

Ancient Mesopotamia | Early Civilizations | World History | Khan Academy

Study set and quizzes built from the video transcript only · <https://youtu.be/9GQdh2eGP-Y> · 9:23

Part 1 • Quizlet Set (20 items)

Questions and answers (12)

Why did the first civilizations develop near river valleys? — Rivers flooded and made the soil fertile, gave fresh water to crops and people, and later helped move things like crops from place to place.

What does the name Mesopotamia mean, and where is it today? — It means "between rivers." It is the land between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers, mostly in modern-day Iraq.

Why is Mesopotamia called the cradle of civilization? — It was one of the first places farming developed, it sat at the crossroads of other early civilizations, and it made big advances in technology, architecture, religion, and writing.

Who were the first civilization in Mesopotamia, and when did they appear? — The Sumerians, in southern Mesopotamia, starting around 4000 BCE.

What famous invention is linked to the Sumerians? — The wheel. The first wheel ever discovered dates to about 3500 BCE in Sumer.

What was a ziggurat, and what does it tell us about Sumerian religion? — A huge structure at the center of a city with a temple on top. The Sumerians were polytheistic, and their gods took human form.

Who was Sargon the Great? — The ruler who built the Akkadian Empire around 2350 BCE, possibly the first empire in the world. He controlled both northern and southern Mesopotamia.

What happened to the Sumerian language after the Akkadian Empire took over? — Sumerian slowly died out as a spoken language, and Akkadian became the main language. Akkadian was written in cuneiform script.

What is Hammurabi most famous for? — The Code of Hammurabi, one of the earliest written codes of law. It worked almost like an early constitution and influenced later laws, including biblical law.

What was the Assyrian Empire, and what happened to it? — An Akkadian-speaking empire named for the town of Ashur. At its peak it controlled much of the Middle East, then it collapsed in the 7th century BCE.

Who was Nebuchadnezzar II? — The most famous ruler of the Neo-Babylonian Empire. He is known for taking the early Jewish people captive, called the Babylonian captivity.

Who ended the Neo-Babylonian Empire, and what did that end? — The Persians under Cyrus the Great, in the 6th century BCE. According to biblical accounts, this ended the Babylonian captivity.

Vocabulary (8)

fertile — Good for growing crops. River floods left the soil around Mesopotamia fertile.

civilization — A large, organized society with things like cities, government, religion, and writing.

crossroads — A place where many different people and cultures meet and mix. Mesopotamia sat at the crossroads of early civilizations.

polytheistic — Believing in many gods. The Sumerians were polytheistic.

cuneiform — The wedge-shaped writing script developed by the Sumerians, one of the first written languages.

empire — A group of lands and peoples ruled by one powerful leader or government. The Akkadian Empire may have been the first.

Semitic — A family of related languages that includes Akkadian, Aramaic, Arabic, and Hebrew.

captivity — Being held as a prisoner. The Babylonian captivity was when Nebuchadnezzar II held the early Jewish people.

Part 2 • Transcript Comprehension Quiz (Google Forms)

20 questions • multiple choice • 1 point each • all required

1. According to the video, why did agriculture first develop around river valleys?

- A. The rivers kept enemies away from the farms
- B. The rivers flooded and made the nearby soil fertile
- C. The rivers were the only source of stone for tools
- D. The rivers stayed cool during the summer heat

Correct answer: B

2. Which rivers does the video say Mesopotamia sits between?

- A. The Tigris and Euphrates rivers
- B. The Yellow and Yangtze rivers
- C. The Nile and Indus rivers
- D. The Indus and Euphrates rivers

Correct answer: A

3. Where is Mesopotamia located today?

- A. Mostly in modern-day Egypt
- B. Mostly in modern-day India
- C. Mostly in modern-day China
- D. Mostly in modern-day Iraq

Correct answer: D

4. Which civilization does the video say was the first to emerge in Mesopotamia?

- A. The Babylonians
- B. The Assyrians
- C. The Sumerians
- D. The Akkadians

Correct answer: C

5. Around what year does the video say the Sumerian civilization began to emerge?

- A. Around 4000 BCE
- B. Around 3500 BCE
- C. Around 2350 BCE
- D. Around 1000 BCE

