

TIMELINES OF ANCIENT CIVILIZATIONS

10 PART SERIES

EGYPTIAN Part I & II

CHINESE Part I & II

GREEK Part I & II

ROMAN Part I & II

MESOPOTAMIAN Part I & II

Consider Visiting These Web Sites:

<http://www.mesopotamia.co.uk/>

<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/ancient/asbook03.html>

<http://www.drhistory.org/main.html>



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Presents

TIMELINES of ANCIENT CIVILIZATIONS

10 PART SERIES



MESOPOTAMIA:

PART 1

NEOLITHIC PERIOD TO KINGS OF AGADE

INSTRUCTIONAL GUIDE

INTRODUCTION TO SERIES

Designed to enhance the social studies curriculum for the intermediate aged student on up. "Timelines of Ancient Civilizations" offers students a unique perspective about the chronological developments of the greatest societies the world has ever known.

As a complementary device with each video, an instructional guide suggests exercises to enhance the learning for teachers, parents and students. These interactive exercises will reinforce and further develop a student's level of comprehension.

The instructional guide provides:

Vocabulary
Biography
Chronology / Q & A
Discussion Points / Activities
Geography

**Permission granted to copy the
exercises provided in this guide.
For educational use ONLY.**

E-Guides available at
www.filmideas.com

Study the map and site descriptions on pg. 12. Then write the name of the location on the solid black line and on a separate piece of paper write a brief description about each location.

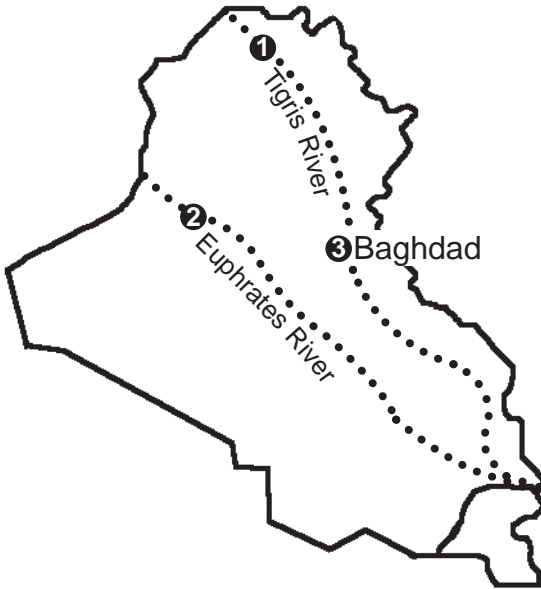


① _____

② _____

③ _____

Study the Map & Its Significant Locations



- ❶ **TIGRIS RIVER:** A river located in modern day Iraq which travels 1,200 miles south before finally emptying into the Persian Gulf.
- ❷ **EUPHRATES RIVER:** A river located in modern day Iraq which travels 1,750 miles south before finally emptying into the Persian Gulf.
- ❸ **BAGHDAD:** The capital city of Iraq today.

MESOPOTAMIA

Known as the “Land In Between”, Mesopotamia geographically lies between the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers. Today this broad fertile crescent plain is part of the modern countries of Iraq and Kuwait. Over the course of 5,000 years this ancient land gave rise to three remarkable civilizations; the Sumerians, the Babylonians and the Assyrians. By 5,000 BCE, small Mesopotamian villages rapidly changed into large affluent towns.

The Sumerians became the first Mesopotamian civilization to emerge. Inventions like the wheel, a form of early writing known as cuneiform, and the development of natural resources all helped to advance Sumerian culture. However, by 2000 BCE the Babylonian Empire began to flourish. A famous Babylonian ruler named Hammurabi expanded trade and commerce and eventually conquered surrounding territories. Following the death of Hammurabi, different rulers and dynasties fought to control the Babylonian Empire. By 1115 BCE, the Assyrians led by King Tiglath Pileser I became the next empire to dominate the Mesopotamian region. During their reign, Egypt was successfully invaded and trade routes extended throughout the Mediterranean world. But Assyria, like previous empires, was eventually conquered in 612 BCE by the New Babylonians known as the Chaldeans. Under the leadership of King Nebuchandrezzar II, the Chaldeans conquered the Hebrews in the city of Jerusalem and built the Hanging Gardens of Babylon which is considered one of the seven wonders of the ancient world. However, by 539 BCE the New Babylonians became the victims of another formidable foe and eventually became a province of the Persian Empire. But like its historic past the control of Babylon continued to change as both Hellenic and Roman occupation prevailed from 331 BCE to the last century BCE.

