

CONTRIBUTIONS OF ANCIENT CIVILIZATIONS

What are some contributions of Ancient Civilizations?

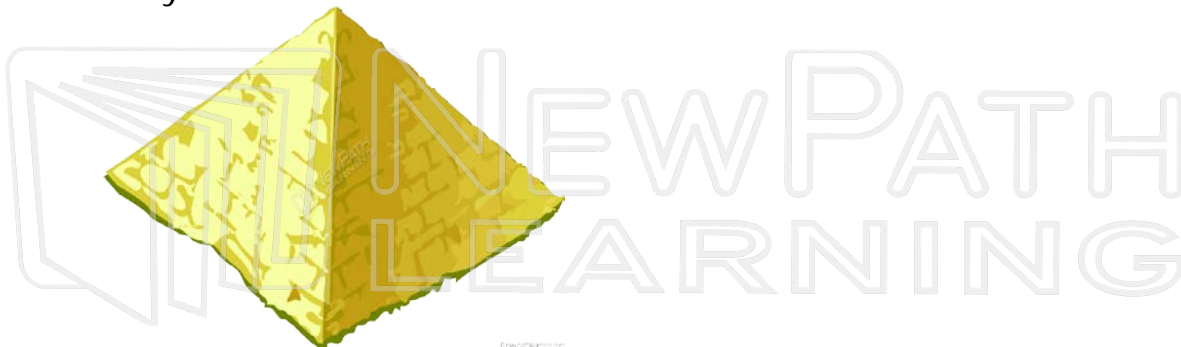
Mesopotamia - In the Middle East, the land between the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers is the earliest known civilization.

- The cities of Sumeria and Babylon were here.
- Farmers used irrigation to water crops and animals.
- They baked bricks of clay.
- They developed a form of writing using a sharpened reed to inscribe pictures on clay tablets.
- Their laws were preserved on clay tablets.
- They carved the first maps with Babylon as the center of the world.
- They made the first vehicles with wooden wheels, the first iron sword



Egypt
built for

- They built the Great Pyramids.
- They invented a calendar based on the seasons with 12 months of 30 days.
- They used splints and casts to set broken bones.
- They made the first sailboats.



Greece - Between 800 and 400 BC, city states such as Athens and Sparta shared the same culture.

- The **Hippocratic Oath** gave special rules for physicians and is still in use today.
- Citizens of Athens took part in a direct **democracy** where government is run by the citizens. Every year 500 men were chosen by drawing names.
- Our word for school comes from the Greek word *schole*. Athens was the first to open organized schools. The first encyclopedias were written to help students get a good education.
- Our word for alphabet comes from *alpha* and *beta* the first two letters of the **Greek alphabet**. The Greeks added the vowels, *a, e, i, o, u* to make the alphabet more useful.
- Our word gymnasium comes from *gymnasia*, which was a place for sports and learning.
- Greek literature was first to put on plays about drama, comedy, poetry
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Rome - 100 B.C. Romans developed use of **concrete** which could be poured into any shape. They developed the first paved roads.

- Romans borrowed the Greek alphabet and passed it on to us.
- They preserved and protected the literature and science of Greece.
- The early government of Rome was a **republic**. This is the model for our U.S. Constitution.
- They opened the first public schools paid for by the government.
- Romans were the first to celebrate Christmas and Easter.
- Roman numerals (I, V, X, L, C, D, M)
- Romans invented pants, socks, umbrellas.

- Our word *people* comes from the Latin word *populus*
- Our word *rural* comes from *ruralis* which means open land.



China - invented locks which raised and lowered water levels in canals.

- They designed the first magnetic compass.

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