

Questions about Mesopotamia and Sumer
6th Grade Social Studies

1. The Sumerian city-states were found in Mesopotamia, which is a Greek word meaning, "The land between the rivers." Between what two rivers was Mesopotamia found?
 - a. the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers
 - b. the Colorado and Mississippi Rivers
 - c. the Nile and the Congo Rivers
 - d. the Amazon and the Rio de Plata Rivers

2. Why was building and maintaining irrigation systems so important for the communities of Mesopotamia?
 - a. because they needed water for farming, and the needs of the people in the villages, i.e: drinking, cooking, washing
 - b. they needed the water to help the forests around their cities grow
 - c. the irrigation systems helped keep the enemy attackers away
 - d. all of the above

3. Sumerians often fought over the rights to water from the rivers. What happened as part of this fighting?
 - a. groups would build dams to prevent the water from flowing to other cities
 - b. many people who fought over the water died
 - c. the path the water flowed was redirected by canals people built
 - d. all of the above

4. By 3000 B.C.E., most people in Sumer lived inside walled-in city-states. Why?
 - a. there were no natural boundaries to protect the city-states from attacks, so they built walls made of mud bricks to keep attackers out
 - b. the wind and the sandstorms were so severe, that this was the only way to protect themselves
 - c. the walls they built around the city-states were built to keep the flood waters from drowning the homes inside
 - d. none of the above

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5. Why did the places people lived change from small farming villages to large city-states?
- a. because of food shortages, settlers moved from villages in the foothills to the river valley to grow crops there
 - b. because the irrigation systems (man-made rivers) crossed village boundaries, communities had to cooperate to share the water
 - c. building walls and moats around a large group of homes was a better way to protect themselves from attackers
 - d. all of the above
6. Historians consider a culture to be a **civilization** if it has which of these features?
- a. a stable food supply to help people in the culture survive
 - b. a written language as well as advances in technologies
 - c. a social structure with different levels of wealth and power, as well as a classification of jobs
 - d. all of the above, and more
7. The Sumerians farmed the land to grow food for the people. In addition to canals, what other farming invention did the Sumerians create?
- a. the seed
 - b. the cow
 - c. the plow
 - d. the windmill
8. The Sumerians developed a two-wheeled vehicle that was pulled by horses. Which choice below is a two-wheeled vehicle pulled by horses?
- a. a plow
 - b. a canal
 - c. a chariot
 - d. a scribe

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9. The Sumerians were the first people to develop a system of written laws. These were written in a language called Cuneiform. Which choice below names a person whose job it is to write?
- a. a blacksmith
 - b. a sentry
 - c. a scribe
 - d. a king
10. The Sumerians' most important invention was the wheel. What activity gave them a clue to the way a circular object could be used to make a wheeled vehicle for transportation?
- a. traditional folk dances performed in a circle pattern
 - b. spinning clay on a potter's wheel used to make round containers like bowls, jugs (bottles), and cups
 - c. gazing at the heavens and noticing the path of the visible planets moving around the Sun
 - d. watching the way dogs spin in circles trying to chase their own tails