

Name: _____ HR: _____ Date: _____

Do Now 6th Social Studies: Day 2

Need help? Use the numbers below to call your teacher!

Ms. Flowers phone number: 615-306-7488

Mr. Permadi phone number: 202-375-0136

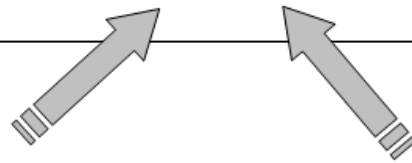
Tigris	Cradle	rivers	Zagros
Civilization	Fertile	farming	geography

The world's first _____ rose out of Mesopotamia. For this reason, Mesopotamia is often known as the _____ of Civilization. It was the _____ of the region that allowed civilizations to develop and flourish. Mesopotamia had two powerful rivers called the _____ and Euphrates. These rivers created a piece of very fertile land between them, giving Mesopotamia its other nickname: the _____ crescent. These rivers were crucial for Mesopotamia because they allowed opportunities for _____, trade, and transportation. All early civilizations were located along _____ for that reason. Mesopotamia was also located near two mountain ranges. These mountains, the _____ and Caucasus, offered protection from any enemies.

Around 10,000 years ago, or 8,000 BC/BCE, a BIG CHANGE took place. People stopped hunting and gathering their food and began farming. This BIG CHANGE is called the Agricultural Revolution. There were two reasons why this BIG CHANGE happened: First, when the last Ice Age ended, big animals like woolly mammoths died, and populations of smaller animals, like wild pigs, flourished. People were able to stay in one area for longer. Also, the weather became warmer and soil became more fertile. These conditions were good for farming. Second, early humans were driven to change their hunter-gatherer lifestyle because of its many disadvantages—especially the disadvantage of scarcity or lack of food.

AGRICULTURAL REVOLUTION

What was the big change that took place around 8,000 BC?



Cause #1:

The end of the Ice Age

How did the end of the Ice Age lead to the agricultural revolution?

Cause #2:

The disadvantages of being a hunter gatherer.

What was the main disadvantage that caused humans to begin farming?

HUSTLE.

Directions: In the space below, match the vocabulary term with its correct definition.

migrate	Neolithic	city-state	Paleolithic	Agricultural Revolution
civilization	nomad	surplus	culture	Fertile Crescent

- _____ - a complex society
- _____ - a city that functions as an independent country
- _____ - an amount greater than needed
- _____ - nickname for Mesopotamia
- _____ - a group of people's way of life
- _____ - to move from one place to another
- _____ - a person who does not have a permanent home
- _____ - Old Stone Age; hunter-gatherers
- _____ - New Stone Age; farmers
- _____ - slow shift from hunting-gathering to farming

Directions: Use the three words alone to create a sentence. In your own sentence, make it clear that you know what these three words mean.

Neolithic	BCE	domestication
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Document Analysis

Directions: Answer the questions after each document in complete sentences. Then move on to the T/AOT. Make sure for each source you use at least three annotations. These annotations don't need to be long, however, you need to use 3 to 4 words in order to describe what you have read. Underlining does NOT count as an annotation.

Source 1

Ancient Sumerian Writing System

The ancient Sumerians developed a written language called cuneiform.

It began as pictographs, pictures of things that acted as words. Pictographs worked, but they were rather cumbersome. Soon, the clever ancient Sumerians started to use wedge-shaped symbols for objects and ideas instead of pictures.

We know a great deal about the ancient Sumerian civilization from the written records they left behind. They kept excellent records and lists of things. They listed their household goods. They listed their court activity. They listed their sales and purchases. They even kept a list of their kings that was updated from time to time, as new kings came to power. The Sumerians never invented paper or ink, so they used tools made of wood or stiff reeds to press the symbols into clay tablets. Many thousands of these tablets have survived the ages and we can see them today. Some are worn, some are broken, but many thousands have been found complete. The largest collection of these was found at the [Library of Nineveh](#).

Cuneiform became the written language from as early as 5000 BC. As the civilization of Sumer started to decline, other civilizations continued to use the Sumerian written symbols. Thanks to the Sumerians, we know a great deal about the ancient Mesopotamian civilizations of Babylon and Assyria as well.

