

Ancient Mesopotamia: Geography of the Fertile Crescent Notes**

- Early peoples almost always settled near water
 - Crops would grow well
 - Animals lived along water
- Hunter-gatherers settled in Mesopotamia around 12,000 years ago
 - Mesopotamia – the land between the rivers
 - Tigris River
 - Euphrates River
- The rivers flooded every year and brought silt
 - Silt - A mixture of fertile soil and tiny rocks; great for farming
- Eventually, with the help of agriculture, the population of Mesopotamia grew
 - Domesticated animals/plants
 - Created a surplus
 - Developed government
 - Built villages/cities
- The floods that brought the silt also caused major problems
 - Destroyed crops
 - Killed livestock
 - Washed away homes
- Mesopotamians learned how to control water
 - Irrigation – A way of supplying water to land
 - Canals - Human-made waterways
- Because they could control water, the Mesopotamians created a surplus
 - Surplus
 - Division of Labor
 - Trade
 - Government
 - Cities
- Soon, Mesopotamians were building the first cities in the world
- The Mesopotamians built almost all of their cities in the Fertile Crescent
 - Fertile Crescent - A large crescent of fertile farmland that extends from the Persian Gulf to the Mediterranean Sea

Name _____ Period _____ Date _____

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- Eventually, with the help of _____, the population of Mesopotamia grew
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 - _____ – A way of supplying water to land
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- Because they could control _____, the Mesopotamians created a _____
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 - Fertile Crescent -