

"The Fertile Crescent"

Unit Outline

I. Geography of the Fertile Crescent

A. Located in Western _____

B. Two major rivers flow through the Fertile Crescent

1. _____ and _____ Rivers
2. area between these rivers known as _____
 - a. Greek word for "_____ between the _____"

C. Why called "Fertile Crescent"?

1. rivers carry loose soil from the mountains and deposit it in the region
 - a. this loose, fertile soil is known as _____

D. Controlling the water

1. people of Mesopotamia developed ways of bringing water to their crops
 - a. this is known as _____
 - b. used _____ to bring water to their crops
 - c. stored water in artificial lakes in times of _____
2. built walls to hold back flood waters
 - a. the protective walls are called _____

E. Fertile soil and irrigation helps _____

1. most important crops were _____ and _____
2. grew gardens for _____, onions, lettuce, _____, and herbs
3. planted trees for apples, _____, and _____

F. Erosion of fertile soil

1. region used to have many forests
2. trees cut down for firewood and building
 - a. tree roots help to hold _____ in place
3. soil was carried away by _____ and _____
 - a. this is known as _____

II. The Cities of Sumer

A. Communication and education

1. developed a type of writing known as _____
 - a. started as “_____ writing”
 - b. included about _____ different symbols
2. school life
 - a. only some of the _____ and almost no _____
 - b. practiced _____ and studied _____
3. years of studying leads to being a _____ (or official _____)
 - a. recorded _____, legends, and even _____

B. Development of cities

1. a _____ is a self-governing city that also governs the nearby villages
 - a. the largest in Sumer were _____, _____, and Uruk
2. surrounded by walls for protection
 - a. city-states often at war for access to _____
3. first great _____ formed by King Sargon
 - a. united city-states in Sumer (ca. 2300 B.C. or B.C.E.)
 - b. expanded empire to over _____ miles (think Voorhees to Disneyworld!)
 - c. this history was written by Sargon’s daughter Enheuduana
 - i. she was both a _____ and _____

C. Religion

1. _____ located in center of each city
2. _____ religion
 - b. worshipped and gave gifts to please their _____ gods

D. Daily Life & Other Sumerian developments

1. used the _____ for work and travel
 - a. allowed people to do more work with less effort AND travel further distance quicker
3. first recorded “literature” came from Sumerian storytellers
 - a. Epic of _____

III. Babylon and Assyria: New Kingdoms in after Sargon's Rule

A. Babylon becomes powerful under King _____

1. built dams across the _____ River
 - a. this gave him power over other cities downstream
 - b. helped him build the empire of _____
2. became wealthy by trade passing through the empire
 - a. silver, timber, copper, wine and other goods

B. The Code of Hammurabi

1. the first _____
 - a. written laws that apply to the people ruled by a single government
1. in 1901, archaeologists found a six foot pillar carved with:
 - a. a picture of Hammurabi and
 - b. _____ laws carved in _____
 - i. included doctor's fees, worker's pay, divorce, and barber's rules!
 - ii. showed that not everyone was treated _____

C. Assyrians after Hammurabi

1. built a powerful army with state-of-the-art weapons
 - a. battering rams
 - b. wheeled _____
 - c. fast, horse drawn _____
2. became another powerful empire
3. collected large _____ of Babylonian and Sumerian writings
4. constructed a large _____
 - a. a raised structure to carry _____ for large distances
 - b. provided the same function as our modern _____

IV. The Region Today

- A. _____ conquered the region ca. 700 A.D.
- B. became the independent country of _____ in 1932
 1. governed by a constitutional monarchy
- C. Saddam Hussein came to power in _____ and became a dictator
 1. removed from office in _____
- D. building a _____