

PROJECT: CULTURAL EXCHANGE

This unit has been all about the beginnings of civilization. You have learned a lot about where people came from and how things like migration and rice impacted the development of societies. It can sometimes be difficult to sort out which people moved where, who developed what, and how they all communicated, traded and developed into full-fledged civilizations. With all of these details about things so ancient, it is both difficult and important to keep them in order.

There are a lot of ways for people to learn information. Some people learn information by making up songs, others write lists or make up acronyms or other learning devices. One of the easiest ways to get information sorted out is by making a graphic analyzer.

Directions

In this project, you will select four early river civilizations, from the following list: Mycenaean, Chinese, Mesopotamian, Egyptian, and the Indus Valley. Make a graphic organizer (attached) for each civilization, and use it to chart the different characteristics of each. Analysis helps to sort out not only what aspects belonged to which culture, but also what aspects of a single culture led to something else. For example, one civilization might be settled between two rivers. This might have led to the cultivation of rice as well as an advanced river culture. This, then, may have led to a robust boating and trading culture up and down the two rivers, which later brought the civilization wealth and, consequently, the need to militarize to protect its wealth from invaders. Each of these characteristics would be in connected boxes on the graphic, to show which led to which.

