## **City States of Ancient Sumer**

## **Guided Notes**

* Many early civilizations arose around the **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**.
  + A region in the Middle East named for its rich \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_and golden wheat fields
  + \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_herders overcame the natural barriers of the land and it became an area where people and ideas were traded among tribes
  + Each new group made its contribution to the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_of the region.
* Geography
  + Fertile Crescent curves around the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Gulf to the eastern coast of the Mediterranean Sea
    - This is what the ancient Greeks named \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
      * Between the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
      * Rivers flow from modern day Turkey through \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_into Persian Gulf.
  + 3300 BC first civilization developed here ...\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
  + Organizing for floods and Irrigation
    - Controlling the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_and Euphrates was key to life in Mesopotamia
    - Rivers often rose and destroyed \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ villages and washed away topsoil
    - The Epic of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_describes a great flood that destroys the world
    - Major floods were common in these \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_days
    - Villagers worked together to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_river.
      * In dry season, water was channeled into \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
      * \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_would organize people to work together to build walls to hold back floodwaters and irrigation ditches to carry water to fields
  + Sumerians Build Thriving Cities
    - Few natural \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
    - Didn't have wood or stone, so built out of clay bricks
      * \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_were first great cities built with them
      * Trade was important as merchants traveled rivers or braved \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_to carry goods
      * May have made the first \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_vehicles
      * Goods from \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_and India have been found in Sumerian cities.
* Sumerian Civilization Takes Shape
  + Within a few hundred years, Sumer included at least \_\_\_\_\_separate city-states
  + Rivals often battled for control of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
    - People often turned to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_leaders for protection.
    - Over time, the practice of rule by war leaders evolved into \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_rule.
  + Complex Government Unfolds
    - Ruler was responsible for maintaining city walls and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
    - Led armies to war, enforced laws, employed \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_to collect taxes and keep records
    - Leader was the chief \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_of the gods and led ceremonies to please them
  + Sumerians Structure Their Society
    - There was a distinct social \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
      * Highest class was \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_family, leading officials, and high priests
      * Small middle class: lesser \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, scribes, merchants, artisans
        + Artisans who did the same thing (weavers or carpenters) often lived in the same area
      * Majority were \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_farmers - lowest level
        + Some had own land but most worked land that belonged to king or temples
      * Owned \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
        + Most were prisoners of war
        + Some sold themselves into slavery to pay off \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
    - Women
      * \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_were highly honored in religious ceremonies
      * Because of this, women held a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_social standing than in many later cultures of the region
      * Never had \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_rights equal to men
      * Rulers' wives had supervisory \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
      * Some learned writing and music...wrote songs about husbands
      * Rarely inherited \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
  + Sumerians Practice Religion
    - \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, like most ancient people
    - Gods controlled every aspect of life, especially forces of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
    - Gods behaved like \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_people
      * Ate, drank, married, raised families
    - Favored truth and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_and were responsible for violence and suffering
    - The people's main goal was to keep the gods happy for the safety of their city.
      * Each city built a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(large stepped platform thought to have been topped by a temple dedicated to the city's chief god/goddess).
      * Practiced ceremonies and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_on holy days
        + The king would symbolically marry \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, the goddess of love and life giver, in order to have a prosperous year.
    - Believed in an \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
      * After death, all people lived in a grim underworld with no \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
      * "the place where they live on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_., their food is mud...and they see no light, living in blackness on the door and door bolt, deeply settled dust." - The Epic of Gilgamesh
  + Sumerians Invent Writing
    - 3200 BC, Sumerians had invented the earliest known \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
    - Cuneiform, from Latin *cuneus* for "\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_", because scribes wrote by making wedge shaped marks in clay tablets.
    - Developed out of a system of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_used to record goods brought to temple storehouses.
    - As the writing evolved, Sumerians used it to record myths, poems, laws, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_., and business contracts.
    - It took years of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.schooling to learn cuneiform.
      * Untidy copying or \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.in class was punished by caning.
      * Those who did well might learn about religion, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_., and mathematics.
* Lasting Legacy of Sumer
  + About 2500 BC, conquering armies moved across Mesopotamia and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.the Sumerians.
  + \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.BC, the civilization had been replaced with others.
  + Newcomers adopted many ideas and innovations from the Sumerians.
    - Akkadians, Babylonians and Assyrians adapted cuneiform to their languages.
  + Sumerians developed \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.and mathematics.
    - Studied skies and recorded movement of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.and stars.
    - Developed number system based on 6
      * Divided the hour into \_\_\_\_\_\_minutes and a circle in to \_\_\_\_\_\_degrees
    - Babylonians built on their math to develop basic algebra and geometry, create accurate \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_., and predict eclipses of sun and moon.
  + Their oral \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_were written down...The Epic of Gilgamesh
  + Their knowledge passed on to the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_who in turn had a powerful impact on the Western world.

## **Assessment Questions- Output- (complete sentences)**

1. What were the characteristics of the world's first civilization?

2. (Sumerians faced significant geographic challenges, such as floods.) How do you think facing these challenges played a role in the formation of a strong government?

3. How might the invention of cuneiform have strengthen Sumerian government and religious practices?

4. Describe how later people built on Sumerian learning. Would this have been possible without the invention of writing?

5. What advances did Sumerians make in mathematics and astronomy?