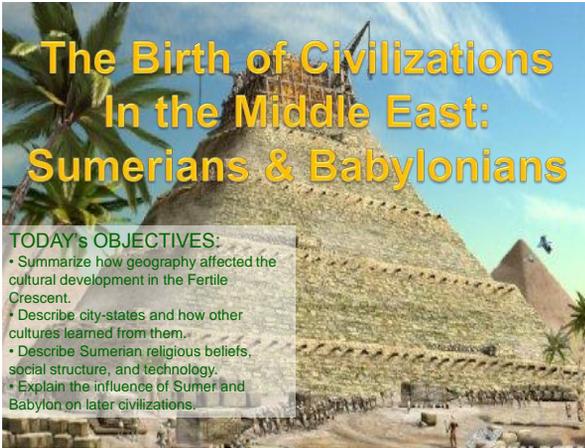


The Birth of Civilizations In the Middle East: Sumerians & Babylonians

TODAY'S OBJECTIVES:

- Summarize how geography affected the cultural development in the Fertile Crescent.
- Describe city-states and how other cultures learned from them.
- Describe Sumerian religious beliefs, social structure, and technology.
- Explain the influence of Sumer and Babylon on later civilizations.



Ancient River Valley Civilizations

Understanding Goal
As communities of people settle together, civilizations develop.



Incantation Bowl
Mesopotamia, ca. seventh century



Hesolian Lamp
Israel, first century B.C.- first century C.E.

Investigative Question:
What are the characteristics of a civilization?

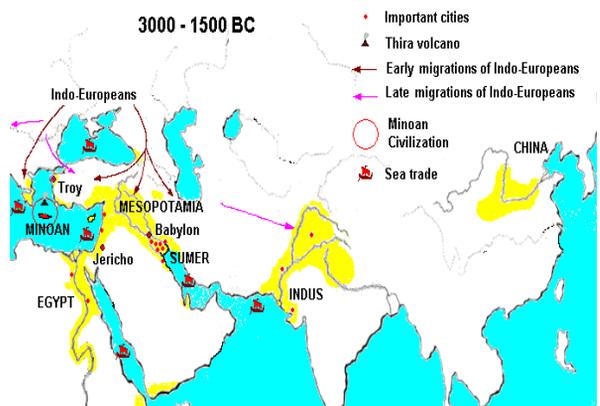
Explore: Based on the artifacts displayed above, what examples of job specialization were evident almost 2,000 years ago in the societies of Mesopotamia and Israel?

Connect: Explain where these particular specialized jobs may have been ranked in ancient society's social hierarchy.

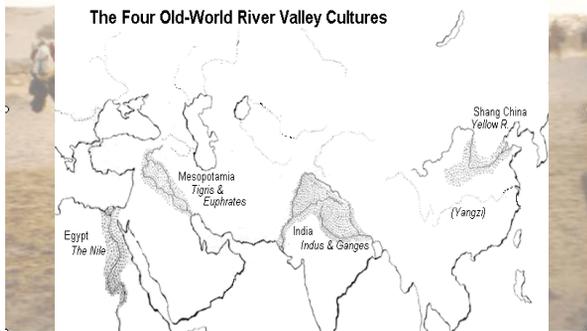
Can you name all of these civilizations that we will study?



Ancient Civilizations of the Old World



Locations of River Valley Civilizations-- Answers



The Characteristics of Civilization

- A civilization usually displays the following characteristics:
- (1) cities
- (2) complex religions
- (3) job specialization
- (4) social classes
- (5) writing
- (6) art and architecture
- (7) well organized central governments
- (8) public works

The Beginnings of Civilization Continued....

- Villages and cities first grew along rivers, lakes and oceans due to good transportation and fertile soil.
- Towns life became more **specialized** – experts devoting most of their time on certain tasks.
 - There were now farmers, priests, scribes, political and religious administrators, craftsmen and merchants operating shops and trading in goods and precious metals.
- Some merchants engaged in long-distance trade, initiating the process of **cultural diffusion**—the exchange of goods and ideas when cultures come into contact.
- Larger populations now began to create large **civilizations**—a complex form of culture.

Project: Teach the Class about an Ancient Civilization!

- **Assignment: Early Civilization Project Explanation and Checklist**
- 1. In groups of 2-3, select one of the following early civilizations:
 - Sumerian, Babylonian, Indus, Chinese Shang Dynasty, Chinese Zhou Dynasty, Phoenician, Hittites, Minoans, Aryan, Persians, Assyrians, Hebrew/Jews, Egyptians
- 2. Acting as amateur archaeologists, you will “dig up” information by researching all **8 characteristics** of your civilization.
 - Cities, Religion, Job Specialization, Social Classes, Writing, Art and Architecture, Central Government, Public Works

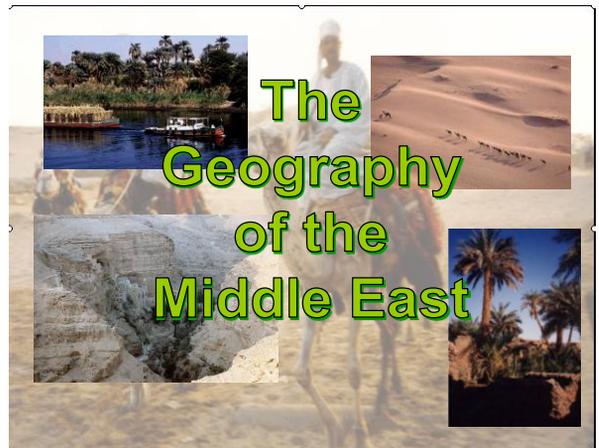
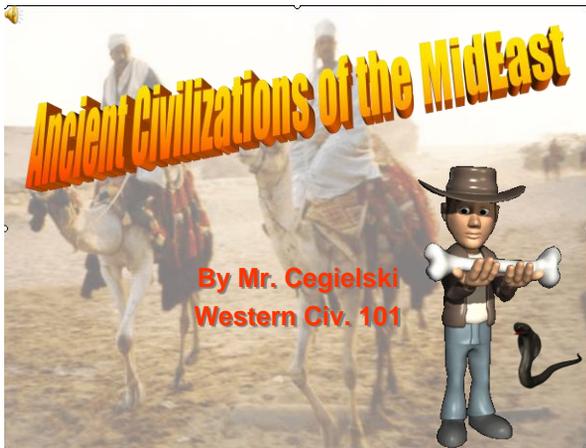
Project Description continued!

