

Chapter 2—Mesopotamia

ESSAY

1. Explain the effect of climatic change and the environment on the early civilizations.

ANS:

Answers would include a discussion of the end of the last Ice Age, Natufian's adoption of agriculture, and the role of the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers.

REF: p. 17-20

2. Elaborate on life in Mesopotamia.

ANS:

Answers would include a discussion of occupations, gender issues, religion, writing and technological improvements.

REF: p. 19-26

3. Discuss the strengths and weaknesses of the early Sumerian civilization.

ANS:

Answers would include the development of writing, literature, mathematics, a calendar as well as incessant warfare and could include environmental issues.

REF: p. 19-26

4. Describe Sumerian cultural achievements, including religion, writing, literature, and mathematics.

ANS:

Answers would include a discussion of ziggurats, cuneiform, The Epic of Gilgamesh, calendars and numbers.

REF: p. 20-24

5. Explain the significant social issues in Sumer.

ANS:

Answers would include a discussion of social hierarchy, gender roles and expectations, and the influence of Hammurabi's Law Code.

REF: p. 20 | p. 21 | p. 24-26

6. Describe the Sumerian decline in the larger context of Mesopotamia.

ANS:

Answers should include a discussion of past issues of warfare with Sumer along with a chronology of rival groups with information on each one and their significance to Mesopotamian history.

REF: p. 27

19. It could be most accurately stated of Hammurabi's Code that
- it was the first code of law ever drafted.
 - it did not deal extensively with family and social matters.
 - punishment depended upon the violator's rank in society.
 - it attempted to outlaw slavery.
 - it dealt exclusively with business matters.

ANS: C REF: p. 24-25

20. Women under Hammurabi
- could divorce.
 - could enter into a contract.
 - could gain custody of her children.
 - could own property.
 - All of the options are correct.

ANS: E REF: p. 24-25

21. The government in Mesopotamia can best be described as
- a democracy.
 - a theocracy and monarchy.
 - complete anarchy.
 - an oligarchy.
 - a republic.

ANS: B REF: p. 24

22. Most slaves in Mesopotamia seem to have been
- criminals.
 - debtors.
 - women.
 - children.
 - Africans.

ANS: B REF: p. 26

23. The most numerous class in Sumerian society were
- nobility.
 - freemen.
 - slaves.
 - priests.
 - Both C and D.

ANS: B REF: p. 24

24. For Sumerians, the true reason for marriage was
- family.
 - sex.
 - economic prosperity.
 - social mobility.
 - religious mandate.

ANS: A REF: p. 26

25. In terms of sex
- it was for procreation only.

ANS: Grains

REF: p. 17

2. The world's first farming civilization settled in a section of the Near East called the _____.

ANS: Levantine Corridor

REF: p. 18

3. Mesopotamia was located between the _____ and _____ rivers.

ANS:
Tigris, Euphrates
Euphrates, Tigris

REF: p. 18

4. _____ unified Mesopotamia and founded the Akkadian Empire.

ANS: Sargon the Great

REF: p. 20

5. The Sumerian language, as set down in written, wedge-shaped character form, is known as _____.

ANS: cuneiform

REF: p. 23

6. _____ were the stepped pyramids in Sumer.

ANS: ziggurat

REF: p. 21

7. The best known and a biblical example of a ziggurat might be the _____.

ANS: Tower of Babel

REF: p. 21

8. _____ is the first epic in world literature.

ANS: The Epic of Gilgamesh

REF: p. 22

9. _____ was the worst of all offenses between a husband and wife in Sumer.

ANS: Adultery

REF: p. 26

10. The first people to smelt iron were the _____.

ANS: Hittites

REF: p. 27