



Open



Mesopotamia

Between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers in the Middle East lies a fertile land once called Mesopotamia. Mesopotamia, in fact, means "land between the rivers." Today, most of this region makes up the nation of Iraq.

Mesopotamia was part of a larger area referred to as the Fertile Crescent. The Fertile Crescent extends from the eastern end of the Mediterranean Sea in a huge arc to the Persian Gulf. In this narrow strip of land, eight great civilizations rose and fell between the years 3000 B.C. and 331 B.C.

Unlike Egypt, which was protected by natural barriers, Mesopotamia lay open to invaders. Wave after wave of ancient peoples moved into the area over a period of roughly three thousand years, each conquering the other in turn. The first inhabitants were the Sumerians; the last were the Persians. Each of the civilizations of Mesopotamia made lasting contributions to western civilization.



Circle the letter of each correct answer.

1. The land once called Mesopotamia is located in
a. the Far East b. Eastern Europe c. the Middle East
2. The term Mesopotamia means
a. fertile land b. land between the rivers c. gift of the gods
3. The western end of the Fertile Crescent touches the
a. Mediterranean Sea b. Persian Gulf c. Red Sea
4. The first civilization to arise in Mesopotamia was that of the
a. Persians b. Egyptians c. Sumerians
5. The Tigris and Euphrates rivers run through present-day
a. Iran b. Iraq c. Egypt
6. The peoples of Mesopotamia
a. made no lasting contributions to later civilizations
b. were open to invasion
c. had armies so strong that invaders dared not attack them
7. Suppose Mesopotamia had been protected by natural barriers as Egypt was. Do you think so many different civilizations would still have arisen there? Why or why not?

Home _____ Date _____

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Section 1

CULTURE BUILDER City-States in Mesopotamia

A. Identifying Problems and Solutions In your land about the Sumerians, fill in the chart below to explain how they solved problems they faced.

The Problems	The Solutions
1. With flooding of the rivers as a problem, how could farmers water their lands during the dry summer months?	→
2. With no natural resources, how could villages produce themselves?	→
3. With limited natural resources, how could Sumerians get the materials for tools and building?	→
4. How could the Sumerian city states be ruled?	→
5. What could be done to protect the grain and maintain protection in war?	→

B. Categorizing Facts and Details List examples of Sumerian culture in the boxes below.

Religion	Literature	Architecture	Inventions

C. Determining Main Meaning On the back of this page, identify Mesopotamia, its characteristics, its empires, and the power of cultural diffusion.

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Name: _____

[Mesopotamia Quiz 1](#)

- I. Multiple Choice

 1. What does the word Mesopotamia mean?
 - a. Fertile Land
 - b. Land of rivers
 - c. Land between rivers
 - d. First Land
 2. The Tigris and Euphrates empty into what body of water?
 - a. Indian Ocean
 - b. Persian Gulf
 - c. Mediterranean Sea
 - d. Red Sea
 3. Benefits/Achievements from Mesopotamia include which of the following?
 - a. Irrigation
 - b. Writing
 - c. Laws
 - d. All the above
 4. What type of Climate does Mesopotamia have?
 - a. Hot and Wet
 - b. Warm and Dry
 - c. Hot and Dry
 - d. Tropical
 5. The world's first known empire was?
 - a. Akkadian Empire
 - b. Babylon Empire
 - c. Sumerian Empire
 - d. Roman Empire
 6. Who was the King of Uruk?
 - a. Hammurabi
 - b. Sargon
 - c. Gilgamesh
 - d. Nebuchadnezzar

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