evidence of use of fire (1.4 mya)	
500,000-150,000 BP	Homo sapiens fossils (195,000 BP)	Evidence of use of fire (400,000 BP)
50,000-30,000		Homo sapiens fossils (40,000)
30,000-10,000	Paintings in caves/rock shelters (27,500)	Paintings in caves/rock shelters (especially France and Spain)
8000-7000 BCE		
7000-6000	Domestication of cattle and dogs	
6000-5000		Cultivation of wheat and barley (Greece)
4000-3000	Domestication of donkey, cultivation of millet, use of copper	Use of copper (Crete)
3000-2000	Plough agriculture, first kingdoms, cities, pyramids, calendar, hieroglyphic script, writing on papyrus (Egypt)	Domestication of horse (eastern Europe)
2000-1900		Cities, palaces, use of bronze, the potter's wheel, development of trade (Crete)
1700-1600		Development of a script (Crete)
1500-1400	Use of glass bottles (Egypt)	
1100-1000		Use of iron
900-800	City of Carthage established in North Africa by the Phoenicians from West Asia; growing trade around the Mediterranean	
800-700	Use of iron (Sudan)	First Olympic games (Greece, 776 BCE)
700-600	Use of iron (Egypt)	
600-500		Use of coins (Greece); establishment of the Roman republic (510 BCE)

<b>Dates</b>	<b>Africa</b>	<b>Europe</b>
500-400	Persians invade Egypt	Establishment of a 'democracy' in Athens (Greece)
400-300	Establishment of Alexandria, Egypt (332 BCE), which becomes a major centre of learning	Alexander of Macedonia conquers Egypt and parts of West Asia (336-323 BCE)
<b>Dates</b>	<b>Asia</b>	<b>South Asia</b>
6 mya-500,000 BP	Use of fire (700,000 BP, China)	Stone age site in Riwat (1,900,000 BP, Pakistan)
150,000-50,000 BP	Homo sapiens fossils (100,000 BP, West Asia)	
30,000-10,000 BP	Domestication of dog (14,000, West Asia)	Cave paintings at Bhimbetka (Madhya Pradesh); Homo sapiens fossils (25,500 BP, Sri Lanka)
8000-7000 BCE	Domestication of sheep and goat, cultivation of wheat and barley (West Asia)	
7000-6000	Domestication of pig and cattle (West and East Asia)	Early agricultural settlements (Baluchistan)
6000-5000	Domestication of chicken, cultivation of millet and yam (East Asia)	
5000-4000	Cultivation of cotton (South Asia); use of copper (West Asia)	
4000-3000	Use of the potter's wheel, wheel for transport (3600 BCE), writing (3200 BCE), Mesopotamia), use of bronze	Use of copper
3000-2000	Plough agriculture, cities (Mesopotamia); silk-making (China); domestication of horse (Central Asia); cultivation of rice (Southeast Asia)	Cities of the Harappan civilisation, use of script (c.2700 BCE)
2000-1900	Domestication of water-buffalo (East Asia)	
1600-1500	Cities, writing, kingdoms (Shang dynasty), use of bronze (China)	
1500-1400	Use of iron (West Asia)	Composition of the Rig Veda
1200-1100		Use of iron, megaliths (Deccan and South India)
1100-1000	Domestication of the one-humped camel (Arabia)	

<b>Dates</b>	<b>Asia</b>	<b>South Asia</b>
600-500	Use of coins (Turkey); Persian empire (546 BCE) with capital at Persepolis; Chinese philosopher Confucius (c.551 BCE)	Cities and states in several areas, first coins, spread of Jainism and Buddhism
400-300		Establishment of the Mauryan empire (c. 321 BCE)
300-200	Establishment of an empire in China (221 BCE), beginning of the construction of the Great Wall	
<b>Dates</b>	<b>Americas</b>	<b>Australia/Pacific Islands</b>
50,000-30,000 BP indications		Homo sapiens fossils, earliest indications of sea-faring (45,000 BP)
30,000-10,000 BP	Homo sapiens fossils (12,000 BP)	Paintings (20,000 BP)
7000-6000	Cultivation squash	
5000-4000	Cultivation of beans	
4000-3000	Cultivation of cotton, bottle gourd	
3000-2000	Domestication of guinea pig, turkey, cultivation of maize	
2000-1900	Cultivation of potato, chilli, cassava, peanut, domestication of llama and alpaca	
1200-1100	Olmec settlements around the Gulf of Mexico, early temples and sculpture	Settlements in Polynesia and Micronesia
1000-900	Development of a hieroglyphic script	



## 1

## WRITING AND CITY LIFE

### Chapter Summary

**1. Beginning of city life :** City life began in Mesopotamia.

**2. Location of Mesopotamia :** Mesopotamia was situated between the Euphrates and the Tigris rivers that is now part of the Republic of Iraq. Mesopotamian civilisation is known for its prosperity, city life, its voluminous and rich literature and its mathematics and astronomy. Mesopotamia's writing system and literature spread to the eastern Mediterranean, northern Syria, and Turkey after 2000 BCE.