1. How did the creation of a writing system help historians to learn more about the ancient Sumerians?

T: What is the topic of this source?

AOT: What is the author's opinion of this source?

Source 2

Ancient Mesopotamian Religion

The ancient Mesopotamians worshipped hundreds of gods. They worshipped them every day. Each god had a job to do. Each city had its own special god to watch over the city. Each profession had a god to watch over the people who worked in that profession like builders and fishermen.

To the Sumerians, each person had a god of their own, who looked after them. Their own special god talked to other gods on their behalf. Their personal god received a great deal of their worship time and attention. But no one god was more important than another.

The Babylonians and Assyrians believed in nearly all the Sumerian gods, plus more gods that each added. Unlike the ancient Sumerians, they believed some gods were more powerful than others, gods like the god of the sky, the sun, the air, and the crops. To the Babylonians, Marduk was the most powerful god. To the Assyrians, Ashur was the most powerful god.

The Sumerians, and later on, the Babylonians (southern Mesopotamia) and the Assyrians (northern Mesopotamia) all believed that everything good and bad that happened to them was the result of their gods pleasure or displeasure. They spent a great deal of time trying to make their gods happy. Their gods were not often happy. That's why Mesopotamian gods are sometimes referred to as the gloomy gods of ancient Mesopotamia.

1. Were the ancient Mesopotamians polytheistic? How do you know?

T: What is the topic of this source?

AOT: What is the author's opinion of this source?

Source 3

Trade Within Sumer

In the Mesopotamian civilization of Sumer there may not have been money used to buy and sell things, but there was a lot of buying and selling done by trading (i.e. the barter system) and assisted by the development of a writing system. Farmers would use their crops and goods to trade within their community and with neighboring civilizations. Craftsmen who had specialized in a specific job such as pottery, would also trade their goods for food and other necessary items. The Mesopotamian barter system was simple because the idea of money had not yet been invented, therefore, people simply traded what they had for what they needed.



- 1. How would trade help a civilization?

T: What is the topic of this source?	<hr/> <hr/>
AOT: What is the author's opinion of this source?	<hr/> <hr/>

Source 4

Invention of the Wheel

Along with the various other inventions Mesopotamia is well known, nothing is quite as unique or important as the invention of the wheel. The wheels were invented by Sumerians around 3500 BCE. The wheel is a cylinder shaped object that rolls fairly easily. The first wheel was made from clay, rock, and mud which slowly developed to the making wheels by joining together of wooden planks. They connected it to vehicles called chariots. It got them to places they wanted to go quickly. It was one of the biggest achievements in history.



The earliest known use of this essential invention was a potter's wheel that was used in Mesopotamia as early as 3500 BCE. The first use of the wheel for transportation was on Mesopotamian chariots in 3200 BCE and the process began with the early man placing wheels beneath heavy objects so that they could be moved more easily.

