Chapter 1: History of the Fertile Crescent, Answer Key

Chapter Opener-

MAP ZONE
Page 10-11

1. The Tigris and the Euphrates Rivers are located at the heart of the Fertile Crescent.
2. Answers will vary. Students may reference the idea that the word fertile is a reference to the beginning of settlement and agriculture.

Section 1-

Page 13
Because of the fertile farmland in the Fertile Crescent, it was possible for permanent settlements to be established and for civilizations to subsequently develop in Mesopotamia.

MAP ZONE

1. The Tigris and Euphrates flow down from the hills into the low lying plains of Mesopotamia.
2. Every year the Tigris and Euphrates rivers flood, bringing silt, which makes the land fertile and suitable for farming.

Page 15
When faced with low water levels and dry crops, Mesopotamians created irrigation systems to supply land that did not have easy access to water. Controlling water flow allowed farmers to maintain an adequate water supply and to sustain their crops.

Pages 16-17
GEOGRAPHY AND HISTORY
MAP ZONE
1. The four earliest river valley civilizations were located in Egypt by the Nile and in Mesopotamia between the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers.
2. River valleys would flood, depositing silt in the soil which made the soil fertile and perfect for agriculture. Having a good place to grow crops allowed settlements to grow more permanent and grow into prosperous civilizations over time.

eSchool Consultants

Section 2-
Page 19

MAP ZONE

1. Sargon's empire reached as far west as Tarsus and Byblos.
2. Answers will vary. Students should articulately explain why he or she thinks that Sargon may have wanted to rule a large area, appropriately referencing the section material.

Page 20
Sargon built an empire by utilizing soldiers armed with bows and arrows, an innovation in warfare of the time. He also worked to gain loyalty from his soldiers by eating with them every day.
Answers will vary. Student answers may suggest that the defensive walls, high numbers of buildings, sophisticated canals and harbor, and areas of land dedicated to crops and for trading purposes, are all indicators that Ur was an advanced city.

Page 22
Trade and merchants had a significant impact on Sumer. Merchants held a high rank in Sumer's social hierarchy and their journeys brought back more than just goods, but cultural ideas from all sorts of faraway places as well.

Section 3-

Page 24
Cuneiform was first used in Sumer to keep business records.

Page 25
Sumerian inventions improved many areas of life including the wheel, which made transportation of goods and people faster and easier, and also was used to make potters' wheels to create objects out of clay. The Sumerian plow allowed farmers to break through the hard clay soil of Sumer to prepare for its planting, increasing farm production. Sewers helped with sanitation, bronze was used to make tools and weapons stronger and more durable, while makeup and glass jewelry allowed for self-expression and decoration.

Page 25, continued

Connecting to Technology
Answers will vary. Students may choose to answer this question based on their own knowledge or life experience. Students may also reference the passage on page 25 to explain, with specific examples, why they think the wheel is so important to modern society.

Page 26
The bull and cow is shown in the artwork on page 26.

Page 27
Cylinder seals can teach historians about battle scenes, worship rituals, and how Sumerians chose to decorate special objects.

Section 4-

Page 29

Hammurabi's Code was his most important accomplishment. This group of 282 laws dealt with almost every part of daily life.

Answers will vary. Students may suggest that Hammurabi's Code provided a framework of standards of behavior as well as a measure of accountability for the citizens of that time.

Page 30
The southwestern Assyrian Empire included Egypt.

Page 31
The following people and groups ruled Mesopotamia:

1. Sargon
2. Ur
3. Hammurabi
4. Hittites
5. Kassites
6. Assyrians (Ninevah)
7. Chaldeans

Page 31, continued
Answers will vary. Students may include spears, bows and arrows and swords in their lists.

Page 32
1. Phoenicia is located at the western end of the Mediterranean Sea.
2. Phoenicians settled in Tripolis, Sicily, and Carthage and on the coasts of Africa and Spain near the Strait of Gibraltar.

Page 33
Some of the Phoenicians' main achievements were trading, expertise in sailing, making special purple cloth, and developing one of the world's first alphabets.

Page 34
SOCIAL STUDIES SKILLS

Practice
1. Hammurabi issued his code of laws in approximately 1770BC.
2. The formation of Sargon's empire happened before the beginning of Phoenician trade.
3. The Assyrians conquered Babylon about 570 years after Hammurabi issued his law code.

Apply
Answers will vary. Students should make a list of the events of a typical school day in the order they happen. Listed events should be arranged, in sequential order on a timeline that is appropriately labeled.