

Do Now!



- What do you see?
- Which feature of civilization includes music?
- What can we learn about early civilizations from musical instruments?

Terms, People, and Places

Fertile Crescent:

Mesopotamia:

Sumer:

The Epic of Gilgamesh:

Hierarchy:

Ziggurat:

Cuneiform:

Lesson Objectives:

- Understand how geography influenced the development of civilization in the Fertile Crescent.
- Outline the main features of Sumerian civilization.
- Explain how the advances in learning made by the Sumerians left a lasting legacy for later peoples to build on.

CHAPTER
2
SECTION 1
Section Summary
CITY-STATES OF ANCIENT SUMER
READING CHECK

What were ziggurats?

VOCABULARY STRATEGY

What does the word *evolved* mean in the underlined sentence? What context clues can you find in the surrounding words or phrases? Circle any words or phrases in the paragraph that help you figure out what *evolved* means.

READING SKILL

Identify Main Ideas In the last paragraph of the Summary, which sentence represents the main idea? Write that sentence below.

Around 3300 B.C., **Sumer**, the world's first civilization, arose in Southeastern **Mesopotamia**. Mesopotamia lay within the **Fertile Crescent**, between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers. The region's geography affected its people. Frequent flooding forced Sumerians to work together to protect homes and control water for irrigating farms. Although the region had rich soil, it lacked natural resources. Yet, Sumerians built some of the world's first great cities using bricks from readily available clay and water. Sumerians also became traders along the rivers.

Eventually, Sumer had 12 city-states, which often battled over control of land and water. So people turned to war leaders for protection. Over time, this changed when war leadership evolved into hereditary kingship. Sumerian society had a social rank, or **hierarchy**, including an upper class (rulers, priests, officials), a small middle class (lesser priests, scribes, merchants, artisans), and a vast lower class (peasant farmers). Like most ancient peoples, Sumerians practiced polytheism, the worship of many gods. In **ziggurats**, stepped platforms topped by a temple, priests led religious ceremonies.

Perhaps the Sumerians' greatest achievement was the invention of writing. Beginning as simple pictographs, by 3200 B.C. writing had developed into wedge-like symbols, called **cuneiform**. Cuneiform could be used to record complex information. People now had access to knowledge beyond what they could remember. Eventually, conquering Akkadian, Babylonian, and Assyrian armies swept across the region.

However, Sumerians left a lasting legacy. Besides creating a writing system, they developed basic astronomy and early mathematics. They created a number system based on six, setting up 60-minute hours and 360-degree circles. We still use this system today. Akkadians, Babylonians, and Assyrians carried Sumerian learning across the Middle East. They adopted cuneiform for their own use. Babylonians recorded the Sumerian oral poem, *The Epic of Gilgamesh*, in cuneiform, thus preserving it. They also expanded on Sumerian learning to develop basic algebra and geometry, to create accurate calendars, and to predict eclipses. Later, the Greeks and Romans built on Sumerian knowledge; then they went on to influence all of Western civilization.

Review Questions

1. How did its geography help Sumer to develop?

2. What major contributions to learning were made by Sumerians?

Summary

“City-States of Ancient Sumer”

