QUESTIONS FOR CHAPTER TWO

1. Using the sheets for Summary #1 (Workbook), list the main features or characteristics of each of these ancient civilizations: Mesopotamia, Egypt, Indus River.

2. Describe the environmental conditions and the probable process by which civilization developed in the “fertile crescent.”

3. Who were the Sumerians? What were some of their early economic, political, social and cultural achievements? What part did irrigation projects, city-states, *lugals* play in this development? Who were Sargon and Hammurabi and what were their contributions to Mesopotamian civilization?

4. Why is Egypt considered as “the gift of the Nile?” Compare the available natural resources of Egypt with those of Mesopotamia. What part did Pharaohs, hieroglyphics in the development of Egyptian civilization? What were the results of the “underlying tension between the centralizing power of the monarchy and the decentralizing tendencies of the Egyptian bureaucracy? What do you think caused Egypt to follow an isolationist policy during its Early and Middle Kingdom periods?

5. Compare Egypt’s religious outlook with that of Mesopotamia. What ecological and geographic factors may have caused this?
6. Describe what seem to be some of the major economic, social, and political features of Harappa and Mohenjo-Daro. What do most archeologists now believe to be the major reason for the abandonment of the Indus River cities?

7. What major features or characteristics did these three civilizations have in common? Which were different? What might have accounted for these differences?

TERMS TO KNOW

*Epic of Gilgamesh*  
Civilization  
Mesopotamia  
Tigris  
Euphrates  
“Fertile Crescent”  
Sumerians  
Semitic  
City-state  
*Lugal*  
Sargon (Akkad)  
Ur III  
Hammurabi (Amorite)  
Law code  
Anthropomorph  
Enlil,  
Inanna  
Marduk  
Ziggurat  
Technology  
Nile  
Nile Delta  
Black Land  
Red Land  
“Lower Egypt”  
“Upper Egypt”  
*Ma’at*  
Pharaoh  
Pyramids  
Temples  
Hieroglyphics  
Papyrus  
Cuneiform  
Old Kingdom  
Middle Kingdom  
New Kingdoms  
Amon  
Re  
Osiris  
Isis  
Horus  
Shawabtis  
Indus River  
Harappa  
Mohenjo-Daro  
“Systems failure”