**Beginnings of Civilization Lesson Plan**

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Where did civilization begin?

**Beginning of Civiliation: Where and Why?**

The earliest civilizations shared many common [features](http://www.brighthub.com/education/k-12/articles/53962.aspx). The most significant of these was that they grew out of farming settlements in river valleys. The four early river valley civilizations rose in Mesopotamia (modern day Iraq), Egypt, the Indus River Valley, and the Huang He valley. Illustrate this with the PPT/Smartboard presentation entitled, “Ancient China Global Context.”

They developed in the valley between the Tigris and Euphrates, along the Nile, the Indus and Ganges, and Yellow Rivers respectively.

Have students complete the two on-line readings (found on the Moodle site, too) about [Late Prehistoric China](http://www.nga.gov/education/chinatp_pt1.shtm) and [Mohenjo-Daro](http://www.mohenjodaro.net/mohenjodaroessay.html). Complete the reading and answer the following discussion questions:

**Discussion Questions:**

* What activity was the most important foundation of cities and civilization?
* Why was agriculture so important to the beginning of civilization?
* Agriculture and surplus crops allowed some people to stop farming and learn specific skills. Did this lead to the start of a system of trade?
* What were people with specialized skills called?