**Chapter 2 Reading Guide: Early Societies in Southwest Asia and the Indo-European Migrations.** Directions: As you read pages 26-48, answer the following questions thoroughly.

**Terms:**

Epic of Gilgamesh:

Mesopotamia:

Sumer/Sumerians:

Semitic:

Tigris and Euphrates:

Ziggurat:

Akkad/Akkadian:

Hammurabi’s Code:

*Lex talionis:*

Assyrians:

New Babylonia:

Bronze Metallurgy:

Iron:

Cuneiform:

Hebrews:

Israelites:

Monotheism:

Judea:

Ten Commandments:

Torah:

Phoenicians:

Indo-Europeans:

Hittites:

**Reading Guide:**

Explain the cultural importance of the Epic of Gilgamesh.

Explain the process from hunter/gatherers to empire.

How was Sumer a “civilization”?

What is a city-state?

What types of projects did city-states organize for the benefit of their societies?

Who ruled the early city-states and how did they establish themselves?

Why did Sumerian cities face external pressures?

How was Sargon of Akkad able to create the first empire?

How did Hammurabi maintain his empire?

Look at Map 2.2, how did Mesopotamian empire facilitate interactions between peoples of different societies?

Describe the advancements in specialized labor in Mesopotamia.

Explain the system of social classes that emerged in Mesopotamia.

What is a patriarchal society?

How did the Mesopotamians influence the Hebrews?

Describe the religion of the Israelites.

Why were the Phoenicians significant in this era?

Describe the impact of the Indo-Europeans on Eurasia.

**Big Picture Questions (Answer in 3-4 sentences for each question)**

1. What is a ‘civilization,’ and what are the defining characteristics of a civilization?
2. How did civilizations develop and grow more complex before 600 BCE?
3. Where did the earliest civilizations develop, and why did they develop in those locations?
4. What is a “state?” Who ruled the early states, and which segments of society usually supported the ruler?
5. Why were some early states able to expand and conquering neighboring states?
6. What methods did rulers use to unify their populations?
7. What architectural forms did early civilizations produce?
8. Which social strata encouraged the development of art in ancient civilizations?
9. What was the relationship between literature and culture in early civilizations?
10. What pre-600 BCE religions strongly influenced later eras?
11. How “big” were the pre-600 BCE trading regions?
12. How did social and gender identities develop pre-600 BCE?