**The World’s First Civilization: Mesopotamia**

**Fertile Crescent Civilization**

Mesopotamia began in the Fertile Crescent around \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ ~ a region in the Middle East known for rich soils and good farming.
* Mesopotamia means “\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_” because it was located between the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ rivers.

The world’s first civilization developed in southeastern Mesopotamia called \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**Life in Sumer**

Sumerians built \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ city-states, which are cities that control the surrounding lands.

* The two biggest city-states were \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* These city-states were governed by the same families, called \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Sumerians established a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ where some people were given a higher rank than others – the highest people were the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and priests.

* Most people were poor peasant \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ who grew wheat and barley.
* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ were given a few legal rights, could own property, and start a career.

Sumerians were \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_– believing in many gods.

* They worshipped their gods at large, stepped temples called \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* Sumerians believed that in the afterlife everyone lived a miserable life in the underworld – gloomy.

Sumerians invented \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ called cuneiform.

* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ ~ writing using triangular (wedge shaped) marks.

Sumerians created a narrative poem called the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ about a flood that destroys the world.

**The End of Sumer**

Fighting between the 12 city-states made Sumer weak.

* In 2350 B.C., the Sumerians were conquered by\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, the ruler of Akkad.

However, the legacy of Sumer continued through history. Sumer was known for:

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Invaders, Traders, and Empire Builders**

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

* In 2300 B.C., Sargon, the ruler of Akkad, invaded and conquered Sumer.
* He expanded his territory and built the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ known in history!

Babylonians

* In 1790 B.C., Hammurabi, King of Babylon, captured Mesopotamia
* Hammurabi established a set of laws called \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. It was the first important attempt by a ruler to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, or establish and put in writing, all the laws to govern a state.
* Hammurabi’s code included Civil (\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_) and Criminal (\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_) law!
* Punishments were \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ – an eye for an eye!

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

* In 1400 B.C., the Hittites conquered Mesopotamia.
* They brought with them a major achievement – how to make weapons with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Assyrians

* Around 1100 B.C., the Assyrians, who were the most \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in history, conquered Mesopotamia.
* Used brutal tactics in war…
* Assyrians expanded their empire, established a well-ordered society, built beautiful cities, and built the first \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_…

* In 612 B.C., Babylonians crushed the Assyrians and reestablished their power. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ greatly expanded the kingdom across the Mediterranean.
* And built 1 of the 7 wonders of the world…the Hanging Gardens of Babylon.

Persians

* In 539 B.C., Babylon fell to the Persian army of Cyrus the Great.
* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, greatly expanded the empire creating a government organized into provinces with governors and establishing a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (based on coins, not goods).
* Persians also established a new religion called \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_which believed in one god, Ahura Mazda.

Phoenicians

* Never conquered Mesopotamia, but established colonies along the Mediterranean.
* Called the “\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_” because they spread Middle Eastern civilization around the Mediterranean.
* Also invented the world’s \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, where each symbol represents a sound. The Greeks later used the Phoenician alphabet!