

Activity 1. Timeline of the Ancient Mediterranean World, 5000 BC - 500 BC

Source: Grun, B. ed. (11975). *The Timetables of History*. NY: Simon & Schuster, 2-10.

Instructions: Examine the chart below. Identify three developments that you feel had the greatest impact on the ancient Mediterranean world and explain your selections. Greece and Rome are often called “the cradles of Western Civilization.” Evaluate that statement based on the information in this chart.

Years	Events
5000-4000 BC	Egyptians develop 360 day calendar; earliest Mesopotamian cities.
4000-3500 BC	Sumerians settle on the site of the future city of Babylon and develop writing on clay tablets; Copper, silver and gold work by Egyptians and Sumerians; Ships sail Mediterranean.
3500-3000 BC	1st and 2nd dynasties unify Egypt; Egypt develops numerals, plowing, and fertilizing of fields; Sumerian cuneiform evolves; Sumer develops wheeled vehicle.
3000-2500 BC	Pyramids and the Great Sphinx built in Egypt; Sumerians develop metal coins; Systematic astronomical observations recorded in Egypt and Babylonia; initial settlement of Crete.
2500-2000 BC	Pharaohs rule Egyptian empire; Egypt develops philosophy and the first libraries, discovers use of papyrus; earliest Egyptian mummies.
2000-1500 BC	Egypt controls Crete and the Aegean Islands, develops symbolic alphabet; Hammurabi reunites Babylon and develops legal code; Palace of Minos is built on Crete; Greeks migrate from Caspian Sea region to eastern Mediterranean.
1500-1000 BC	Beginning of the Iron Age; Egyptian empire extends to the Euphrates; Destruction of Troy; First Greek alphabet.
1000-500 BC	Persian empire defeats Egypt, dominates the Middle East; Greek city-states periodically unified by Athens or Sparta; spread of Greek settlement and culture across the Mediterranean; initial settlement at Rome.