

## WEEK 6



# WHAT DO YOU KNOW?

## Pretest 6

Fill in the blanks using one of the words provided at the bottom of the page.

1. Hammurabi was a king of \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Hammurabi is best remembered for writing \_\_\_\_\_ that helped to set standards for living.
3. Despite the success of Joseph, the Israelites eventually became \_\_\_\_\_ in Egypt.
4. While in bondage, the Israelites (or Hebrews) still \_\_\_\_\_.
5. The \_\_\_\_\_ of Egypt ordered that all the Hebrew babies be thrown into the Nile River.
6. The country of \_\_\_\_\_ is naturally isolated by mountains, oceans, and deserts.
7. A \_\_\_\_\_ is the term for a family that rules a country.
8. The \_\_\_\_\_ was a very important secret that greatly helped the Chinese economy.

### WORD BANK

laws  
slaves

silkworm  
flourished

China  
dynasty

Babylonia  
pharaoh

# HAMMURABI

## LESSON 16

The Sumerians, as you may remember, ruled Mesopotamia, or the Fertile Crescent. Over time, other empires invaded and new rulers were put in place. A new civilization began to flourish there under the name of Babylonia. You have probably heard of the Babylonians in the Old Testament. (They are also called the Chaldeans.)

One of the more famous leaders of the old Babylonian Empire was Hammurabi (Ham-uh-RAH-bee). He lived from about 1792 to 1750 B.C. We know a lot about him because in 1901 a great discovery was made. In Susa, an ancient Babylonian city, archaeologists unearthed a 7-foot-high stone monument; written on the monument was Hammurabi's code of 300 laws. The code itself explains that these laws were written "to cause justice to prevail in the land, to destroy the wicked and the evil, to prevent the strong from oppressing the weak, and to further the welfare of the people."

What all of this means is that quite a civilization had been established under Hammurabi's leadership. One of the ways that men live alongside one another in peace is to have laws that everyone agrees upon and lives by. Before Hammurabi's laws were discovered, historians thought that there must not have been any laws in existence that early in history. Hammurabi proved them wrong.

In the code, this king of Babylon addressed many practical things. He set standards for land deals, trading, military service, loans and debts, wages, family disputes, and even dealings with witchcraft. As a king, Hammurabi also worked on fair taxation and minimum wage. We still use the concept of minimum wage today. (That is the lowest amount of money a person can be paid for a job.)

The significance of these laws becomes clearer when you stop to think about Moses. Though we have not studied him yet, we are near the time period when God gave the Israelites His laws to live by. You can find them in Exodus 20. Though there are some similarities in the laws of Moses and Hammurabi, there really exist more differences.

The Ten Commandments and the other laws God gave Moses had to do with worship of one God as well as with relationships between men. Hammurabi does not address the worship of one God. Moses gave God all the glory in the laws he recorded. Hammurabi gave glory only to himself. According to historians, some of Hammurabi's penalties were harsh, unfair, and inconsistent. On the other hand, we find God's laws and consequences to sin to be fair and just.

Still, as you can tell, Hammurabi was a remarkable king for his time. The magnificent stone that he left behind is just one indication of the impact he made in early Babylonia.

## ACTIVITY 16

### 16A—Younger Students

A family is really a small society. During a family meeting or mealtime, discuss what rules your family has. You may discover that family rules are designed to do one of these things:

1. To keep peace
2. To keep order

3. To protect valuable things
4. To keep people safe
5. To keep people healthy

Think of examples for each item above. Talk about why they are necessary even though some are not fun to abide by. Can you come up with other reasons for family rules? Does your family have consequences for breaking the rules? What are the consequences in our society for breaking the law? Think of the similarities between families and societies.

### **16B—Middle Students**

All societies have rules and laws to follow. Even in our language, we have rules to make sense of what we read, write, and speak. In the following paragraph on Hammurabi, some rules of English have been left out. See if you can make sense of the paragraph by adding some punctuation. Rewrite it on another piece of paper.

thepurposeofhammurabisnearly300lawswas“tocausejusticetoprevailinthelandtodestroythewicked  
andtheeviltopreventthestrongfromoppressingtheweakandtofurthertthewelfareofthepeople.”

