

■ Essential Question:

- What were the important characteristics of the civilizations in Mesopotamia?

■ Warm-Up Question:

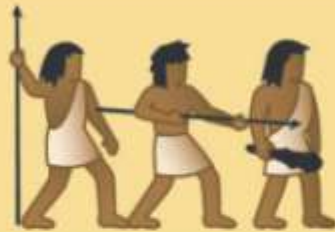
- Why was the Neolithic Revolution such a big deal?
 - Which of the 5 characteristics of civilizations do you think is most important?

River Valley Civilizations

The discovery of farming during the Neolithic Revolution allowed nomadic people to settle into civilizations

The Peopling of the World

Hunting-Gathering Bands



Growth of Villages



Rise of Cities



Beginning about **2 million B.C.**

Beginning about **8000 B.C.**

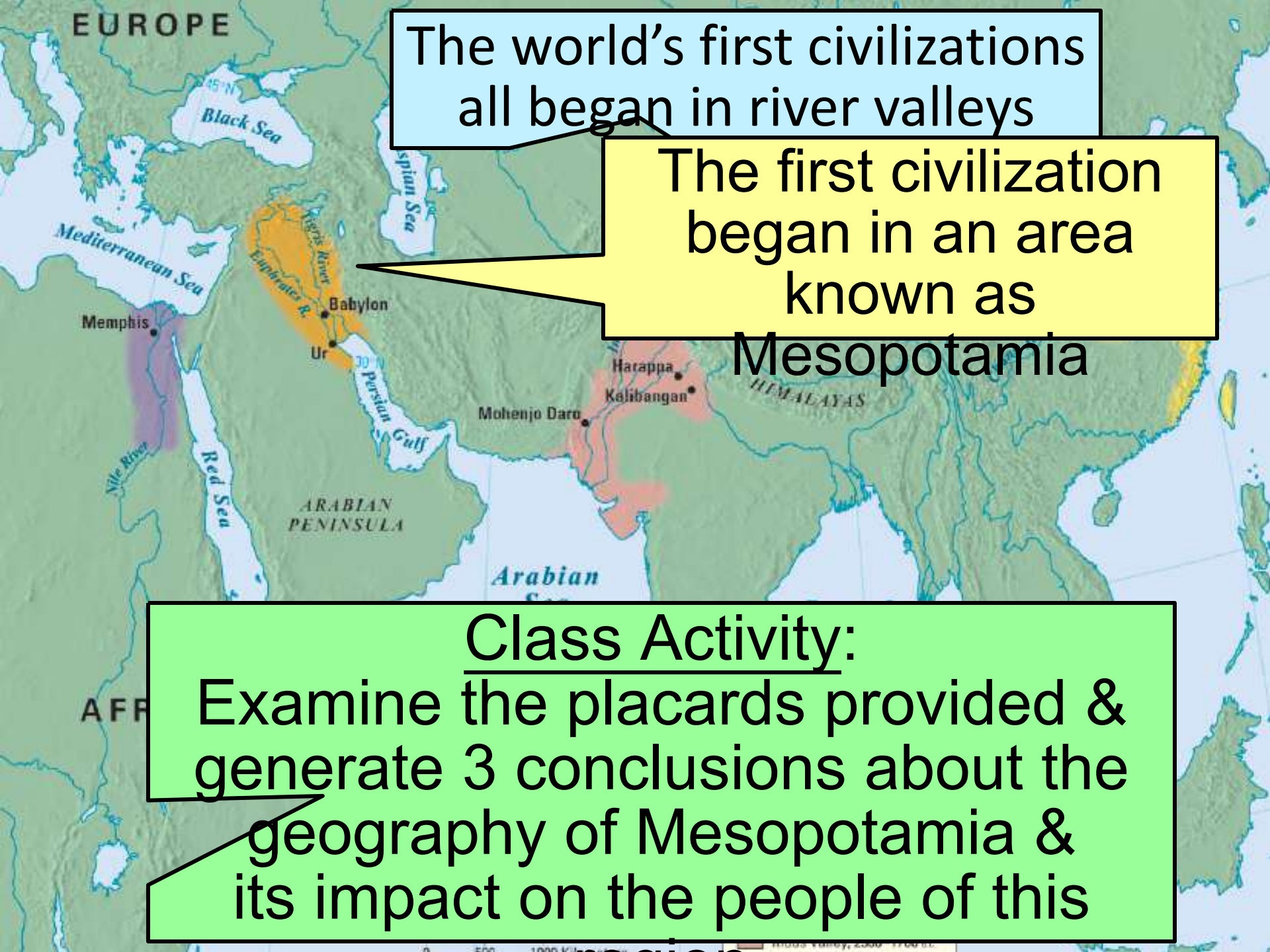
Beginning about **3000 B.C.**

- KEY ACHIEVEMENTS**
- Invention of tools
 - Mastery over fire
 - Development of language
 - Creation of art

- Breakthroughs in farming technology
- Development of agriculture
- Domestication of animals
- Food surpluses

- Specialized workers
- Record keeping
- Complex institutions
- Advanced technology

SOCIAL ORGANIZATION



The world's first civilizations all began in river valleys

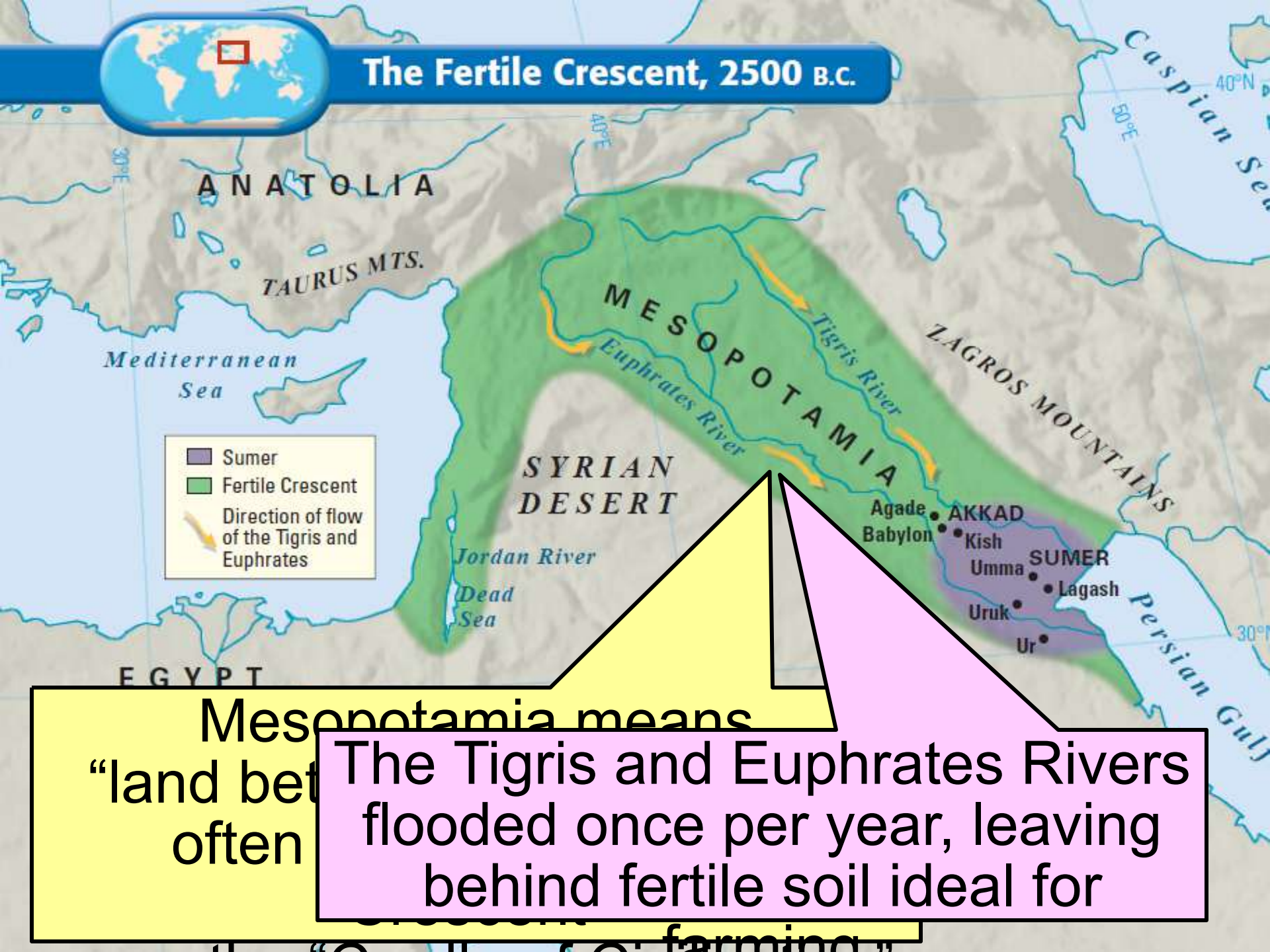
The first civilization began in an area known as

