

## **Chapter 2—Mesopotamia**

---

### **ESSAY**

1. Explain the effect of climatic change and the environment on the early civilizations.

ANS:

Answers would include a discussion of the end of the last Ice Age, Natufian's adoption of agriculture, and the role of the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers.

REF: p. 17-20

2. Elaborate on life in Mesopotamia.

ANS:

Answers would include a discussion of occupations, gender issues, religion, writing and technological improvements.

REF: p. 19-26

3. Discuss the strengths and weaknesses of the early Sumerian civilization.

ANS:

Answers would include the development of writing, literature, mathematics, a calendar as well as incessant warfare and could include environmental issues.

REF: p. 19-26

4. Describe Sumerian cultural achievements, including religion, writing, literature, and mathematics.

ANS:

Answers would include a discussion of ziggurats, cuneiform, The Epic of Gilgamesh, calendars and numbers.

REF: p. 20-24

5. Explain the significant social issues in Sumer.

ANS:

Answers would include a discussion of social hierarchy, gender roles and expectations, and the influence of Hammurabi's Law Code.

REF: p. 20 | p. 21 | p. 24-26

6. Describe the Sumerian decline in the larger context of Mesopotamia.

ANS:

Answers should include a discussion of past issues of warfare with Sumer along with a chronology of rival groups with information on each one and their significance to Mesopotamian history.

REF: p. 27

## MULTIPLE CHOICE

1. Which of the following is true of early civilizations?
  - a. They rarely had trade networks.
  - b. Agriculture is the only component needed for a civilization.
  - c. Civilizations had a combination of elements including government and social structure.
  - d. They did not include any rural areas but were based solely in large cities.
  - e. None of the options are correct.

ANS: C

REF: p. 17

2. The hunter gatherers of the Near and Middle East who switched to agriculture at the end of the last Ice Age were the
  - a. Sumerians
  - b. Amorites
  - c. Natufians
  - d. Assyrians
  - e. Hittites

ANS: C

REF: p. 17-18

3. The Levantine Corridor
  - a. had high water tables.
  - b. included modern day Israel and Syria.
  - c. was home to one of the earliest civilizations in Mesopotamia.
  - d. All of the options are correct.
  - e. None of the options are correct.

ANS: D

REF: p. 18

4. The earliest towns and cities were found in
  - a. Southwest Asia.
  - b. East Africa.
  - c. Northern Europe.
  - d. North America.
  - e. South America.

ANS: A

REF: p. 18

5. The first urban civilization was the
  - a. Sumerians.
  - b. Hittites.
  - c. Natufians.
  - d. Egyptians.
  - e. Amorites.

ANS: A

REF: p. 18

6. Which of these statements is the least applicable to the Sumerians?
  - a. They were the builders of the first large cities.
  - b. They brought Mesopotamia under united rulers as early as 3000 B.C.E.
  - c. They developed a sophisticated writing system.
  - d. Basic geometry is said to stem from them.
  - e. They probably pioneered the use of the wheel for transportation.

ANS: B

REF: p. 18-19

7. In the time of Sumer, Mesopotamia
- a. saw few technological advancements.
  - b. was racked by strife and warfare.
  - c. was incredibly peaceful.
  - d. had no clear political leaders.
  - e. had few problems with water.

ANS: B                                      REF:                      p. 20

8. The main significance of the Akkadian Empire was that
- a. Sumerian culture was spread throughout the Middle East.
  - b. Cuneiform was developed.
  - c. it outlasted other ancient empires.
  - d. it first manufactured bronze.
  - e. the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers were finally tamed.

ANS: A                                      REF:                      p. 20

9. Most of Sumerian commerce was based on
- a. metals.
  - b. religion.
  - c. ceramics.
  - d. foodstuffs.
  - e. silk.

ANS: D                                      REF:                      p. 20

10. All of the following were occupations in Sumerian society EXCEPT
- a. clerk.
  - b. masonry.
  - c. shopkeeper.
  - d. jewelry making.
  - e. mining.

ANS: E                                      REF:                      p. 20

11. One of the most important tasks for Sumerian women and children was
- a. following the orders of male family members.
  - b. tilling the crops.
  - c. maintaining a supply of fresh water.
  - d. gathering nuts and berries.
  - e. keeping the homes clean and dry.

ANS: C                                      REF:                      p. 20

12. Cuneiform was
- a. a pictorial script from which all writing derives.
  - b. a written language corresponding to oral language.
  - c. an alphabet.
  - d. a script written in wedge-shaped characters.
  - e. the written language of the Egyptians.