Hint: To solve the problem of the paragraph, just add commas, spaces between words, and two capitals. Aren't you glad we have grammar rules?

### **16C—Older Students**

Research the details of the “harsh consequences” to some of Hammurabi's laws. Utilize the library or Internet to find a copy of the laws. Summarize your findings and give examples of penalties. File your results under “Asia: Iraq (Mesopotamia).”

**Began c. 1875–1730 B.C.**

## ***THE ISRAELITES IN SLAVERY***

### ***LESSON 17***

The last we read about the Israelites, things were going well. Jacob was reunited with Joseph, and all the brothers moved their families near the palace of the pharaoh. They were spared from the devastation of famine and were prospering in the land of Egypt. The Book of Genesis ends with the story of the death of Joseph, who had lived a victorious life.

Something happened though. Exodus 1:8 says, “there arose a new king over Egypt, who did not know Joseph.” This new king just did not appreciate the faith and heritage of the Israelite people. He instead saw them as a threat because they were so blessed and so numerous. He may have thought that, as foreigners, the Israelites would not be loyal to him.

The pharaoh first began to oppress the Israelites by setting harsh taskmasters, or bosses, over them. This led to more and more loss of freedom and eventually to total slavery. Through most of their captivity, the slaves were used to help build some of the magnificent structures of the Egyptians. That kind of hard labor should have slowed down the prosperity of the Israelites. But it didn't. The Lord

fulfilled His promise to Abraham that He would make him a great nation. And the Israelites multiplied even more despite the harsh circumstances.

The pharaoh over Egypt was so wicked that he asked the Egyptian midwives (ladies who assist a woman in childbirth) to kill the Hebrew baby boys as they were born. (Hebrew is another term for Israelite.<sup>1</sup>) He thought he could stop the growth of the Hebrews.

Here's what the midwives did though. Exodus 1:17 tells us, "but the midwives feared God, and did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but saved the male children alive." Isn't that neat? I wonder what made these midwives fear a god that they did not know? Maybe they saw the love of God in these special people. Maybe they didn't. Regardless, the midwives risked their own lives to save the Hebrew babies, and the people flourished despite their slavery.

Finally, the pharaoh was so upset over the strong population of the Hebrews that he ordered all male babies to be thrown into the river. Does that story sound familiar to you? One very well-known baby was spared from this kind of death. His name was Moses. After 400 years of captivity in Egypt, the Hebrews were soon going to experience deliverance through the leadership of Moses. It's a remarkable story that we'll get to soon.



*This bronze Egyptian dagger was made between 1787 and 1582 B.C. The stone pommel next to it was used to hold its wooden handle together. (It is rare to find a pommel with a dagger because the two are usually separated after the wooden handle weathers and deteriorates.)*

## **ACTIVITY 17**

### **17A—Younger Students**

Make miniature "bricks." Use part Play-Doh modeling compound or clay with part grass or straw. Blend the two ingredients together with your hands. Form into little bricks. Let them harden in the sun. Think about having to make thousands of bricks for someone else. That is what the Israelites had to do under the pharaoh of Egypt. Take a picture of your bricks and file it under "Africa: Egypt" in your Student Notebook. (This is very fun and easy, just a little messy if you use real clay!)

### **17B—Middle Students**

Investigate the field of midwifery. Are there any midwives listed in your local phone book? How are they different from doctors? Do you know of anyone in your family or among your family's friends who

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1. The Israelites may have renamed themselves the Hebrews while in captivity because the word "Habiru" had been used to describe nomadic people of the region. The Habiru people were generally lowly and sometimes gave themselves over to slavery to survive. The downcast Israelites may have identified themselves with these people.

Incidentally, the Israelites continued to call themselves "Hebrews" until about the time of the Judges. Even later they call themselves "Jews." Don't let this confuse you! The Hebrews, the Israelites, and the Jews are all really the same people.

From *The Living Bible Encyclopedia in Story and Pictures*, Art Treasure ed., Vol. 6, s.v. "Hebrews." New York: H. S. Stuttman Co., Inc., 1968.

has used a midwife? It is a growing profession in our society today. Interview a midwife or someone who has used one. Find out why this practice from long ago is popular again.

