

I. Land Between Two Rivers

- a. Scribes were professional writers
- b. Scribes were important to the king and priest for recorded keeping

A. The Geographic Setting

- a. Sumer is located in the region Mesopotamia
- b. Mesopotamia has rich soil and life-giving rivers

1. The Location of Mesopotamia

- a. Mesopotamia means “between the rivers”
- b. The two rivers are the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers
- c. It is in the Fertile Crescent

2. Rivers of Life and Death

- a. Melting snow picks up topsoil and brings it down stream where the land floods and leaving the topsoil
- b. Floods are sudden and can kill animal, people and destroy buildings and crops

B. The First Cities

- a. Food surpluses encouraged the growth of cities

1. Independent Cities Form

- a. They shared the same culture and same language however they were not united
- b. City-state is a city that is also a separate, independent state

2. A Brief Tour of a Sumerian City

- a. Town squares are busy with merchants and entertainers
- b. People’s houses did not face the busy streets

B. Sumerian Religion

1. Sumerian Temples

- a.

2. Ancient Religious Beliefs

- a.
- b.
- c.

3. Honoring the Gods

- a.
- b.
- c.

4. The Fall of Sumer

a.

b.

c.