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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 |

**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. |

**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* |

**Mesopotamia Religion**

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| **Polytheistic**: Belief in many gods  **Sumerians:** Believed in over 3,000 gods  Priests 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 poem  Epicof **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 |

**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 |