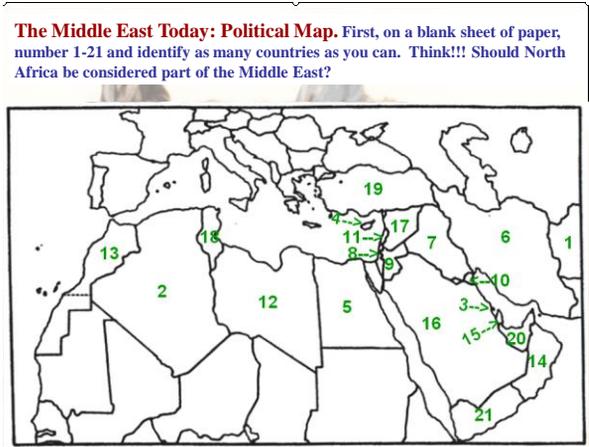
- You will also create a visual aid for your project. This will be a PowerPoint presentation (if computers are available) or a poster to present your researched information to the class. Your visual presentation should address all 8 characteristics of your civilization as well as feature a map, showing the geographic location and extent of your civilization.
- 4. You will give an oral presentation to the class on your knowledge of all eight characteristics specific to your civilization. Make sure to explain how archaeologists have used artifacts to reconstruct the way of life of your civilization. The rest of the class will take notes on your presentation.
- 5. Create a quiz to give to the students, following your presentation. You will be responsible for grading the quizzes and giving them to me.

Early Civilization Project Research Chart

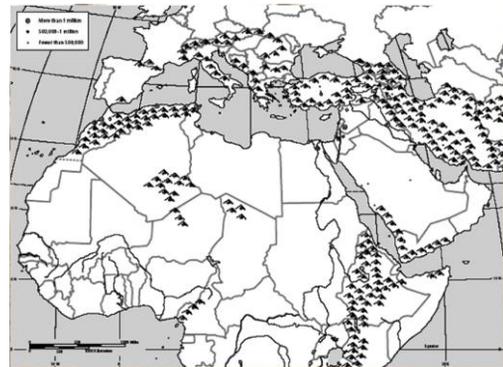
Name of Civilization:
Beginning and ending dates of existence:
Date of Your Group's Presentation:

Characteristic:	Description:	Research Source:
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		
6.		
7.		
8.		

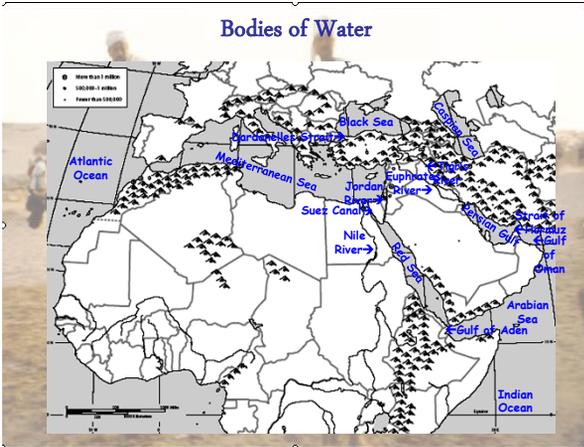




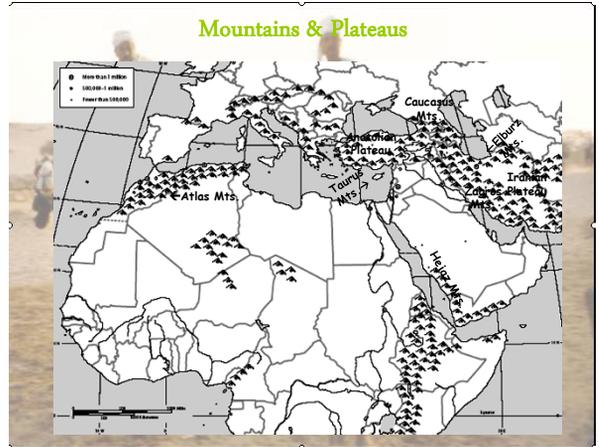
Could you locate ALL bodies of water, including oceans, rivers and seas?



Bodies of Water



Mountains & Plateaus



Mountain Ranges in Mid-East



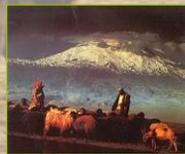
Elburz Mts., Iran



Zagros Mts., Iran

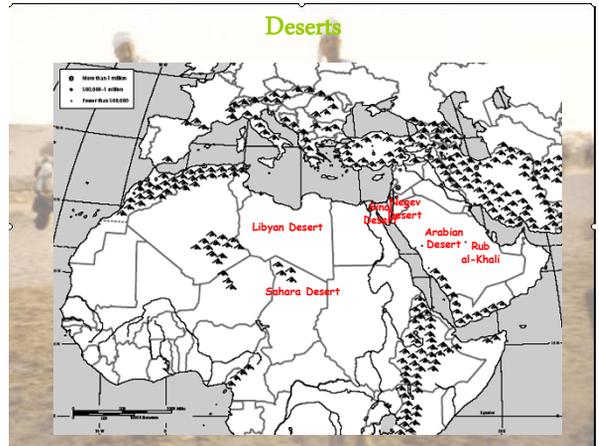


Lebanese Mts.

