

Name: _____

Home
work



MESOPOTAMIA

Date: _____

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Homework 3-4 will require Internet access

Fill in the Blanks

Use your study sheet to find the correct answers. You will need a college level dictionary to complete this assignment.

THE FERTILE CRESCENT

Civilization developed as people gave up their *n_____ lifestyles and began to settle in one place. The places they chose had a _____ natural r_____. We refer to a broad path in the Middle East as the F_____ Crescent. This is a rich f_____ -growing area in a p_____ of the w_____ where most of the l_____ is too d_____ for f_____. The Fertile C_____ is shaped like a q_____ moon. It begins on the e_____ shore of the M_____ Sea and ends in the P_____ Gulf.

The Fertile C_____ includes a n_____ strip of l_____ between the T_____ and E_____ Rivers. We call this land "M_____" because it is a G_____ term that means "b_____ the r_____." Many civilizations have flourished in M_____. The first were the S_____, who were replaced in turn by the A_____ and the B_____. The land between the r_____ is now part of I_____, a nation once ruled by a d_____ named Saddam H_____.

Answer in complete sentences

Use your study sheet to find the correct answers.

*1. Why do you think people choose to settle in areas with abundant natural resources?

*2. What is the dictionary definition of crescent? (There may be several definitions, so pick the most relevant). Can you think of a food whose name in French means crescent? Write it at the very bottom of the page if you can think of it.

*3. What are the natural boundaries of Mesopotamia? Why do we call the land Mesopotamia? (A natural boundary might be a mountain or some other object that is not manufactured.)

4. List four civilizations that have existed between the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers.

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THE SUMERIANS

The Sumerians began to settle in the l_____ between the T_____ and E_____ Rivers about _____ years ago. They learned that by p_____ seeds and p_____ their land, they were able to g_____ crops. The Sumerians learned to d_____, or tame a_____, to help them p_____ their land. They used I_____, or a system of w_____ crops, in order to make their land more *p_o_u_t_v_. The S_____ invented the w_____, which made it p_____ to p_____ heavy l_____.

Sumeria was not a single *n_t_on, but a collection of c_____-states. City-states are n_____ the size of c_____. Walls around each city-s_____ protected c_____ from outside I_____.

The S_____ were p_____. They b_____ in many g_____. They w_____ their g_____ at huge z_____. Each ziggurat was d_____ to a s_____ god, whom the S_____ believed r_____ over their c_____-state. When a r_____ city attacked, the I_____ would often f_____ the conquered people to a_____ their g_____. Most *m_____ people in the W_____ Hemisphere are unlike the Sumerians because they believe in one g_____. People who believe in a *s_____ god are called m_____. Christianity, I_____, and J_____ are three m_____ religious faiths that are practiced in the Western H_____.

Answer in complete sentences

Use your study sheet to find the correct answers.

*1. Why do you think the Sumerians were attracted to the land between the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers?

*2. Write a paragraph that explains how the Sumerians developed a civilization. Your paragraph must include a topic sentence, at least two support sentences, and a conclusion sentence.

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Answer in complete sentences

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THE SUMERIANS

1. What is a city-state?

*2. Why do you think farmland was not included inside walled city-states?

*3. A siege occurs when an enemy surrounds a walled city. The people inside the walls are safe from physical attack, but they face other problems. What problems do you think people face while under siege? (Try to be creative and think of something other than an obvious answer.)

*4. List three cities in Palm Beach County. (Your answer does not have to be in a complete sentence.)

*5. What powers do nations have that cities do not have? (Think about what America can do as opposed to what Rivera Beach or Lake Clarke Shores can do.)

*6. Go to Wikipedia (en.wikipedia.org) to any dictionary or almanac to identify three modern city states. I will accept a parent signature for this assignment only if you do not have Internet access at home.

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Answer in complete sentences

Use your study sheet to find the correct answers.

THE SUMERIANS

1. Define polytheism and monotheism. Explain why Christianity, Islam, and Judaism are monotheistic faiths.

2. What was a ziggurat?

*3. When one city conquered another, the conquered people were often willing to accept the gods of the invaders. Why?

CIVILIZATION

*4. **TEST** Write a paragraph that describes the elements that make up a civilization. Your paragraph must have a topic sentence, at least three support sentences, and a conclusion sentence. (Try not to use the same exact words as on the study sheet. If your writing is unique, let the class and I know when we review the assignment.)

WATERFRONT LIVING

*6. Almost every major city is located near a body of water. Use an encyclopedia to find the body of water near each city listed. You can go online to en.wikipedia.org or www.encyclopedia.com. I've asked you to find five, and select the sixth city yourself. I will accept a parent signature for this assignment only if you do not have Internet access at home.

