

# Mesopotamia Study Guide

Name: KEY Period: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Test: **OCTOBER 28<sup>TH</sup>**

- I can explain why civilizations developed near rivers. (THIS)
- I can describe how the environment helps shape human civilizations.
- I can explain the cultural practices of Mesopotamia and how they have influenced our society today.

Cultural practices include:

- |                                   |                                     |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Class structure                   | Religious Beliefs                   |
| Government/laws                   | Writing                             |
| Economic systems                  | Scientific contributions/technology |
| Cultural contributions/technology |                                     |

**What should I do?** \*\*\*Read through notes on the following pages in my notebook:

1. Mesopotamia Vocabulary
  - i. Do I recognize the words and definitions?
  - ii. Use Study Stack links or make your own flashcards to review.
2. Mesopotamia Maps and Drawings
  - i. Can you recognize where in the world Mesopotamia is located?
  - ii. Can you label the major rivers, Fertile Crescent and other major bodies of water?
3. Water Notes
  - i. Know what THIS stands for.
  - ii. Be able to explain why people settled around rivers.
4. Religion
  - i. Understand that Sumerians were polytheistic.
  - ii. Explain what they prayed for and where they prayed.
5. Government Notes
  - i. Explain why government is important.
  - ii. Explain how city-states differ from empires.
  - iii. Explain how Hammurabi influenced our government today.
6. Social Class Notes
  - i. Can you label the social class pyramid?
  - ii. Explain how your social class determined the way that you lived.
7. Contribution Notes
  - i. What is the difference between a scientific and cultural contribution?
  - ii. List at least 3 scientific and cultural contributions from Mesopotamia.
8. Economics
  - i. Understand that Mesopotamia's economy was based on trade.

## Vocabulary to know: (vocabulary chart in notebook)

Mesopotamia - fertile land between the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers

contributions - something the Sumerians did or made and passed on (wheel, writing, religion)

scribe - writers of professional records

polytheism - belief in many gods

Hammurabi - Emperor with a code of laws - early government

irrigation - to bring water to dry land

Fertile Crescent - nickname for Mesopotamia- the rich land between the Tigris and Euphrates River

fertile - soil rich in nutrients and resources

Sumerians - the first inhabitants of Mesopotamia

class system - system in which a society is divided into several social groups, usually by wealth

cuneiform - Sumerian's first system of writing, used wedge-shape symbols on clay tablets

city-state - a central city and its surrounding land, all follow same rules

specialization - focusing on one area of work

domestication - raising animals for food

## Know the location of: (Use your map)

Mediterranean Sea

Nile River

Tigris River

Euphrates River

Black Sea

Persian Gulf

Dead Sea

Red Sea

Fertile Crescent (Use highlighter)



Mesopotamia is between the Euphrates and Tigris rivers which is why it is called the “land between the rivers.”

The most important reasons to live by a river are:

Reason	How it helped
<b>Irrigation</b>	Can bring the water from the river to crops
<b>Fertile Soil</b>	Annual flooding of river left nutrients in soil making it better to grow crops on
<b>Transportation/Trade</b>	Use the river for traveling and trading with other civilizations
<b>Human Needs</b>	The river provides drinking water and food (fish) to eat

Mesopotamians made both scientific contributions and cultural contributions.

List three scientific contributions that Mesopotamians invented: sailboat, bronze metal and plow.

List three cultural contributions that Mesopotamians invented: government, writing (cuneiform) and planting and harvesting.

	Government	Cuneiform
What was it used for?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Keep order</li> <li>- Create laws</li> <li>- Settle disputes</li> <li>- Ran army (protection)</li> <li>- building projects</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- record history</li> <li>- record business transactions (trade deals)</li> <li>- write laws for everyone to see</li> <li>- used to teach</li> </ul>
Why is it important today?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Keep order: the safer the city state the more people would want to come and trade</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Helps remember/ communicate information easier</li> </ul>

Give three specific examples of how a food surplus would help a civilization (Look back to your *why live by a river worksheet*).

Example: Trade

How it helped: Trade increased when there was a surplus because Sumerians had many extra goods to export. They were now importing resources that they needed. This helped the civilization because they were growing and expanding rapidly. There were also in contact with other city-states which helped to spread culture and new technologies.

Example: Government

How it helped: Once there was a surplus in these city-states they needed a way to keep order when dealing with extra crops. They also needed a leader to settle disputes and create laws. A government helped with all of these things and helped the civilization to further advance.

Example: Healthier

How it helped: When there was a surplus of crops that meant that everyone was able to eat a better meal and it was guaranteed that they would eat. People became much healthier because of this and city-states were able to grow larger because people were living a little longer. Domesticated animals were now also given a better supply of food to eat.

Example: Store food for poor growing seasons

How it helped: A surplus meant that the Sumerians had extra food in their city-state. Some of this food was used to trade, but the rest could have been used to store for months where crops didn't grow as well. This would help the civilization because they would have extra food set aside which meant they were able to always have a meal.

Example: Government

How it helped: A surplus will create a population increase which means that a government is now very important. Government was needed to settle disputes about food, create laws on how to pass out and store food. Government helped to keep order in each city-state.

A class system meant that everyone was divided into different social groups. There was an upper class, middle class, and lower class. Label the pyramid with the people who belong to each class (Look at your guided reading for help).