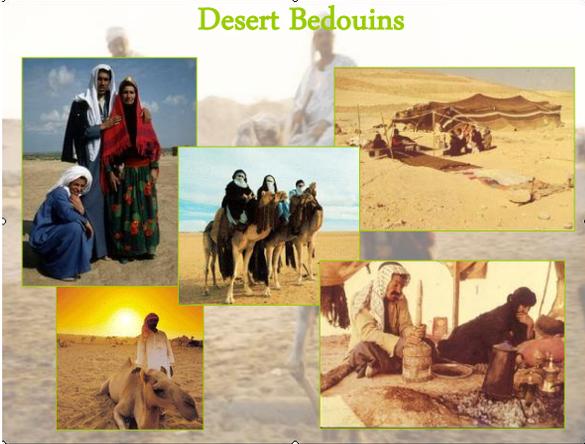


Taurus Mts., Turkey

Deserts

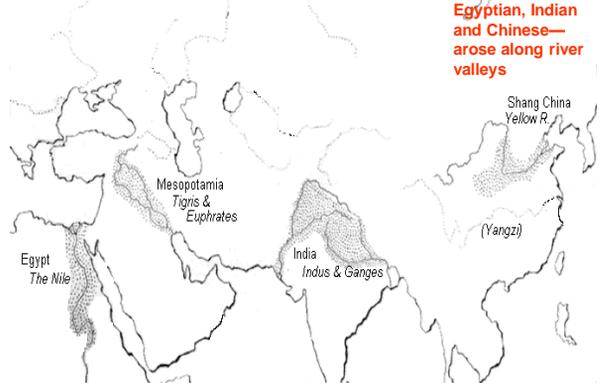


Desert Bedouins



The Four Old-World River Valley Cultures

- The four earliest civilizations--the Sumerian, Egyptian, Indian and Chinese--arose along river valleys



Middle East Geography Quiz (20 points =Two Homework Assignments!)

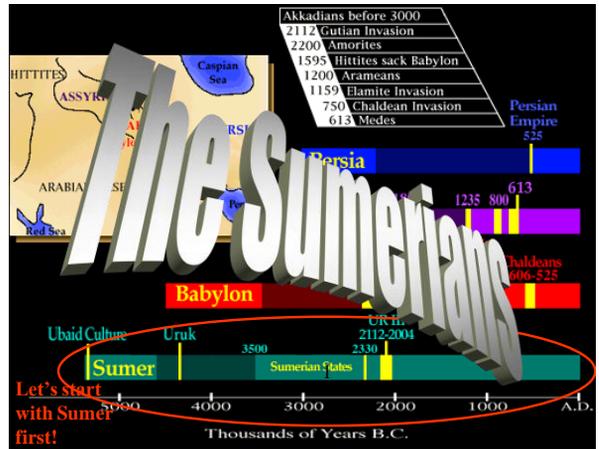
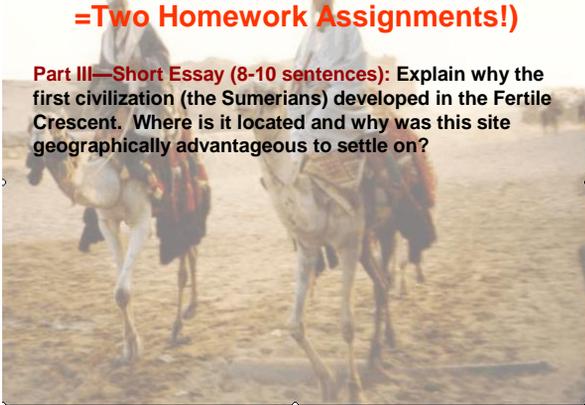
- **Part I--Countries.** Label the following countries on the political map (front side). Each correct identification is worth 1 point.

- Egypt	Iran
- Morocco	Libya
- Iraq	Saudi Arabia
- Turkey	
- **Part II--Bodies of water, deserts and mountains.** Flip the map over. Each correct identification is worth 1 point.

- Mediterranean Sea	Nile River
- Black Sea	Red Sea
- Persian Gulf	Suez Canal
- Sahara Desert	Atlas Mountains
- Arabian Desert	

Middle East Geography Quiz (20 points =Two Homework Assignments!)

Part III—Short Essay (8-10 sentences): Explain why the first civilization (the Sumerians) developed in the Fertile Crescent. Where is it located and why was this site geographically advantageous to settle on?



City-States of Ancient Sumer



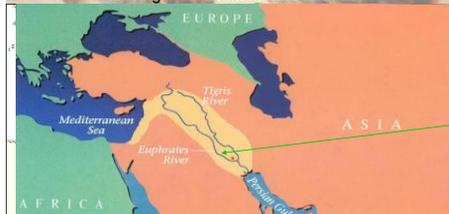
- How did geographic features influence the civilizations of the Fertile Crescent?
- What were the main features of Sumerian civilization?
- What advances in learning did the Sumerians make?



"The Four Early River Valley Civilizations"

City-States in Mesopotamia

- I. GEOGRAPHY
 - A. Mostly dry desert climate in SW Asia (Middle East)
 1. Except in region between Tigris / Euphrates rivers
 2. a flat plain known as **Mesopotamia** lies between the two rivers
 3. Because of this region's shape and the richness of its soil, it is called the **Fertile Crescent**.
 - the rivers flood at least once a year, leaving a thick bed of mud called **silt**.





Ancient Mesopotamia-- Beginnings

A map of ancient Mesopotamia showing the Tigris and Euphrates rivers, major cities like Uruk and Umma, and a shepherd with sheep. The map includes geographical features like the Taurus Mountains and the Persian Gulf. A scale bar indicates 400 km and 250 miles.

- 6000 B.C., Neolithic farmers migrated into the **Fertile Crescent**. To this very day, **Bedouins**—nomads—still migrate across the Middle East.

