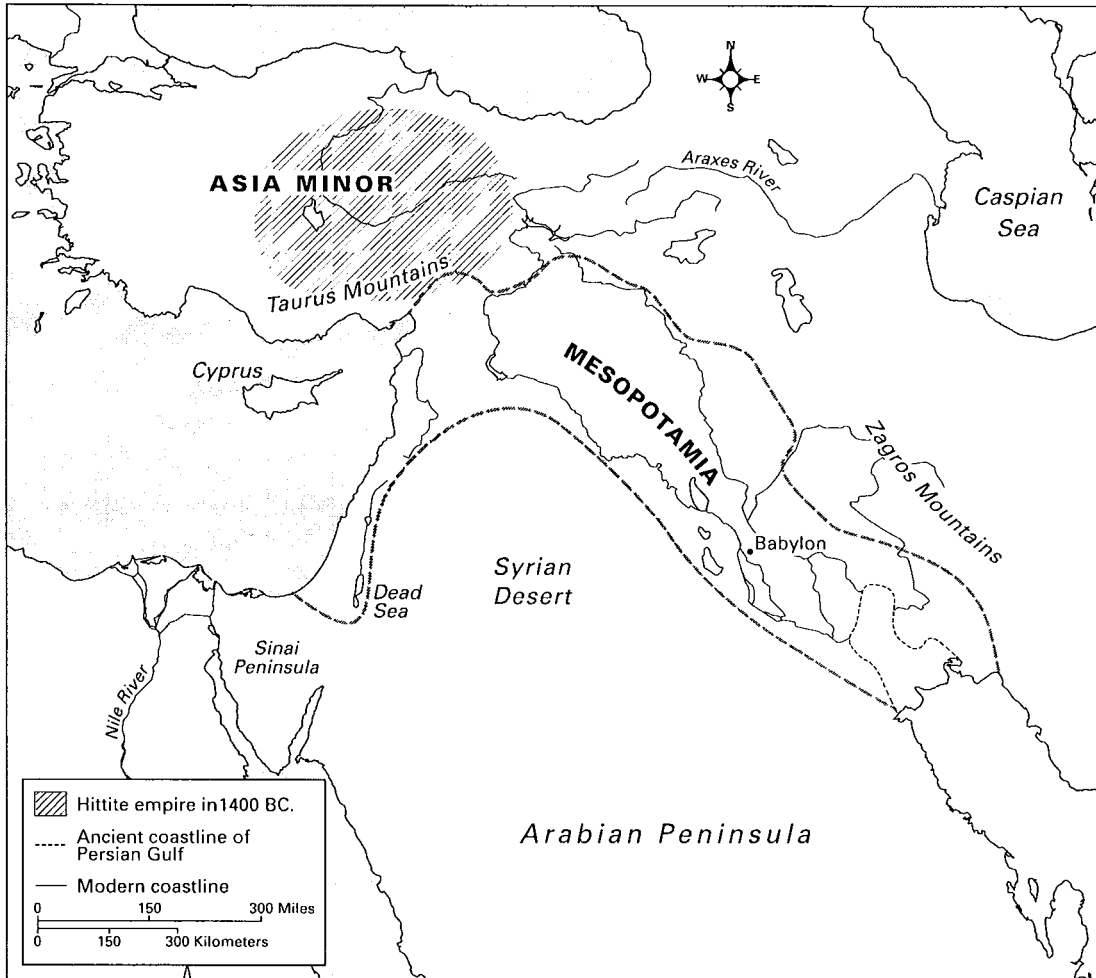


The Fertile Crescent

History and Geography

A Fertile Land

Mesopotamia was part of a larger region called the Fertile Crescent. The Sumerians, the world's first civilization, settled and farmed the land between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers. Although Mesopotamia had fertile soil, farming there wasn't easy. The flooding of the rivers destroyed crops. The farmers eventually developed methods that helped them increase the amount of food they could grow. In time, other societies developed along the Tigris and Euphrates, such as Babylonia and the Hittite Empire.



MAP ACTIVITY

1. Use a light color to shade in the area that formed the Fertile Crescent on the map.
2. What large body of water is southeast of the Fertile Crescent? Label it on the map.
3. What are the names of the two rivers that flow through Mesopotamia and the Fertile Crescent? Label them on the map.
4. What large body of water is west and northwest of the Fertile Crescent? Label it on the map.

ANALYZING MAPS

1. **Region** How far did the Fertile Crescent stretch from north to south?

2. **Place** In what area was the Hittite Kingdom located?

3. **Location** On what river is Babylon located?

4. **Human-Environment Interaction** How might the development of farming have led to civilization? Explain your answer.

5. **Movement** Why do you think control of the areas within the Fertile Crescent was important to groups like the Hittites?

Mesopotamia and the Fertile Crescent

Section Quiz

Section 1

TRUE/FALSE Mark each statement T if it is true or F if it is false. If false explain why.