1. How did the invention of the wheel help people in ancient Mesopotamia?

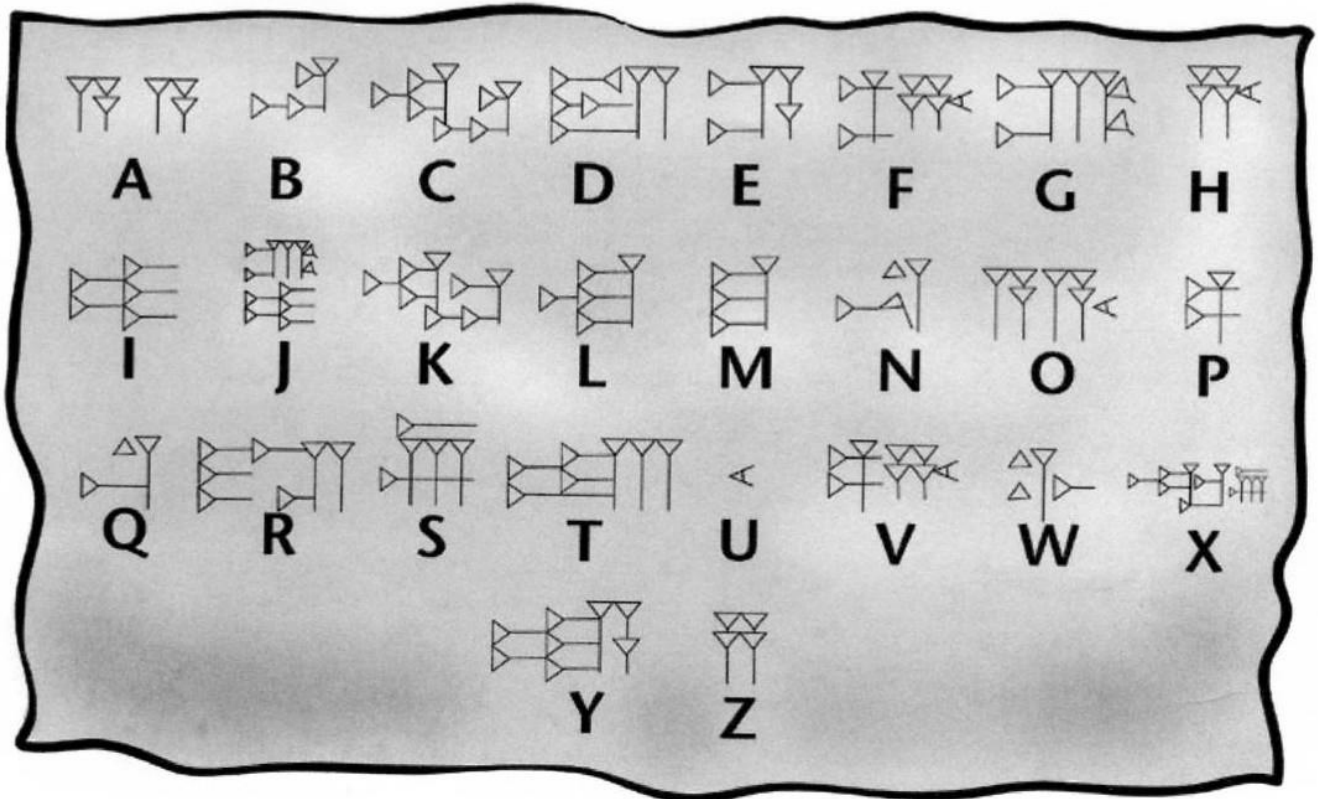
2. Without the invention of the wheel, how would your life be different?

Big Question: What was life like for ancient Mesopotamians?

Directions: Answer the big question above. Use at least two pieces of evidence in your answer. (and yes, you need to physically write the evidence on the lines below 😊)

Above and Beyond!

Directions: In the space below, answer question #1... in cuneiform!



1. What type of religion did the ancient Mesopotamians practice? (Hint: it means the belief in multiple gods!) Also, you do not need to write in complete sentences!

Sumerian Writing System: Cuneiform

The ancient Sumerians were the first people to develop an actual written language. We call that writing cuneiform.

The ancient Sumerians kept records of everything. Written records were very important to them. They needed young men to learn to read and write. Their language began as pictographs just like the Egyptians and Chinese. Pictographs are pictures used to mean certain words or idea. But pictographs are not easy to form into sentences, so they started to use triangle shapes to represent sounds, which they could then use to spell words. Some shapes meant actual words or ideas.

They did not have paper or ink, so they used tools made of wood or stiff reeds to press the symbols into clay tablets. Many thousands of these have survived the ages and we can see them today. Some are worn, some are broken, but many thousands have been found complete. The largest collection of these was found at the Library of Nineveh. There we found complete stories like The Epic of Gilgamesh, which is the oldest written story in the world. The Sumerians invented Cuneiform, but the Babylonians and Assyrians continued to use it long after the Sumerians had been destroyed.

1. What was the first writing system called?

2. Why was the writing system so important and how did it help them?

3. What did the written language begin as? What is a pictograph?

4. What did they write cuneiform on?