Today the land that was once known as Mesopotamia is now called the Republic of Iraq and Kuwait. Those who claimed this ancient land have come and gone but the innovations first developed by these enduring civilizations, which include; building and farming methods, the wheel, water irrigation and the development of language, will forever influence the world today.

VOCABULARY of *Mesopotamia Part I*

AKKADIANS: A nomadic people who migrated into the area as early as 3,000 BCE.

ALLUVIAL PLAIN: A broad flat landscape caused by repeated flooding from the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers.

BABYLON: A small town along the Euphrates River which began to flourish in 2000 BCE. After the reign of the Sumerians the Babylonians became the next great Mesopotamian civilization from 2000 to 1595 BCE.

BCE: Meaning "Before the Common Era".

CUNEIFORM: The first written language developed in the Mesopotamia region. This form of writing was invented by the Sumerians and was accomplished by using a wedge-shaped stick known as a stylus to imprint marks onto wet clay tablets.

IRRIGATION: To supply an area with water through artificial means. The early inhabitants of the Mesopotamian region first invented the means to irrigate water for agricultural use.

KING SARGON I: An Akkadian ruler who in 2,350 BCE became the first king to unite all of Mesopotamia.

KING URNAMMU: Sumerian king who eventually wrote the first code of laws for marriage contracts, the ownership of slaves, and special appointments.

LUGUL: The name given to a king who ruled a city in Sumer. This king was elected to rule only in times of crisis like war. They also acted as judges in disputes and conducted some religious ceremonies.

MESOPOTAMIA: Greek word meaning "The land In Between". This land is in between the Tigris and Euphrates River.

Study the vocabulary words on pgs. 2 & 3. Then fill in the blank by selecting the words from the answers list:

ANSWERS LIST :

Babylon • King Urnammu • Epic of Noah's Ark
Bangladesh • Medallion • Sir Walter Raleigh • King Nag
Sir Leonard Wooley • Standard of Ur • Epic of Gilgamesh

- A) British archeologist _____
discovered several Sumerian sites and artifacts.
- B) The famous Sumerian legend _____
tells the story about a great flood.
- C) _____ is a small town along the
Euphrates River which began to flourish after the reign of
the Sumerians to become the next great Mesopotamian
civilization.
- D) A two sided piece of art made of inlaid shells is called
the _____ .
- E) _____ wrote the first code of
laws for Sumerian society.

Q & A about *Mesopotamia Part I*

Study the vocabulary words on pages 2 & 3 and the timeline on pg. 4. Then answer the questions.

1. Mesopotamia is in between what two rivers? These two rivers empty into what body of water? Today Mesopotamia consists of what two modern countries?
2. The Sumerians was a very innovative society. Name some of the inventions in which the Sumerians were the first to develop.
3. What is the Standard of Ur? Who discovered this famous artifact?
4. The alluvial plain is a geological description of a broad flat landscape located in Mesopotamia. What caused this geological terrain?
5. King Urnammu wrote the first code of laws for Sumerian society. Describe what social issues this code of laws addressed?
6. The Epic of Gilgamesh is a famous Sumerian legend. Give a brief description of this mythical tale.
7. Cuneiform became the first written language in the Mesopotamia region. What civilization invented this ancient language? What tools or supplies were used to communicate this language?

SIR LEONARD WOOLEY: An archeologist from the British Museum who discovered several Sumerian sites. These discoveries include; a layer of mud eight feet thick resulting from a great flood; the ancient royal cemetery of Ur; the famous relic known as the Standard of Ur.

STANDARD OF UR: A two sided piece of art made of inlaid shells. One side known as the “peace” side shows scenes from Sumerian life dealing with crops, animals and craftsmanship. The reverse side is known as the “war” side and it shows Sumerian armies with weapons and captives. Chariot-like vehicles with four wheels, pulled by horses is also shown.

STYLUS: Wedge shaped stick used to imprint marks onto wet clay tablets. These tablets were used to communicate a written language known as cuneiform.

SUMERIANS: People living in a southern Mesopotamia town called Sumer. This society first developed irrigation methods for farming; invented the wheel for pottery and one of the earliest forms of writing known as cuneiform.