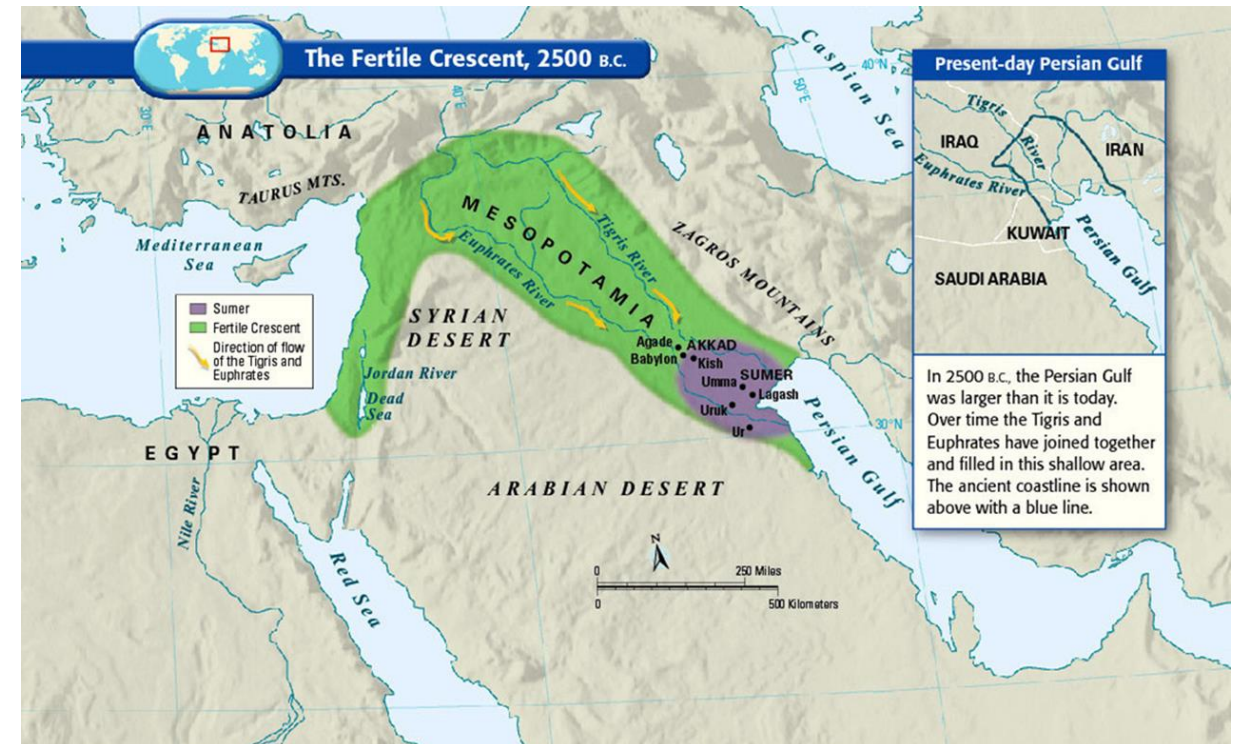
Independent Sumerian city-states developed in Mesopotamia, an area of fertile land between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers. Sumerians invented the earliest form of writing, known as cuneiform, and made great strides in mathematics and astronomy.

Aim #5: How did civilizations of the Ancient Near East develop?



Geography Influences Fertile Crescent

- Fertile Crescent



Developing Along the Rivers



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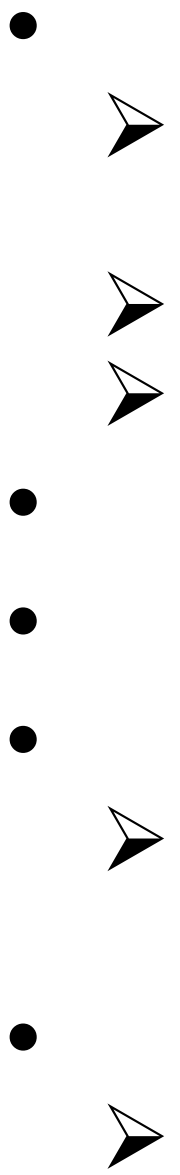
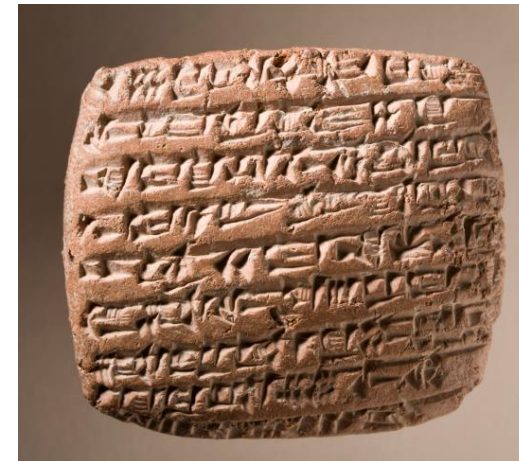
Checkpoint

What geographic characteristics made the Fertile Crescent a good place for civilization to develop?

