

Name: _____

Date: _____

Period: _____

River Valley Civilizations

Learning Targets

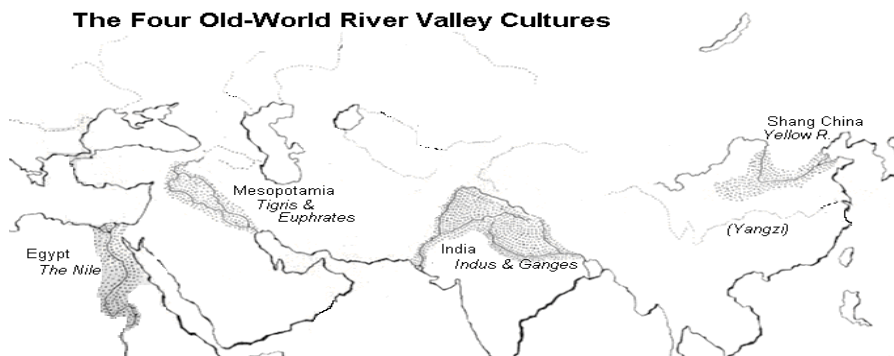
Intentions of the Lesson:

I Want Students to:

1. **KNOW** the significance of people settling around river valleys.
2. **UNDERSTAND** and explain how the availability of water enabled people to evolve from hunters and gatherers into sedentary people.
3. Complete a PERSIAN Chart on Mesopotamia, the first civilization

Do Now: Why do you think the first civilizations settled near a river?

The Four Old-World River Valley Cultures



1. Fertile Crescent - _____
 - a. Tigris
 - b. Euphrates
2. Egyptian Civilization
 - a. Nile River Valley (UPPER AND LOWER NILE)
3. Indus River
 - a. Harrapan
 - b. Mohen-jo Daro
4. Huang He
 - a. Yellow River later civilizations focused on both Yangtze and Yellow River
 - b. First dynasty is Xia then Shang

WHY WERE RIVER VALLEYS IMPORTANT?

- _____ - large amounts of people could be fed.
- _____ - goods and ideas to move from place to place.
- _____ - grow up in these valleys and became the centers of civilizations.

QUESTIONS TO KEEP IN MIND:

- ☐ How did geography impact the first civilizations?
- ☐ How did changes in the Neolithic Revolution lead to the development of River Valley Civilizations?

KEY VOCABULARY

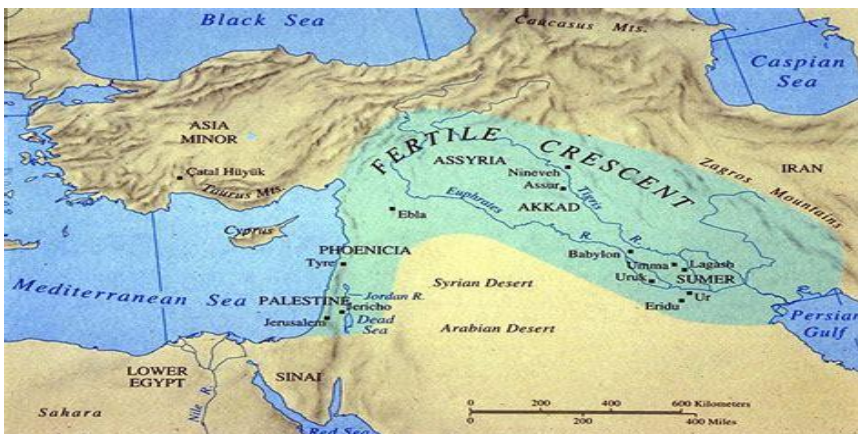
- ☐ _____ – form of culture in which some people live in cities and have complex social institutions, use some form of writing, and are skilled in science, art, and technology
- ☐ _____ – group of territories or nations ruled by a single ruler or government
- ☐ Theocracy – government headed by religious leaders or a leader regarded as a god
- ☐ Polytheistic – belief in _____ gods.
- ☐ Monotheistic – belief in only _____ God.

THE RISE OF CIVILIZATION

- ☐ Arose in 4 separate river valleys around 3500 B.C.
- ☐ Fertile soil, mild climate, waterway for transportation, water for crops & drinking
- ☐ Provided for abundant crops and food surpluses

MESOPOTAMIA

- The Land between the _____ and _____ Rivers.
- Also called the _____ Crescent.
- First Civilization was _____.



