6

History-Social Science Standard 6.2.1.

Dictionary

California Education and the Environment Initiative

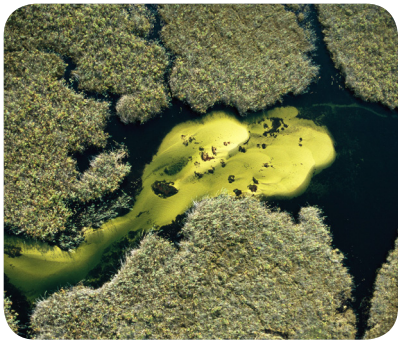
River Systems and Ancient Peoples

Dictionary

A

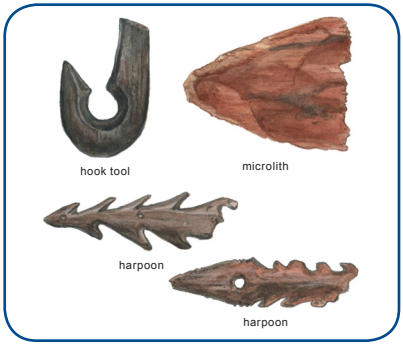
alluvial

Material deposited by a stream or by running water.



artifact

An object, such as a tool, made by humans.



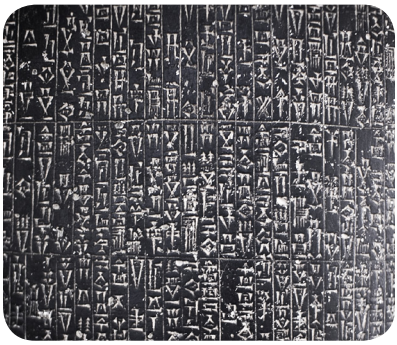
C

cataract

A series of steep rapids or a waterfall in a river.

channel

The bed of a stream, river, or other waterway.



code

A set of rules, principles, or laws (especially written ones).

delta

A large, usually triangle-shaped area at the mouth of a river that gradually builds up as the river deposits sediments.

D

deposition

The depositing or settling of rock or soil from one place to another.

E

erosion

The moving of rock and soil from place to place by wind, water, or ice.

F

fertile (land)

Land with nutrient rich soils that produce abundant plant growth.

Fertile Crescent

An area of rich land from the Nile River Valley to the Tigris and Euphrates River Valley.

flood cycle

The periodic seasonal pattern of flooding in a river system.

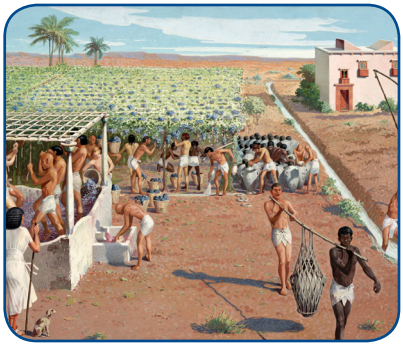
floodplain

A flat area along a river that floods when water flows outside of a river's banks.

H

harvest

(verb) To catch or gather food or supplies, such as fish, crops, and timber. (noun) The act of gathering a crop or the food that is collected.



headwaters

The springs or small streams that supply water where a river first starts.

I

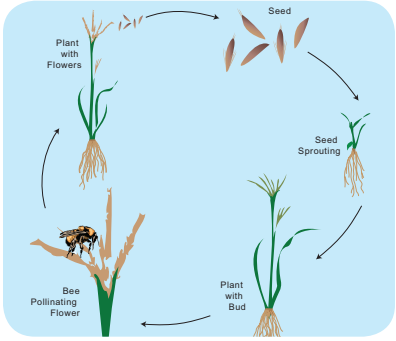
irrigation

A system that supplies water to land through pipes, artificial channels, or other means.

Kush

K

The ancient Nubian Empire located at the fourth cataract of the Nile River.



life cycle

L

The changes organisms go through as they develop from eggs or seeds to adults that reproduce before they die.

meander

M

A winding section of a river or stream.

Mesopotamia

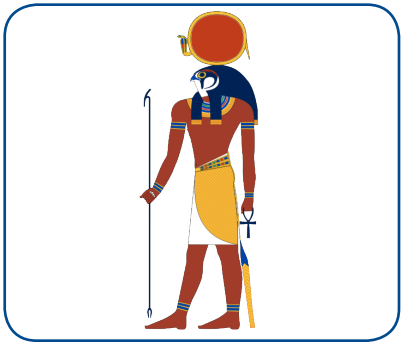
A region of the ancient Middle East that is now modern Iraq.

migration

The movement of animals, including humans, from one location to another.

myth

A traditional story that explains how the world was created or why the world is the way that it is.



P

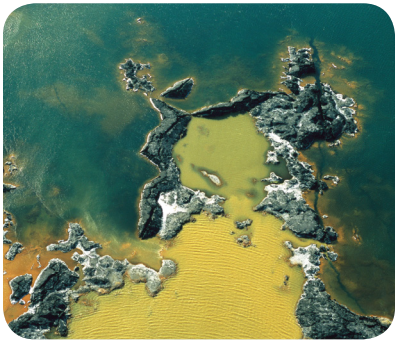
pyramid

A structure with a square or rectangular base and four triangular sides that meet at an apex, such as those built as tombs in ancient Egypt.

S

seasonal

(adj.) Describing an event or process that occurs during a particular time of the year.



sediment

Stones, sand, and soil carried by water, wind, or glaciers.

sedimentation

The settling of sand, rocks or other material carried by water, wind, or ice.

T

tributary

A small river or stream that flows into a larger one.

W

watershed

The land area that drains water into a particular body of water, such as a stream, river, lake, or ocean.

ziggurat

A large temple tower with a pyramid-shaped building at the top, used in worship.

Z

Unit Title: **River Systems and Ancient Peoples**
Grade: **6**

History Social–Science Standard: 6.2.1.

© Copyright 2010 By the State of California
All rights reserved.
This publication, or parts thereof, may not be used or reproduced without permission from the Office of Education and the Environment.
These materials may be reproduced by teachers for educational purposes.

California Education and the Environment Initiative

Printed on post-consumer recycled paper