

**Brunswick School Department  
Social Studies  
Grade 6 Fertile Crescent**

**Unit Overview**

The ancient Mesopotamians left behind a large legacy that helped to shape the current world today. This unit will immerse students in the development of written language, the development of codified law and the development of a society. They will learn how rivers and new agricultural techniques improved the Mesopotamians' ability to manage uncontrolled water supplies. Geography will be studied in the context of how it influences culture.

**Essential Understandings**

- Geography dictates human settlement patterns.
- Ancient civilizations laid the foundation for future societies.
- Characteristics of civilizations are common across time and place.
- The relationship between humans and environment is reciprocal; humans are both impacted by and impact their environments in significant ways

**Priority Standards and Performance Indicators**

(as based on the Maine Learning Results)

**P.S. SS -1 Conduct and present original research that utilizes primary and secondary sources in order to analyze, interpret and explain historical (and/or) contemporary social studies topics.**

- a. Locate relevant information that includes multiple perspectives from varied sources.
- b. Demonstrate facility with notetaking, organizing information, and creating bibliographies.
- d. Use information ethically and legally.

**P.S. SS-4 Utilize concepts and processes from geography to understand issues involving people, places, and environments in the United States and the world.**

- a. Identify the major regions of the Earth and major physical features and political boundaries using a variety of geographic tools.
- b. Describe the impact of change on physical and cultural environments.
- d. Describe the dynamic relationship between geographic features and various cultures, including the cultures of Maine Native Americans, various historical groups in the United States, and other cultures in the world.

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**P.S.SS-5 Draw on concepts and processes from history to develop historical perspective and understand issues of continuity and change in the community, Maine, the United States, and world.**

- a. Explain that history is the study of the written record of the past, based on available evidence from a variety of sources.

**Examples of Formative / Summative Assessments**

- Mesopotamia Pre and Post Test
- Analyze and explain the factors that lead to a stable and lasting society
- Compare and contrast the Akkadians, Babylonians, Assyrians, and Neo-Babalonians.
- Vocabulary quiz
- Chapter 2 activities Prentice Hall - The Ancient World textbook
- Examine an epic tale for clues about a specific society's beliefs and values
- GRAPES Flipbook
- Empires Essay

**Sample Texts and Materials/Resources**

- Publications:
  - *Mesopotamia*, Kids Discover
  - *World History: Mesopotamia*, Benchmark Education
  - *The Ancient World*, Prentice Hall
  - *The First Civilizations*, National Geographic
  - *Gilgamesh the King, The Revenge of Ishtar, and The Last Quest of Gilgamesh*, (Ludmila Zeman)
- Videos:
  - *Mesopotamia: Return to Eden*, Time Life Video
- Websites:
  - Teacher Portaportals and home pages
  - Mr. Donn's Mesopotamia
  - Ducksters Mesopotamia
  - British Museum - Mesopotamia
- National Geographic for Kids - Iraq
- Flocabulary - "We're in that Fertile Crescent"
- Brain Pop