© Frank E. Smitha 2000

City-States in Mesopotamia

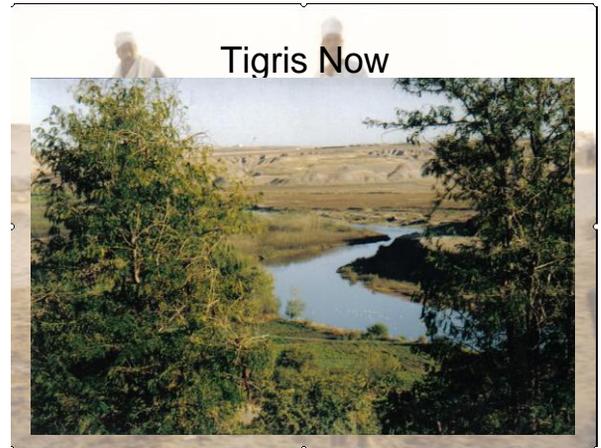
I. GEOGRAPHY

Sumerians were first to settle in this region, attracted by the rich soil.

B. Three Disadvantages / Environmental Challenges

1. Unpredictable flooding / dry summer months
2. No natural barriers for protection
 - small villages lying in open plain were defenseless
3. Limited natural resources
 - stone, wood, metal

A map of ancient Mesopotamia with a red circle highlighting the city-states of Uruk, Umma, and Lagash.



Tigris Now



Euphrates now



Euphrates Now





Warm Up Activity!

Mesopotamia had the hardest job of all civilizations. They had no one to teach them, so they did everything for themselves. List the "firsts" that were invented by the people of Mesopotamia.

<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

City-States in Mesopotamia

I. GEOGRAPHY

Sumerians were first to settle in this region, attracted by the rich soil.

B. Three Disadvantages / Environmental Challenges

1. Unpredictable flooding / dry summer months
2. No natural barriers for protection
- small villages lying in open plain were defenseless
3. Limited natural resources (stone, wood, metal)

C. Solutions

1. Irrigation ditches
2. Built city walls with mud bricks
3. Traded with people around them for the products they lacked.

Sumerian innovations in achieving civilization set example others would follow.

But to arrive at these solutions, required organized government.

Let's now look at the type of government the Sumerians had.

Initiated Bronze Age.

City-States in Mesopotamia

II. The City-State Structure of Government

- Although all the cities shared the same culture ...
- each city had its own government / rulers, warriors, it's own patron god, and functioned like an independent country
- includes within the city walls and also the surrounding farm land
- Examples include Sumerian cities of Ur, Uruk, Kish, Lagash

Define type of government



Sumerian Society and Economy



- Sumerian cities were surrounded by high walls
- **Ur**—the capital of Sumeria was surrounded by a great moat.
- Had a **theocracy** — government ruled by people believed to be gods or to possess divine powers.

City-States in Mesopotamia

- Powerful priests held much political power in the beginning.



Left: Bas-relief depicting priests intervening between worshippers and gods.

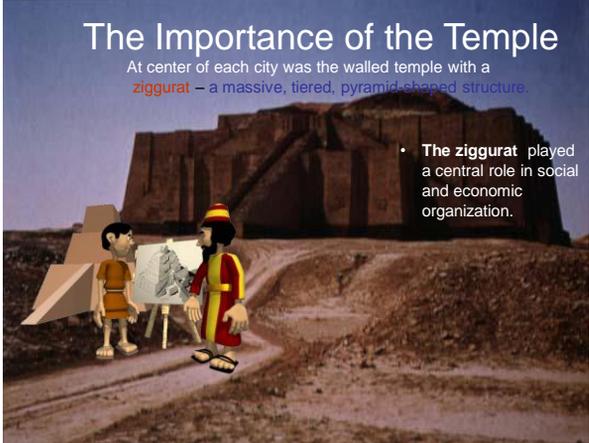


Right: Standing nude "priest-king," ca. 3300-3000 B.C.; Uruk.

The Importance of the Temple

At center of each city was the walled temple with a **ziggurat** – a massive, tiered, pyramid-shaped structure

- The **ziggurat** played a central role in social and economic organization.



City-States in Mesopotamia

Military commanders eventually became ruler / monarch - then began passing rule to their own heirs, creating a new structure of government called a **Dynasty** – a series of rulers descending from a single family line.

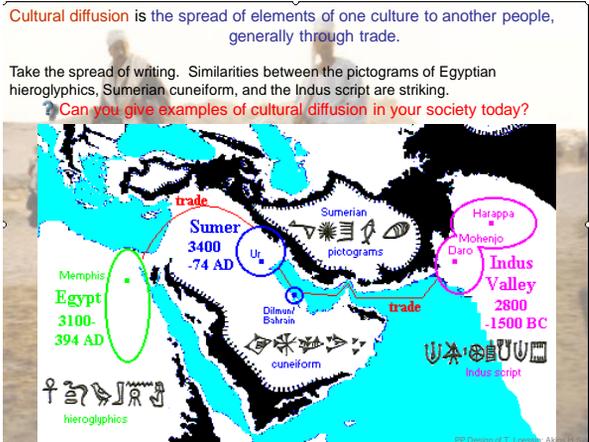


Historians wonder...
Did the Sumerians develop this new type of government on their own, or did they learn and adopt it only after contact with other peoples – cultural diffusion?

Cultural diffusion is the spread of elements of one culture to another people, generally through trade.

Take the spread of writing. Similarities between the pictograms of Egyptian hieroglyphics, Sumerian cuneiform, and the Indus script are striking.

Can you give examples of cultural diffusion in your society today?



City-States in Mesopotamia

III. SUMERIAN CULTURE
A. RELIGION

1. **Belief in many gods - polytheism**
God of the clouds / air was **Enlil** – the most powerful god.
(Nearly 3,000 others – with human qualities.
The Sumerians viewed their gods as hostile and unpredictable
–similar to the natural environment around them.)



Reflection Time:
How does what's happening to people at any given moment affect how they think about their God(s)?

