

Reading Assignment

Characteristics of a Civilization - Mesopotamia





I can use evidence to identify characteristics of early civilizations.

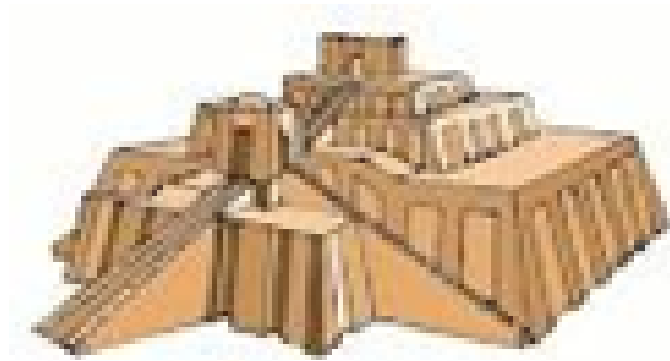


1. I completed the Characteristics of a Civilization Chart for Mesopotamia.

2. I understand and can explain the common features of Ancient Mesopotamia.

8

Mesopotamia/Sumer

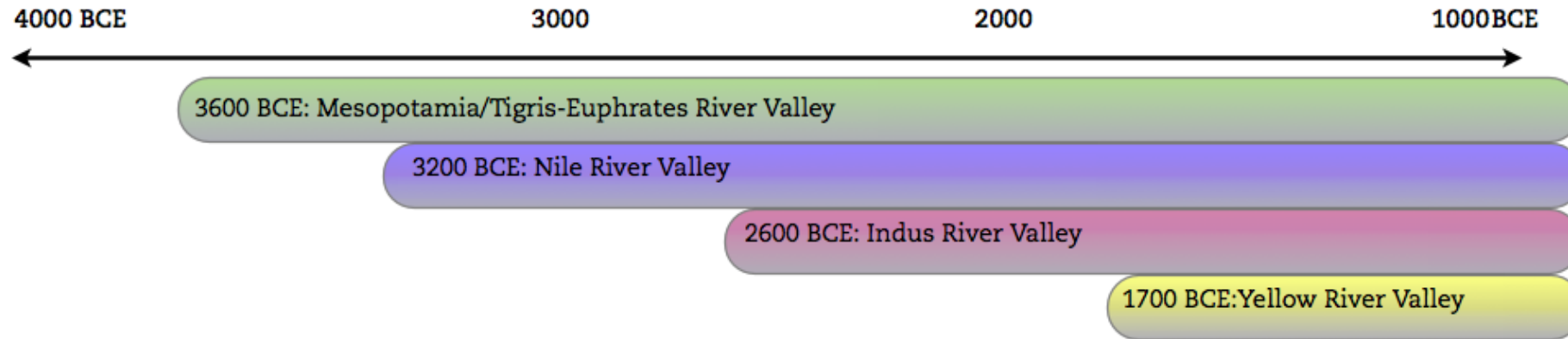


the civilization that developed around the Tigris and Euphrates rivers around 3500 BC/BCE

Example: Sumer was a complex ancient civilization that exists in modern Iraq.

(SS070302)

The Emergence of Early River Valley Civilizations



Turn and Talk:

- By what time in Era 2 were all four river valley civilizations in existence?
- What do you think was going on in each of these places before their civilizations developed? For example, do you think there were people living in the Indus River Valley in 3000 BCE? If so, why wasn't it considered a civilization yet?

Unit Vocabulary

1. **Mesopotamia:** the first civilization that was located between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers in what is now Iraq.
2. **Ziggurat:** large temple in Ancient Mesopotamia.
3. **City-State:** a city that is like a small independent country due to having its own laws and government.
4. **Theocracy:** a form of government run based on religious beliefs.
5. **Aqueduct:** a system of pipes and channels used to carry water to cities.
6. **Fertile Crescent:** Half-moon shaped area of land located where small villages began to form (It surrounded Mesopotamia).
7. **Urban:** another word to describe a city.
8. **Commerce:** buying and selling between people.
9. **Irrigation:** system of watering crops.
10. **Fertile:** soil that is able to grow crops.
11. **Babylon:** City-state in ancient Mesopotamia.
12. **Cuneiform:** one of the first written languages.
13. **Hammurabi's Code:** Hammurabi was an ancient king in Mesopotamia. He is famous for recording a complete list of rules for the people of his city to live by.

Mesopotamia



Mesopotamia: the first civilization that was located between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers in what is now Iraq.





