

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Block: \_\_\_\_\_

## Unit 1: Geography Challenge

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Analyze the maps in “Setting the Stage” for Unit 1 in the Student Text. Then answer the following questions and fill out the map as directed. Answer the questions in complete sentences. Put a small triangle in the bottom left corner of this sheet.

- Locate the continent of Africa on the outline map. Label it. Which continent lies to the north of Africa? Which continent lies to the northeast of Africa?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- Locate the Nile River and label it on your map. Into which body of water does the Nile River flow?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- Locate the Nile River valley. NEATLY shade and label it on your map.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- What is the Fertile Crescent?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- Locate the Fertile Crescent on your map. NEATLY shade and label it. Which river(s) runs through the Fertile Crescent?

THERE'S MORE ON THE OTHER SIDE

- Label the body of water off the west coasts of Europe and Africa. Also label the bodies of water off the east and north coasts of Africa.
  
- Check the map in the Unit 1 “Setting the Stage” in the Student Text to find an early human fossil discovery that was made in the Great Rift Valley. On your outline map, use an X to mark the location of that discovery.
  
- Label the Sahara and the Arabian Desert on your map. Then circle the following features: Syrian Desert, Nubian Desert, Libyan Desert.
  
- Most of the land of North Africa and the Middle East is desert. How did this affect the settlement of early people?

**CRITICAL THINKING**

Considering the geographical physical features, why do you think early humans migrated eastward to the Fertile Crescent, rather than north to Europe?

One region in the Middle East is called Mesopotamia. This name means “the land between the rivers.” Where do you think this region lies?

The Fertile Crescent was made up mostly of grassy plains. While this area was good for farming, it lacked resources such as stone, wood, and metal. What hardships might these shortages have caused for the people who lived there?

Why did most early civilizations develop near a water supply?