Marduk, the Dragon god

Literature And Religion –The Epic of Gilgamesh



- Wrote **The Epic of Gilgamesh** a story that features a flood similar to Noah and the Ark.
- A heroic ruler of **Uruk** who lived about 2700 B.C. searches for everlasting life.
- Written in cuneiform

The Epic of Gilgamesh Vs. Noah and the Flood: Why are these two stories so similar?

- **The Epic of Gilgamesh** features a flood similar to Noah and the Ark. Why? Is this just coincidence? Let's begin comparing/contrasting the two stories!



DID YOU KNOW...

Like many ancient civilizations, the Sumerians also had "a flood story." That's not surprising given their challenging environment sitting between two unpredictable rivers...in their view, such a cataclysmic event did, indeed, destroy their "entire world."

The Epic of Gilgamesh is, perhaps, the oldest written story on Earth. It comes to us from ancient Sumeria, and was originally written on 12 clay tablets in cuneiform script. It is about the adventures of the cruel King Gilgamesh of Uruk (ca. 2750 and 2500 BCE).



Tablet XI

In **tablet XI** we read about Per-napishtim, a man who built a boat and was saved from a great flood brought about by angry gods. On p. 77 in your textbook you can compare Per-napishtim's story to Noah's story in the biblical book of Genesis as well as a "flood story" from India.



GILGAMESH

Great website to visit: <http://gilgamesh.psncl.pl/>

Comparing Flood Stories: Noah and Gilgamesh

Introduction: Scientists, historians, and devout Bible followers have debated endlessly over the following question: Which flood story came first—Noah or Gilgamesh? Since the two stories share so many similarities, it is quite possible that one story may have influenced or inspired the other. See for yourself!

Questions and Features of Stories to Compare/Contrast	Genesis: Noah	Gilgamesh
Extent of flood—Regional or Worldwide?		
Cause?		
Intended for whom?		
Sender of flood?		
Name of hero?		
Ordered to build boat?		
Did hero complain?		
Description of inside and outside of boat, including shape, number of levels, doors, windows, etc.		
Human and animal passengers?		
Means of flood?		
Duration of flood?		
Description of lives that were lost during the flood?		
Tests to find land, including the types of birds used?		
Ark landing spot?		
Hero or main characters blessed after flood?		
Moral or lesson of story?		

Activity #2: Draw your own illustration for Gilgamesh!

- Directions** Using the story of Gilgamesh as an example, draw the myth! **Requirements**
 - 1) The appropriate heading with an interesting title for the illustration
 - 2) Gilgamesh, displaying superhuman powers as well as the main character of the flood story, Utnapishtim.
 - 3) The gods with special powers over nature
 - 4) Your illustration must display the basic elements of the story: 1) The introduction, with an illustration of the setting and characters, 2) the plot with rising action, climax, falling action and a conclusion, 3) the moral or lesson learned.
 - 5) Include an appropriate caption, describing what's going on in the picture.



City-States in Mesopotamia

SUMERIAN CULTURE B. SOCIETY

- Three social classes
 - Priests and royalty (kings)
 - Wealthy merchants
 - Ordinary workers

[Slaves]—were not free citizens and thus not included in class system

- Women
 - Had more rights than in many later civilizations (could own property, join lower ranks of priesthood)
 - But not allowed to attend schools (could not read or write)



Left: Statue of Sumerian woman with hands clasped at chest, ca. 2600-2300 B.C. *Right:* Gypsum statue of man and woman at Inanna Temple at Nippur, circa 2600-2300 B.C.



City-States in Mesopotamia

SUMERIAN CULTURE C. SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

- One of the first writing systems - Cuneiform



Cylinder seals and their ancient impressions on administrative documents and locking devices are our richest source for a range of meaningful subject matters. A wealth of these have been discovered at Sumerian sites. *

The Sumerian's Used Cuneiform



- **Cuneiform** --wedge-shaped impressions in soft clay tablets
- Sumerian merchants used cylinder seals (left), marked with cuneiform
- Adopted by the Babylonians, Assyrians, Hittites, Persians, and possibly Egyptians.

Cuneiform

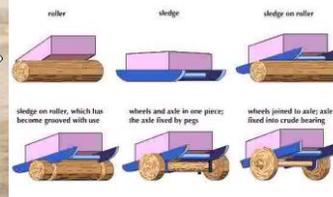


ASSIGNMENT:

- **COMPLETE:** "Sumerian Agriculture primary source: Ud-ul-uru (Old man cultivator) gave advice to his son" activity. Get ready, you'll need to draw your own cuneiform!

Other Achievements of the Sumerians

The Invention of the Wheel



- By 3500 BC the Sumerians invented:
- 1) the wheel for war chariots and traders' vehicles
- 2) the sailing boat
- 3) plows pulled by oxen.

3

REVIEW

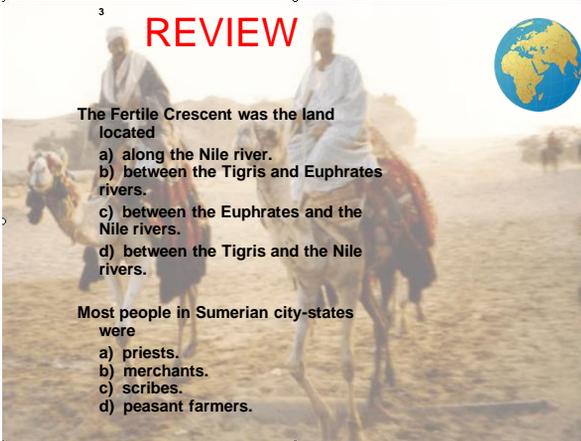


The Fertile Crescent was the land located

- along the Nile river.
- between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers.
- between the Euphrates and the Nile rivers.
- between the Tigris and the Nile rivers.

Most people in Sumerian city-states were

- priests.
- merchants.
- scribes.
- peasant farmers.



