

## Chapter 4: Outline Notes “Mesopotamia”

### Lesson 4.1- The Sumerians

#### **The First Civilizations in Mesopotamia:**

- The first civilizations developed in the \_\_\_\_\_ valleys of \_\_\_\_\_, Egypt, \_\_\_\_\_ and China.
  - The need for \_\_\_\_\_ greatly influenced where people settled.
1. The Two Rivers:
    - a. Mesopotamia means “\_\_\_\_\_” in Greek. The civilization began between the \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_ rivers, which run parallel to one another from the mountains in Southeast \_\_\_\_\_ to the \_\_\_\_\_.
    - b. Mesopotamia is located inside what is known as the \_\_\_\_\_, which includes parts of modern countries of \_\_\_\_\_, Syria, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, Israel and \_\_\_\_\_.
  2. Early Valley Dwellers:
    - a. Historians believe the \_\_\_\_\_ people settled in Mesopotamia around \_\_\_\_\_ B.C. and were \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
    - By \_\_\_\_\_ B.C. some of these settlers moved to the plains of Tigris-Euphrates valley and built \_\_\_\_\_ along the two rivers.
  3. Taming the Rivers:
    - a. Farmers in Mesopotamia depended on \_\_\_\_\_ from the rivers for their crops.
      - In the \_\_\_\_\_ when there was little \_\_\_\_\_ and the rivers became very low, farmers did not have enough \_\_\_\_\_ for their crops in the fall.
      - In the \_\_\_\_\_, rain and melting snow from the \_\_\_\_\_ mountains cause these rivers to overflow. At times, violent \_\_\_\_\_ swept away crops and homes.
        1. These \_\_\_\_\_ could also be helpful. Floodwaters left behind silt, or small particles of soil, which were \_\_\_\_\_ for farming.
        2. People in Mesopotamia learned to build \_\_\_\_\_ and dig \_\_\_\_\_ to allow the water source into their fields. This method of water crops is called \_\_\_\_\_.
      - Irrigation allowed farmers to grow a \_\_\_\_\_ of food.
        - \_\_\_\_\_ of food meant not all men were needed to work at \_\_\_\_\_, allowing them to pick up other trades and \_\_\_\_\_.
        - As \_\_\_\_\_ made more goods, people’s lives changed. People began to live together in areas that favored \_\_\_\_\_ and several cities developed in \_\_\_\_\_, a region of Southern Mesopotamia.

#### **Sumer’s Civilization:**

- People of Sumer were known as \_\_\_\_\_.
    - Sumerians built the first cities in Southwest \_\_\_\_\_, which became centers of \_\_\_\_\_ and controlled the lower part of the Tigris and \_\_\_\_\_ River Valley.
1. City-States Arise:
    - a. \_\_\_\_\_ and patches of scorching \_\_\_\_\_ surrounded Sumer’s cities.
      - Because of this natural isolation from one another, these cities became \_\_\_\_\_ and formed their own \_\_\_\_\_.
      - In gaining political and economic control over the individual cities and the lands around them, \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ were formed.
      - Archaeologists believe each city state was protected by \_\_\_\_\_ walls built from mud from the rivers as their main building material.
      - Often city-states went to \_\_\_\_\_ with one another over \_\_\_\_\_ and political borders, but in times of peace, they \_\_\_\_\_ with one another and formed alliances.
  2. Gods, Priests and Kings
    - a. Sumerian people worshipped many God, a practice known as \_\_\_\_\_.

