

Directions: As you read Chapter 2 in History of Our World, answer the following.

Chapter Preview (p. 29)

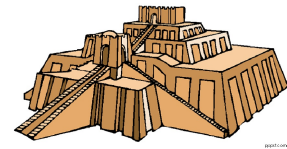
1. Describe the location of the Fertile Crescent.
2. List the modern countries (at least 5) of the Fertile Crescent.

Section 1 (pp. 30-35)

3. How long have kids been going to school?
4. List at least 3 natural advantages in Mesopotamia that helped the Sumer Civilization develop.
5. How were the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers both life giving and life threatening?

6. Define:

- a. Mesopotamia
- b. city-state
- c. ziggurat
- d. polytheism



7. What led to the fall of the Sumerian Civilization?

Skills Check:

8. Examine the artifact on pages 32-33. Identify at least 5 different occupations or specialties in Sumerian society.
9. Look at the pictures at the bottom of pages 31 and 34. What do you think was the most common building material in Mesopotamia?
10. Examine pages 37-38. How did the people in Mesopotamia improve agriculture over time?

Section 2 (pp. 38-42)

11. Define "empire."
12. Describe 2 ways Babylon prospered under the rule of Hammurabi.

13. Describe at least 2 military advancements the Assyrians used to conquer and control the Fertile Crescent.
14. Describe at least 2 scientific advancements of the New Babylonian (Chaldean) Empire under Nebuchadnezzar II.
15. After reading Section 2, draw a conclusion: Why do you think there was so much warfare in Mesopotamia? (Don't actually draw a picture—just write your conclusion.)

Section 3 (pp. 43-47)

16. What is a major advantage of having written laws?
17. How can we tell that the Babylonian Civilization did not believe that “all men are created equal.”
18. Even though the penalties in Hammurabi's code seem harsh to us, why are written laws better than no written laws?
19. When did the world's first writing develop?
20. Define “cuneiform.”
21. What materials were used to write in Mesopotamia?



Section 4 (pp. 48-53)

22. How did the Phoenicians become a powerful civilization in the Mediterranean?
23. How did Phoenician writing differ from cuneiform?
24. Write your first and last name using the Phoenician alphabet:
25. Even though the Israelite civilization originated in Mesopotamia, how did Abraham's religion differ from the other people in the region?
26. What modern country encompasses most of Canaan today?
27. Why did the Hebrew people leave Canaan for Egypt?

Section 5 (pp. 56-60)

28. Define “Torah.”
29. What is the Israelite view of history?
30. What is the basis for Hebrew law?
31. Describe one Jewish belief that distinguished the Israelites from other Middle Eastern civilizations.
32. Define “diaspora.”