Sumer (3300BCE-2270 BCE)



| | MEANING | OUTLINE CHARACTER, B. C. 3500 | ARCHAIC CUNEIFORM, B. C. 2500 | ASSYRIAN, B. C. 700 | LATE BABYLONIAN, B. C. 500 |
|----|-------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. | The sun | | | | |
| 2. | God, heaven | | | | |
| 3. | Mountain | | | | |
| 4. | Man | | | | |
| 5. | Ox | | | | |
| 6. | Fish | | | | |

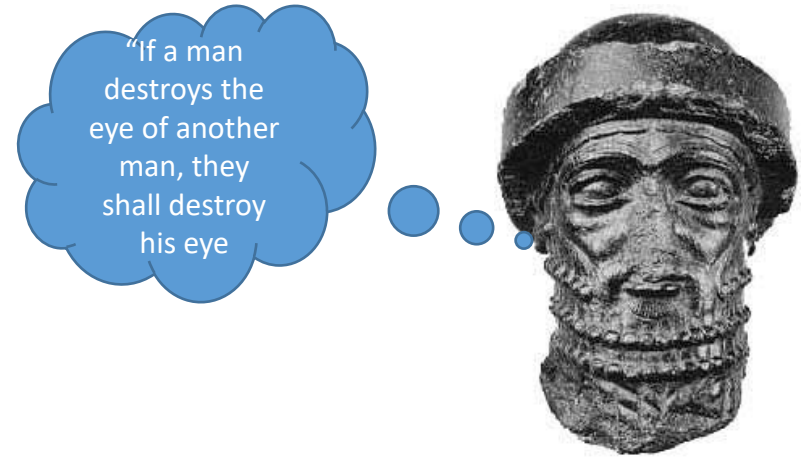


Babylonian Empire (1792-1750 BCE)

Code of Hammurabi

Section 229

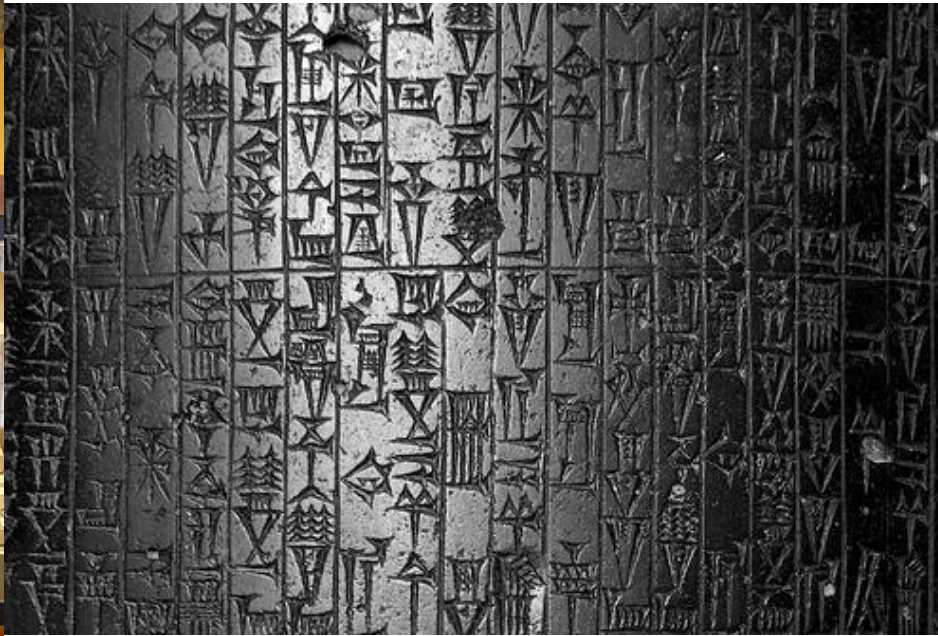
If a builder builds a house for someone, and does not construct it properly, and the house which he built falls in and kills its owner, then that builder shall be put to death.



The Babylonian Empire, About 1750 B.C.E.



Code of Hammurabi



"If he breaks another man's bone, his bone shall be broken"

"An eye for an eye, tooth for a tooth"

"If he has borne false witness in a civil law case, he shall pay the damages in that suit"

"If a son has struck his father, his hands shall be cut off"

"If it is the owner's son that is killed, the builder's son shall be put to death."

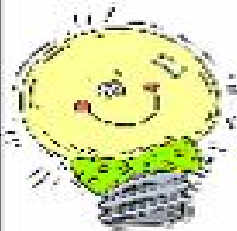


Checkpoint

What legacy did Sumer & Hammurabi leave behind?



I don't get it...



I get it!

EXIT CARD
Please jot down what you
have gotten from today's
lesson and what you still
have questions on.