

**Teacher Sheet**

**Directions:** Complete the chart below, based on information found in the website pages on Mesopotamia, Chaco Canyon, and Mali and Songhai.

<b>Civilization</b>	<b>Factors Causing Collapse</b>	<b>Evidence</b>
Mesopotamia	War and environmental changes; mostly their irrigation techniques, which left behind mineral salts that poisoned the soil, making the area impossible to farm.	Soil, cuneiform tablets.
Chaco Canyon	At civilization's height, when population was very large, repeated periods of drought caused famine; people left. Other factors: religious upheaval, internal political conflict, and warfare.	Tree rings and the fact that the Anasazi burned their kivas and left possessions behind when they left.
Mali & Songhai	In Mali, powerful leaders built empire but their sons couldn't accounts maintain it. Songhai had political struggles. Also its riches and power attracted invaders who conquered the empire.	Evidence at Timbuktu and other sites, of Arab traders and scholars and of African griots (storytellers).