3

REVIEW

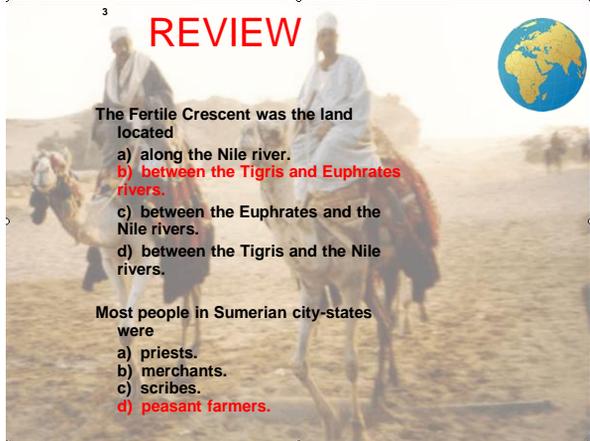


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- priests.
- merchants.
- scribes.
- peasant farmers.



Sumerians

3000 B.C. – 2400 B.C.

Summary

- Fertile land, attractive to wandering herdsmen, many conquerors in the region
- People settled and grew crops in the Tigris-Euphrates valley
- Used metal and developed writing
- Rich and advanced culture, like that of Egypt
- City-states each had their own ruler
- Nobles, priests, government officials, merchants, peasants, slaves
- Writing called cuneiform – soft clay used to write on, hardened into tablets
- Most were farmers, grains, vegetables, dates
- Domestic animals – cows, sheep, goats, oxen, donkeys
- Used plows, had a dairy industry
- Wove woolen cloth, grew flax to make linen cloth
- Made clay bricks, dried in the sun, to build with, invented the arch, a curved opening in a door
- May have been first people to use the wheel
- Developed some principles of algebra
- Numbers based on 60, divided a circle into 360 degrees, degrees into 60 minutes, minutes into 60 seconds
- Developed 12-month lunar calendar
- Practiced polytheism, belief in many gods

Ellis, E.G., and Esler, A. *World History: Connections to Today*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall, Inc., 1999. 0-3-434660-2.

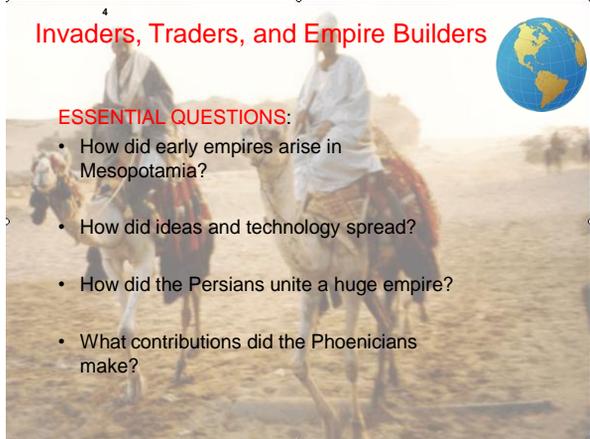
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Invaders, Traders, and Empire Builders



ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS:

- How did early empires arise in Mesopotamia?
- How did ideas and technology spread?
- How did the Persians unite a huge empire?
- What contributions did the Phoenicians make?



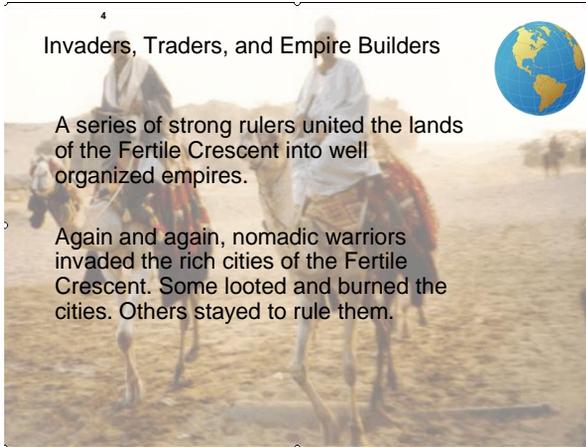
4

Invaders, Traders, and Empire Builders



A series of strong rulers united the lands of the Fertile Crescent into well organized empires.

Again and again, nomadic warriors invaded the rich cities of the Fertile Crescent. Some looted and burned the cities. Others stayed to rule them.

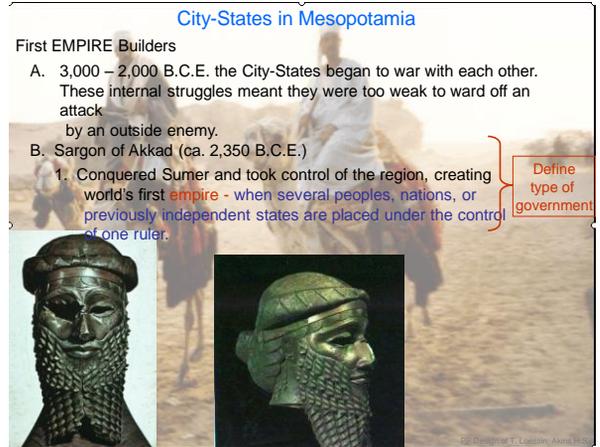
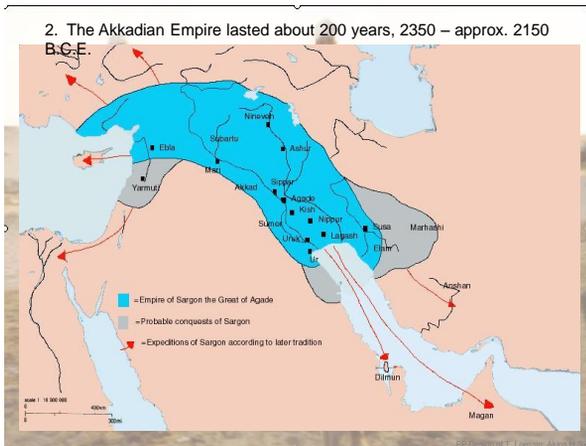


City-States in Mesopotamia

First EMPIRE Builders

- A. 3,000 – 2,000 B.C.E. the City-States began to war with each other. These internal struggles meant they were too weak to ward off an attack by an outside enemy.
- B. Sargon of Akkad (ca. 2,350 B.C.E.)
 - 1. Conquered Sumer and took control of the region, creating world's first **empire** - when several peoples, nations, or previously independent states are placed under the control of one ruler.