THE EPIC OF GILGAMESH: A famous Sumerian legend which tells the story of a great flood that wipes out humankind except for Gilgamesh and his family who survive in a large boat. Afterwards the survivors enter a land of paradise and are tempted by a serpent.

THE WHEEL: A Sumerian invention in 4,500 BCE first used to make pottery. Five hundred years later this invention was turned on its edge and used for many other important applications.

TIGRIS & EUPHRATES RIVERS: Two rivers which travel across a broad plain of land known as Mesopotamia before finally emptying into the Persian Gulf.

ZIGGURATS: Large complex temples dedicated to Mesopotamian Gods. Their pyramid construction was similar to the styles of Egypt and the Mayans.

TIMELINE of *Mesopotamia Part I*

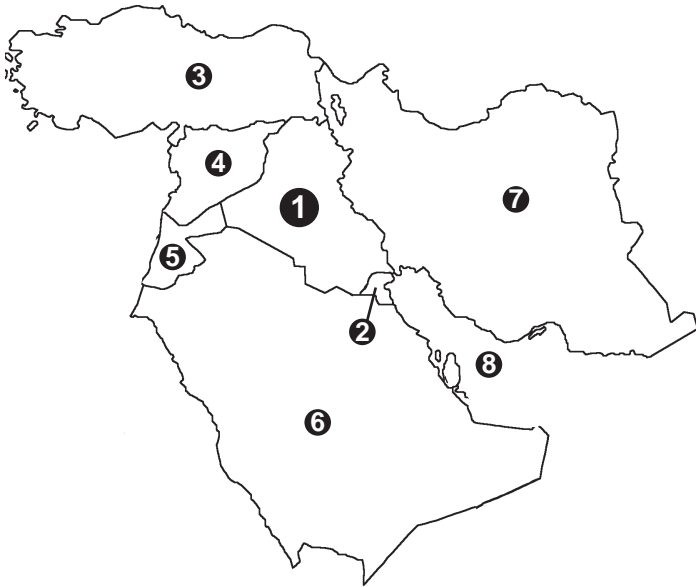
- **200 Million years ago:** Dinosaurs roamed the earth.
- **65 Million years ago:** Dinosaurs extinct.
- **2 million years ago:** Human species walks upright and begins making tools and weapons.
- **40,000 BCE:** Human species first appear in the Mesopotamia area.
- **5,000 - 2,000 BCE:** The Sumerians rise to power.
- **4,500 BCE:** Sumerians invent the wheel.
- **3,500 BCE:** The written Sumerian language known as Cuneiform is developed.
- **2,700 BCE:** City of Ur becomes the dominant city of Sumer.
- **2,300 to 2000 BCE:** Akkadians reign Northern Mesopotamia.
- **2,100 BCE:** Akkadians conquered by the Sumerians of Ur.
- **2,000 BCE:** Mesopotamia changes from a large empire into one of smaller kingdoms.
- **1929:** Sir Leonard Wooley discovers important Sumerian artifacts and sites.

Discussion Points / Activities

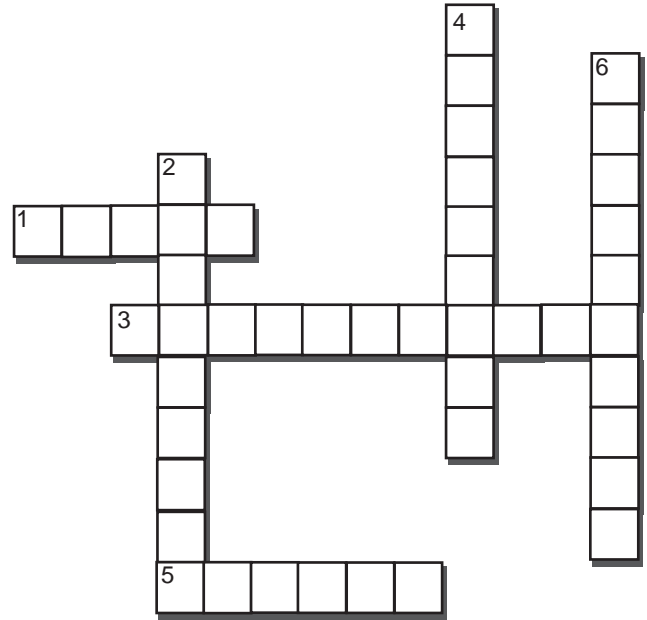
1. Imagine you lived during the time of ancient Mesopotamia. Discuss how life would be different than living in the 21 century.
2. A timeline offers a chronological perspective of significant events which have happened throughout history. After viewing the video, study the timeline on pg. 4 of this guide, then develop your own timeline which illustrates Mesopotamia's enduring history. Perhaps use the computer; add pictures along with text; if possible develop a multimedia presentation.
3. Mesopotamia civilizations are famous for their inventions. Research the history and origins of these inventions. Then write a brief report explaining how these inventions changed the ancient and modern world. Use the internet and illustrations to support your findings.
4. The science of archeology has provided valuable information about the historic past to the modern-day world. If possible contact an archeologist (preferably one who is an expert on ancient Mesopotamia) at a local university, museum or privately funded institution. Ask them to visit your school or arrange a class trip to visit them to explain the importance of archeology and ancient Mesopotamia.
5. Discuss the differences and similarities between ancient Mesopotamia and present-day Mesopotamia. Who is the leader of Iraq and Kuwait today? What is and was the primary religion practiced in ancient Mesopotamia and Mesopotamia today? What major industries existed in ancient Mesopotamia and Mesopotamia today? What is and was the primary means of transportation in ancient Mesopotamia and Mesopotamia today? What was and is the primary language of ancient Mesopotamia and Mesopotamia today? etc.

