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| |  | | --- | | **Geography/Environment**  Civilization started on Tigris & Euphrates Rivers  Modern day Iraq  very hot summers dry land  little rain most of the time  spring rains brought flooding to rivers which made rich soil for wheat and barley |  |  | | --- | | **Religion**  believed by pleasing gods they would get large harvests  thought natural disasters were signs that gods were angry  chief gods of Sumer were Enlil (god of winds, storm, and rain) & Ea (god of waters and wisdom)  chief god of Babylon was Marduk | | | |  | | --- | | **Government**  city-states which included a city or village and farmlands around it  city-states had own leaders  Sumer formed new government called monarchy (one person had complete authority to rule)  Hammurabi became powerful king of Mesopotamia and introduced an important code of law | | | | |  | | --- | | **Social Class System**   1. highest class - nobles (king, priests, leaders) 2. merchant, craftworkers, and managers (middle class)    * carpenters    * potters    * bricklayers    * doctors    * scribes (writing valuable skill) 3. laborers (unskilled workers) and slaves (prisoners of war) |  |  | | --- | | **Money**  became traders - farmers produced more food than needed  used riverboats to transport goods  developed a system of recordkeeping (cuneiform on clay tablets) to manage trade | |
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| |  | | --- | | Mesopotamia | | | | | | |
| |  |  | | --- | --- | | **Inventions**  **Sumerians**   * wheel * plow * pottery * bronze tools * built dikes and canals | **Inventions**  **Assyrians**   * iron weapons * chariots * strong army   **Babylonians**   * written laws (Hammurabis’ Code) * architecture | | | | | |  | | --- | | **Architecture**  homes were huts built from bundles of reeds -later homes built from sun-baked mud bricks  temple in center of each city-state housed city-state's patron god or goddess  first platform temple - then became temple-towers called ziggurats  - made from sun-baked bricks-facings made of colorful glazed bricks  built system of sewers | | |
| |  | | --- | | **Traditions and Common Values**  clothing made from wool or flax  men were bare-chested & wore skirtlike garments tied at waist  women wore gowns that covered from shoulders to ankles - right arm & shoulder left uncovered - braided hair and wrapped it around head - wore headdresses for important occasions  wore gold and silver jewelry set with precious stones | | | |  | | --- | | **Form of Writing/Language**  developed a system of recordkeeping to manage trade  set up formal contracts on clay tablets using wedge-writing called cuneiform | | | | |  | | --- | | **Art**  **Sumerian** (3500-2340 BCE) built temples on top of vast ziggurats - Sculptures - produced many small, finely carved cylindrical seals made of marble  **Akkadian** (2370-1900 BCE)  bronze sculpture  **Assyrian** (1100-612 BCE) sculpture  Iron weaponry  **Babylonian** (1900 - 1100 BCE) King Nebuchadnezzar II built the Hanging Gardens of Babylon  Ishtar Gate | |