

UNIT 3: MESOPOTAMIA

TEST



Respond to each question with the best answer based on what we've learned in class.

1. Why did ancient civilizations develop in Mesopotamia along the rivers of Tigris and Euphrates? G.1.2
 - A. The rivers aided in the exploration of new territories.
 - B. The rivers provided power for industries
 - C. The river valleys provided areas for recreation
 - D. The rivers provided a source of fresh water and good farmland.

2. Which feature of geography was the most important in the development of early river valley civilizations? G.1.2
 - A. fertile soil from the rivers
 - B. high mountains
 - C. vast deserts
 - D. smooth coastlines

3. "The calendars helped farmers to know when floods would be coming, so their crops wouldn't wash away. Knowing when the floods would come improved agriculture in Mesopotamia. As a result, farmers were able to harvest more food. This food surplus enabled the cities to support larger populations. Having surplus food, which could be traded for other goods, also helped Mesopotamians establish trade with other civilizations"
How did calendars contribute to growth in cities and agriculture in ancient Mesopotamia? H.2.3
 - A. They notified more people of important feast days, which brought visitors and increased wealth to the cities.
 - B. They helped farmers plan their crops to avoid floods, which allowed them to grow more food and to feed more people in the cities.
 - C. They caused people who believed that the astronomers who created calendars could predict the future to move closer to the cities to hear the predictions.
 - D. They helped leaders to predict when neighboring armies would attack, and defend the cities, allowing them to grow

4. "The Sumerians used cuneiform writing in almost every aspect of their daily lives. They kept lengthy and careful records of every item they bought, from land and livestock to shoes."
Cuneiform writing provided the basis for the development of what? H.2.3
 - A. subsistence farming
 - B. painting and sculpture
 - C. oral (speaking) traditions
 - D. recorded history

5. Which is the best explanation for why Mesopotamians built canals?

H.2.3

- A. They needed a way to control the river's flow to prevent flooding and increase farming.
- B. They needed a way to control water so people could wash their clothes.
- C. They needed a way to control low water levels.
- D. They needed a way to control the surplus.

6. "With irrigation systems in place and advanced farming techniques in use, Mesopotamia became a very rich farming area. Tools like the seeder plow meant farmers could get more work done with fewer people and in less time. Soon farmers began to produce a surplus of food. Traders were able to sell this surplus of food and trade it for other goods."

According to the passage, how did the metal plow help to increase Mesopotamian trade with other civilizations? H.2.3

- A. Many farmers who had learned metalworking to make plows also made other metal goods for traders to sell.
- B. Farmers could plant faster, so they had more free time
- C. Farmers could plant faster, helping them plant larger areas and grow extra grain for traders to sell.
- D. Farmers who bought plows from traders found their new tools so helpful that they later bought many other goods from trade

7. "The Assyrian capital of Nineveh was north of [Sumer](#) on the [Tigris River](#). At its peak, the Assyrian Empire stretched from the Persian Gulf in the east to the Nile River valley in the west. However, this empire eventually became too large for the Assyrian army to control. When the people they conquered, including the Babylonians, rose up against them in the 600s BCE, the Assyrian Empire fell."

Which statement describes a cause of the fall of the Assyrian Empire?

G.1.2

- A. The empire's army was poorly trained and not ready for warfare.
- B. The Persian Empire was a constant military and economic threat.
- C. Nebuchadnezzar invested all of the empire's resources in large building projects.
- D. The empire became too large for the military to protect.

8. "The Mesopotamians believed in polytheism; they worshiped many gods. In order to honor their gods and goddesses and ensure their presence in the city, Mesopotamians built large religious monuments called [ziggurats](#). These monuments housed some of the more important temples of the Mesopotamian gods. Each ziggurat was dedicated to a specific god. Because of their importance, ziggurats were often built in the center of city-states."

Which of the following facts serves as evidence that the Mesopotamians were polytheists?

C.1.1

- A. Mesopotamian government was centered on the city-state.
- B. Goods made in India and Egypt were brought to Mesopotamia by traders.
- C. The Sumerian story of the Great Flood is similar to the Bible story about Noah's Ark.
- D. The city of Ur had ziggurats (temples) dedicated to worshipping the goddess Ishtar and the god Enki.

9. Mesopotamia's location made which farming practice unnecessary?

G.1.2

- A. irrigating crops during periods of dry weather
- B. harvesting crops before the rainy season
- C. fertilizing crops to increase production
- D. planting crops in curved lines to prevent erosion

10. Who was the ancient Babylonian king who created the earliest known code of laws which focused on harsh punishments to keep order in society?

C.1.1

- A. Sargon
- B. Hammurabi
- C. Eannatum
- D. Nebuchadnezzar

11. "With irrigation systems in place and advanced farming techniques in use, Mesopotamia became a very rich farming area. Tools like the seeder plow meant farmers could get more work done with fewer people and in less time. Soon farmers began to produce a surplus of food. With a surplus of food, people were able to focus on other jobs. Some became artisans or metalworkers and other became traders."

High crop yields in ancient Mesopotamia contributed most directly to the development of what?

C.1.1

- A. metal tools
- B. irrigation systems
- C. a division of labor
- D. a network of roads

12. Ancient Mesopotamian traders had connections with traders in what other civilizations?

C.1.1

- A. India and Egypt
- B. Russia and China
- C. Japan and Australia
- D. Greece and West Africa

Use the passage to answer questions 13-15 Writing

Some of the first writing was developed in Mesopotamia. Many social scientists credit the Sumerian people for this writing. The writing looked like symbols and was called cuneiform. The Sumerians wrote on clay tablets. Later, the Phoenicians, while still using cuneiform, began to produce their own 22-letter alphabet. This development made it easier for people of the ancient world to learn to read and write. In some ways, their alphabet looked like Egyptian hieroglyphics. The Greeks and Romans adapted the Phoenician writing form to create their own alphabet.

Writing was used in commerce as a way to keep record of what goods were being traded and for what. It was especially important in communicating the history of people. It was also a powerful way of letting people know the laws. The first written set of laws was called the Code of Hammurabi.

13. What is the name of the Sumerian writing system?

H.2.3

- A. Hieroglyphics
- B. Roman numerals
- C. Cuneiform
- D. Hammurabi's Code

14. The reading discusses that writing was used in commerce. In this passage, what does the word commerce refer to?

C.1.1

- A. Agriculture
- B. Trading
- C. Building
- D. Religious Ceremonies

15. What was a result of the development of an alphabet in ancient times?

H.2.3

- A. It was easier for people to read and write.
- B. Trade routes opened up from Rome to the cities of China.
- C. The Code of Hammurabi Code was declared useless for the average person
- D. No one ever used cuneiform again.



16. How did the location of the cities on the map affect trade?

G.1.2

- A. They used the rivers as transportation.
- B. The surrounding desert made travel easier.
- C. They could only travel south on the rivers.
- D. The cities were spread too far apart for trade.

The Four Old-World River Valley Cultures



17. Based on the map, how were these civilizations able to benefit from their location? G.1.2

- A. The civilizations could easily trade with one another.
- B. They were all protected by mountains.
- C. They were all protected by deserts.
- D. Rivers provided fertile soil for agriculture.