Mesopotamian Test Study Guide

Module 3 and 7



- 1. Mesopotamia is between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers.
- 2. Sumer is considered the first civilization on earth.
- 3. Farming led to permanent villages because people needed to stay and tend their crops.
- 4. Fertile soil from the rivers is an important geographical feature in the development of early river valley civilizations.
- 5. The invention of the metal plow help Mesopotamian trade with other civilizations by helping farmers to plant faster, giving them extra grain for traders to sell.
- 6. Hammurabi was the ancient Babylonian king who created the earliest known code of laws, which focused on harsh punishments.
- 7. High crop yields (food surplus) in ancient Mesopotamia contributed to the development of a division of labor.
- 8. With the development of the first written language, Cuneiform provided the foundation for writing about all sorts of things.
- 9. Societies adapted to their surroundings by building canals, dams, and irrigation systems in order to increase their farmland so they could grow more crops.
- 10. Some ancient civilizations wrote and published their laws so citizens could read and understand them.
- 11. Ziggurats are what we call the pyramid style buildings that were Sumerian temples.
- 12. Sargon was the first emperor and the Akkadian Empire was the first empire in the world.
- 13. Polytheism is a belief in two or more gods, whereas a belief in one God is monotheism.
- 14. The Hebrew believed in the one true God, whereas the other Mesopotamia civilizations believed in many Gods. They also believed in keeping (respecting) the Sabbath and other holy days – of which Yom Kippur, the Day of Attornment is the holiest.
- 15. The Torah is the most important sacred scripture within Judaism.
- 16. Abraham is generally considered the 'father' of the Hebrews.
- 17. Moses Led the Hebrew out of Egyptian slavery in an event called the Exodus. God sent 10 plagues to Egypt to persuade the Pharaoh to let the Hebrew go free.
- 18. King David was the second King of the Jewish people, establishing Jerusalem as their capital. He had support of his people.
- 19. King Solomon, King David's son, built the Temple, which held the Torah, along with other sacred objects.
- 20. After the Kingdom of Israel split into north and south, Israel and Judah, the Assyrians and the Babylonians conquered them each of them.
- 21. Because of different types of discrimination / hatred, Jews went through the Diaspora. This is when Jews were scattered around the world, being forced to leave their homelands.
- 22. Anti-Semitism is Discrimination against the Jewish people.
- 23. A Rabbi is the main leader, or teacher, in Jewish worship.