_____ 1. The Fertile Crescent, a large arc of rich farmland, contains the land between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers known as Mesopotamia.

_____ 2. Silt is a mix of rich soil and water.

_____ 3. Irrigation is a way to supply water to an area of land.

_____ 4. Irrigation increased the amount of food farmers were able to produce, resulting in a food surplus, or less than they needed.

_____ 5. The type of arrangement where people all do the same tasks is called division of labor.

Mesopotamia and the Fertile Crescent**Section Quiz****Section 2**

MATCHING In the space provided, write the letter of the term or place that matches each description. Some answers will not be used.

- | | |
|--|---------------------|
| _____ 1. Countryside areas | a. Akkadians |
| _____ 2. Consisted of a city as the political center and the surrounding countryside | b. city-state |
| _____ 3. City areas | c. empire |
| _____ 4. A land with different territories and peoples under a single rule | d. Gilgamesh |
| _____ 5. Created the world's first advanced society | e. polytheism |
| _____ 6. The worship of many gods | f. priests |
| _____ 7. People who performed religious ceremonies | g. religion |
| _____ 8. The division of society by rank or class | h. rural |
| _____ 9. The foundation of Sumerian society | i. Sargon |
| _____ 10. The first ruler to have a permanent army | j. social hierarchy |
| | k. Sumerians |
| | l. Tigris |
| | m. urban |

Mesopotamia and the Fertile Crescent

Section Quiz

Section 3

FILL IN THE BLANK For each of the following statements, fill in the blank with the appropriate word, phrase, or name.

1. The Sumerians developed _____, the world's first system of writing.
2. The earliest written communication was through _____, or picture symbols.
3. A _____ was a writer, often hired to keep track of the items people traded.
4. _____ are long poems that tell the story of a hero.
5. Sumerians were skilled in the field of _____, the science of building.
6. A _____ is a pyramid-shaped temple tower that rose above each Sumerian city.
7. _____ are perhaps Sumer's most famous works of art.
8. _____ is the story of a legendary Sumerian king.
9. Sumerians developed a math system based on the number _____.
10. Among the contributions of the Sumerians to modern society was the _____, and the first vehicles to use it, such as carts and wagons.

Mesopotamia and the Fertile Crescent**Section Quiz****Section 4**

MULTIPLE CHOICE For each of the following, write the letter of the best choice in the space provided.

- _____ 1. In the eastern part of what region did the Phoenicians build a trading center?
- a. Mediterranean region
 - b. Asian region
 - c. Mesopotamian region
 - d. Assyrian region
- _____ 2. As ruler of the Babylonian Empire, Hammurabi was fulfilling which of the following roles?
- a. matriarch
 - b. patriarch
 - c. prince
 - d. monarch
- _____ 3. The Hittites skillfully used a wheeled, horse-drawn battle car known by which of the following names?
- a. wagon
 - b. chariot
 - c. carriage
 - d. coach
- _____ 4. Which famous Chaldean monarch rebuilt the city of Babylon?
- a. Nebuchadnezzar
 - b. Hammurabi
 - c. Sargon I
 - d. Gilgamesh
- _____ 5. What is a more precise term for a set of letters that can be combined to form words?
- a. polytheism
 - b. cuneiform
 - c. alphabet
 - d. scribes

Mesopotamia and the Fertile Crescent Chapter Review



BIG IDEAS

1. The valleys of the Tigris and Euphrates rivers were the site of the world's first civilizations.
2. The Sumerians developed the first civilization in Mesopotamia.
3. The Sumerians made many advances that helped their society develop.
4. After the Sumerians, many cultures ruled parts of the Fertile Crescent.

REVIEWING VOCABULARY, TERMS, AND PEOPLE

In the space provided, write the word from the word bank below that best matches each description.

alphabet	chariot	cuneiform
Hammurabi	irrigation	monarch
Nebuchadnezzar	polytheism	silt
surplus	urban	ziggurat

- _____ 1. A mix of rich soil and small rocks brought to the land by rivers
- _____ 2. The worship of many gods
- _____ 3. The world's first system of writing
- _____ 4. A pyramid-shaped temple tower that rose above each Sumerian city
- _____ 5. Babylon's most powerful monarch
- _____ 6. A way of supplying water to an area of land

COMPREHENSION AND CRITICAL THINKING

Read each of the following pairs of sentences, and cross out the FALSE sentence.

1. **a.** Mesopotamia lay between the Tigris River and the Euphrates River.
b. Mesopotamia lay between the Mediterranean Sea and the Persian Gulf.
2. **a.** Irrigation decreased the amount of food available to Mesopotamians.
b. Irrigation increased the amount of food available to Mesopotamians.

