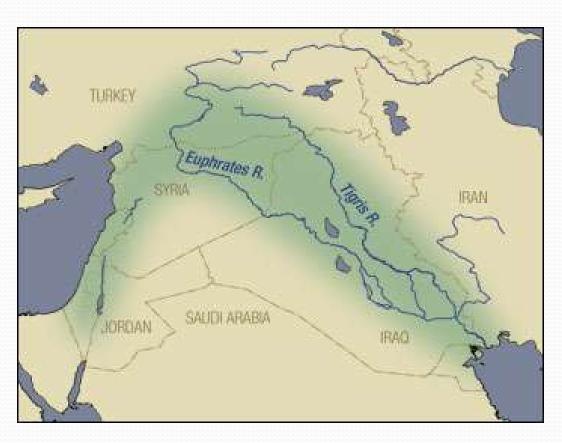
Mesopotamia – Birthplace of Civilization

9th grade acceleration April 27, 2015

Where is Mesopotamia?

- There is no country or area on a map today called "Mesopotamia."
- Today, it includes southeastern Turkey, eastern Syria, and most of Iraq.
- Mesopotamia is Greek for "land between two rivers."
- It refers to the area between the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers.
- It is also known as the Fertile Crescent.
- Coloring Time!! ON YOUR MAP, TRACE THE TIGRIS AND EUPHRATES IN BLUE AND THE AREA SURROUNDING THEM IN GREEN.

Map of Mesopotamia



Sumer – First Great Mesopotamian Civilization

- Mesopotamian culture began around 7,000 B.C.
- Life was able to thrive there because of the rich sediment deposited in the soil between the Tigris and Euphrates.
- The first great culture to live there resided in a region that became known as Sumer or the Sumerian civilization.
- Sumer was in the extreme southern part of Mesopotamia.

Life in Sumer – copy down these questions to answer during the video

- Why did the ancient Sumerians look for new ways to get their food?
- 2. How did growing crops and domesticating animals allow the Sumerians to build cities?
- 3. Why did the soil of Mesopotamia grow such good crops?
- 4. What problem at first made farming difficult?
- 5. How did the Sumerians finally control the rivers?

Questions – cont.

- 6. What important farming tool did the Sumerians invent?
- 7. Name 3 other inventions of the Sumerians.
- 8. What system of writing did they invent?
- 9. What did the Sumerians put into writing before any other society?
- 10. What type of temples did the Sumerians build?
- 11. Of what material were Sumerian houses made?
- 12. What was the "burden" tax?

Sumerian Culture

- Government Each city ruled itself city-state. The king made the laws which were written down by scribes. The king had a set of advisors that helped him rule and interpret law. No 3 branches of gov't like we have today.
- Developments/Inventions cuneiform, plow, wheel,
 12-month calendar, levees and gated ditches to control rivers.

Sumerian Culture

- Religion Polytheistic (many gods); each city-state built a ziggurat to its primary god
- Economy There were a number of jobs and a number of social classes within Sumerian society.
 - Upper class consisted of the king, his advisors as well as priests and scribes.
 - Middle class shopkeepers and merchants.
 - Lowest working class farmers and fishermen
 - Lowest class slaves

Sumerian Culture

- Betoremon Era
- Sumerian culture lasted from 3500 2,000 BCE
- Was taken over by Assyrians in the north and Babylonians in the South.
- Many accomplishments from Sumerian culture were absorbed into these two cultures.
- After a number of years, the Babylonians ruled the area known originally as Mesopotamia.

First Babylonian Empire

- 1900 -1600 BCE
- Most well-known leader: Hammurabi
- He developed Hammurabi's Code – first written set of laws used for entire group of people; laws were applied equally to rich and poor, slave and free

Second Babylonian Empire

- 625-540 BCE
- Most well-known leader: Nebuchadnezzar
- While he was ruler, the empire expanded across the Middle East to include Jerusalem
- Built the Hanging Gardens of Babylon, one of 7 wonders of ancient world

- Much of Babylonian culture was similar to that of the Sumerians.
- Economy many types of jobs shopkeepers, farmers, merchants, craftsmen, priests, scribes
- Religion Had a polytheistic system but under Hammurabi, the city of Babylon was built to honor the god Marduk
- Government Headed by a king who was the military, religious, and political leader of the empire.
- Inventions/Developments Astronomy, Hammurabi's Code, Hanging Gardens of Babylon (one of 7 wonders of ancient world), variety of musical instruments, art and literature thrived