

FRANKENSTEIN'S CIVILIZATION

Purpose

Comparing and contrasting early complex societies will help you identify the key factors that contributed to the success—or decline—of some empires.

Key information

- **Geography and the environment** includes factors such as land, weather, and natural resources.
- **Political structure** is how leadership and power is organized.
- **Culture** refers to a society's beliefs, traditions, language, arts, and achievements.
- **Society** is how people are organized, including social classes, roles, gender norms, and labor systems.

Process

1. Working in small groups, divide the materials below so each person is responsible for reading or watching one. Each item should be chosen by at least one member of your group. Circle your selection.
 - [“Mesopotamia”](#) article
 - [Egypt](#) video
 - [“Indus River Valley”](#) article
2. Fill in the table below for your chosen material.

FRANKENSTEIN'S CIVILIZATION

Categories	"Mesopotamia"	<i>Egypt</i>	"Indus River Valley"
Geography and the environment			
Political structure			
Culture			
Society			
Decline and transformation			

FRANKENSTEIN'S CIVILIZATION

3. Your goal: Create the strongest possible society by combining the most successful elements of the historical civilizations above into a single “Frankenstein-style” society. With your group, select what you think are the strongest characteristics in each category in the table above. For the Decline and Transformation category, decide what you think is the most important weakness.
4. Use a large sheet of paper or your computer to build your group’s Frankenstein empire. Your empire should include all of the following:
 - Name of your Frankenstein civilization
 - An image that represents your society, its ruler, or another aspect of your society
 - Descriptions for each of the categories listed in the table above, and how your society overcomes the weakness you identified.
5. Pair with another group to present your Frankenstein empire and explain your choices for each category.
6. After comparing with another group, independently write a three- or four-sentence response to this question: Why would your Frankenstein society survive over all the others?