

The ancient civilization of Mesopotamia (“**Land between 2 Rivers**”) was located between the Tigris River and Euphrates River. This area around the **rivers** often flooded and **deposited** silt on the land.

Today, the **country of** Iraq is found where Mesopotamia was.

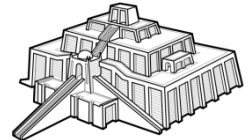
By **digging canals to irrigate their fields**, the Sumerians were able to develop surplus of **food**.

What was a city-state? City with nearby villages and farmlands

Name some **advances to civilization** (or inventions) that **Sumerians** developed:

Plow, wheel, bronze, potter’s wheel, cuneiform,

What did they call the **religious temple in the center** of each city-state? ziggurat



Sumerians used which **technology/tool** to make **planting crops easier**? plow

Food surpluses allowed people in civilizations to trade for tools, specialized jobs.

Know why the people in Sumer **first chose priests to rule**. Know why **later strong kings were chosen**.

Direct link to God/Right of Divinity

How did Sumerians view their gods? Direct link to God/Right of Divinity

What is the word meaning “many gods”? polytheism

Sumerian social classes

- ∞ *Upper class* = kings, priests, landowners, rich merchants, & government officials
- ∞ *Middle classes* = (all free people) including farmers and artisans
- ∞ *Lower class* = slaves
- ∞ *Women included in all classes*

Sumerian writing systems

- ∞ original = clay tokens that had a picture/pictograph of the product kept inside a container
- ∞ later = wedge-shaped marks called “cuneiform,” which was carved with a stylus
- ∞ Because writing was so important for record keeping, scribes were highly respected.

MAP SKILLS: Study the map on page 94. Understand what the symbols in the key/legend mean.

- ∞ Practice measuring distances from one city to another by using the scale
 - Tip: Tear a piece of small paper so that it is the same size as the scale. Then lay that paper scale over the map, just like you would use a ruler. Record the miles or km.

ESSAY TOPICS: You’ll choose one topic. Start your response with a **thesis statement** (restate the question).

- ∞ Rivers affected the lives of Sumerian people, in more ways than just agriculture

- flooding, irrigation, trade, mud
- ∞ Agricultural advances made by early Mesopotamians allowed the civilization of Sumer to arise
 - more and more crops, cities grew, specialization