Mesopotamia

Class Activity:
Examine the placards provided & generate 3 conclusions about the geography of Mesopotamia & its impact on the people of this



The Fertile Crescent, 2500 B.C.



	Sumer
	Fertile Crescent
	Direction of flow of the Tigris and Euphrates

Mesopotamia means
 “land between rivers”
 often

The Tigris and Euphrates Rivers
 flooded once per year, leaving
 behind fertile soil ideal for
 farming

A map of Mesopotamia and surrounding regions. The Fertile Crescent is highlighted in green, and the Sumer region is highlighted in purple. The Tigris and Euphrates rivers are shown with yellow arrows indicating their flow direction. The map includes labels for Anatolia, Taurus Mountains, Syrian Desert, Arabian Desert, Mediterranean Sea, Persian Gulf, and various cities like Agade, Babylon, Kish, Umma, Uruk, and Ur. A legend in the bottom left identifies the colors and river flow directions. A purple callout box at the top points to the Sumer region, and a yellow callout box at the bottom points to the surrounding deserts.

The first civilization developed in the Fertile Crescent: Sumer

But, surrounding deserts & the lack of natural barriers attracted outsiders to Mesopotamia

What were the important characteristics of the civilizations of Mesopotamia?

- Working in groups, examine each of the 6 placards examining the characteristics of civilization in Mesopotamia
- For each placard, write hypotheses about government, cities, technology, etc. & then confirm your theories by locating the matching “answer key” placard around the room

Mesopotamia

Advanced Cities

- Cities had central temples called ziggurats.

Specialized Workers

- Priests, warriors, scribes, artisans, and farmers all had special tasks.

Complex Institutions

- Priests and then kings ran the cities.
- Rulers created written law codes.

Record Keeping and Writing

- Cuneiform was the world's first system of writing.

Advanced Technology

- Sumerians invented the wheel, the sail, and the plow, and discovered how to make bronze.

