

**Notes on Mesopotamia**

**\*Introduction-** Any society has specific characteristics that allow the society to \_\_\_\_\_; therefore the five characteristic of a civilizations are key. They are advanced \_\_\_\_\_, specialized \_\_\_\_\_, complex institutions, \_\_\_\_\_ keeping, and advanced \_\_\_\_\_. Culture and \_\_\_\_\_ could be an additional characteristic.

**Timeline- 4500 BC- Mesopotamia**

-What does Mesopotamia mean? \_\_\_\_\_

-Where is the Fertile Crescent located and how did it get its name? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_: area of Mesopotamia; southernmost part that touches the \_\_\_\_\_ Gulf

**-Religion**

-Sumerians believed in many gods= \_\_\_\_\_

-they believed these gods controlled the forces of nature and could punish \_\_\_\_\_

- \_\_\_\_\_: temple-like buildings built in the center of cities; priests made \_\_\_\_\_ sacrifices at ziggurats to keep the gods happy.

-Priests were very powerful; it was believed that they were the “ \_\_\_\_\_ ” with humans and the gods

-Believed in an \_\_\_\_\_; very gloomy place called “land \_\_\_\_\_.”

**-Cultural Aspects**

- \_\_\_\_\_: Sumerian writing system (consist of pictographs, \_\_\_\_\_ of the objects)

-written on moist clay tablets then baked in the \_\_\_\_\_ to preserve the writings

-Epic of Gilgamesh: long poem that includes legends and myths of Mesopotamia; including a flood story similar to that of the Bible

- \_\_\_\_\_ had many rights (could hold same jobs as men, could own property)

**Economic Aspects**

-Trade: Because Mesopotamia is mostly \_\_\_\_\_, Mesopotamia would trade surplus food for other natural resources (stone, wood, etc.)

**Bell Ringer-** As we have seen, religion played a major role in Mesopotamia. Do you believe religion plays an equally important role in modern society? Explain

**Mesopotamia (continued)**

**Political Aspects**

-Originally, \_\_\_\_\_ controlled the government

-As wars occurred, strong military leaders began to control \_\_\_\_\_

-Why is there a need for government?

-As cities grew, there was a need for such things as \_\_\_\_\_ (irrigation ditches), defensive objects for cities ( \_\_\_\_\_ ), and \_\_\_\_\_.

-Government was needed to organize the labor for these projects and \_\_\_\_\_ were needed to settle disputes

**Babylon and Hammurabi**

- \_\_\_\_\_: capital of Babylonian Empire

-Hammurabi: Ruler of Babylonian Empire at its peak

-most memorable because of his \_\_\_\_\_

**-Hammurabi’s Code**

-Hammurabi realized the needed single code of laws to unify the different groups in his empire.

-Hammurabi had them engraved in \_\_\_\_\_ and posted them over the entire empire

-consisted of \_\_\_\_\_ laws

-punished crimes with the principle of “an eye for an \_\_\_\_\_, a \_\_\_\_\_ for a tooth”

\*this code reflects the thought that government had a responsibility for what occurred in society

**Daily Question:** Hammurabi's Code supports the idea that government should play a major role in protecting people's interest in society. In the US today, do you believe our government does too much to protect our interests, or do you believe they should do less? Explain

**Bell Ringer:** What is the role of government?

### Notes on Egypt

- **Nile River** (longest in the world 4,100 miles long)- Provides water for farming
- About 3,000 BC the king of Upper Egypt, \_\_\_\_\_ united Upper and Lower Egypt.
- **Upper and Lower Egypt**
  - \_\_\_\_\_: southern portion of the Nile River
  - \_\_\_\_\_: northern portion of the Nile (where the Nile enters the \_\_\_\_\_ Sea; Nile \_\_\_\_\_)
    - What took the Egyptians down river (from the Lower to the Upper)? \_\_\_\_\_ (refer to map on page 36)
    - What took the Egyptians back up river (from the Upper to the Lower)? \_\_\_\_\_ (refer to map on page 36)
- **Pyramids**- largest pyramid located in the city of \_\_\_\_\_
  - Khufu (1 of 7 wonders of the Ancient World)
- **Religion and Politics**
  - **Theocracy:** a type of government in which rule is based on \_\_\_\_\_
    - **Theo** Greek for "god" and **crac** is Greek for "govern"= \_\_\_\_\_ government
  - \_\_\_\_\_: kings that were thought to be gods and kings- they ruled Egypt's religion and government
    - Egyptians believed that the pharaoh would get the Nile to \_\_\_\_\_ = crops to grow, etc.
  - What was the main difference between the flooding of the Nile and that of the rivers in Mesopotamia (Tigris and Euphrates)? \_\_\_\_\_
  - \_\_\_\_\_

