**Chapter 4 Terms to Know**

1. **silt -**small particles of fertile soil
2. **irrigation-** a way to supply dry land with water through ditches, pipes, or streams

1. **Surplus-** an amount that is left over after a need has been met
2. **city-state-** an independent nation made up of a city and the land around it
3. **polytheism-** a belief in more than one god
4. **ziggurat-** a pyramid-shaped tower with a temple at the top
5. **cuneiform-** a Sumerian writing system that used wedge-shaped marks made in soft clay
6. **scribe-** a person who copies or writes out documents; often a record keeper
7. **epic-** a long poem that tells the story of a hero
8. **empire-** a group of many different lands under one ruler
9. **tribute-** a payment made to a ruler or state as a sign of surrender
10. **province-** a district within a larger country or empire
11. **caravan-** a group of merchants traveling together for safety, usually with a large number of camels
12. **astronomer-** a person who studies stars, planets, and the moon
13. **parallel-** moving or lying in the same direction, always the same distance apart
14. **military-** having to do with soldiers, weapons, or war
15. **code-** a set of official laws
16. **complex-** having many part
17. **consist-** to be made up of
18. **region-** a geographic area

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