**3. Sumer and Akkad :** In the beginning of recorded history, the land, mainly the urbanised south was called Sumer and Akkad.

**4. Babylonia :** After 2000 BCE, when Babylon became an important city, the term Babylonia was used for the southern region.

**5. Assyria :** From about 1100 BCE, when the Assyrians established their kingdom in the north, the region became known as Assyria.

**6. Languages :** The first known language of the land was Sumerian. It was gradually replaced by Akkadian around 2400 BCE. From 1400 BCE, Aramaic also trickled in. This language, similar to Hebrew, became widely spoken after 1000 BCE. It is still spoken in parts of Iraq.

**7. Mesopotamia and its Geography :** Iraq is a land of diverse environments. In the north-east lie green, undulating plains, gradually rising to tree-covered mountain ranges with clear streams and wild flowers, with enough rainfall to grow crops. In the north, there is a stretch of upland called a steppe, where animal herding offers people a better livelihood than agriculture – after the winter rains, sheep and goats feed on the grasses and low shrubs that grow here. To the east, tributaries of the Tigris provide routes of communication into the mountains of Iran. The south is a desert.

**8. Significance of Urbanism :** Urban economies comprise besides food production, trade, manufactures and services. There is also a need for organised trade, storage in cities.

**9. Movement of goods into cities :** Mesopotamians could have traded their abundant textiles and agricultural produce for wood, copper, tin, silver, gold, shell and various stones. Besides crafts, trade and services, efficient transport is also important for urban development. The canals and natural channels of ancient Mesopotamia were in fact routes of goods transport between large and small settlements. The Euphrates river was famous as a 'world route' for trade.

**10. The Development Writing :** The people of Mesopotamia used to write on clay tablets. They started using writing for keeping records of transactions and making dictionaries, describing the works of kings, etc. By 2600 BCE or so, the letters became cuneiform and the language was Sumerian, but the custom of cuneiform writing continued in use until the first century CE.

**11. The System of Writing :** The sound that a cuneiform sign represented was not a single consonant or vowel, but syllables. Thus the clerk had to learn hundreds of symbols.

**12. Literacy :** Very few Mesopotamians could read and write. The reason for this was that there were hundreds of signs to learn, many of these were complex.

**13. The Uses of Writing :** Enmerkar, the king, is associated with the organisation of the first trade and writing art in Mesopotamia.

**14. Urbanisation in Southern Mesopotamia – Temples and Kings :** Settlements had begun to develop in southern Mesopotamia. The earliest cities emerged from some of these settlements. These were of various kinds : those that gradually developed around temples; those that developed as centres of trade; and imperial cities.

**Temple City :** Many temples were built in Mesopotamia. These temples were the abode of the gods and goddesses. These temples were built with bricks. The god was the focus of worship : to him or her people brought grain, curd and fish etc. to the deities. In time, victorious chiefs began to offer precious booty to the gods and thus beautify the community's temples. Due to this the chief got a high position in the community and his complete control over the community was established. War captives and local people were put to work for the temple, or directly for the ruler. There was also a lot of technological progress in Mesopotamia. Bronze tools came into use for various crafts. Architects learnt to construct brick columns. Significant progress was also made in the field of sculpture. The potter started making beautiful utensils on a large scale with the help of the potter's wheel and paintings were also made.

**15. Life in the City :** A ruling elite had emerged in the social system of the cities. Most of the wealth was occupied by a small section of society. Nuclear family was considered ideal in the society. The father was the head of the family. His sons had the right over the father's house, cattle-wealth, fields, etc. The parents gave their consent for the marriage of the girl child.

**16. Ur City :** The Ur city had narrow winding streets. There were no drains for drainage. People seem to have swept all their household refuse into the streets. Light came into the rooms not from windows but from doorways opening into the courtyards.

**17. A Trading Town in a Pastoral Zone :** After 2000 BCE the royal capital of Mari flourished. Some communities in the kingdom of Mari had both farmers and pastoralists, but most of its territory was used for pasturing sheep and goats. The kings of Mari were Amorites whose dress differed from that of the original inhabitants and who respected not only the gods of Mesopotamia but also raised a temple at Mari for Dagan, god of the steppe. The great palace of Mari was not only the residence of the royal family there, but it was also the main hub of administration and production, especially the manufacture of precious metal ornaments. The city of Mari was also an important trading place.

**18. Importance of Cities in Mesopotamian Culture :** Mesopotamians valued city life in which people of many communities and cultures lived side by side. These people were very proud of their cities.

**19. The Legacy of Writing :** The greatest legacy of Mesopotamia to the world is its scholarly tradition of time reckoning and mathematics. The Mesopotamians were familiar with multiplication, division, square and square root etc. The division of the year into 12 months according to the revolution of the moon around the earth, the division of the month into four weeks, the day into 24 hours, and the hour into 60 minutes – all that we take for granted in our daily lives – has come to us from the Mesopotamians. It was only because of their writing skills and schools that the Mesopotamians could preserve their achievements.