

Ancient Civilizations of the Middle East—Mesopotamia

Chapter Review



BIG IDEAS

1. The valleys of the Tigris and Euphrates rivers were the site of the world's first civilizations.
2. The Sumerians developed the first civilization in Mesopotamia.
3. The Sumerians made many advances that helped their society develop.
4. After the Sumerians, many cultures ruled parts of the Fertile Crescent.

REVIEWING VOCABULARY, TERMS, AND PLACES

In the space provided, write the word from the word bank below that best matches each description.

alphabet	chariot	cuneiform
Hammurabi's Code	irrigation	polytheism
priests	scribe	silt
Sumer	surplus	ziggurat

- _____ 1. A mix of rich soil and small rocks brought to the land by rivers
- _____ 2. The worship of many gods
- _____ 3. The world's first system of writing
- _____ 4. A pyramid-shaped temple tower that rose above each Sumerian city
- _____ 5. A set of laws compiled by Babylon's most powerful king
- _____ 6. A way of supplying water to an area of land

COMPREHENSION AND CRITICAL THINKING

Read each of the following pairs of sentences, and cross out the **FALSE** sentence.

1. **a.** Mesopotamia lay between the Tigris River and the Euphrates River.
b. Mesopotamia lay between the Mediterranean Sea and the Persian Gulf.
2. **a.** Irrigation decreased the amount of food available to Mesopotamians.
b. Irrigation increased the amount of food available to Mesopotamians.

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- 3. a.** A social hierarchy existed among the Sumerians because of wealth.
- b.** A social hierarchy existed among the Sumerians because of religion.
- 4. a.** Sumerians were the first to build wheeled vehicles.
- b.** Sumerians were the first to build water-powered vehicles.
- 5. a.** Hammurabi’s Code was important because it provided for equality.
- b.** Hammurabi’s Code was important because it was written down for all to see.

REVIEWING THEMES

Using the lists below, determine what theme from geography they have in common.

Themes

location	place	regions	movement	human-environment interaction
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- _____ **1.** Sumer, Akkad, Babylon, Mesopotamia
- _____ **2.** fertile silt, rivers, floods, low-lying plain
- _____ **3.** irrigation, canals, pictograph, cuneiform, alphabet

REVIEW ACTIVITY: COLLAGE

On a piece of poster board, create a collage that highlights one of the great achievements of Sumerian society. Use pictures and words to illustrate your thoughts. If possible, explain the influence of the achievement on our world today. What might our world be like if this invention had never occurred?