Name _____ Class _____ Date _____

Topic 1 **Document-Based Questions**

The Influence of Geography on History

This task is based on the accompanying documents (1–1 to 1–7). Some of these documents have been edited for the purposes of this task. This task is designed to test your ability to work with historical documents. As you analyze the documents, take into account both the source of each document and the author's point of view.

Directions: Read the documents in Part A and answer the questions after each document. Then, read the directions for Part B and write your essay.

Historical Context

The development of early civilizations was greatly affected by geographic factors.

Task

Using information from the documents and your knowledge of global history and geography, write an essay in which you discuss how the lives of the peoples of the ancient world were shaped by the geography of their region.

Part A

Document 1–1

Old Stone Age	Middle Stone Age	New Stone Age
• 150,000 to 10,000 years ago • made weapons and tools of stone and wood • fished and hunted for food • sewed clothing of animal skins • lived in caves • used fire for warmth and cooking	• 10,000 to 8,000 years ago • life much the same as Old Stone Age • certain animals were domesticated (dogs and goats)	• 8,000 to 6,000 years ago • learned to farm • raised animals • learned to weave baskets, make clothing from plant fibers and wool, make clay pots • invented the wheel

1. Identify one way in which animals affected the way people lived in the Stone Age.

_____

_____

_____

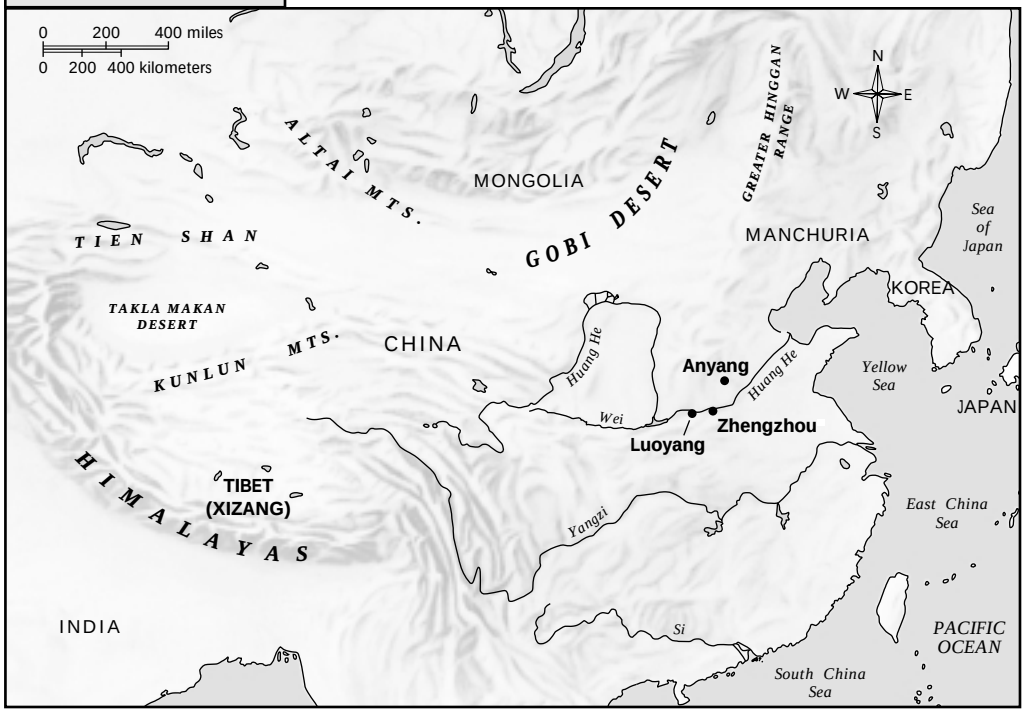
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Name _____ Class _____ Date _____

Document-Based Questions *(continued)*

Document 1–2

Physical Map of China



2. What physical features prevented China from having contact with other cultures?

_____

_____

_____

Document 1–3

Gilgamesh . . . built a wall around his city to make it safe against attack. Its pinnacles shone like brass. Its outer surface was armored with stone cladding [facing], every brick had been hardened in the fire. The people of Uruk groaned beneath the burden of the building of the wall, for Gilgamesh drove them on without pity. . . . The drums that summoned the people to work were sounded without pause, so that the son had no time to spend with his father, nor the lover with his lady.

—*The Gilgamesh Epic*

3. Why did Gilgamesh build a wall around his city?

_____

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Document-Based Questions *(continued)*

