

## SOL 3.3 Major Geographic Features of Ancient Societies

### 3.3a. Major bodies of water

a) identify and locate major bodies of water

**Ancient people often lived near rivers, seas, and oceans.**

- Water gave them **food** (fish and fertile soil for crops).
- Rivers and seas worked like **natural highways** for travel and trade.
- Water was also needed for **drinking, farming (irrigation), and industry**.

**Ancient cultures developed along rivers and seas.**

#### Ancient China

- Ancient **China** was located in **eastern Asia** centered on the **Huang He River**.
- Later Ancient **China spread** southward to the Yangtze River



- **Many cultures developed around the Mediterranean Sea -an intercontinental sea** between Europe to the north, Africa to the south, and Asia to the east.



#### Ancient Egypt

- Located along the **Nile River** is the **longest river** in the world
  - Water from the **Nile** made the **soil** rich and fertile, allowing Egyptians to **farm fish and trade**.
  - Ancient **Egypt spread** southward along the Nile River and eastward and westward along the Mediterranean coast.

Printing and/or distribution of this document is authorized only for schools with active SOLpass school subscriptions.

Printing and/or distribution is NOT authorized for those with Family/home subscriptions of trial passwords.

Questions: contact [maria@solpass.org](mailto:maria@solpass.org)

#### Ancient Greece

- Ancient **Greece** was located on a peninsula with many islands, surrounded by the Mediterranean Sea.
  - **Built ships** to fish in and **trade** across the Mediterranean Sea
- Ancient **Greece spread** throughout the eastern Mediterranean region.

#### Ancient Rome

- Ancient Rome was located by a river on a **peninsula** in the Mediterranean Sea.
- Ancient **Rome spread** throughout the Mediterranean region and most of western Europe.



At its peak, the Roman Empire spread all around the Mediterranean Sea

#### Ancient Mali

- The West African empire of **Mali** was located by a river in a grassland region in **west Africa**.
- The West African empire of **Mali spread** westward to the Atlantic coast and northward into the Sahara desert.

### 3.3b. Major mountain ranges

b) identify and locate major mountain ranges

**Mountains shaped the way ancient people lived.**

- Some mountains gave **protection** from enemies.
- Others made it hard to **travel and trade**, so groups developed their **own culture and way of life**.
- People used mountain resources like **stone, metals, and animals**.

**Major mountain ranges:**



- In **Africa**, the **Atlas Mountains** separate the coastlines of the Mediterranean Sea and the Atlantic Ocean from the Sahara Desert
- In **Europe**, the **Alps** are the largest mountain system in Europe
- In **North America**
  - **Rocky Mountains**: Located in western North America and extend from Canada to New Mexico
  - **Appalachian Mountains**: Located in eastern North America and extend from Canada to Alabama
- In **South America**, the **Andes Mountains** are the longest continental mountain range in the world.
- In **Asia**, the **Himalaya Mountains** are home to some of highest peaks on Earth

### 3.3c. How Geography Affected Daily Life

c) describe how geographic features have impacted the lives of individuals

**Geography** means the land, water, and environment around us.

- **Geography** shaped what people **ate, wore, and built** for shelter.
  - Example: People near **rivers** grew **crops**, while people in deserts relied more on trade.
- **Geography** also affected how people **worked** together to solve problems.

### 3.3d. Geography and Historical Events

d) connect geography to major historical events.

**Big events in history were often connected to geography.**

- **Rivers** allowed for the **growth of civilizations** like **Egypt** (Nile River) and **Mesopotamia** (Tigris and Euphrates).
- **Mountains** sometimes kept groups **apart**, but also could be crossed during invasions.
- Geography could decide whether battles were won or lost, or if trade between cultures was possible.