- b. They believed different Gods guided various aspects of their lives and honored the \_\_\_\_\_ God they thought would help with that activity.
  - c. To honor their Gods, Sumerians built large \_\_\_\_\_ called \_\_\_\_\_ in their city-state.
    - In the early days, the \_\_\_\_\_ of the ziggurat ruled the city states.
  - d. Later, \_\_\_\_\_ kings claimed they received the power to rule from the \_\_\_\_\_.
    - The rule of the king was \_\_\_\_\_, meaning after he died, his son would take over.
3. Social Groups:
- a. Sumer people were divided into \_\_\_\_\_, generally from the time they were born.
    - The \_\_\_\_\_ class consisted of kings, \_\_\_\_\_, warriors, and government officials.
    - The \_\_\_\_\_ class consisted of \_\_\_\_\_, farmers, fisherman, and \_\_\_\_\_.
    - The \_\_\_\_\_ class was made up of \_\_\_\_\_ people.
  - b. Men were the head of the household. \_\_\_\_\_ attended school and were trained for \_\_\_\_\_.
  - c. Woman ran the \_\_\_\_\_ and had few civil rights.
4. Farmers and Traders:
- a. The major crops in \_\_\_\_\_ were wheat, barley, and \_\_\_\_\_.
    - Dams and \_\_\_\_\_ ran through the farmland to water crops.
  - b. Sumerians traded to get items such as \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, which were not found in their community
    - Trade routes linked Sumer to places such as \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

### Sumerian Contributions:

1. Writing:
  - a. The writing system developed by the Sumerians is the earliest known system in the world.
    - Their system of writing was called \_\_\_\_\_.
    - Written on \_\_\_\_\_.
    - Characters represented names, \_\_\_\_\_ and objects.
    - Few people learned to write cuneiform – mostly \_\_\_\_\_ from wealthy families.
    - \_\_\_\_\_, or official record keepers, wrote documents recording important aspects of everyday life.
      - Some were \_\_\_\_\_ or government officials.
2. Technology and Mathematics:
  - a. Sumerians were the first people to use the \_\_\_\_\_.
    - Carts pulled by \_\_\_\_\_.
    - The chariot was used in \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. For river travel, Sumerians invented the \_\_\_\_\_.
  - b. The wooden \_\_\_\_\_, potters wheel, \_\_\_\_\_ (combining copper and time) were other technological advancements.
  - c. Astronomy and mathematics
    - \_\_\_\_\_ minute hours, \_\_\_\_\_ second minute, and \_\_\_\_\_ degree circle
    - \_\_\_\_\_ month calendar based on the cycles of the moon
    - Planting season based on positions of the \_\_\_\_\_.

### Lesson 4.1 Review:

**1. Where is Mesopotamia located?**

**2. How were the social classes of Sumer organized?**

**3. What was the most common role for women in Sumerian society?**

## **Lesson 4.2 Mesopotamian Empires**

### **The First Empires:**

- As the strength of \_\_\_\_\_ faded, powerful kingdoms arose in northern Mesopotamia and built \_\_\_\_\_.
  - An empire is a group of \_\_\_\_\_ controlled by one ruler.
1. Who Was Sargon?
    - a. The kingdom of \_\_\_\_\_ developed in northern Mesopotamia and was ruled by \_\_\_\_\_.
      - Sargon conquered the remaining Sumerian Cities. In doing so, he built the world's \_\_\_\_\_.
      - Eventually, his empire would extend to include all people of \_\_\_\_\_.
  2. Who Was Hammurabi?
    - a. West of Mesopotamia was a city called \_\_\_\_\_.
      - Their king, \_\_\_\_\_, began conquering the lands north and south, creating the \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. Hammurabi's Code:
    - a. Hammurabi was best known for creating a set of \_\_\_\_\_ for his empire.
      - These laws dealt with crime and established " \_\_\_\_\_ " system of \_\_\_\_\_.
      - The laws also protected the \_\_\_\_\_ powerful, for examples it protected \_\_\_\_\_ from their abusive husbands.