Lasting Contributions

- Advanced cities:
 - Sumerian city-states were protected by high walls
 - At the city center was a temple called a ziggurat



Lasting Contributions

- Specialized Workers:
 - At the top of society were priests, and then kings



- In the middle were skilled workers, like merchants



- At the bottom, were common farmers & slaves



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The Ten Commandments

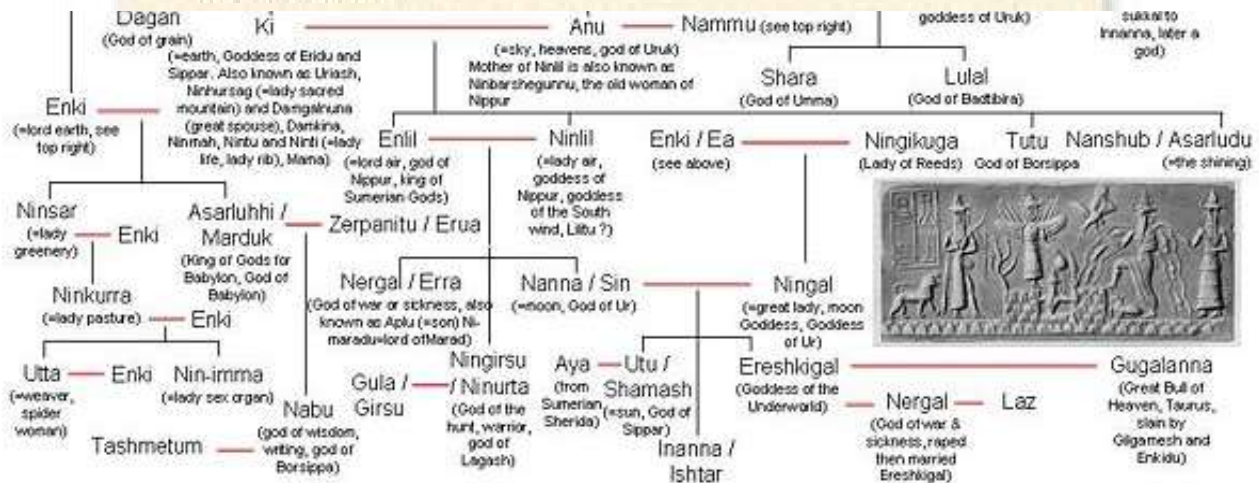
The Ten Commandments are the ten orders or laws given by God to Moses on Mount Sinai. These orders serve as the basis for Jewish laws.

PRIMARY SOURCE

1. I am the Lord thy God. . . . Thou shalt have no other gods before me.
2. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image. . . .
3. Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain. . . .
4. Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy.
5. Honor thy father and thy mother. . . .
6. Thou shalt not kill.
7. Thou shalt not commit adultery.
8. Thou shalt not steal.
9. Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.
10. Thou shalt not covet . . . anything that is thy neighbor's.

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inda ruk)



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Lasting Contributions

■ Government:

— Babylonian King Hammurabi created the first legal code

Hammurabi's Code had 282 laws based on justice & retaliation (an eye for an eye)

— The code had different punishments for the various levels of society

Mesopotamia

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Lasting Contributions

8. If a man has stolen an ox, a sheep, a pig, or a boat that belonged to a temple or palace, he shall repay thirty times its cost. If it belonged to a private citizen, he shall repay ten times. If the thief cannot pay, he shall be put to death.
142. If a woman hates her husband and says to him "You cannot be with me," the authorities in her district will investigate the case. If she has been chaste and without fault, even though her husband has neglected or belittled her, she will be held innocent and may return to her father's house.
143. If the woman is at fault, she shall be thrown into the river.
196. If a man put out the eye of another man, his eye shall be put out.
198. If he puts out the eye of freed man or break the bone of a free man, he shall pay one gold mina.
199. If he put out the eye of a man's slave, or break the bone of a man's slave, he shall pay one-half of its value.

CODE OF HAMMURABI, adapted from a translation by L. W. King

Lasting Contributions

Writing:

- Sumerians made the world's 1st writing called cuneiform



Alphabets—Ancient and Modern

Phoenician

Greek

English

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Lasting Contributions

- **Technology:**
 - Sumerians inventions include the wheel, sail, plow, & bronze metalwork



Closure Activity

- Develop a “Hammurabi’s Code” for Ola High School:

Your code should include at least 5 laws and consequences

- Think about things that are important to keep order in a school