Philadelphia		London	
Pittsburgh		Paris	
Dallas			

NOTE: The next will require the use of the Internet. If you do not have access to the Internet at home, all local libraries allow free access. You may also make an appointment to stay after school Wednesdays to use the computers in my classroom.

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NUMBERING YEARS

About *_____ years ago, a m_____ named D_____ suggested that y_____ be c_____ from the b_____ of C_____. Today we live in AD_____. AD refers to the term “a_____ D_____,” a *L_t_n term that means “the y_____ of the L_____.” The years b_____ the b_____ of Christ are numbered b_____.

Non-C_____ often use the term CE in place of AD. CE refers to the C_m_o_ Era or the C_r_s_i_n Era. Years before o_____ are noted as BCE, which can mean either B_____ the Common E_____ or Before the C_____ Era.

Answer in complete sentences

Use your study sheet to find the correct answers.

*1. Aristotle lived about 300 years before the Common Era. Explain why he did not know he was living before the Common Era.

2. What does AD refer to? What does it mean?

*3. Why would many non-Christians object to the terms AD and BC?

4. What do CE and BCE stand for?

5. How many decades are in a century? How many decades are in a millenium?

6. According to our calendar, what day came after December 31, 1BC? (You do not have to write out this answer.)

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WRITING

Ancient S_____ record keepers invented *w_____ when they marked
p_____ symbols in s_____ pieces of c_____ with a pointed r_____. The Sumerians b_____
the clay t_____ to make them h_____. We call the S_____ writing system c_____, a
term that means w_____ shaped.

The first p_____ were s_____, but eventually most c_____ developed
p_____ writing systems where a s_____ represented a s_____ rather than an o_____.
Phonetic w_____ systems make it possible to describe *a_s_r_ct words like liberty or justice.

Answer in complete sentences

Use your study sheet to find the correct answers.

*1. Why do you think the ancient Sumerians developed writing? (The paragraph provides you with a clue, but you can also use your imagination to consider another answer.)

2. Explain why Sumerian writing is called "cuneiform."

*3. Why has the Chinese government endorsed the pinyin system of writing?

*4. **TEST QUESTION** Describe at least one advantage of the pictographic and of the phonetic writing systems. Use your creativity to give examples and explain your answer.

*5. **TEST QUESTION** Write a paragraph that explains how the development of writing allowed civilization to flourish. Your paragraph must include a topic sentence, at least two support sentences, and a conclusion sentence.

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HAMMURABI

Hammurabi was a B_____ king who created a s_____ of 282 l_____ about _____ years ago. Hammurabi e_____ the l_____ in s_____ and placed them in a p_____ location, so that everyone could see them. Hammurabi’s Code is based on the p_____, “an e_____ for an e_____, a t_____ for a t_____.” While Hammurabi’s Code may seem c_____, it was an early attempt at *j_____t_____.

Answer in complete sentences

Use your study sheet to find the correct answers.

*1. Write a pictographic sentence that describes a phrase often associated with Hammurabi.

2. Why did Hammurabi have his laws engraved in stone and placed in a public place?

*3. Imagine that Hammurabi controlled our society. Where might a modern leader post his laws so that everyone would see them?

*4. Imagine that a school board rules that students who arrive in class after the tardy bell are to be denied lunch and must be retained overnight at school without food or sleep. Most people would agree that the punishment does not fit the crime, but if students and parents are notified of the law in advance, is it a fair law. Defend your answer. (Note: in responding to this question, you may refer to “the law” without fully describing its details.)

*4. Was Hammurabi’s Code fair? Defend your answer using facts from the article.

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THE ASSYRIANS

The Assyrians lived in the land between the T_____ and E_____ rivers
u_____ from the B_____. About _____ years ago, the *i_l_t_r_t_
Assyrians managed to c_____ almost all of M_____ and build an e_____ that
extended as far as E_____. The Assyrians developed powerful a_____ with I_____ weapons.
They d_____ the r_____ leading into B_____, depriving the
B_____ of w_____. The A_____ also used c_____ and
b_____ rams, the most *a_____ military *t_____ of their time, to
*d_____ their neighbors.

Answer in complete sentences

Use your study sheet to find the correct answers.

*1. Why did the Babylonians believe they were superior to the Assyrians?

2. What two advanced military weapons that allowed the Assyrians to create a large empire.

*3. Think of what you learned in the previous unit on Prehistory to explain how the Assyrians might have used iron to conquer their neighbors.

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