Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_KEY\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_P#\_\_\_\_\_HR\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Mesopotamian Civilization – Section 2-1**

**MESOPOTAMIA’S CIVILIZATION p.17**

**MAIN IDEA:** Civilization in \_Mesopotamia\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ began in the valley of the \_\_\_\_Tigris\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_Euphrates\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Rivers.

religion

technology

**Civilizations** are complex societies that include…

a writing system

art

Government/cities

class divisions (social structure)

\*\*And Food supply

**WHY WERE RIVER VALLEYS IMPORTANT? p.17**

**The first civilizations arose in river valleys. WHY?**

Rivers provided fish and freshwater.

Good farming conditions fed large numbers of people.

It was easy to travel and trade.

**Describe**

***class structure\****

People held different places in society based on what they did (job) & how much wealth or power they had.

With fewer worries with meeting basic needs they developed…

religions & the arts

They invented…

ways of writing

They created….

calendars to tell time

As cities grew, they formed…

a government\*

Roles of leaders…

took charge of food supply & building projects

made laws

formed an army

**THE RISE OF SUMER p.18**

***Fertile Crescent***

A curving strip of land that extends from the Mediterranean Sea to the Persian Gulf.

**Mesopotamia**

Location: current day Iraq

Means: “the land between the rivers”

Rivers: Tigris & Euphrates

**PROBLEM: The floods of the Tigris & Euphrates Rivers were unpredictable.**

**SOLUTION:**

To control the floods, farmers built walls, waterways, and ditches to bring water to their fields.

**WHAT WERE CITY-STATES? p.19**

**EFFECT**

City-states were formed.

**CAUSE**

Geography (the scorching desert) separated the Sumerian

cities which made trade & communication difficult.

Describe a Sumerian city-state.

* often at war with one another
* fought to gain glory & more territory
* built a wall around city-state for protection

What was used as building material? river mud

**GODS AND RULERS p.19**

Describe a *ziggurat*.\*

has tiers like a giant wedding cake

dominated the city

a shrine (holy place) was built at the top

Sumerians believed in many gods.\*

***ziggurat –*** a grand temple built to honor the chief god

Means – “mountain of god” or “hill of heaven”

Who ruled at first?

priests & priestesses

Who ruled later?

kings

How did they decide this?

usually war heroes

**WHAT WAS LIFE LIKE IN SUMER? p.20**

People in Sumer were divided into three social classes.\*

In Sumer, men and women had separate roles.

&

**MEN**

headed the household

could go to school

**WOMEN**

could buy & sell property

could run businesses

The **middle class** (largest group) included…

artisans

merchants

farmers

fishers

The **lower class** included…

enslaved people

Why were people enslaved?

* forced to be
* prisoners of war
* criminals
* had to pay off debts

The **upper class** included…

kings

priests and priestesses

government officials

What jobs did people have in Sumer? farmers, traders, merchants\*

**artisans –** skilled workers who made metal products, cloth, or pottery