Define type of government

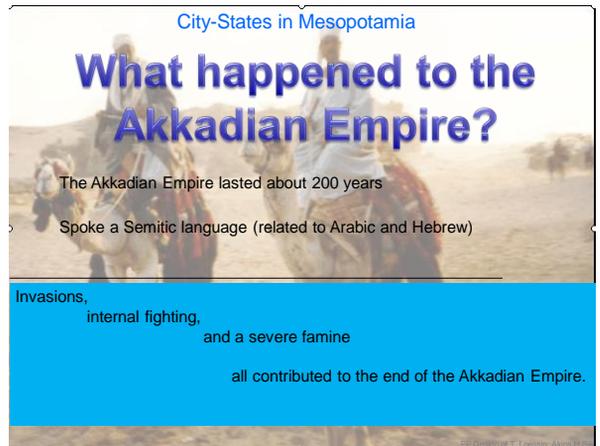
City-States in Mesopotamia

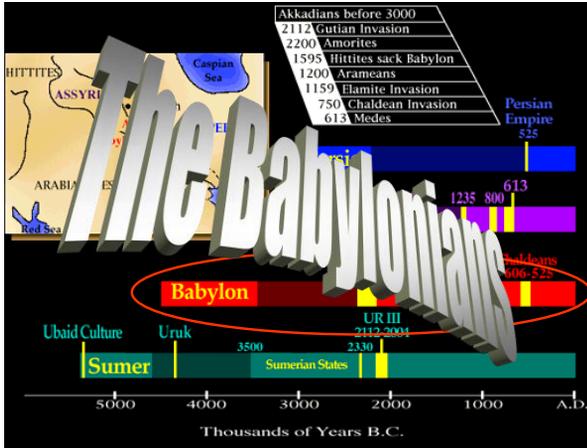
What happened to the Akkadian Empire?

The Akkadian Empire lasted about 200 years

Spoke a Semitic language (related to Arabic and Hebrew)

Invasions, internal fighting, and a severe famine all contributed to the end of the Akkadian Empire.





City-States in Mesopotamia

Babylonian Empire

1. Overtook Sumerians around 2,000 B.C.
2. Built capital, Babylon, on Euphrates river

The Rise of Babylon, 2000-1600 B.C.

- The map on the left shows the greatest extent of the Babylonian Empire.

The Triumph of Babylon

- The Ishtar Gate (left) was the triumphant entry-way into the city of Babylon. It was dedicated to Ishtar, the goddess of carnal love.

What does the City look like today?
<http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2008/09/080924-babylon-video-ap.html>

One of the 7 Wonders of the Ancient World—The Hanging Gardens of Babylon

- What did they look like?
- How were they built?
- What happened to them?
- Find out at <http://www.sciencestage.com/207-ancient-world-history-babylon-seven-wonders-hanging-gardens.html>

Hammurabi (c. 1792-1750 B.C.)



- Powerful King **Hammurabi** (left), the ruler of Babylon, brought most of Mesopotamia under one rule by 1760 BC.

The Importance of Hammurabi



- Hammurabi created the first **law code**, which were meant to destroy the wicked and prevent the strong from oppressing the weak.
- (Left) Hammurabi receiving the law codes from the god Shamash.

The Code of Hammurabi



Hammurabi's code was the first attempt by a ruler to **codify**, or arrange and set down in writing, all of the laws that would govern a state.

One section codified **criminal law**, the branch of law that deals with offenses against others, such as robbery and murder.

Another section codified **civil law**, the branch that deals with private rights and matters, such as business contracts, taxes, and property inheritance.

Reign of **Hammurabi**

a. Famous Code of Law

- he wisely took all the laws of the region's city-states and unified them into one code. This helped unify the region.
- Engraved in stone, erected all over the empire.



And why do you think he believed it important to place the laws in prominent locations so the people could visibly see them?

A total of 282 laws are etched on this 7 ft. 5 in. tall black basalt pillar (stele). The top portion, shown here, depicts Hammurabi with Shamash, the sun god. Shamash is presenting to Hammurabi a staff and ring, which symbolize the power to administer the law. Although Hammurabi's Code is not the first code of laws (the first records date four centuries earlier), it is the best preserved legal document reflecting the social structure of Babylon during Hammurabi's rule. This amazing find was discovered in 1901 and today is in the famous Louvre Museum in Paris, France.

Famous Code of Law—What were the laws like?

- Strict in nature – “the punishment fits the crime” / “eye for an eye” Such laws were adopted by neighbors – many similar found in Hebrew scriptures (Old Testament)
- His act set an important *precedent* – idea that the government was responsible for what occurred in society.



Partnered Students Handout

Hammurabi, the king of righteousness,
On whom Shamash has conferred the Law,
am I.

When Marduk sent me to rule over men,
to give the protection of right to the land,
I did right and in righteousness brought about
the well-being of the oppressed.

Below are situations Hammurabi faced.

You and your partner decide what you think to be a fair way to deal with the problem.

Then together we'll view what Hammurabi actually declared.

We'll find out if Marduk, the supreme god, will be pleased with your decisions.