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    - The pharaoh's believed they would rule the land even after they died.
    - Because of this belief, they had magnificent tombs called \_\_\_\_\_ built.
- Egyptians believed in many gods (like Mesopotamia), which is called \_\_\_\_\_, and they also believed in an afterlife.
  - They believed that one of the gods weighed the hearts of each dead person.
    - The hearts that were heavy with sin were eaten by a beast, but the good people with feather-weight hearts would live forever in a beautiful place called "\_\_\_\_\_".
    - To prepare for that, Egyptians preserved a dead person's body through the process of \_\_\_\_\_.
- **Mummification** kept the body from decaying (page 39).
  - 1<sup>st</sup> step of mummification, the \_\_\_\_\_ were taken out through the nostrils with an iron hook.
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> step, with a \_\_\_\_\_, they made an incision in the side and took out the stomach and intestines.
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> step, the body was filled with perfumes and the incision was sewn up.
  - 4<sup>th</sup> step, the body was put in mineral salt for \_\_\_\_\_ days.
    - At the end of \_\_\_\_\_ days, the body was washed and wrapped in bandages of waxen cloth.
  - After that process, the body was placed in the pyramid tomb with clothing, food, cosmetics, and jewelry for them to use in the \_\_\_\_\_.
- **Culture**
  - In Egypt, the \_\_\_\_\_ were at the top of society.

- Below them were rich people who owned lots of land, \_\_\_\_\_, and people who were in the government and the army.
- After them were the people who made up the \_\_\_\_\_
  - These were people merchants (business owners) and people who worked in crafts.
- At the very bottom of society were the \_\_\_\_\_.
  - People could move up and down in Egyptian society.
  - People who could \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ held high positions in Egyptian society.
- Egyptians, like the Sumerians, developed a system of writing.
  - The Egyptians' system of writing was called \_\_\_\_\_.
  - Using this system, pictures were drawn.
  - The pictures stood for sounds or ideas.
  - Pictures were put together to make words and sentences.
  - At first, Egyptians wrote on \_\_\_\_\_, but later they invented a form of paper from the \_\_\_\_\_ plant and wrote on it. Writing system allowed the Egyptians to keep records.
- Egyptians invented a system of written numbers and a calendar.
  - Their calendar had \_\_\_\_\_ months with 30 days in each month. They used hours for understanding time, \_\_\_\_\_ for building and use of cosmetics (make-up)!!!
  - \_\_\_\_\_

**Daily Questions:** Is theocracy a positive form of government? Why or why not?

**Bell Ringer:** Who do you believe is more powerful, the Pope or the President of the United States? Why?

### **Notes on Judaism and Monotheism**

**Torah:** most of what we know about the early history of Hebrew comes from the \_\_\_\_\_ (first \_\_\_\_\_ books of the Bible- Old Testament)

- **Abra**=chosen by God. Abraham was chosen by God to be the “\_\_\_\_\_” of the Hebrew (Jewish) people.
  - Sarah had Isaac- and Hagar had Ishmael (illegitimate son)
  - Moved his family from Mesopotamia (city state in Ur) to \_\_\_\_\_ to settle land that was “promised- covenant” to him by God.
    - A \_\_\_\_\_ (two way agreement) is higher than a promise for example marriage vows are covenants before God and salvation is a covenant to God
  - \_\_\_\_\_: the name for the God of the Hebrews
    - All powerful, Hebrews only prayed to Yahweh (and only believed in a single God= \_\_\_\_\_)

### **Notes on Phoenicians, Trade Routes, Alphabet**

#### **Minoans**

**Minoans-** dominated trade in eastern Mediterranean from 2000 to 1400 BC

-Large island (modern day \_\_\_\_\_) on the southern edge of Aegean Sea

-Trade items such \_\_\_\_\_, swords, figurines, vessels of precious metals, art, unique architecture, burial customs, and religious rituals in \_\_\_\_\_ center and networks

-Minoans had major influence in \_\_\_\_\_ and this allowed them to be a stepping stone for cultural exchange throughout the Mediterranean world, especially to the \_\_\_\_\_ people.

