

Section 4: Mediterranean Civilizations
The Fertile Crescent

Reading Readiness Guide

Anticipation Guide

How much do you think you know about the early Mediterranean civilizations? As your teacher reads the statements, mark whether you think each statement is true (T) or false (F) in the Me column. Then discuss your answers with your group and mark the group's decision in the Group column. As you read, look for information that will clarify whether the statements are true or false.

After you read the section, read the statements again and mark the After Reading column to indicate whether they are true or false.

Before Reading		Statements	After Reading
Me	Group		
		1. The ancient city of Tyre was made wealthy by selling a rich purple dye produced by snails.	
		2. In the ancient region of Phoenicia, an alphabet was developed using symbols that represented animals, people, and places.	
		3. The Phoenician alphabet was relatively easy to learn, and helped simplify trade between people who spoke different languages.	
		4. According to the Torah, the Hebrew Bible, Abraham led his people to believe in just one god.	
		5. The Ten Commandments were a code of laws for the Israelites.	
		6. The Israelite, King David, established his capital in Babylonia.	

Section 4: Mediterranean Civilizations
The Fertile Crescent

Guided Reading and Review

A. As You Read

Directions: As you read Section 4, fill in the table below with information about the Phoenicians and Israelites.

Civilizations of the Phoenicians and Israelites		
	Phoenicia	Israel
Location	1.	2.
Main City or Cities	3.	4.
Ways of Life	5.	6.
Main Achievements	7.	8.

Chapter and Section Support

B. Reviewing Key Terms

Directions: Complete each sentence by writing the correct term in the blank provided.

9. A set of symbols that represent the sounds of a language is called a(n) _____.
10. Belief in one god is called _____.
11. A time when there is so little food that many people starve is known as a(n) _____.
12. The Assyrians _____ the Israelites by sending them into distant parts of their empire.

Section 4: Mediterranean Civilizations
The Fertile Crescent

Section Quiz

A. Key Terms

Directions: Match the definitions in Column I with the terms in Column II. Write the correct letter in each blank.

Column I

- _____ 1. the belief in one god
- _____ 2. a set of symbols that represent the sounds of language
- _____ 3. to force someone to live in another country
- _____ 4. a time when there is so little food that many people starve

Column II

- a. alphabet
- b. monotheism
- c. famine
- d. exile

B. Main Ideas

Directions: Write the letter of the correct answer in each blank.

- _____ 5. Which people were a great sea power?
 - a. the Babylonians
 - b. the Assyrians
 - c. the Phoenicians
 - d. the Israelites
- _____ 6. The first alphabet was developed by
 - a. Hammurabi.
 - b. the Israelites.
 - c. Solomon.
 - d. the Phoenicians.
- _____ 7. Who led the Israelites to develop a belief in one god?
 - a. Solomon
 - b. Abraham
 - c. David
 - d. Moses
- _____ 8. The Israelites originally left Canaan for Egypt because
 - a. they were persecuted for their religion.
 - b. other people were jealous of their wealth and power.
 - c. they did not have any trading partners.
 - d. there was not enough food to eat.

Section 4
Mediterranean Civilizations

Objectives

1. Learn how the sea power of the Phoenicians spread civilization.
2. Learn about the major events in the history of the Israelites.

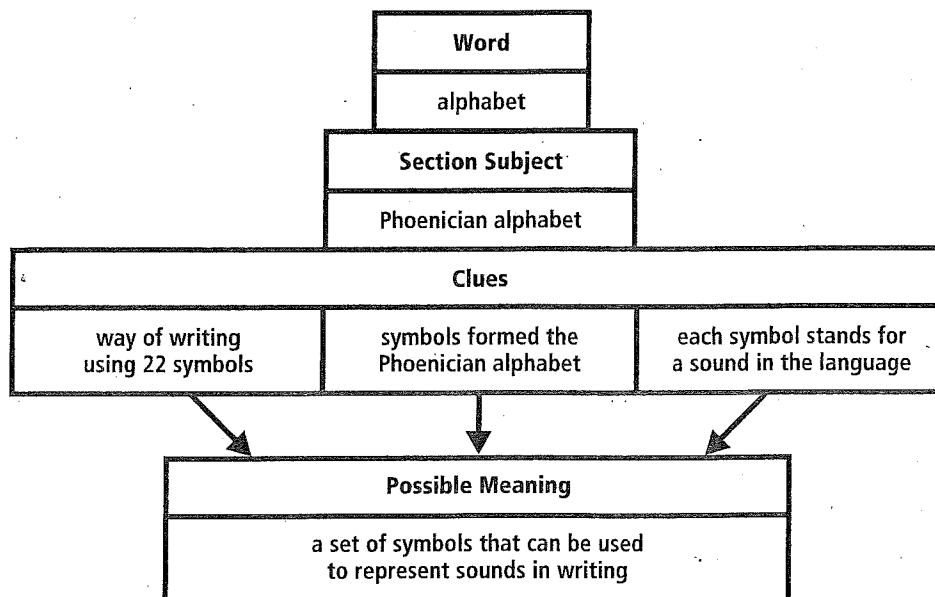
Target Reading Skill

Read Ahead Reading ahead can help you understand something you are not sure of in the text. If you do not understand a word or passage, keep reading. The word or idea may be explained later. Sometimes a word is defined after it has been used. The main idea of one paragraph may be discussed in later paragraphs.