ANS: D                                      REF:                      p. 23-24

13. The purpose of the ziggurat was primarily

- ANS: A REF: p. 21

14. Which of the following would *best* describe early Mesopotamia?

- ANS: C REF: p. 20

15. Which of the following best explains Sumerian religion?

- ANS: D REF: p. 21

16. Mesopotamians viewed time as

- ANS: E REF: p. 23

17. Which of the following would be most descriptive of Sumerian religion?

- ANS: C REF: p. 20-21

18. Considered the most important and lasting of the Sumerian accomplishments is/are

- ANS: C REF: p. 23

ANS: C REF: p. 23

19. It could be most accurately stated of Hammurabi's Code that
- a. it was the first code of law ever drafted.
  - b. it did not deal extensively with family and social matters.
  - c. punishment depended upon the violator's rank in society.
  - d. it attempted to outlaw slavery.
  - e. it dealt exclusively with business matters.

ANS: C                                      REF:                      p. 24-25

20. Women under Hammurabi
- a. could divorce.
  - b. could enter into a contract.
  - c. could gain custody of her children.
  - d. could own property.
  - e. All of the options are correct.

ANS: E                                      REF:                      p. 24-25

21. The government in Mesopotamia can best be described as
- a. a democracy.
  - b. a theocracy and monarchy.
  - c. complete anarchy.
  - d. an oligarchy.
  - e. a republic.

ANS: B                                      REF:                      p. 24

22. Most slaves in Mesopotamia seem to have been
- a. criminals.
  - b. debtors.
  - c. women.
  - d. children.
  - e. Africans.

ANS: B                                      REF:                      p. 26

23. The most numerous class in Sumerian society were
- a. nobility.
  - b. freemen.
  - c. slaves.
  - d. priests.
  - e. Both C and D.

ANS: B                                      REF:                      p. 24

24. For Sumerians, the true reason for marriage was
- a. family.
  - b. sex.
  - c. economic prosperity.
  - d. social mobility.
  - e. religious mandate.

ANS: A                                      REF:                      p. 26

25. In terms of sex
- a. it was for procreation only.

- b. it was merely a necessary sin.
- c. there was a double standard regarding sex and adultery for men and women.
- d. Sumerians never discussed the issue.
- e. None of the options are correct.

ANS: C                                      REF:                      p. 26

26. The ultimate victor in Mesopotamia after the Sumerians were the
- a. Amorites.
  - b. Hittites.
  - c. New Babylonians.
  - d. Assyrians.
  - e. Persians.

ANS: E                                      REF:                      p. 27

27. Semitic in ancient history refers to
- a. the Holocaust.
  - b. a language family.
  - c. a religion.
  - d. a region in Southwest Asia.
  - e. None of the options are correct.

ANS: B                                      REF:                      p. 26

28. The Hittites were the first to
- a. develop writing.
  - b. write down their religious beliefs.
  - c. use gold as currency.
  - d. smelt iron.
  - e. sail across the Persian Gulf.

ANS: D                                      REF:                      p. 27

29. Sumer was never able to achieve
- a. a solid social structure.
  - b. a thriving economy.
  - c. a rigid government with a clear law code.
  - d. a unified political system over all of Mesopotamia.
  - e. It achieved all of the options.

ANS: D                                      REF:                      p. 27

30. All of the following help to explain the decline of Mesopotamia until the 9<sup>th</sup> century EXCEPT
- a. environmental degradation.
  - b. population growth that outpaced agricultural production.
  - c. the lack of any clear leadership in Babylon.
  - d. a climate that included extreme heat and sandstorms.
  - e. Both A and B.

ANS: C                                      REF:                      p. 27

## COMPLETION

1. \_\_\_\_\_ were the usual basis of early agriculture.

ANS: Grains

REF: p. 17

2. The world's first farming civilization settled in a section of the Near East called the \_\_\_\_\_.

ANS: Levantine Corridor

REF: p. 18

3. Mesopotamia was located between the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ rivers.

ANS:  
Tigris, Euphrates  
Euphrates, Tigris

REF: p. 18

4. \_\_\_\_\_ unified Mesopotamia and founded the Akkadian Empire.

ANS: Sargon the Great

REF: p. 20

5. The Sumerian language, as set down in written, wedge-shaped character form, is known as \_\_\_\_\_.

ANS: cuneiform

REF: p. 23

6. \_\_\_\_\_ were the stepped pyramids in Sumer.

ANS: ziggurat

REF: p. 21

7. The best known and a biblical example of a ziggurat might be the \_\_\_\_\_.

ANS: Tower of Babel

REF: p. 21

8. \_\_\_\_\_ is the first epic in world literature.

ANS: The Epic of Gilgamesh

REF: p. 22

9. \_\_\_\_\_ was the worst of all offenses between a husband and wife in Sumer.

ANS: Adultery

REF: p. 26

10. The first people to smelt iron were the \_\_\_\_\_.

ANS: Hittites

REF: p. 27