Document 1–4

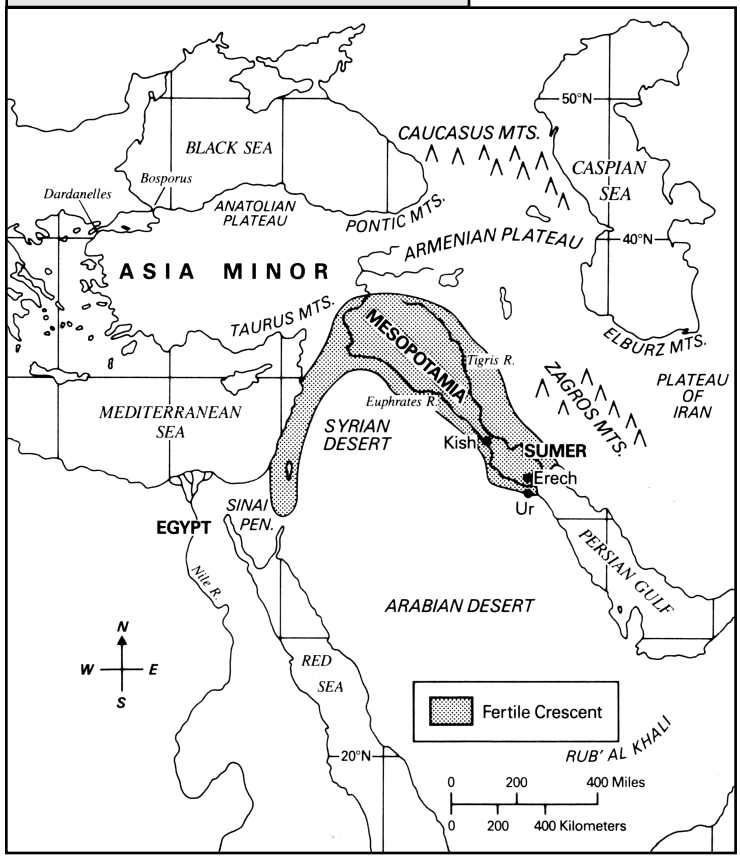
I opened passages for the streams throughout the nine provinces, and conducted them to the sea. I deepened the channels and canals, and conducted them to the streams.

–The Legend of Yu

4. Identify the way Yu responded to the Chinese people's need for water.

Document 1–5

Geography of the Ancient Middle East



5. Use information from the map to explain why civilizations arose in Mesopotamia.

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Document-Based Questions *(continued)*

Document 1–6

Praise to thee, O Nile, that issues from the earth and comes to nourish Egypt . . . That waters the meadows, that nourishes all cattle, that gives drinks to desert places . . . Lord of fish, that makes the water fowl go upstream . . . That makes barley and creates wheat, so that he may cause temples to keep festivities. . . . He that makes trees according to every wish.

—Excerpt from the "Hymn of the Nile"

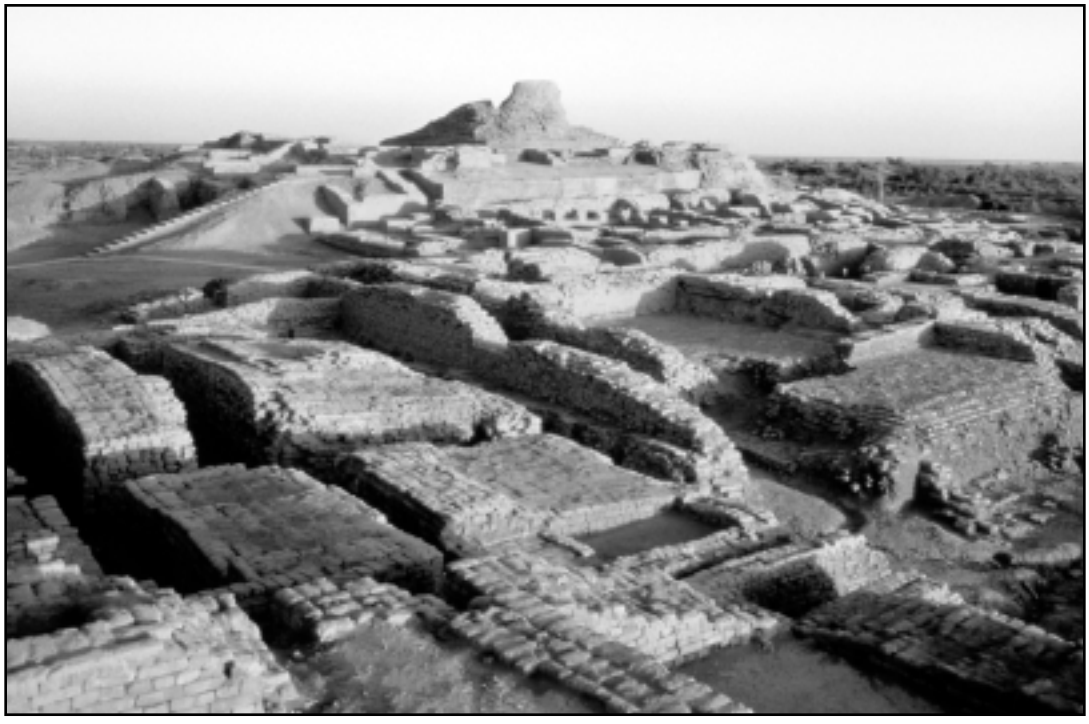
6. How did the Nile affect life in ancient Egypt?

_____

_____

_____

Document 1–7



7. According to this picture of Mohenjo-Daro, how did the people of Mohenjo-Daro modify their environment?

_____

_____

_____

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Document-Based Questions *(continued)*

Part B Essay Task

Directions:

- Write a well-organized essay that includes an introduction, several paragraphs, and a conclusion.
- Use evidence from the documents to support your response.
- Do not simply repeat the contents of the documents.
- Include specific related outside information.

Historical Context

The development of early civilizations was greatly affected by geographic factors.

Task

Discuss how the lives of the peoples of the ancient world were shaped by the geography of their region.

Be sure to include specific historical details. You must also include additional information from your knowledge of global history and geography.

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