

Ancient World Ecology and Fauna

Ancient History · Answer Key · 18 Questions

1. Which ancient Mesopotamian civilization is known for extensive irrigation systems that led to significant salinization of agricultural lands, impacting crop yields?

- A) The Sumerians
- B) The Akkadians
- C) The Babylonians**
- D) The Assyrians

2. The Minoan civilization on Crete, renowned for its sophisticated culture, heavily relied on which marine resource for trade and sustenance, leading to significant changes in coastal ecosystems?

- A) Whaling
- B) Deep-sea fishing
- C) Murex shell harvesting for purple dye**
- D) Coral reef exploitation

3. The construction of large pyramids in Ancient Egypt involved quarrying massive stone blocks. Which type of sedimentary rock, known for its durability and ease of working, was predominantly used for these structures?

- A) Granite
- B) Sandstone
- C) Limestone**
- D) Basalt

4. Ancient Roman agriculture was significantly influenced by the introduction of new crops and farming techniques. Which of the following was NOT commonly cultivated in the Roman Empire before the 2nd century CE?

- A) Wheat
- B) Olives
- C) Grapes
- D) Potatoes**

5. The Achaemenid Empire (Persia) implemented extensive road networks and infrastructure. The famous Royal Road facilitated the movement of goods and people, but also contributed to the spread of which invasive insect species across its vast territories?

A) Locusts

B) Mediterranean fruit flies

C) Silkworms

D) Cochineal insects

6. The ancient city of Petra, carved into sandstone cliffs, owes its architectural marvels to the Nabataeans' mastery of water management. What natural resource did they strategically harness to sustain their city in an arid environment?

A) Glacial meltwater

B) Underground aquifers and flash flood capture

C) Desalination of seawater

D) Artificially created dew collectors

7. The domestication of which animal in Ancient China was crucial for the development of agriculture, warfare, and transportation, leading to distinct ecological impacts in settled regions?

A) Yak

B) Water buffalo

C) Camel

D) Horse

8. The extensive deforestation in the Mediterranean region, particularly in ancient Greece and Rome, led to soil erosion and a decline in the populations of which large predator species?

A) Hyenas

B) Lions

C) Bears

D) Wolves

9. Ancient Indus Valley Civilization cities like Mohenjo-daro and Harappa utilized baked bricks for construction. The production of these bricks required significant quantities of fuel, leading to localized deforestation around urban centers. What type of wood was most commonly used for firing kilns?

A) Oak

B) Pine

C) Acacia

D) Mahogany

10. The construction of the Hanging Gardens of Babylon, though their existence is debated, would have required an immense supply of water for its flora. If real, what was the likely source of this water supply, given the region's climate?

- A) Ocean currents
- B) Atmospheric moisture condensers
- C) The Euphrates River and complex irrigation**
- D) Deep artesian wells

11. The Inca Empire's vast terrace farming system in the Andes Mountains was designed to prevent soil erosion and maximize agricultural output. What was a primary characteristic of the soil used in these terraces?

- A) Volcanic ash enriched soil**
- B) Sandy desert soil
- C) Glacial till
- D) Peaty bog soil

12. Ancient Greek philosophical and scientific inquiry often observed natural phenomena. Aristotle, for example, meticulously studied the marine life of the Aegean Sea. Which of the following was NOT a group of animals he extensively documented in his zoological works?

- A) Cephalopods
- B) Echinoderms
- C) Amphibians**
- D) Birds

13. The spread of diseases like the Antonine Plague in the Roman Empire was significantly aided by what common feature of Roman infrastructure and trade, which allowed for rapid movement of people and goods?

- A) Underground sewer systems
- B) Extensive road networks and shipping routes**
- C) Mountain passes
- D) Desert caravans

14. The rise of Phoenician maritime trade led to extensive seafaring and the establishment of colonies. Their ships were often constructed from which specific type of wood, known for its durability and resistance to rot, impacting local timber resources?

- A) Oak
- B) Pine
- C) Cedar**
- D) Mahogany

15. Ancient Egyptian civilization developed sophisticated agricultural practices along the Nile. What annual natural event was the cornerstone of their farming calendar, providing essential silt and water?

A) Monsoon rains

B) The Great Flood

C) Seasonal drought

D) Volcanic ash deposition

16. The Maya civilization, known for its advanced astronomy and agriculture, cultivated maize. Their agricultural system relied heavily on a specific type of rainfall pattern for their rainforest environment. What was this crucial pattern?

A) Desertification

B) Monsoon-like seasonal rainfall

C) Continuous light drizzle

D) Annual snowmelt

17. The extensive use of lead in Roman plumbing and cookware is believed to have contributed to public health issues. What was a common source of this lead contamination in Roman water systems?

A) Lead-lined aqueducts and lead pipes

B) Lead smelting near springs

C) Lead-based pigments in aqueduct mortar

D) Naturally occurring lead deposits in water sources

18. The domestication of which bird species in Ancient China was important not only for food but also for its use in religious rituals and as a symbol of good fortune, impacting their widespread presence?

A) Ostrich

B) Peacock

C) Chicken

D) Goose