

Name: _____ Period: _____

Civilizations of the Eastern Hemisphere

All the civilizations of the Eastern Hemisphere settled in river valleys because they needed...

P rotection

I rrigation

T rade

T ransportation & Exploration

Mesopotamia

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
- lower 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