Correct answer: A

6. What does the video say about the wheel?

- A. The first wheel was found in Egypt around 3500 BCE
- B. The first wheel was found in Sumer around 3500 BCE
- C. The first wheel was found in Babylon around 2350 BCE
- D. The first wheel was found in Assyria around 2350 BCE

Correct answer: B

7. What was found at the top of a ziggurat?

- A. A palace for the king and his family
- B. A storehouse for the city's grain
- C. A temple to the Sumerian gods
- D. A lookout tower for the army

Correct answer: C

8. What does the video say about the religion of the Sumerians?

- A. They worshipped many gods who took human form
- B. They worshipped one god who had no form
- C. They worshipped the river as their only god
- D. They worshipped their kings as living gods

Correct answer: A

9. Why does the video call Mesopotamia the cradle of civilization?

- A. It was the only place in the world that had rivers
- B. It was the largest empire in the ancient world
- C. It was where farming, writing, and other advances began
- D. It was the first place to build ships for trade

Correct answer: C

10. Which of these is described as one of the first written languages?

- A. Aramaic, developed by the Assyrians
- B. Cuneiform, developed by the Sumerians
- C. Hebrew, developed by the Babylonians
- D. Semitic, developed by the Akkadians

Correct answer: B

11. Why are Akkadian, Arabic, and Hebrew called Semitic languages?

- A. They were all first written in cuneiform
- B. They were all spoken in the city of Babylon
- C. They are said to come from the descendants of Shem
- D. They are said to have been invented by Sargon

Correct answer: C

12. What is Sargon the Great best known for?

- A. Writing the first code of laws in Mesopotamia
- B. Building the first ziggurat in southern Mesopotamia
- C. Inventing the cuneiform writing system
- D. Establishing what may be the first empire in the world

Correct answer: D

13. What happened to the Sumerian language over time?

- A. It became the main language of the Assyrian Empire

- B. It slowly died out as Akkadian became dominant
- C. It replaced Akkadian across all of Mesopotamia
- D. It was combined with Egyptian hieroglyphics

Correct answer: B

14. About how long does the video say the Akkadians ruled?

- A. A little over one hundred years
- B. A little over five hundred years
- C. A little over one thousand years
- D. A little over three thousand years

Correct answer: A

15. Under which ruler did the Babylonian Empire become a significant empire?

- A. Nebuchadnezzar II
- B. Cyrus the Great
- C. Sargon the Great
- D. Hammurabi

Correct answer: D

16. How does the video describe the Code of Hammurabi?

- A. The first written code of law in the world
- B. One of the earliest written codes of law, like an early constitution
- C. A set of religious rules for the priests of the ziggurat
- D. A record of the wars fought by the Babylonian army

Correct answer: B

17. The Assyrian Empire was named after which place?

- A. The town of Ashur
- B. The town of Akkad
- C. The city of Babylon
- D. The region of Sumer

Correct answer: A

18. What happened to the Assyrian Empire in the 7th century BCE?

- A. It was taken over by the Akkadian Empire
- B. It was taken over by the Persian Empire
- C. It collapsed and was taken over by the Neo-Babylonian Empire
- D. It collapsed and was taken over by the Sumerians

Correct answer: C

19. What is Nebuchadnezzar II most famous for in the video?

- A. Building the largest ziggurat in Babylon
- B. Freeing the early Jewish people from Egypt
- C. Inventing a new script to replace cuneiform
- D. Taking the early Jewish people captive

Correct answer: D

20. Who overthrew the Neo-Babylonian Empire in the 6th century BCE?

- A. The Assyrians under Sargon the Great
- B. The Akkadians under Hammurabi
- C. The Egyptians under Nebuchadnezzar II
- D. The Persians under Cyrus the Great

Correct answer: D

Part 3 • Quizlet Study Set Quiz (Google Forms)

20 questions • multiple choice • 1 point each • all required

1. Which of these was a reason the first civilizations grew near river valleys?

- A. The rivers protected people from disease
- B. The rivers left fertile soil after flooding
- C. The rivers were easy to cross on foot
- D. The rivers were full of gold and silver

