1. Where does it appear the four ancient civilization settled?
2. Do the areas have anything in common?
3. Why do you think they settled there?
Ancient civilizations settled in river valleys because they needed...
Protection: rivers gave protection from invasion

Imagine invading a city that sat between these two rivers.
Irrigation: a way to get water from rivers to crops
Trade: boats were a much easier way to carry large cargo for trade
Transportation and Exploration: boat was much faster to travel and explore other areas

Protection
Irrigation
Trade
Transportation & Exploration
Mesopotamia

6th Grade Social Studies
H.2
**Vocabulary**

**irrigation:** a way to get water from rivers to crops

**city states:** a city that has its own government and rules its own territory
specialization: when a person or country focuses on producing a single/small number of products

cuneiform: a system of writing that uses wedge-shaped marks etched into clay
Geography

• Located between the Tigris River and Euphrates River

• Mesopotamia was made up of several smaller civilizations:
  • Sumer
  • Babylon
  • Assyria
Government

- city states were ruled by individual leaders
- **Hammurabi’s Code**: one of the first forms of written law. Not only named laws, but also punishments
Economy

Specialization in work: weavers, potters, priests, metal workers

Because of their geography, they would use the Tigris & Euphrates Rivers to trade on
Culture

• polytheistic religion: believes in many gods

• social structure:
  • upper class: priests, government officials, warriors
  • middle class: farmers, merchants, artisans
  • lowers class: people from conquered lands
Technology

Sumerians: wheel, irrigation, bronze tools & weapons, cuneiform

Babylonians: number system base 60
Agriculture

Irrigation from the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers allowed them to create a surplus.

Invented the plow allowed much easier farming.