- 3. a. A social hierarchy existed among the Sumerians because of wealth.
b. A social hierarchy existed among the Sumerians because of religion.
- 4. a. Sumerians were the first to build wheeled vehicles.
b. Sumerians were the first to build water-powered vehicles.
- 5. a. Hammurabi's Code was important because it provided for equality.
b. Hammurabi's Code was important because it was written down for all to see.

REVIEWING THEMES

Using the lists below, determine what theme from history they have in common.

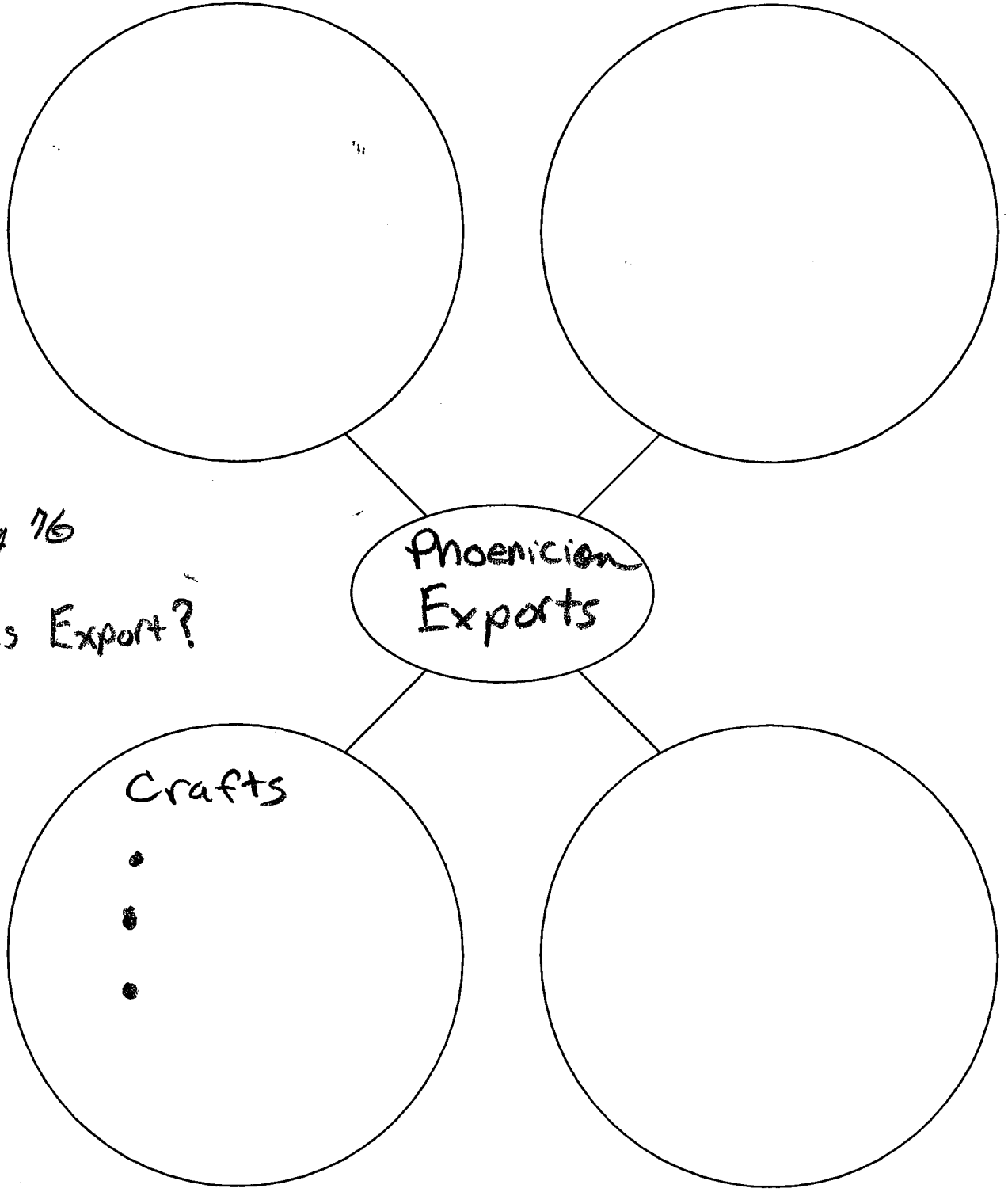
Themes

geography	politics	economics	technology and innovation	society and culture	religion
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- _____ 1. Fertile Crescent, Tigris, Euphrates, Persian Gulf
- _____ 2. kings, priests, craftspeople, merchants, farmers, slaves
- _____ 3. irrigation, canals, pictograph, cuneiform, alphabet

REVIEW ACTIVITY: COLLAGE

On a piece of poster board, create a poster that highlights one of the great achievements of Sumerian society. Use pictures and words to illustrate your thoughts. If possible, explain the influence of the achievement on our world today. What might our world be like if this invention had never occurred?



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Bonus Export?