



Ancient Civilizations

History, Social Sciences

TVO 1991

6 30-minute programs for grades 6-12

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How does a civilization originate? What sustains it? And why does it fall? Using the human search for food, security, and creativity as a base, this series looks for answers to these questions in the ancient civilizations of China, India, Mesopotamia, Egypt, Greece, Rome, and meso-America. These remarkable civilizations rose, flourished, and faded between 3000 BC (the invention of writing) and AD 450 (the fall of Rome). With its focus on daily life in each of these cultures, the programs attempt to convey the debt we owe to the past.

101 The Beginning is in the End

Social Studies: 8.1, 8.2, 8.10

This program examines how civilizations began in China, India, Egypt, and Central America, but concentrates mostly on Sumer, a region of Mesopotamia near the meeting of the Tigris and Euphrates rivers. The basic human needs for food, security, and creativity are shown to have shaped the pattern of growth of ancient societies.

102 Balancing the Budget

Social Studies: 8.1, 8.2, 8.10

The discovery of agriculture and the subsequent domestication of animals gradually led to economies based on trade. This evolution is examined in detail in Egypt. The Minoans and Phoenicians, both great traders, are also studied.

103 Safekeeping

Social Studies: 8.3, 8.4, 8.8, 8.10, 10.4

This study of ancient systems of security reveals how these systems evolved into sophisticated governments and codes of law. Athens and Sparta are contrasted, and the Etruscans and republican Rome are also examined.

104 On the Town

Social Studies: 8.3, 8.8, 8.9, 8.10

The cultural high points of ancient civilizations in art, architecture, literature, engineering, and technology are examined, focusing on the golden age of Greece.

105 Legacies

Social Studies: 8.3, 8.4, 8.9, 8.10

The debt we owe to past civilizations, especially the Romans, is explored. Our architecture, law, government, language, drama, medicine, sports, mathematics, and writing all came from the ancient world.

106 The End Is the Beginning

Social Studies: 8.2, 8.3, 8.4, 8.8, 8.10

The reasons for the decline and fall of civilizations explored in this series are examined. Elements of the fallen civilization are often the beginning of another civilization.

These programs are licensed through Blue Ridge Public Television and may be obtained on videotape from your school or division media center. Visit our website at www.wbra.org for more information.