

Appendix A: Song Lyrics

Unit I Song: Ancient Mesopotamia

(Intro Part III) Between two great rivers strong, deep, and wide,
History began its long, rocky ride.
The river Tigris, the Euphrates, too,
Shaped a civilization that grew.

(Intro Part III) Mesopotamia, the name it was called,
A Fertile Crescent, though it was small.
Many peoples settled the land,
And that's the place where it all began.

(Chapters 1–2) First there was Sumer with city-states strong.
They dug canals to move water along,
Built their walled cities with interesting names,
And cuneiform's their first claim to fame.

(Chapter 3) They built tall ziggurats from bricks made of clay,
With temples on top where the gods were to stay.
Each city had a ziggurat and god of its own,
But ziggurats decay 'cause they're not made of stone.

(Chapter 4) Along came a conqueror, Sargon the Great,
Whose fast, mighty army none could frustrate.
Akkad was his capital; the Akkadian Empire:
All of Mesopotamia he came to acquire.

(Chapter 5) Those wedge-shaped symbols with which they wrote,
The oldest language system—no joke!
Not easy to learn, so make no mistake:
After hours of studying, you'll sure need a break!

(Chapter 6) When great Sargon died, his empire fell.
The Gutians came next, so Akkadians farewell!
But don't be downhearted—along came Ur III.
Ur-Nammu's empire's the new place to be.

(Chapter 6) Then Hammurabi, an Amorite bold,
Ruled the whole kingdom till he was quite old.
He built a great city—it's called Babylon.
Unto this very day, its fame still lives on.

(Chapter 6) Hammurabi was known for his famous law code:
Justice and fairness he tried to bestow.
His beautiful city was famous and fair.
But then came the Hittites—oh Babylon, beware!

(Chapter 7) Nanna, Utu, Enki, and more,
In cities named Kish, Uruk, and Nippur.
Gods were aplenty; each city had one.
And of each of these deities, stories were spun.

(Chapter 8) The most famous tale, of a king with a plan:
 Gilgamesh, mighty half-god and half-man.
 With the help of his buddy, Enkidu the Strong,
 Humbaba and Heaven's Bull didn't last long.

Mesopotamia, from a time now long past—
 Its fame and its glory are hardly surpassed.
 The first page of history, where it began:
 Generations of old, the story of man.

Unit II Song: Ancient Egypt

Refrain

E-G-Y-P-T. E-G-Y-P-T.

An ancient land with a story old:
 A story that I know must be told.
 Listen to me, for the tale is long.
 Join with me and sing along!

Verses

(Chapter 10) In the beginning, Egypt was two:
 A kingdom in the north and a southern one, too.
 At last united by Narmer in one,
 A new age in history had begun.

(Chapter 11) The kingdom of Egypt sits by the Nile.
 This river meanders northward for miles.
 The flooding of its banks leaves soil and silt:
 Soil upon which Egypt was built.

(Chapter 12) The Old Kingdom dawned; Djoser was king.
 Building a pyramid: that was his thing!
 He wanted one with many high stairs,
 A tomb for a king with its own special flare.

(Chapter 12) A pyramid of stone, six levels high:
 Imhotep did it right his very first try!
 Not just a vizier—a priest and scribe, too.
 And after his death, his fame only grew.

Refrain

(Chapters 12–13) Then came Snefru, and grander was he.
 This pharaoh is known for his pyramids three.
 The first one fell down; oh no, how sad.
 The second was bent, and man, was he mad!

(Chapters 12–13) The third pyramid was finally right.
 He built it so high, it went out of sight!
 With sides coated white, pieces it shed;
 The limestone beneath it shines orange-red.

(*Chapters 12–13*) Then Pharaoh Khufu, the greatest of all—
His huge pyramid was surely not small.
The Great Pyramid, nigh 500 feet high,
A wonder of wonders, none could deny.

(*Chapter 14*) The Old Kingdom, a time of success:
Egypt was splendid, one of the best.
Then a time of disorder brief:
The pharaoh in Memphis was no longer chief!

Refrain

(*Chapter 14*) Nomarchs were many; each ruled his own way.
Egypt was divided and in disarray.
Mentuhotep II, he took the throne,
And ruled the whole kingdom all on his own.

(*Chapter 14*) Amunhemhet I and the Twelfth Dynasty:
He left behind a good legacy.
The kingdom was stable, safe, and wealthy,
And even the people were strong and quite healthy.

(*Chapter 15*) Hieroglyphics, or pictures for words,
And reeds used for paper—it might sound absurd.
Papyrus was better than tablets of clay,
But writing hieroglyphs could take the whole day!

(*Chapter 16*) In Egypt, they worshipped so many gods.
All were quite mighty but looked rather odd.
Don't make them angry, just do as they say,
For if they stay happy, things go your way.

Ancient Egypt with its colorful past
Over the centuries continued to last.
The dynasties changed, and the pharaohs died,
Yet time after time, Egypt rose like a tide!

Refrain

Top 12 Things to Remember from TCH1A

Lines in bold are repeated.

1. All history began
In Mesopotamia,
“The land between the rivers,”
Where lived Sumerians.
2. The first-known emperor
Was Sargon the Great,
who made the Akkadian Empire
From city-states.

3. The Mesopotamians built
Tall ziggurats
(Brick temples shaped like pyramids)
And put their gods on top.

Instrumental refrain

4. They invented a system
Called cuneiform
Whose wedge-shaped symbols
Took the world by storm.
5. Their two most famous writings are
The Epic of Gilgamesh,
The Code of Hammurabi,
Where all matters are addressed.
6. Narmer helped unite
All Egypt in one:
Upper and Lower
As one kingdom.

7. Egypt was the strongest
Kingdom for a time,
And many of its riches
Flowed from the Nile.

Instrumental refrain

8. The Old Kingdom pharaohs
Built pyramids:
Smooth-sided tombs
For when they were dead.
9. Mentuhotep II and Amunhemhet I:
The most important rulers of the Middle Kingdom burst.
Mentuhotep two kingdoms into one again remade.
Amunhemhet the First ensured
A second golden age.
10. The ancient Egyptians
Wrote hieroglyphs
On paper-like scrolls
Made of papyrus.
11. The Mesopotamians
And the Egyptians, too,
Worshipped many gods,
Like the sun and the moon.

Instrumental refrain

12. Both these ancient cultures share three similarities:
Archaic times, great kingdom times,
And times of disunity.