GEOGRAPHY of *Mesopotamia Part I*

Study the map on pgs. 6 & 7. Then on separate piece of paper write the name and a brief description of each location.



Use the words described in this guide on pgs. 2 & 3 to complete the crossword.



ACROSS:

- 1) A king who ruled a city in Sumer.
- 3) "The Land In Between".
- 5) Wedge shape stick used to write.

DOWN:

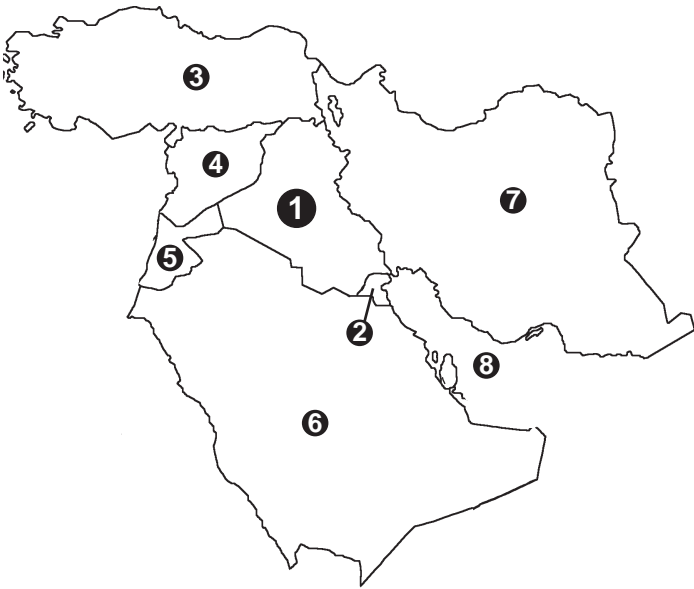
- 2) Invented irrigation, the wheel and cuneiform.
- 4) Large complex temples.
- 6) To supply an area with water.

ANSWERS:

Across - 1) Lugal, 3) Mesopotamia, 5) Stylus
Down - 2) Sumerians, 4) Ziggurats, 6) Irrigation

MAP of *Modern-Day Mesopotamia Part I*

Study the modern-day map and its significant locations below. Then test your geography skills on pg. 8.



- ① IRAQ: A country today which was once part of Mesopotamia.
- ② KUWAIT: A country today which was once part of Mesopotamia.
- ③ TURKEY: Country which is along Mesopotamia's (Iraq & Kuwait) northern border.
- ④ SYRIA: Country which is along Mesopotamia's (Iraq & Kuwait) western border.
- ⑤ JORDAN: Country which is along Mesopotamia's (Iraq & Kuwait) western border.
- ⑥ SAUDI ARABIA: Country which is along Mesopotamia's (Iraq & Kuwait) southwestern border.
- ⑦ IRAN: Country which is along Mesopotamia's (Iraq & Kuwait) eastern border.
- ⑧ PERSIAN GULF: Body of water which is along Mesopotamia's (Iraq & Kuwait) southern border.