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**River Valley Civilizations**

A long time ago around 3,500 B.C. many River Valley Societies began to grow. Some famous societies were Ancient Egypt, Ancient China and Mesopotamia. Ancient Egypt discovered specialized skills and paper, Ancient China taught good behavior and invented the Silk Road and lastly Mesopotamia invented the first type of writing and the creation of laws. As you can see Ancient River valley societies helped build future societies.

Ancient Mesopotamia helped build future societies. Mesopotamia invented the first type of writing named cuneiform. In Document 1 it states that

***“Writing was a giant leap forward in the development of civilization”***

Cuneiform writing helped keep track of business dealing when trading, it kept track of records and it was also used to keep ideas to pass on to from generation to generation. Cuneiform influenced our future societies to advance in writing. Cuneiform is the first type of writing invented by the Sumerians. As years passed people like the Ancient Egyptians used their knowledge and advanced in the writing using symbols and pictures to represent ideas and, Ancient China advanced the writing with sounds and vowels. In Document 4 it sates...

***“Unlike Sumerian cuneiform writing, hieroglyphics represented ideas or objects “***

They advanced cuneiform from just scribbles to different types of writing like hieroglyphics and the writing we used today. As years passed people of different societies gained more knowledge and advanced in the writing. Without the idea of Cuneiform these Ancient societies would have never advanced the writing with their skills. Another thing the Sumerians invented that helped build future societies is laws, like “an eye for an eye”. These laws helped make a better society with no war and everyone was treated equally. In Document 2 it states…

***“Punishment often fit the crime”***

This means that whatever that person did to the victim, the person will get treated the same way they treated the victim. So for example if the person killed the victim, the government will kill the person who killed the victim. Even if the victim had little political power this person got the respect they deserve and got equal rights as any other person with lots of political power. These laws were one of the most complete set of 282 laws that survived and remained respected throughout years. The Ancient Egyptians also used this idea and made new laws to make a more sufficient society. They made a monarchy government which means that a king rules the land and makes all the rules. The king also made people work for him. People in Ancient Egypt also followed the law “an eye for an eye”. Even though this law does not exist today but still in the U.S.A people have rights even if they are poor and not wealthy. Until today people follow some of the laws of the 282 laws like having equal rights to all citizens and having punishments for the person’s crime. Mesopotamia’s invention of laws helped other societies make laws for their societies. They made laws like people having equal rights, treating others with respect etc. As you can see Mesopotamia’s invention of laws helped build future societies.

Ancient Egypt also helped build future societies. Ancient Egypt invented the first type of paper named papyrus. In document 4 it states….

***“They could be carved in clay or stone but could also be written onto papyrus, the first paper which was developed by the Egyptians which made it easier to keep records.”***

Ancient Egyptians helped invent a new type of paper which helped them keep records more efficiently. They advanced the paper from what the Sumerians used which were clay tablets. As years passed many societies advanced in paper changing its colors and adding lines. Ancient China was one of the societies that also helped invent paper. In Document 6 it says…

***“China invented porcelain, paper, ink and gunpowder”***

This statement shows that Ancient China a civilization that was after the Ancient Egyptian civilization took the idea and advanced into it. In our future societies we now use paper of all colors and shapes. Without Ancient Egypt’s invention of papyrus paper future societies would have not been able to advance in the idea. Another invention that the Ancient Egyptians invented that helped advance in future societies is they invented multiple skills in many subjects. In Document 3 it states…

***“Egyptians needed to learn the specialized skills of mathematics, geometry, engineering, and architecture.”***

These are some skills that the Ancient Egyptians invented that helped build architectural structures like the Pyramids. Without these skills future societies would not have known what to do to build structures. These skills helped future societies build monuments. One example is that the Roman Coliseum is one of the monuments built in the Roman Empire using the Ancient Egyptian’s architectural skills. Also Ancient China used Ancient Egypt’s architectural skills to build the Great Wall of China. As stated the Ancient Egyptian society helped build future societies.

Lastly Ancient China also helped build future societies. Ancient China’s teaching of good behavior helped advance in future societies in many ways. This taught people respect, kindness, love, obedience, generosity and loyalty to elderly. This teaching helped have societies with no war. In future societies in the U.S.A parents still teach their children to respect others and to not lie. But tone difference for, the future society and Ancient China is that now there is no rulers so children were just taught to respect elderly, parents, older siblings and friends. Behavior throughout the years remained the same and was respected until today. Another thing invented by Ancient China that helped build future societies is they spread the invention of the Silk Road (cultural diffusion). Document 6 sates….

***“Silk Road led to cultural diffusion or the spread of ideas and inventions amongst people. Cultural diffusion led to great progress for China and other civilizations as ideas and inventions spread and led to advances in many societies throughout the world”***

The Silk Road helped societies all over the world be able to trade with each other and get the goods and products they need. Without the invention of the Silk Road people of today would not be able to trade with other lands for goods and products they need and don’t have. Ancient Chinese civilization helped build future societies.

In conclusion Ancient River Valley Civilizations helped build future societies. Their inventions such as papyrus paper, cuneiform writing, specialized skills, good behavior, Silk Road and laws were used and advanced through years with other people’s knowledge.