-Minoan civilization ended around 1200 BC; not sure why the civilization ended but could be for lack of the five characteristics of a civilization? They probably lacked \_\_\_\_\_ keeping, complex \_\_\_\_\_, and maybe religion.

#### **Phoenicians**

-By 1100 BC, **Phoenicians** were the most powerful traders of the Eastern Mediterranean

-located in modern day \_\_\_\_\_

-**Remarkable \_\_\_\_\_ and seafarers (refer to page 75 for picture)**

- First to sail beyond the Strait of Gibraltar
- some historians believe they sailed around \_\_\_\_\_
- Established trading posts throughout the Mediterranean Sea but never established a country because of continual trading on the seas

#### **-The Alphabet**

- Phoenicians merchants needed a way to record transactions clearly and quickly
  - developed a writing system using symbols for \_\_\_\_\_ called Phoenician Alphabet
- This system (alphabet) was written on \_\_\_\_\_ and was spread throughout the Mediterranean as the Phoenicians traded
  - the \_\_\_\_\_ adopted and modified the Phoenician Alphabet (later was molded to English alphabet what we use today (look at chart on page 74 for comparisons of the alphabets)

#### **-Trade and Trade Routes (map page 75)**

- Phoenician trade routes spread ideas, religious beliefs, culture, and art throughout the region
- Items traded red-purple \_\_\_\_\_ (produced from a kind of snail- \_\_\_\_\_ snails to produce one pound of dye and papyrus (paper like wood used for writing on).

**Daily Question:** The Phoenicians spread many ideas via their trading routes on the Mediterranean. How do you think most ideas are spread in today's world?

**Bell Ringer:** What is the importance of a writing system?

#### **Notes on Persian Empire/Zoroastrianism**

#### Persian Empire

**Persia:** a new power that arose east of \_\_\_\_\_ (modern day \_\_\_\_\_)

- land was good for \_\_\_\_\_ and mining copper, gold, lead, silver so many desired the land

**-Persian King: Cyrus** defeated the Assyrians around 550 BC for the land

- His empire expanded and covered over \_\_\_\_\_ miles and his army did not harm the conquered people but allowed them to keep their religions
- He also allowed the \_\_\_\_\_ people to return to Jerusalem and rebuild their temple

**Persian King: Cambyses** (Cyrus son)

- Conquered \_\_\_\_\_ (didn't respect people); not wise (ruled only \_\_\_\_\_ years)

**Persian King: Darius** (proved to be able as \_\_\_\_\_)

- Added land to the empire, created \_\_\_\_\_ (well organized)
- Divided land into \_\_\_\_\_ where each group practice its own religion, speak own language, and obey many of its own laws (modern day state control vs. federal government control)
- Built \_\_\_\_\_ to unite the empire (\_\_\_\_\_ miles long) (map pg 101); royal messengers on \_\_\_\_\_ could travel this road in about \_\_\_\_\_ days
- Invented metal \_\_\_\_\_; allowed for standard value of goods and better \_\_\_\_\_ methods

#### **Persians historical mark:**

- fair and understanding, showed respect for other cultures, brought government to SW Asia

#### Zoroastrianism

-War, conquest, famine in the Fertile Crescent got people to ask "why should there be so much chaos and suffering in the world?"

**-Zoroaster:** \_\_\_\_\_ prophet who offered answer to the above question (= 600 BC); this religion died out but specific traces (like Satan-devil and angels) are seen in Judaism, Christianity and Islam.

- Zoroaster's Teachings: \_\_\_\_\_ is a battlefield between two powerful spirits
  - One stood for \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ and the other for \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ (constant struggle)
  - People should take part in the struggle and would be judged on how well they fought
  - Belief in one god named \_\_\_\_\_ (he would judge everyone at the end of time)

**Daily Question:** Zoroastrianism taught that the earth was a battlefield and the forces of good and evil were constantly fighting. Do you believe there are forces of good and evil at work in our world?

**Bell Ringer:** Do you believe events such as war and famine challenge some people's belief that there is a "good" God?