### **17C—Older Students**

Find current statistics on the number of abortions performed in America today. Who are the people who fight against abortion? What does “civil disobedience” mean, and how does it relate to what the Egyptian midwives did? What would you do to help save a life?

**c. 1600—1066 B.C.**

## **CHINA AND THE SHANG DYNASTY**

### **LESSON 18**

Do you like Chinese food? I love it! If you like it or not, we might all agree that it is unique, with a style and flavor of its very own. Well, much like its food, the vast country of China is unique, too, because of its distinct geography, culture, and government.

High mountains, deserts, and oceans guard the land where China is today. Get out a globe or atlas now and find the borders. Because of these natural barriers, China did not attract very many outside visitors long, long ago. The difficulty of the journey likely meant that when people did travel or migrate to China, they stayed there.

We find, then, that there was much interbreeding among the early settlers to China. That means the same kind of people kept marrying the same kind of people. This may account for the distinct difference in physical features of the Asian people still seen today—features such as almond-shaped eyes and jet-black hair.

The Chinese culture is thought to be the oldest pure remnant of an ancient civilization that exists. The word “culture” refers to the art, music, writings, and drama of a particular people. Because of China’s longtime isolation from the rest of the world, its culture has remained very distinguishable. That means it is very easy to recognize Chinese things because they are very different from the Western world. In contrast, the cultures of the Babylonians, the Greeks, and the Romans have somewhat blended together with neighboring countries over time.

As for government, the Chinese have almost always been ruled by dynasties. A dynasty is a family that obtains power and keeps it, sometimes for centuries at a time, by passing it on to their children when they grow up. There have been 10 or more dynasties to rule China in this fashion.

One of the first dynasties we know of is the Xia. They probably ruled for four or five hundred years somewhere between the twenty-first and sixteenth centuries before Christ. Not very much is known about the people of the Xia dynasty and for a long time it wasn’t clear whether they existed at all. But, in the 1960s and 1970s, archaeologists found lots of things which support the fact that these people were real. They found parts of cities, bronze tools, and burial grounds, all pointing to the lives of these ancient people.

The next ruling family of China was the Shang dynasty. A lot more is known about them except exactly when they ruled. Some historians think they lived as far back as 1760 B.C. Others say they ruled from about 1600 B.C. to 1066 B.C.

No matter when the Shang lived and ruled, they're still remembered for some neat things. For one, they started a written language, but it was very different from ours. The early Chinese used 50,000 characters to express themselves. Imagine learning their ABC song in kindergarten! They also were making bronze early on and using horses to drive chariots.

One of the unusual things the Shang knew how to do was to grow silkworms and use them to make silk fabric. A very special worm has to be cultivated, one that eats only mulberry leaves. The worm spins threads into silk around its cocoon. It requires a lot of human skill and patience to unwind these delicate threads.

Legends say there was an empress named His-Ling Shi who lived long before the Shang dynasty. She was the first to have mulberry groves planted specifically to feed the precious silkworm. Over time, silk became so valuable to people that it was sometimes used like money. In later years, silk cloth became a serious item for trading to other countries. The Chinese kept the method of making silk a secret for about 3,000 years! That's a long time for keeping a secret.

We will study the other dynasties of China as they emerge over history. Some were quite short, but most lasted hundreds of years at a time, giving China some of its unique characteristics.

## **ACTIVITY 18**

### **ALL STUDENTS**

Make your Memory Cards for Lessons 16–18.

### **18A—Younger Students**

One way to remember the ancient Chinese would be to obtain some silk fabric. Many fabrics today are soft and flowing like silk but are man-made. See if you can find anything in your home that is 100 percent silk. Compare silk to polyester, cotton, and linen. How do they feel? What is one of your favorite materials for clothes? Why would silk fabric be nice to sleep in?

### **18B—Middle and Older Students**

1. Do you like insects? Research the amazing little silkworm. How does it really make silk?
2. Research the ancient Chinese alphabet. Photocopy samples of it to file in your Student Notebook under “Asia: China.” What alphabet is being used in China today?

### **18C—Middle and Older Students**

Use the format below to begin a running list of the dynasties of China. We will add to it along the way. File it in your Student Notebook under “Asia: China.”