Correct answer: B

2. What does the name Mesopotamia mean?

- A. Land of the gods
- B. Land of the first kings
- C. Between rivers
- D. Between mountains

Correct answer: C

3. Which statement best explains why Mesopotamia is called the cradle of civilization?

- A. It had the largest army in the ancient world
- B. It was ruled by a single empire for thousands of years
- C. It was the only region with a written language
- D. It was where farming, writing, and other advances began

Correct answer: D

4. Who were the first civilization in Mesopotamia?

- A. The Sumerians, around 4000 BCE
- B. The Akkadians, around 4000 BCE
- C. The Babylonians, around 2350 BCE
- D. The Assyrians, around 2350 BCE

Correct answer: A

5. Which invention is linked to the Sumerians?

- A. The sail
- B. The wheel
- C. The plow
- D. The bow

Correct answer: B

6. What sat at the top of a ziggurat?

- A. A temple to the gods
- B. A market for traders
- C. A home for the ruler
- D. A school for scribes

Correct answer: A

7. Sargon the Great is known for building which empire?

- A. The Babylonian Empire
- B. The Assyrian Empire
- C. The Akkadian Empire
- D. The Neo-Babylonian Empire

Correct answer: C

8. What happened to the Sumerian language after the Akkadians took control?

- A. It became the language of law across Mesopotamia
- B. It spread north and replaced Akkadian
- C. It was carved into every ziggurat
- D. It slowly died out as a spoken language

Correct answer: D

9. What is Hammurabi most famous for?

- A. A written code of law
- B. A new form of writing
- C. A great temple in Ashur
- D. A war against the Persians

Correct answer: A

10. What happened to the Assyrian Empire in the 7th century BCE?

- A. It was defeated by the Sumerians
- B. It was taken over by the Akkadians
- C. It collapsed and the Neo-Babylonians took over
- D. It moved its capital to Babylon

Correct answer: C

11. Who was Nebuchadnezzar II?

- A. The Persian king who freed the captives
- B. The Neo-Babylonian ruler who took the early Jewish people captive
- C. The Akkadian ruler who built the first empire
- D. The Sumerian king who built the first ziggurat

Correct answer: B

12. Who ended the Neo-Babylonian Empire?

- A. The Assyrians under Sargon
- B. The Akkadians under Hammurabi
- C. The Egyptians under Nebuchadnezzar II
- D. The Persians under Cyrus the Great

Correct answer: D

13. What does the word fertile mean?

- A. Good for growing crops

- B. Dry and full of sand
- C. Near a large city
- D. Easy to travel across

Correct answer: A

14. Which of these best describes a civilization?

- A. A small group of families who move often
- B. A large, organized society with cities, government, and writing
- C. A single city ruled by a priest
- D. A language spoken by many nations

Correct answer: B

15. When the video calls Mesopotamia a crossroads, what does it mean?

- A. A place where two rivers join together
- B. A place where roads were first built
- C. A place where many peoples and cultures met and mixed
- D. A place where the first wheel was found

Correct answer: C

16. What does polytheistic mean?

- A. Believing in one god
- B. Believing in no gods
- C. Believing the king is a god
- D. Believing in many gods

Correct answer: D

17. What is cuneiform?

- A. A wedge-shaped writing script from Sumer
- B. A type of temple built in Babylon
- C. A code of laws from Assyria
- D. A language spoken in Persia

Correct answer: A

18. Which of these best describes an empire?

- A. A city with a ziggurat at its center
- B. A group of lands and peoples ruled by one power
- C. A written set of laws for one nation
- D. A family of related languages

Correct answer: B

19. Which languages are described as Semitic?

- A. Sumerian and Egyptian
- B. Persian and Sumerian
- C. Akkadian, Aramaic, Arabic, and Hebrew
- D. Cuneiform and hieroglyphics

Correct answer: C

20. What does captivity mean?

- A. Being crowned as a ruler
- B. Being trained as a scribe
- C. Being sent to build a temple
- D. Being held as a prisoner

Correct answer: D