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| **Mesopotamia** “Land between the rivers”* Flat plains between the **Tigris** and **Euphrates** rivers
* Eastern part of **Fertile Crescent**
* Hot, dry climate
* Connected to the **Mediterranean** **Sea** and **Persian Gulf**.
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| **Civilizations**Complex societies with:* organized government, art, religion, economy, trade, geography, education, class divisions and writing system
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**Importance of river valleys**

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| * Good farming to feed large numbers of people.
* Provided fish and fresh water.
* Easy travel and trade.
* **Irrigation**: system for watering crops
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| **City-States*** Independent state made up of a city and the surrounding land and villages.
* Each city has its own government.
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**Mesopotamia Websites**

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| **Ancient Mesopotamia for Kids** * *mesopotamia.mrdonn.org*

[**Ancient Mesopotamia** **- Welcome To Kidskonnect**](http://www.kidskonnect.com/subject-index/16-history/257-ancient-mesopotamia.html)* [www.*kids*konnect.com](http://www.kidskonnect.com)

[**Ancient Civilizations for Kids**](http://www.kathimitchell.com/ancivil.html)* *www.kathimitchell.com/ancivil.html*

[**CyberSleuthkids: Ancient Middle East**](http://cybersleuth-kids.com/sleuth/History/Ancient_Civilizations/Ancient_Middle_East/Mesopotamia/index.htm) * *cybersleuth-kids.com*
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**Mesopotamia Religion**

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| **Polytheistic**: Belief in many gods**Sumerians:** Believed in over 3,000 godsPriests were the first rulers.**Ziggurat:** giant square temple in the middle of a city, several stories tall, with one door at the top.  |

**Sumerian Literacy**

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| Invented writing: **cuneiform** on clay tablets**Scribes:** writers**Epic:** long poemEpicof **Gilgamesh** – oldest written story* **King Gilgamesh** – cruel/ great king
* **Enkidu** – wild man, Gilgamesh’s best friend
* **Humbaba** – fire-breathing demon, guards the forest, Gilgamesh cuts his head off
* **Utnapishtim** – Noah-like figure, survived the Great Flood
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**Mesopotamia: Specialization**

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| **Specialization:** Skilled labor**Potter:** clay pots, invented pottery **wheel****Weaver:** fabric, clothing. rugs, blankets**Toolmaker:** metalwork (gold, silver, copper)**Artisan:** stone carvers, artists, potter**Scribe:** wrote in **cuneiform** on clay tablets**Merchant:** **barter** (trading)  |

**Mesopotamian Rulers**

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| **Sargon of Akkad**: world’s first **Empire****Hammurabi:** first written code of laws**Nebuchadnezzar**: built Hanging Gardens **Ashurbanipal of Assyrian:** Royal Library of Ashurbanipal in **Nineveh** |

**Mesopotamia: Math/Time/ Astronomy**

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| **Math:** Concept of zero, number place value, 360 degree circle, system based on 60**Time:** 12 months, 30 day months, 7 days a week, day into 2x12 hours, into 60 minutes and minutes into 60 seconds.**Astronomy:** mapped the stars, planets and phases of the moon |

Sumerians: **Farming Revolution**

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| End of **Nomadic** life style.**Domesticated:** tamed animals**Irrigation:** system for watering crops.Plow: helped plant seeds**Farming Revolution:** Great human development, it increased population & lead to job **specialization**.  |

**Mesopotamia: Social Class System**

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| **Upper Class:** Kings, priests, wealthy land owner, government workers**Middle Class:** Merchants, artisans, scribes, farmers, fisherman, and toolmakers**Lower Class:** Slaves |

**Locations in** **Mesopotamia**

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| **Sumer** – area in southern Mesopotamia**Ur** – Sumerian city, great burial site**Uruk** – Sumerian city-state**Babylon** – Chaldean capital**Nineveh** – Assyrian capital, site of first library  |

**Mesopotamian Civilizations**

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| **Sumerians** – first city-states**Akkadians** – King Sargon, first great empire**Babylonians** – Hammurabi, code of laws**Assyrians**  - Great warriors, strong arms **Chaldeans** - King Nebuchadnezzar, Hanging Gardens, Ishtar Gate |

**Early Humans**

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| **Paleolithic** people adapted to their environment by inventing many tools & using fire to help them survive. They were **hunter-gathers** and **nomads**.In the **Neolithic Age**, people started farming, building communities, producing goods and trading.  |

**Sumerian Main Ideas**

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| **Sumerians** invented writing, the wheel, the plow, the sailboat and made many other important contributions to later people. **Sumerian** city-states lost power when they were conquered by outsiders.  |

**First Empires Main Ideas**

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| **Assyria’s** military power and well-organized government helped them build a vast empire in Mesopotamia by 650 B.C.The **Chaldean Empire** built important landmarks in Babylon and developed the first calendar with 7-days week. |

**Mesopotamia Timeline**

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| **3000 B.C.** City-states arise in Sumer**2340 B.C.** Sargon conquers Mesopotamia**1792 B.C.** Hammurabi rules Mesopotamia**900 B.C.** Assyrians control Mesopotamia**612 B.C.** Nineveh captured:  Assyrian Empire crumples**539 B.C.** Persians conquer Chaldeans |