

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 2

THE BABYLONIANS TO MODERN DAY

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.

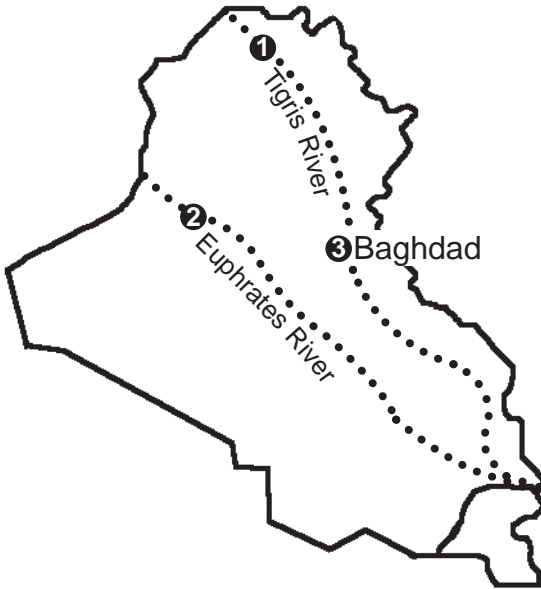


① _____

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 2*

ASSYRIANS: A culture which reigned the Mesopotamia region from 1100 BCE to 612 BCE. This ancient culture adopted the cuneiform writing of the Sumerians and the speaking language of the Babylonians.

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.

BABYLONIANS: An ancient culture which first originated in the city of Babylon. The reign of this ancient culture defeated the early Sumerians and controlled the Mesopotamian region from 2000 to 1595 BCE.

BCE: Meaning "Before the Common Era".

CHALDEANS (NEW BABYLONIANS): A semitic people who originally took control of Babylon in 2350 BCE and then again after conquering the Assyrians in 612 BCE. These ancient people ruled the Mesopotamian region from 612 to 539 BCE.

ELAM: Conquered the Kassite Babylonian dynasty in 1157 BCE.

HAMMURABI: The sixth sheik of Babylon who ruled the throne of Babylon for 42 years. Under his leadership Babylon became a center of commerce and education and achieved great advances in Mathematics, Geometry, and Algebra. During his reign the famous code of laws was developed whereby justice attempted to give equal rights for all people.

HANGING GARDENS OF BABYLON: A series of terraces to a height of nearly 100 feet built by Chaldean King Nebuchadrezzar II. It is recognized as one of the seven wonders of the ancient world.

HITTITES: An empire from Asia Minor who invaded Babylon in 1600 BCE but chose not to occupy the city.

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

ANSWERS LIST :

Botanic Gardens • Persian Gulf War • Egyptians
Assyrians • Babylonian War • Neptune • Chaldeans
Asians • Marduk • Hanging Gardens of Babylon

A) As one of the seven wonders of the ancient world, the _____ is a series of terraces which rise to a height of nearly 100 feet.

B) A semitic people called the _____ originally took control of Babylon in 2350 BCE and then again after conquering the Assyrians in 612 BCE.

C) _____ was a Kassite Babylonian god who reigned supreme for all creation.

D) In 1990 Iraq invaded Kuwait which it claimed had once been its province. This incident prompted the _____.

E) The _____ adopted the cuneiform writing of the Sumerians and the speaking language of the Babylonians.

Q & A about *Mesopotamia Part 2*

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. What ancient culture defeated the Sumerians and eventually ruled the entire Mesopotamian region from 2000 to 1595 BCE?
3. Sheik was the name given to a ruler of the city of Babylon. During the sixth sheik's reign of Babylon a famous code of laws was written in which justice attempted to give equal rights for all people. Who was the sixth sheik of Babylon? What was the name of the Babylonian God which he claims inspired him to write this famous code of laws?
4. What is the name given to a series of terraces nearly 100 feet high and is recognized as one of the seven wonders of the ancient world?
5. Describe what caused the Persian Gulf War?
6. What ancient Mesopotamian culture adopted the cuneiform writing of the Sumerians and the speaking language of the Babylonians?

KASSITES: An early dynasty who conquered the Babylonians in 1595 BCE and ruled Mesopotamia for 400 years.

KING NEBUCHADREZZAR II: Ruler during the New Babylonian era from 612 to 539 BCE. During his reign the Babylonians conquered the Hebrews in 587 BCE and the Hanging Gardens of Babylon was built which is recognized today as one of the seven wonders of the ancient world.

MARDUK: A Kassite Babylonian god who reigned supreme for all creation. This god was adopted in 1200 BCE after a religious revival in Babylon.

MESOPOTAMIA: Greek word meaning "The land In Between". This land is in between the Tigris and Euphrates River. Today this ancient land consists of Iraq and Kuwait.

SHAMASH: A Babylonian God representing the sun and justice. It was this God who Sheik Hammurabi claims instructed him to write the code of laws so equal rights were given to all people.

SHEIKS: Name given for rulers of the city of Babylon.

PARADISES: An Assyrian King's private collection of lions and tigers. Since Assyrian Kings prided themselves on being great hunters they would publicly display their courage by hunting these privately owned animals.

PERSIAN GULF WAR: In 1990 Iraq invaded Kuwait which it claimed had once been its province. Afterwards the United Nations declared a state of emergency and a coalition of over 25 nations began military action which eventually ousted Iraq from Kuwait in 1991.