TURKEY

CASPIAN
SEA

SYRIA

IRAN

Euphrates

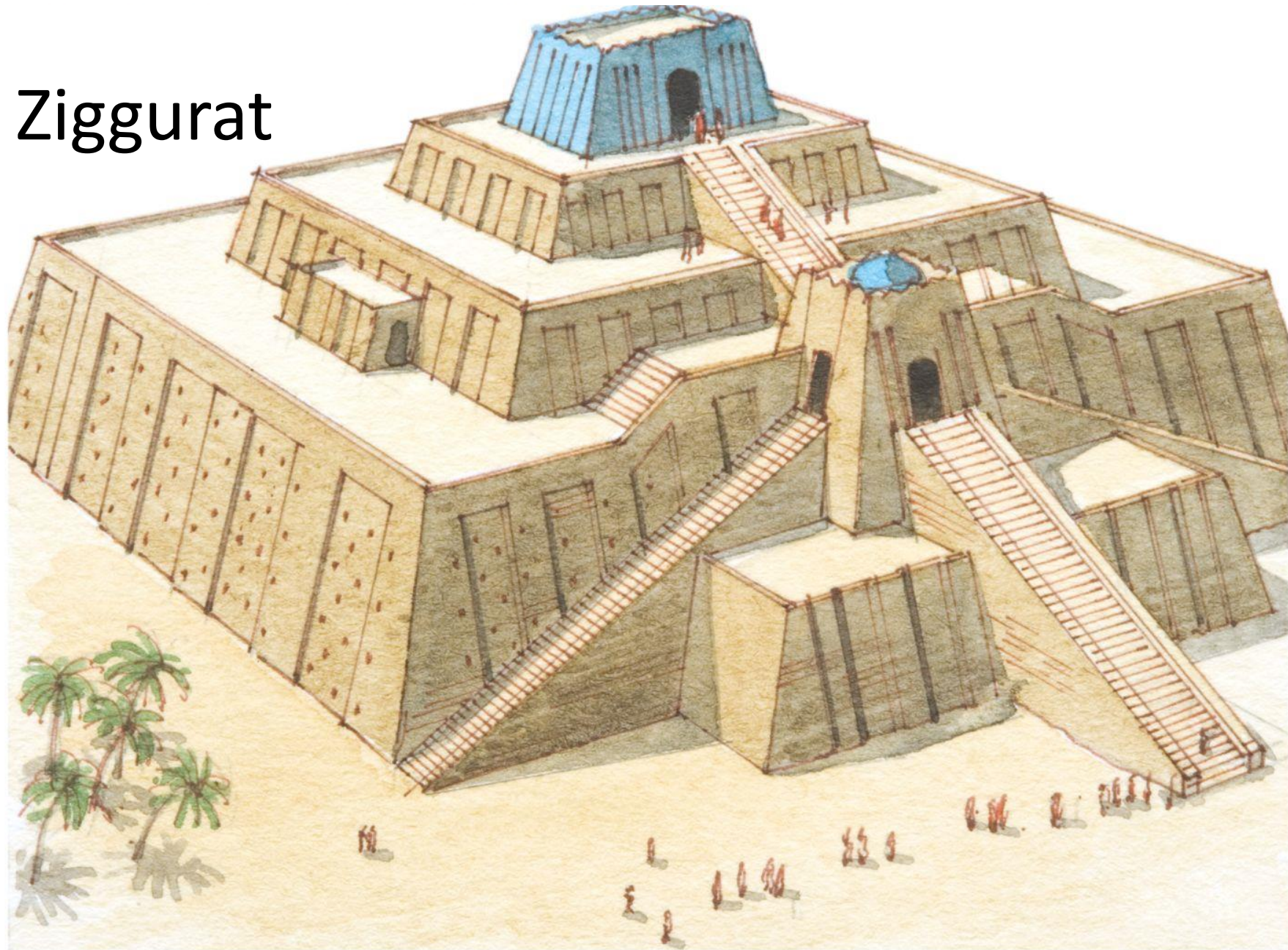
Tigris

IRAQ

PERSIAN GULF

2. **Ziggurat:** large temple in Ancient Mesopotamia.

Ziggurat



Ziggurat



Aqueducts

5. **Aqueduct:** a system of pipes and channels used to carry water to cities.

Life under Assyrian Rule



Aqueducts in Assyria

- Like other societies in Mesopotamia the Assyrians had a system of canals to irrigate their land, but they also built the first Aqueducts.
- Aqueducts were pipes or channels used to carry water throughout the city of Nineveh and up to 30 miles away.

Aqueducts - page 60, last paragraph



6. **Fertile Crescent:** Half-moon shaped area of land located where small villages began to form (It surrounded Mesopotamia).



Fertile Crescent

6. **Fertile Crescent:** Half-moon shaped area of land located where small villages began to form (It surrounded Mesopotamia).



Fertile
Crescent

Babylon

11. **Babylon:** City-state in ancient Mesopotamia.



Babylon



12. **Cuneiform:** one of the first written languages.

Cuneiform



▲ Writing on a soft clay tablet with a reed pen.



13. **Hammurabi's Code:** Hammurabi was an ancient king in Mesopotamia. He is famous for recording a complete list of rules for the people of his city to live by.

Hammurabi's Code

- Before Hammurabi came to power in Babylon, different kings made different laws, and changed them whenever they wanted. It was very confusing.
- Hammurabi, however, met with his advisors and came up with 282 laws that everybody had to follow, and the punishments for them. Even though most people couldn't read, he published these laws on a stone and let everyone see them, so no one could just change them.
- These laws covered almost everything, from religion to slavery to trade to property to what different workers were required to do.





Image source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Akkadian_Empire#/media/File:Empire_akkad.svg

Specialization –
Listed under
Social Systems



Technology and Achievements

Can be something they created.

Can be the way they did something.

Reading Assignment

Characteristics of a Civilization – Mesopotamia

- Complete the chart as you read about Mesopotamia.
- Make sure you answer all of the questions on the chart for each characteristic.
- You are encouraged to highlight information as you read.
- When you are done, keep the reading packet. I will collect the chart at the end of class.
- Read or do homework for another class when you are done.