

2.3: Ancient Mesopotamia & The Fertile Crescent

Learning Target & Success Criteria:

I can identify, _____, and map the geography of _____, including important cities, civilizations, and geographic features by completing my interactive notes and scoring an ____% or higher on my mastery check.

Geography

- Mesopotamia means “land between the _____”
- The Fertile Crescent was the land around the Tigris & Euphrates Rivers in modern day _____
- Regular _____ provided fertile farmland, but was unpredictable and required _____ systems to be built to control the floods and complex societies to manage the _____

Sumer

- First major _____ in Mesopotamia (4500-2270 BCE)
- Organized into independent city-states such as Uruk, _____, and Lagash
- Developed a complex writing system called _____ to record information and based their numerical system on the number _____ that we still use for measuring _____ and angles (ex: 60 minutes in an hour, 360° in a circle)
- Built massive structures, developed complex religious beliefs, and _____ with neighboring regions



Farming Advances

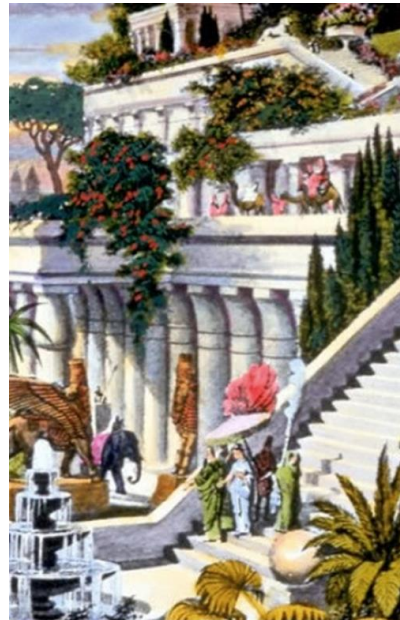
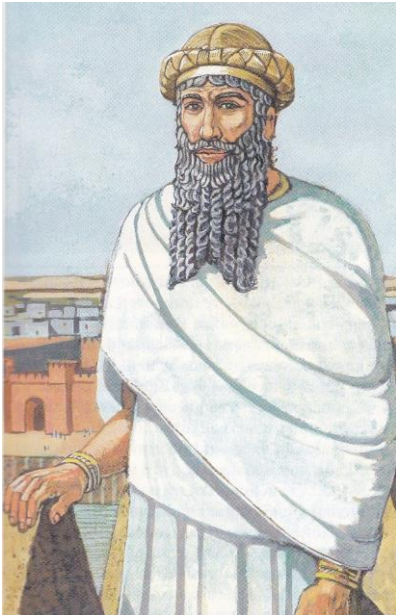
- Farmers build dams and channels to _____ seasonal floods
- Use irrigation to bring _____ to fields from storage areas during _____ seasons
- Sumerians invented the _____, were the first to use an animal to pull a plow to help break up the soil for _____ more efficiently, and to use crop rotation to keep the soil _____ – techniques are still used today



What was one major development that originated in Sumer?

Mesopotamia is Taken Over, and Over, and Over Again

- The Akkadians take over the Sumerians in _____ BCE, then the Assyrians take over in _____ BCE, then the Babylonians take control of Mesopotamia in _____ BCE
- Babylon is ruled by King _____ who is known for writing the first _____ called “Hammurabi’s Code” which is where the principle of “an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth” came from and has been the foundation of many legal and _____ systems for civilizations to follow
- _____ is also famous for one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, the Hanging _____ of Babylon, which King Nebuchadnezzar II had built for his wife around _____ BCE



Persian Empire Takes over Mesopotamia

- Around _____ BCE Cyrus the Great united several tribes and regions and began a campaign of _____ creating one of the _____ and most powerful empires in history
- Cyrus was known as a benevolent ruler and which helped his empire _____ in size and stability, making the _____ Empire a lasting influence on the ancient world and a model for future _____



? Why do you think the area of Mesopotamia kept getting taken over by a new ruler?