GOVERNMENT

- _____-states
- Each had its own _____ (also head of religion – theocracy)
- Were eventually united under single rulers
- King Hammurabi created the first _____ code
 - Pertained to all aspects of life
 - Did not apply to all people _____

ECONOMY

- _____ – basis for economy
 - Grew grains, vegetables, dates, flax
 - _____ sheep, goats, cows, oxen, and donkeys
- Evidence shows they _____ with other civilizations
 - Merchants
 - artisans

RELIGION

- _____ was the head of the religion, as well as the government
- Each city-state had its own chief _____
- Like most ancient religions, Sumer was _____ (believed in as many as 2000 gods)
- Built amazing temples (_____) to honor gods.

ZIGGURATS

- _____ step pyramids built by the Sumerians, Akkadians, and other ancient Mesopotamian civilizations for religious purposes



SOCIETY

- Three social classes
 - _____ -King and nobles
 - _____ -Merchants, artisans, farmers, and fishers. These people made up the largest group
 - _____ -Peasants and slaves; worked on farms or in the temples.
- _____ had few legal rights in Sumerian society.

INNOVATIONS

- Developed the first writing – _____
- Built clay brick structures – ziggurats (temples)
- Developed the arch, ramps, sewers, and the wheel
- Number system based on _____ and algebra
- Had a lunar _____

IRRIGATION

- Over time, the farmers learned to build _____ and _____ to _____ the seasonal _____. They also built _____, _____, and _____ to bring water to their fields. This way of watering crops is called irrigation. Irrigation allowed the farmers to grow plenty of food and support a large population.

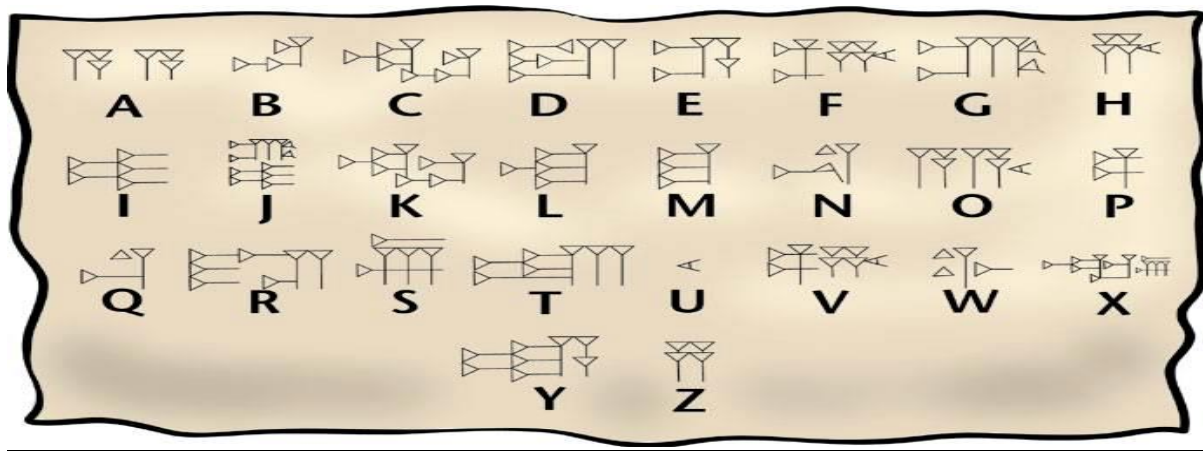
THE FERTILE CRESCENT

- In the spring, the _____ often _____, leaving behind _____ . The problem was that the flooding was very _____. It might flood one year, but not the next. Every year the farmers worried about their crops. They developed _____ systems to control the flow of water.

ARTS

Writing –

- The most important _____ of the Sumerians was writing.
- The writing of the Sumerians was called _____.



The Epic of Gilgamesh

- The most famous piece of literature from Sumer is the _____ of _____.
- An epic is long _____ that tells the story of a _____. The hero Gilgamesh is a king who travels around the world with a friend and performs great deeds. When his friend dies, Gilgamesh searches for a way to _____.

GEOGRAPHY (NEAR)

MESOPOTAMIA

- The Land between the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers
 - Also called the _____ Crescent.
 - First civilization was called (_____).