When you read the sentence about Phoenicia's resources in this section, you may not understand what a resource is. By reading ahead, you will find out that resources are things that grow or live in Phoenicia.

Vocabulary Strategy

Using Context to Clarify Meaning When you come across a new word while reading, you should look for context clues to help you figure out what the word means. The chart below shows how the subject of the section and word clues can help you determine meaning.



Section 4 Summary

Phoenician Sea Power

- 1 Tyre (tyr) was the major city of a region called Phoenicia (fuh NISH uh). Phoenicia was a Fertile Crescent civilization that looked west. It faced the Mediterranean Sea. There were many growing cities
5 around this sea.

Phoenicia had few resources, but they were important. There were snails that produced a rich purple dye. The purple color was highly valued by wealthy people. There were also cedar forests. Phoenicians sold
10 the dyed cloth and wood to neighboring peoples. ✓

The Phoenicians traded by sea to gain wealth. In time, they controlled trade in much of the Mediterranean. From about 1100 B.C. to 800 B.C., Phoenicia was a great sea power. Phoenician ships
15 sailed as far as the Atlantic Ocean.

Trade brought goods from lands around the Mediterranean to the Phoenician cities of Tyre and Sidon (SY dun). Bazaars were full of foods and animals from faraway places.

The Phoenician Alphabet

- 20 The Phoenicians used writing to help them with trade. They created a way of writing that used just 22 symbols. These symbols formed the Phoenician alphabet. Each of the symbols stands for a sound of the language. The alphabet is used in many languages today.
25 English is based on this alphabet.

The Phoenician alphabet was far easier to learn than cuneiform. Many more people learned to use it. The alphabet made trade easier between people who spoke different languages. Phoenicia's sea trade helped
30 spread the alphabet. ✓

The Rise of the Israelites

The Hebrews settled in the Jordan River valley. This valley was south of Phoenicia. Later they were known as the Israelites. Much of their early history comes

✓ Reading Check

Circle the names of the two resources the Phoenicians first used to build their wealth.



✓ Reading Check

How did the Phoenician alphabet differ from cuneiform script?

alphabet (AL fuh bet) *n.* a set of symbols that represent the sounds of the language

from stories in religious books. One of these books is the
35 **Torah** (TOH rah). The Torah is the Israelites' most sacred
text. The Israelites greatly influenced our civilization.

The Israelites came from Mesopotamia. According
to the Torah, their leader was named Abraham. The
Torah says that God told Abraham to leave
40 Mesopotamia. He taught his people to practice
monotheism. Abraham led the Israelites to the land of
Canaan (KAY nun). Then a **famine** caused them to flee
to Egypt.

An Israelite named Moses led his people out of
45 Egypt. The flight from Egypt is called the Exodus (EKS
uh dus). For 40 years, the Israelites lived in the desert
on the Sinai (SY ny) Peninsula. There, God gave them
the Ten Commandments, a code of laws. Later, the
Israelites went back to Canaan.

50 The Israelites united under King Saul. The next king
was named David. He made Jerusalem his capital.
Later the country split into two kingdoms—Israel and
Judah. Judah was conquered by its neighbor, Assyria.

In 722 B.C., the Assyrians exiled thousands of
55 Israelites to far-off parts of their empire. In 612 B.C.,
Judah was taken over by Chaldean Babylonians. In
587 B.C., the King of Judah rebelled. King
Nebuchadnezzar destroyed Jerusalem and exiled the
people of Judah to Babylonia. ✓

Review Questions

1. How did the Phoenicians gain their wealth and
power?

2. What was the Exodus?

Key Terms

monotheism (MAHN oh thee iz um) *n.* the belief in one god

famine (FAM in) *n.* when there is so little food that people starve

exile (EK syl) *v.* to force someone to live in another country

Vocabulary Strategy

The word *Torah* is not a Key Term. But, it is defined in context. Use the chart on the first page of this section to help you find clues to clarify its meaning.



Circle the words or phrases that tell you what the word *Torah* means.



Target Reading Skill

The Torah says that Abraham was told to leave Mesopotamia and live elsewhere. Keep reading to see what that means.

Where did Abraham lead the Israelites?

✓ Reading Check

Who were the Israelites?