#### **The Dynasties of China**

<i>Date of power (years ruling)</i>	<i>Name of dynasty</i>	<i>Special notes</i>
c. 2000–1600 B.C. (c. 400 yrs.)	Xia	Evidence of cities, bronze
c. 1600–1066 B.C. (c. 534 yrs.)	Shang	Developed writing Harvested silkworms



# TAKE ANOTHER LOOK!

## Review 6: Lessons 16–18

### Wall of Fame

1. *Hammurabi (1792 B.C.)*—Draw a big black stone next to Hammurabi with scribbles on it.
2. *The Israelites in slavery (exact date unknown; it began c. 1875–1730 B.C.)*—Draw a set of chains.
3. *Shang dynasty (exact date unknown; c. 1600–1066 B.C.)*—Attach a silky scrap of fabric to your paper with the title and dates of the Shang dynasty.

### SomeWHERE in Time

1. Find a map of ancient Mesopotamia with Babylon on it. Compare it to a modern-day map of Iraq. Babylon is just south of present-day Baghdad. Do you know who the ruler there was in the year 2000? Unscramble his name to find out. (Dmdsaa ensuHis)
2. Using an atlas, identify the mountains in southwest China, the oceans on the south and east sides, and the deserts to the north.

Middle and Older Students: Transfer this information to Outline Map 4, “East Asia.” Title your map “Natural Boundaries of China.”

3. Middle and Older Students: Add to your map the names of these three large rivers.

The Huang He (Yellow River)

The Chang Jiang (Yangtze River)

The Xi Jiang (West River)

To help you remember which is which, consider that the river names in English are in alphabetical order on your map from bottom to top. Look and see for yourself. These rivers helped to give the people water for crops and a means of transporting things. So, we find the early civilizations were nearby.

4. Also on your map, write in the city of Anyang. It is south and slightly west of Beijing. The Shang dynasty probably ruled from here. File your map under “Asia: China.”





# WHAT DID YOU LEARN?

## Week 6: Quiz

**Multiple Choice.** Circle one answer for each question.

- The Bible says that on Day 1 of Creation God made
  - day and night.
  - the firmament, or heavens.
  - seas and earth.
  - cattle and creeping things.
- According to the Bible, when Adam and Eve sinned
  - they were ashamed.
  - sin and death entered the world.
  - man was cursed to work, woman was cursed with birth pains.
  - All of the above.
- Jubal was the father of
  - Cain.
  - bronzemaking.
  - all who play harp and flute.
  - the Jewish nation.
- How many people were on board of Noah's ark?
  - 6
  - 8
  - 10
  - 12
- Which of these statements about the Ice Age is false?
  - The Ice Age ended slowly.
  - Man lived through the Ice Age.
  - Scientists have determined the exact dates of the Ice Age.
  - During the Ice Age, only parts of the earth were covered by glaciers.
- The Sumerian civilization was located
  - on the island of Crete.
  - in the Fertile Crescent.
  - in China.
  - in Egypt.
- The word "babel" means
  - wedge-shaped.
  - land between the rivers.
  - confusion.
  - huge rocks.
- In *The Epic of Gilgamesh*, Gilgamesh is
  - the name of a king in the story.
  - the name of a country.
  - the name of the author of the poem.
  - the name of the archaeologist who found the poem.
- The pyramids were primarily built to be used as
  - temples.
  - tombs.
  - palaces.
  - tourist attractions.
- According to legend, King Minos of Crete supposedly kept a half-bull, half-man creature called
  - a megalith.
  - a Mesopotamia.
  - a Minotaur.
  - a terrible lizard.
- The name "Abraham" means
  - father of a great nation.
  - my beloved.
  - the redeemed.
  - father of Isaac.
- Jacob had
  - twin sons.
  - 12 sons.
  - 3 sons.
  - only one son.
- Hammurabi was a Babylonian king best remembered for
  - building a labyrinth.
  - writing a code of 300 laws.
  - creating cuneiform writing.
  - building the Tower of Babel.
- While in slavery, the Israelites
  - made bricks.
  - grew in size.
  - called themselves "Hebrews."
  - All of the above.
- Early China was ruled by
  - monarchs.
  - pharaohs.
  - dynasties.
  - pirates.