BRIDGES™

MESOPOTAMIA



Explore the world of ancient Mesopotamia

Benchmark EDUCATION

SUNITA APTE

SOCIAL STUDIES
Early River Civilizations
Level 40 Q

For teachers' inspection ONLY

READING

Comprehension Skill:

Draw Conclusions

As you read, look for many clues and pieces of evidence that help you draw conclusions. Conclusions are not stated in the book but have enough evidence to be proven.

Phonics/Word Study:

Compound Words

As you read, look for compound words like **city-state**. Compound words are made of two words put together with or without a hyphen.

Look for these text and graphic features.

Text Features

- Table of contents
- Introduction
- Sidebars
- Conclusion
- Glossary
- Index
- Information about the author
- Vocabulary words in boldfaced type
- Captions for photos, diagrams, and illustrations
- Bullets. Page 2
- Checkpoints. Check yourself to see that you understand what you have read. Pages 16, 29

Graphic Features

- Photographs
- Maps. Pages 3, 4, 11
- Time line. Page 30

SOCIAL STUDIES

The Big Idea:

This book explains the Mesopotamian region and its early civilizations. It identifies where and how people lived, and shows many ways that life in Mesopotamia is like life today.

Look for these special information features.

Content Sidebars

- It's a Fact. Interesting facts about Mesopotamia. Pages 5, 8
- Solve This. Solve these math problems to learn more about Mesopotamian life. Page 15
- Historical Perspective. Compare events in the past to life today. Page 9
- They Made a Difference. Meet people who were important to the study of Mesopotamian culture. Page 17
- Myth or Reality? Compare what people once believed to what really happened. Pages 18, 28
- Primary Source Documents. Examine original documents from the past. Page 24

Content Vocabulary

archaeologist
artifact
artisan
city-state
civilization
cuneiform
dynasty
fertile
scribe
silt
stylus

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by Sunita Apte

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Pictures To Think About

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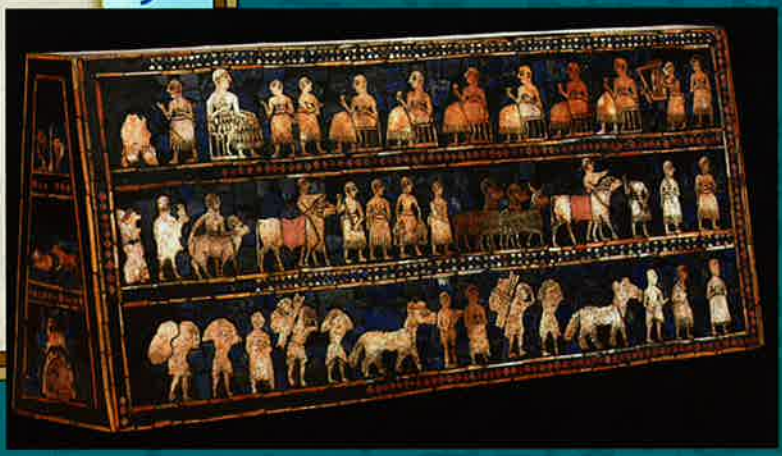




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Words To Think About

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artisan

What do you think the word **artisan** means?

Who was an **artisan**?

- artist
- ?
- craftsman

What did an **artisan** make?

- jewelry
- ?
- pottery

archaeologist

What do you think the word **archaeologist** means?

Greek: arkhaios **(ancient)**

Greek: -ology **(study of)**

Read for More Clues
archaeologist, page 9
artisan, page 12
civilization, page 2

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Characteristics		Examples
group of people		Ancient Greece
people use tools		Ancient Egypt
?		?

civilization

What do you think the word **civilization** means?



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Introduction

The world's oldest **civilization** (sih-vuh-luh-ZAY-shun) grew up in a region known as Mesopotamia (meh-suh-puh-TAY-mee-uh). Today this land is part of Iraq, Syria, and Turkey.

Mesopotamia is the land between the Tigris (TY-grus) and Euphrates (yoo-FRAY-teez) rivers. *Mesopotamia* means "the land between the rivers." It is a Greek word. The people who first lived there did not call it Mesopotamia. The Ancient Greeks named the area years later.

What Makes a Civilization?

All civilizations have:

- Groups of people who live in towns or cities
- A government with rules
- People who do different jobs, such farmers or craftsmen
- People who use tools
- A way of farming, or growing food

Early River Civilizations

Long ago, people often settled near rivers. The soil there was rich. People farmed. They drank the water. They used the river to travel between towns.

Many early civilizations started near rivers. Look at the map on page 3. You can see four important civilizations. Mesopotamia was the earliest. The other three were located in Egypt, India, and China.