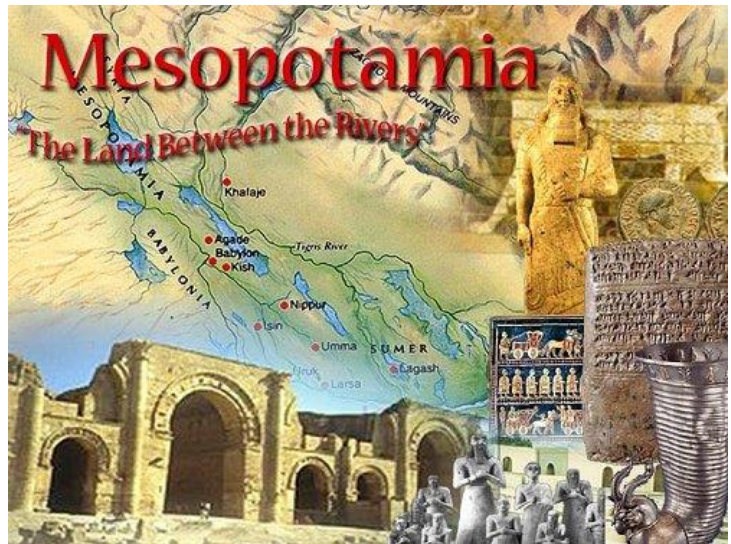


Mesopotamian Test Study Guide



- The Sumerians greatly valued their religion. They were polytheistic, believing in hundreds of gods.
- Most of Mesopotamia is in the present-day country of Iraq.
- Mesopotamia was the world's first civilization, therefore it is known as the 'Cradle of Civilization'.
- Some of the Sumerian achievements were the invention of the wheel, the metal plow, and a writing system – Cuneiform.
- There was not a lot of stone or timber, especially in southern Mesopotamia, therefore mud bricks were commonly used to build structures.
- Mesopotamia is one of the four River Valley Civilizations, using rivers as a source of fresh water and good farmland. The rivers flooding would leave silt, creating fertile soil. They would dig canals to help control the river's flow, helping to prevent flooding, increasing farming.
- The rivers were also used for travel and trade.
- Mesopotamians would develop calendars in order to help farmers plan their crops and avoid the floods. This would help them grow more food.
- Cuneiform was developed and used for a variety of reasons, such as record keeping, and also to write down what has happened over time.
- The metal plow was one advancement that helped farmers plant faster and larger areas. This gave them more grain for the traders to sell. This also created a surplus of food, making it to where people could do other jobs – a division of labor.
- In Mesopotamia, the groups of people were divided into city-states – a city and the countryside surrounding it. A city-state leader would emerge as a strong man helps defend that certain city-state in war. Then after the war, he takes control.
- An empire is land controlled by a strong military leader, which has different groups / ethnic backgrounds being ruled.
- The Akkadian Empire was the world's first empire, taking over a large portion of Mesopotamia. The Assyrian Empire was known for being quite ruthless in its tactics.