One Pager #1

**Pre-Civilization: Where did we come from and what is our place in the world?**

**River Valley Civilizations: What cross-cultural influences and commonalities are found in River Valley Civilizations?**

**Topics:**

* Hominids and Human Evolution
* Paleolithic Age
* The Neolithic Revolution
* Origin Stories (Creation Myths)
* Mesopotamia
* Ancient Egypt
* Indus River Valley Civ/ Ancient India
* Ancient Chinse Civilization

**Prodding Questions**

* What happened to the Neanderthals? Discuss theories as to why the Neanderthals became extinct.
* Why are we virtually certain that human origins lie in Africa? Discuss citing examples from Africa and the timeline of the fossil record.
* Describe life in the Paleolithic Age.
* What factors contributed to the Neolithic Revolution? How did the Neolithic Revolution pave the way for the first civilizations?
* Discuss similarities and differences of the creation stories found in our textbook (p. 26-31) – consider the creation figure, why the world came into being, and the explanation of the creation of humanity and nature. What factors are common to most stories around the world. Speculate as to why these similarities exist.
* Are origin stories really that important in our modern age? Or do the stifle (limit) our cultural identities? Discuss the relevance of origin stories (creation myths) and whether they teach us about who we are and each other, or whether they are less important to our age/society today. Some reference to sacred texts we have reviewed is required.
* Determine the extent to which each civilization developed in isolation, its receptiveness to outside influences and the importance of these influences. Dos a society progress more through contact with other societies or in isolation? What are the implications here?
* Compare and contrast the religious and spiritual practices of river valley civilizations.
* Compare and contrast the forms of ‘script’ (writing) that evolved in each of the river valley civilizations we have studied.
* Discuss the architectural and public works projects achieved by each of the river valley we have studied.
* What examples of cross-cultural influences are evident between river valley civilizations? Provide evidence. Explain, too…..
* The role of women has long been neglected in the study of history, although more recently historians have taken it into account. Compare the rol that women played in various societies discussed in this unit. Based on what you’ve learned, which civilization would you feel more comfortable living in as a woman? Explain.
* Briefly explain the law codes, government hierarchy, and how government officials were selected for each civilization. Based on your understanding, which was the most equitable society and which was the least equitable. Explain your answer.
* Compare and contrast the art of the civilizations in this unit (incl. ‘Pre-Civilization’). You might also consider the artistic style and conventions used as well as the influences of the environment, social organization, customs and beliefs. To what extent is art truly ‘a window to our past?

**Note:** It is **a requirement** that you research beyond the textbook, notes, lectures and discussions we have pursued in class.While this is not a research paper**, two supplemental readings** beyond our sources, must be cited in a **bibliography (Chicago Author-Date Style)**.