TIGRIS & EUFRATES 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 2*

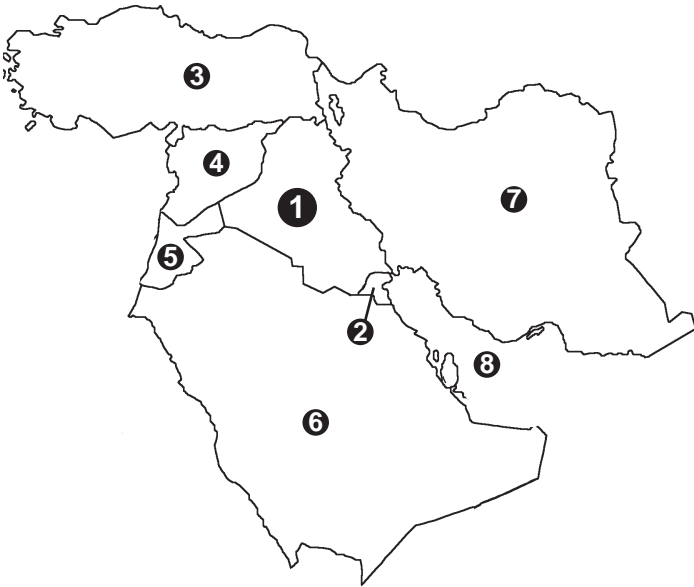
- **200 Million years ago:** Dinosaurs roamed the earth.
- **65 Million years ago:** Dinosaurs extinct.
- **2 million years ago:** Human species walks upright and begins making tools and weapons.
- **40,000 BCE:** Human species first appear in the Mesopotamia area.
- **2,000 to 1595 BCE:** The Babylonians rise to power.
- **1,750 BCE:** The Sixth Sheik of Babylon Hammurabi begins his reign.
- **1,708 BCE:** Sheik Hammurabi dies.
- **1,600 BCE:** The Hittites invade Babylon.
- **1,595 to 1,157 BCE:** The Babylonian Kassites rule Babylon for 400 years.
- **1,200 BCE:** The supreme god named Marduk is adopted by Babylon.
- **1,100 to 612 BCE:** The Assyrians reign.
- **612 to 539 BCE:** The Chaldeans (New Babylonians) reign.
- **331 BCE:** Alexander the Great conquers Babylon and it becomes the new capital for the Eastern Hellenic Empire.
- **1932:** Mesopotamia becomes an independent country.
- **1990 to 1991:** Persian Gulf War.

Discussion Points / Activities

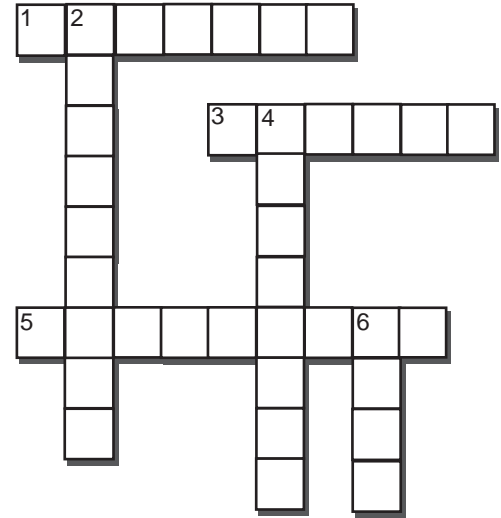
1. Imagine you lived during the time of ancient Mesopotamia. Discuss how life would be different than living in the 21 century.
2. A timeline offers a chronological perspective of significant events which have happened throughout history. After viewing the video, study the timeline on pg. 4 of this guide, 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 its 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 2*

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) Babylonian God representing sun and justice.
- 3) Name given to rulers of Babylon.
- 5) Assyrian King's private animals.

DOWN:

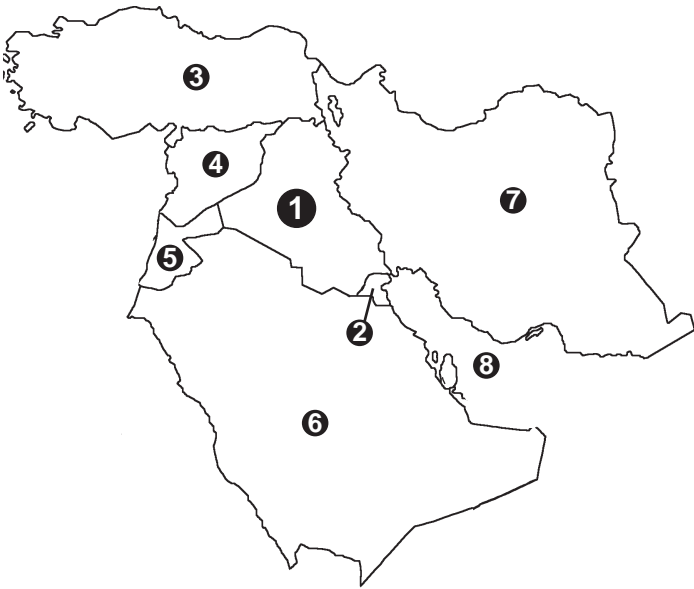
- 2) Wrote famous code of laws for Babylon.
- 4) Empire from Asia Minor who invaded Babylon in 1600 BCE.
- 6) Conquered the Kassite Babylonians in 1157 BCE.

Down - 2) Hammurabi, 4) Hittites, 6) Elam
Across - 1) Shamash, 3) Sheiks, 5) Paradeses

ANSWERS:

MAP of *Modern-Day Mesopotamia Part 2*

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.