

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class Period: \_\_\_\_\_

### Mesopotamia and Fertile Crescent Video Notes

#### **The Fertile Crescent:**

The fertile crescent is found in the region of the world called The Middle East. The fertile crescent is an area that is shaped like a \_\_\_\_\_. It contains very rich and fertile farmland. This region extends from the Mediterranean Sea to the Persian Gulf.

Within the fertile crescent there are two very important rivers, the \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_. These rivers are important because they allowed \_\_\_\_\_ people to settle, build cities, and eventually develop civilizations. \_\_\_\_\_ are people who do not have a permanent home. They move from place to place following resources (example: following a herd of animals or looking for a resource, like water).

#### **Mesopotamia:**

The Fertile Crescent's rich farmland allowed for a region to develop called \_\_\_\_\_. In Mesopotamia the world's first civilization developed. Mesopotamia developed between the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ rivers. Mesopotamia is a Greek word that means "between the rivers". It is important to remember that Mesopotamia and The Fertile Crescent are NOT the same thing. \_\_\_\_\_ is a part of The Fertile Crescent.

#### **The Tigris and Euphrates Rivers:**

The Tigris and Euphrates Rivers were very important and influential to the development of \_\_\_\_\_ in Mesopotamia. The land along the rivers had very rich soil that was good for farming. Every year the Tigris and Euphrates rivers \_\_\_\_\_. This flooding deposits \_\_\_\_\_ (finely ground fertile soil that is good for growing crops) across the Mesopotamia region.

Eventually people in Mesopotamia began to control the flooding of the rivers by building dams. People would also dig canals to control the flow of water into their fields. This watering of crops using canals is called \_\_\_\_\_. By creating this irrigation system, farmers could grow large amounts of food. This created a surplus of food which meant everyone did not need to farm. People could then focus on creating different goods, such as cloth, tools, or weapons. These goods could then be traded. This allowed for \_\_\_\_\_ to develop in Mesopotamia.

#### **Sumer:**

Sumer is the world's first civilization. By 3000 B.C. small villages grew into cities in Sumer. Sumer is a region in Southern Mesopotamia. The people of Sumer were called \_\_\_\_\_. The Sumerians built many cities. Most of their cities looked like this:

This layout led to the formation of \_\_\_\_\_. City-States are political units made up of a central city and all the countryside around it. Each City-State had its own government. Over time many City-States developed in Sumer. Sumerian city-states did occasionally fight each other. In times of peace, City-States would trade with one another

### **The Sumerian Society:**

Religion played a huge role in the daily life of the Sumerians. The Sumerians were \_\_\_\_\_. This means they believed in many gods. Sumerians believed that these gods were responsible for the good things that happened in life (for example: good harvest and wealth) as well as the bad things that happened in life (for example: droughts, floods, and disease). The main goal of the Sumerians was to please the \_\_\_\_\_. Each City-State had a temple called a \_\_\_\_\_. Sumerians believed that the Ziggurats would bring them closer to their gods.

The people in Sumer were divided by rank or class. The system of social division is called a \_\_\_\_\_. The Sumerian social hierarchy looked like this:

### **Sumerian Achievements:**

Sumerians created a way of writing called \_\_\_\_\_. Cuneiform was written by using a wedge-shaped tool to make marks on damp clay. Sumerians were the first to build wheeled vehicles such as carts. Sumerians invented the plow which helped increase agricultural production. Sumerians created a math system based on the number 60. They also divided a circle into 360 degrees and a year into 12 months. Sumerians were the first to make \_\_\_\_\_ and make \_\_\_\_\_ out of copper and tin.