

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

MULTIPLE CHOICE

1. Which of the following is true of early civilizations?
 - a. They rarely had trade networks.
 - b. Agriculture is the only component needed for a civilization.
 - c. Civilizations had a combination of elements including government and social structure.
 - d. They did not include any rural areas but were based solely in large cities.
 - e. None of the options are correct.ANS: C REF: p. 17
2. The hunter gatherers of the Near and Middle East who switched to agriculture at the end of the last Ice Age were the
 - a. Sumerians
 - b. Amorites
 - c. Natufians
 - d. Assyrians
 - e. Hittites

ANS: C REF: p. 17-18

3. The Levantine Corridor
- had high water tables.
 - included modern day Israel and Syria.
 - was home to one of the earliest civilizations in Mesopotamia.
 - All of the options are correct.
 - None of the options are correct.

ANS: D REF: p. 18

4. The earliest towns and cities were found in
- Southwest Asia.
 - East Africa.
 - Northern Europe.
 - North America.
 - South America.

ANS: A REF: p. 18

5. The first urban civilization was the
- Sumerians.
 - Hittites.
 - Natufians.
 - Egyptians.
 - Amorites.

ANS: A REF: p. 18

6. Which of these statements is the least applicable to the Sumerians?
- They were the builders of the first large cities.
 - They brought Mesopotamia under united rulers as early as 3000 B.C.E.
 - They developed a sophisticated writing system.
 - Basic geometry is said to stem from them.
 - They probably pioneered the use of the wheel for transportation.

ANS: B REF: p. 18-19

7. In the time of Sumer, Mesopotamia
- saw few technological advancements.
 - was racked by strife and warfare.
 - was incredibly peaceful.
 - had no clear political leaders.
 - had few problems with water.

ANS: B REF: p. 20

8. The main significance of the Akkadian Empire was that
- Sumerian culture was spread throughout the Middle East.
 - Cuneiform was developed.
 - it outlasted other ancient empires.
 - it first manufactured bronze.
 - the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers were finally tamed.

ANS: A REF: p. 20

9. Most of Sumerian commerce was based on
- metals.
 - religion.
 - ceramics.
 - foodstuffs.

e. silk.

ANS: D

REF: p. 20

10. All of the following were occupations in Sumerian society EXCEPT
- clerk.
 - masonry.
 - shopkeeper.
 - jewelry making.
 - mining.

ANS: E

REF: p. 20

11. One of the most important tasks for Sumerian women and children was
- following the orders of male family members.
 - tilling the crops.
 - maintaining a supply of fresh water.
 - gathering nuts and berries.
 - keeping the homes clean and dry.

ANS: C

REF: p. 20

12. Cuneiform was
- a pictorial script from which all writing derives.
 - a written language corresponding to oral language.
 - an alphabet.
 - a script written in wedge-shaped characters.
 - the written language of the Egyptians.

ANS: D

REF: p. 23-24

13. The purpose of the ziggurat was primarily
- religious.
 - economic.
 - political.
 - ceremonial.
 - artistic.

ANS: A

REF: p. 21

14. Which of the following would *best* describe early Mesopotamia?
- More people lived in the towns than in the rural areas.
 - Most urban jobs could be obtained with little or no educational background.
 - While many people were directly or indirectly involved in food production, one of the most important tasks was to obtain a fresh supply of water on a daily basis.
 - Slaves were found in all parts of the Sumerian lands.
 - Although livestock was plentiful and vegetables could be easily grown, Mesopotamians had to import their grains.

ANS: C

REF: p. 20

15. Which of the following best explains Sumerian religion?
- The influence of multiple religions through trade.
 - The destructive nature of warfare and a need to explain death.
 - The overwhelming peace and ability among the people to contemplate religion.
 - The lack of control the people had over the environment, especially when the environment was so important for food production.
 - All of the options are correct.

ANS: D

REF: p. 21

16. Mesopotamians viewed time as

- a. static.
- b. in flux.
- c. tangible.
- d. elusive.
- e. cyclic.

ANS: E REF: p. 23

17. Which of the following would be most descriptive of Sumerian religion?
- a. Their many gods were all male.
 - b. All gods were free of human characteristics.
 - c. Sumerian gods existed within a human imposed hierarchy.
 - d. Sumerian gods existed without intervening at all in human lives.
 - e. Sumerian religion has been described as paternalistic.

ANS: C REF: p. 20-21

18. Considered the most important and lasting of the Sumerian accomplishments is/are
- a. ziggurats.
 - b. a law code.
 - c. the development of writing.
 - d. mathematics.
 - e. a calendar.

ANS: C REF: p. 23

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

ANS: C REF: p. 24-25

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

ANS: E REF: p. 24-25

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

ANS: B REF: p. 24

22. Most slaves in Mesopotamia seem to have been
- a. criminals.
 - b. debtors.
 - c. women.
 - d. children.
 - e. Africans.

ANS: B REF: p. 26

23. The most numerous class in Sumerian society were
- a. nobility.
 - b. freemen.
 - c. slaves.
 - d. priests.
 - e. Both C and D.

ANS: B REF: p. 24

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

ANS: A REF: p. 26

25. In terms of sex
- a. it was for procreation only.
 - b. it was merely a necessary sin.
 - c. there was a double standard regarding sex and adultery for men and women.
 - d. Sumerians never discussed the issue.
 - e. None of the options are correct.

ANS: C REF: p. 26

26. The ultimate victor in Mesopotamia after the Sumerians were the
- a. Amorites.
 - b. Hittites.
 - c. New Babylonians.
 - d. Assyrians.
 - e. Persians.

ANS: E REF: p. 27

27. Semitic in ancient history refers to
- a. the Holocaust.
 - b. a language family.
 - c. a religion.
 - d. a region in Southwest Asia.
 - e. None of the options are correct.

ANS: B REF: p. 26

28. The Hittites were the first to
- a. develop writing.
 - b. write down their religious beliefs.
 - c. use gold as currency.
 - d. smelt iron.
 - e. sail across the Persian Gulf.

ANS: D REF: p. 27

29. Sumer was never able to achieve
- a. a solid social structure.
 - b. a thriving economy.
 - c. a rigid government with a clear law code.
 - d. a unified political system over all of Mesopotamia.
 - e. It achieved all of the options.

ANS: D REF: p. 27

30. All of the following help to explain the decline of Mesopotamia until the 9th century EXCEPT
- environmental degradation.
 - population growth that outpaced agricultural production.
 - the lack of any clear leadership in Babylon.
 - a climate that included extreme heat and sandstorms.
 - Both A and B.

ANS: C REF: p. 27

COMPLETION

1. _____ were the usual basis of early agriculture.

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