1. What should be done to the carpenter who builds a house that falls and kills the owner?
2. What should be done about a wife who ignores her duties and belittles her husband?
3. What should be done when a "sister of god" (or nun) enters the wine shop for a drink?
4. What should be done if a son is adopted and then the birth-parents want him back?
5. What happens if a man is unable to pay his debts?
6. What should happen to a boy who slaps his father?
7. What happens to the wine seller who fails to arrest bad characters gathered at her shop?
8. How is the truth determined when one man brings an accusation against another?

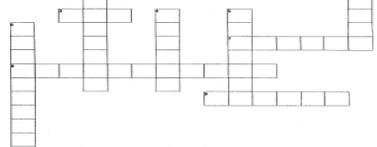
Click this link to find the answers: http://www.phillipmartin.info/hammurabi/hammurabi_situation_index.htm

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Hammurabi's Code of Laws



Words to choose from:
rights
Mesopotamia
reform
code
Babylon
justice
Hammurabi
law
scribe



ACROSS

3. a rule of conduct or action
7. a young man who is a writer
8. the land between two rivers to improve by change

DOWN

1. center of Mesopotamia
2. A body of law privileges to which one is entitled
5. the administration of law
6. the king of Mesopotamia

Babylonian Mathematics

- Babylonians made advances in arithmetic, geometry, and algebra:
 - (1) Developed multiplication and division tables
 - (2) Solved linear and quadratic equations.
 - (3) Came up with the theorem: The square of the hypotenuse of a right-angled triangle is equal to the sum of squares of the other two sides.
 - (4) Developed the concept of zero

Babylonian Science

- The Babylonians believed that the gods controlled natural forces
- Created **astrology**--The sun, moon, and five visible planets were thought to be gods who were able to influence human lives; accordingly, their movements were watched, recorded, and interpreted.



Babylonian Religion-- Creation Story



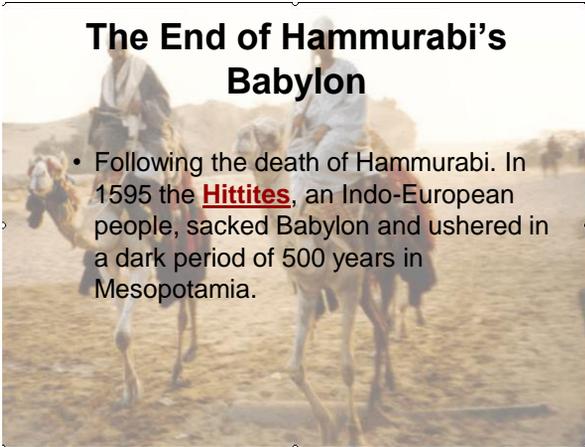
- In the Babylonian account of the Creation, the universe began after the slaying of **Tiamat**, dragon-goddess of the Deep. Split in two, from one half of her body were formed the heavens, from the other, the earth.

Babylonian Religion—Code of Ethics



- Did not believe in life after death
- They did believe in divine rewards for moral conduct
- Very superstitious--those who committed bad deeds would have bad luck

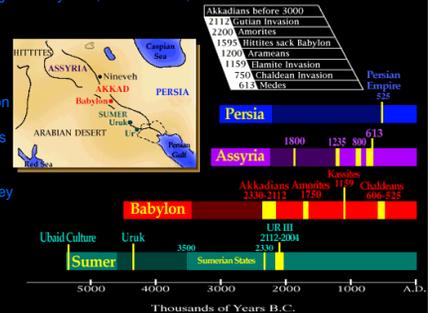
The End of Hammurabi's Babylon



- Following the death of Hammurabi. In 1595 the **Hittites**, an Indo-European people, sacked Babylon and ushered in a dark period of 500 years in Mesopotamia.

Two centuries after Hammurabi's reign, the Babylonian Empire fell to nomadic raiders. New groups would rule over the Fertile Crescent in the future. However, the innovative ideas of the Sumerians and their descendants in the region would be adopted by the later peoples – including the Assyrians, the Persians, Phoenicians and the Hebrews (Jews).

But right now... let's leave our discussion of these civilizations on the Tigris and Euphrates in Mesopotamia and move on to discuss our second Early River Valley Civilization – this one, on the Nile River.



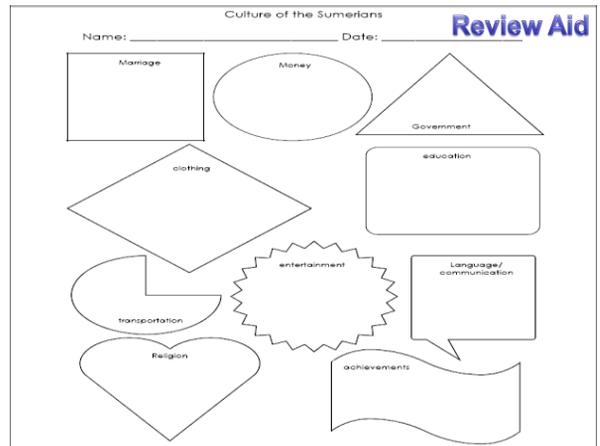
PP Design of T. Loestlin, Akina H.S.

Babylonians

Summary

1750 B.C. – (5000 B.C. – 500 B.C.)

- Hammurabi, ruler of ancient Babylon who created the "Code of Hammurabi," 282 laws that controlled all aspects of life (an eye for an eye punishment is an example)
- Most people were farmers – grew large amounts of food, wove cloth, traded with Egypt and India
- Used complex system of irrigation to water crops
- Made sun-dried, clay bricks to build buildings
- Advanced at city planning, buildings arranged in useful and pleasing ways
- Focus on education
- Advanced arts and crafts, math, literature
- Created 7-day week
- Focus on astronomy, astrology, relation of planets and stars to earth
- Noblemen, priests, artisans, merchants, peasants, slaves
- Women had legal rights, laws protected their property, but women and children could be sold to help a man pay off his debts
- Polytheists



Culture of the Babylonians

Review Aid

Name: _____ Date: _____

Marriage

Money

Government

clothing

education

entertainment

transportation

Language/
communication

Religion

achievements

