

# Ancient Civilizations of the Middle East—Mesopotamia

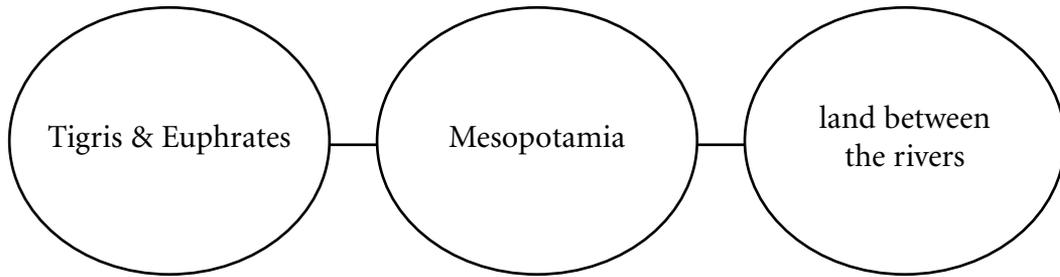
## Focus on Writing

### Creating a Poster

Gather information about ancient Mesopotamia. Then, create a poster to share some of what you’ve learned with elementary school students.

#### PREWRITING

- 1. Understanding Geography** In a word web like the one below, write words you might use to help young students imagine the lands and rivers. Then, sketch a map or picture of the Fertile Crescent.



- 2. Gathering Information about Sumer** In a chart like the one below, take notes on the important people, religious beliefs, and social developments of Sumer. What aspects of Sumerian society will you include on your poster?

Important People	Religious Beliefs	Social Developments
Gilgamesh— legendary king	Polytheism—worship of many gods	Impacted by trade

- 3. Evaluating Information** Create a bulleted list of Sumerian achievements for your poster. Include at least one achievement in technology, math, science, architecture, and the arts.
- 4. Gathering Information about Later Peoples** Several different peoples contributed to civilization in the Fertile Crescent after the decline of the Sumerians. Write down one or two notes about each group of people. Then, consider which one you want to use on your poster.

**WRITING**

**5. Creating Your Poster** Follow the steps below to create your poster.

- Choose two or three main points from the notes you have taken.
- Plan your poster on a piece of paper.
- Transfer your plan to your poster board.
- Create a title and center it at the top.
- Write your main points and the supporting points.
- Place your map or picture on the poster.
- Remember that younger children may not be familiar with some of the vocabulary you use to describe ancient Mesopotamia. Replace difficult words with easier synonyms, or words with the same or similar meanings.

**EVALUATING AND PROOFREADING**

**6. Evaluating Your Poster** Is your poster effective at informing elementary students about ancient Mesopotamia? Use the questions below to evaluate and revise your poster.

**Rubric**

- Does your poster include two or three main points in one color and supporting points in another color?
- Does your poster have an informative title?
- Does your map or picture of the Fertile Crescent support the written ideas?
- Are your letters legible and easy to see?
- Did you use words that elementary students would know?

**7. Proofreading Your Poster** To perfect your poster before sharing it, check the following:

- Capitalization and spelling of all proper names and places
- Punctuation, grammar, and spelling