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| **Geography/Environment**Civilization started on Tigris & Euphrates RiversModern day Iraqvery hot summers dry landlittle rain most of the timespring rains brought flooding to rivers which made rich soil for wheat and barley |

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| **Religion**believed by pleasing gods they would get large harveststhought natural disasters were signs that gods were angrychief gods of Sumer were Enlil (god of winds, storm, and rain) & Ea (god of waters and wisdom)chief god of Babylon was Marduk |

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| **Government**city-states which included a city or village and farmlands around itcity-states had own leadersSumer 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 |

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| **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)
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| **Money**became traders - farmers produced more food than neededused riverboats to transport goodsdeveloped a system of recordkeeping (cuneiform on clay tablets) to manage trade |

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| Mesopotamia |

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|  **Inventions****Sumerians*** wheel
* plow
* pottery
* bronze tools
* built dikes and canals
 |  **Inventions****Assyrians*** iron weapons
* chariots
* strong army

**Babylonians*** written laws (Hammurabis’ Code)
* architecture
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|  **Architecture**homes were huts built from bundles of reeds -later homes built from sun-baked mud brickstemple in center of each city-state housed city-state's patron god or goddessfirst platform temple - then became temple-towers called ziggurats  - made from sun-baked bricks-facings made of colorful glazed bricksbuilt system of sewers  |

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| **Traditions and Common Values**clothing made from wool or flaxmen were bare-chested & wore skirtlike garments tied at waistwomen wore gowns that covered from shoulders to ankles - right arm & shoulder left uncovered - braided hair and wrapped it around head - wore headdresses for important occasionswore gold and silver jewelry set with precious stones |

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| **Form of Writing/Language**developed a system of recordkeeping to manage tradeset up formal contracts on clay tablets using wedge-writing called cuneiform |

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| **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)sculptureIron weaponry**Babylonian** (1900 - 1100 BCE)King Nebuchadnezzar II built the Hanging Gardens of BabylonIshtar Gate |

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