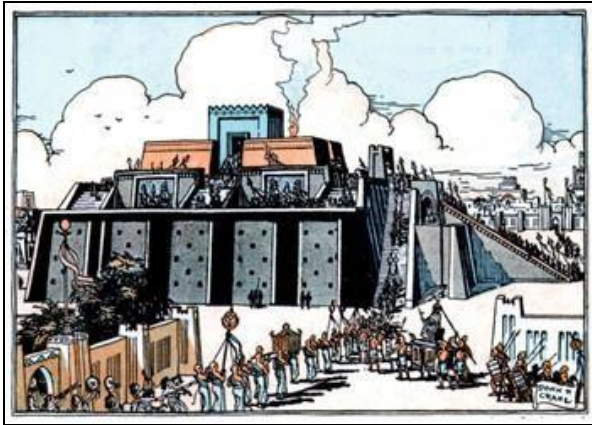


Mesopotamia and the First Cities

Cities sprang up in Mesopotamia between 4000 and 3500 B.C. What factors contributed to the growth of cities?

agriculture	building	canals	division
Fertile	floods	irrigation	silt
surplus	Tigris	traders	ziggurats



A Sumerian city with a ziggurat in the center

The first cities appeared in Mesopotamia, a region known as the _____ Crescent. Two rivers, the _____ and Euphrates, crossed this region providing water for _____.

When the rivers flooded, they left behind _____, which made the soil rich for farming.

In order to use the rivers for agriculture, the Sumerians developed a system of _____ for watering the crops and protecting their settlements from _____. The Sumerians made many _____, ditches, dams, and dykes to control the flow of water.

The success of Sumerian agriculture led to a _____ of food. This meant that fewer people were needed to farm. This led to a _____ of labor since some people could now specialize in other jobs such as crafters, priests and _____. It also meant that more people were available to work on large projects such as _____ city walls or giant pyramid-shaped temples called _____.