### **The Assyrian Empire:**

- Assyria was an empire which arose about \_\_\_\_\_ years after the empire of Hammurabi and extended into \_\_\_\_\_ present day countries (Turkey, \_\_\_\_\_, Iran, and \_\_\_\_\_)
1. The Assyrian Army:
    - a. The Assyrians built a large and powerful \_\_\_\_\_ to defend their territory.
    - b. The army was made of \_\_\_\_\_ (foot soldiers), \_\_\_\_\_ (horse soldiers) and charioteers.
      - Weapons consisted of \_\_\_\_\_, bows and arrows, \_\_\_\_\_, and spears.
    - c. The Assyrians \_\_\_\_\_ people, set crops on fire, and either took tributes or forced payments from conquered people.
    - d. One of the keys to the success of the Assyrian army was \_\_\_\_\_.
      - The \_\_\_\_\_, who were located to the North of the Assyrian Empire mastered the production of iron and shared this technology with the Assyrians.
  2. Kings and Government
    - a. Assyrian Kings divided their empire into provinces, or \_\_\_\_\_.
      - Roads were built to connect each province and the king chose officials to \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ in each province.
  3. Life in Assyria
    - a. \_\_\_\_\_ were built based on what they learned from Mesopotamian people.
      - Had \_\_\_\_\_ with harsh punishments
      - Writings were based on \_\_\_\_\_ writing
      - Worshipped many of the same \_\_\_\_\_.
      - Assyrians wrote and collected stories.
        1. Built one of the world's first \_\_\_\_\_.
      - Farming and trade were both very important
        - Brought in wood and \_\_\_\_\_ from far away to supply their empire with building materials.

### **The Chaldean Empire:**

- In about \_\_\_\_\_ B.C., fighting broke out to determine who would be the next Assyrian ruler.
    - While Assyria was in turmoil, the \_\_\_\_\_ took power.
1. A New Empire:
    - a. About \_\_\_\_\_ B.C., the Chaldeans moved to \_\_\_\_\_ Mesopotamia and were immediately conquered by the Assyrians. The Chaldeans hated their new rulers and never fully submitted to the Assyrian empire.

- b. Around \_\_\_\_\_ B.C. another group who wanted to break free from the Assyrian rule, the \_\_\_\_\_, joined the Chaldeans
- In 612 B.C., together they burned the Assyrian capital. The Assyrian empire quickly \_\_\_\_\_.
- c. Most of the Chaldeans were \_\_\_\_\_ of the Babylonians.
- The city of Babylon was chosen to serve as their capital, and because of this, Chaldean empire is sometimes called the \_\_\_\_\_ Babylonian Empire.
2. The Greatness of Babylon
- a. King \_\_\_\_\_ of the Chaldeans rebuilt Babylon making it the largest and richest city in the world.
- Babylon featured:
    1. Grand Palaces and \_\_\_\_\_.
    2. A 300 foot ziggurat with a gleaming gold roof
    3. Gardens built like huge steps made up the \_\_\_\_\_ (considered one of the seven wonders of the world)
    4. Many new canals, making the land more \_\_\_\_\_.
- b. To pay for all these building projects, and to maintain his army, Nebuchadnezzar had to collect very high \_\_\_\_\_.
- c. Merchants came to the city in caravans to buy Babylonian goods – pottery, \_\_\_\_\_, baskets, and \_\_\_\_\_.
- Trade made Babylon \_\_\_\_\_
- d. Advancements under the Chaldeans included the invention of the \_\_\_\_\_ to tell time, and being the first civilization to follow the \_\_\_\_\_-day week.
3. The Fall of the Empire
- a. After Nebuchadnezzar died, a series of weak kings ruled the empire
- b. \_\_\_\_\_ and slow trade further weakened the empire
- In 539 B.C. – the \_\_\_\_\_ took advantage and captured Babylon and made Mesopotamia part of their empire while allowing the Chaldeans to maintain their culture.

#### ***Lesson 4.2 Review:***

**1. How might conquered people feel about paying tribute to Assyrians?**

**2. How did the Assyrian rule their empire?**

**3. Why did Chaldeans overthrow the Assyrians?**