**1st Grade Core Knowledge**

**History and Geography**

**Early World Civilizations: Mesopotamia and Ancient Egypt**

**Summary:** In this domain, students will learn about the importance of two early civilizations, Mesopotamia and ancient Egypt. They will also gain an understanding of the significance of these civilizations being started by rivers. Students will demonstrate their knowledge of the development and significance of early writing, laws and religion, and the importance of pharaohs.

**The Big Idea:** The Middle East and Northern Africa were the sites of important early civilizations including Mesopotamia and ancient Egypt.

**Colorado State Standards:**

1.1.2.a. Identify similarities and differences between themselves and others

1.1.2.b. Discuss common and unique characteristics of different cultures using multiple sources of information

1.2.2.b. Give examples of how people use and interrelate with Earth’s resources

1.2.2.c. Identify how community activities differ due to physical and cultural characteristics

1.4.1.b. Identify the attributes of a responsible team member

2.2.2.c. Explain why people settle in certain areas

2.2.2.d. Identify examples of physical features that affect human activity

2.2.2.e. Describe how the size and the character of a community change over time for geographic reasons

3.2.1.b. Find oceans and continents, major countries, bodies of water, mountains, and urban areas, the state of Colorado, and neighboring states on maps

**Common Core Standards**:

**SL1.2** Ask and answer questions about key details in a text read aloud or information presented orally or through other media.

**SL1.4** Describe people, places, things, and events with relevant details, expressing ideas and feelings clearly.

**W1.2** Write informative/explanatory texts in which they name a topic, supply some facts about the topic, and provide some sense of closure.

**SL1.6** Produce complete sentences when appropriate to task and situation.

**Core Knowledge Unit:**

1. Mesopotamia: The “Cradle of Civilization”
2. Importance of Tigris and Euphrates Rivers
3. Development of writing, why writing is important to the development of civilization
4. Code of Hammurabi (early code of laws), why rules and laws are important to the development of civilization
5. Ancient Egypt
6. Geography
   1. Africa
   2. Sahara Desert
7. Importance of Nile River, floods and farming
8. Pharaohs
9. Tutankhamen
10. Hatshepsut, woman pharaoh
11. Pyramids and mummies, animal gods, Sphinx
12. Writing: hieroglyphics

**Core Knowledge Language Arts:**

I. Listening and Speaking

A. Comprehension and Discussion of Read-Alouds

* Listen to and understand a variety of texts read aloud.
* Answer questions requiring literal recall and understanding of the details and/or facts of a read-aloud.
* Retell key ideas.
* Ask questions to clarify information in a read-aloud.
* Understand and use words and phrases heard in read-alouds.
* Answer questions that require making interpretations, judgments, or giving opinions about what is heard in a read-aloud, including answering “why” questions that require recognizing cause/effect relationships.

II. Writing

A. Informative/Explanatory Writing

* Write about a topic, including a beginning and ending sentence, facts and examples relevant to the topic.

**Previous Unit:** The Earliest People: Hunters and Nomads

**Prior Knowledge:**

Kindergarten

* Location of Asia and Africa

First Grade

* The first people were nomadic hunters, and these people followed game as it roamed.
* A shift occurred from hunting and gathering to farming.
* Gradual development of towns and cities

**Next Unit:** History of World Religions

**What Students will Learn in Future Grades:**

Second Grade

* India; China; Japan; Greece

Third Grade

* Ancient Rome; The Vikings

**Cross Curricular Links:**

Art: Art from Long Ago: Art of Ancient Egypt

Literature: The Egyptian Cinderella, by Shirley Climo

**Additional Resources:**

For Teachers:

* *Pearson Core Knowledge History Books,* edited by E.D. Hirsch, Jr.