Essential Questions:

1. How did geographic characteristics influence how the people lived in Mesopotamia?

Since it was dry there, the rivers gave them the ability to grow crops with fertile soil from the flooding rivers. Rivers also gave them water to irrigate their crops and a means of transportation. The warm climate from the Mediterranean Sea made life easier. The lack of rain caused them to have religion and pray to the gods.

1. What was the social setting of Mesopotamia?

There were 3 social classes with the kings and priests in the top group. The middle class had merchants, farmers, and skilled craftsmen. The bottom group had slaves. The top group had more rights and a better life. The cities were busy trade centers-people had specialization or one job.

1. What was the political setting (unique government) of Mesopotamia?

The political setting in Mesopotamia was based on how much power you had. Government officials or kings and priests were usually at the top of the social class pyramid and had a lot of power. Each city-state in Mesopotamia had there own ruler along with their own God in the ziggurat to worship.

4. What were the agricultural practices of the Sumerians in Mesopotamia?

Seeds were planted after the floods came. Barley, wheat, and many vegetables were grown. They invented a plow. They used water from the river to irrigate their crops. Animals such as sheep, cows, and goats were raised for food.

5. What technologies or scientific contributions did the people make to later civilizations?

Sumerians had many contributions that helped later civilizations. Some of these were the wheel, a sailboat, the plow, pottery, writing, irrigation systems, metal tools, government, and mud bricks.

6. Describe the economics in 3500 B.C. in the river valleys between the Tigris and the Euphrates Rivers.

In the river valleys many civilizations had a surplus which allowed them to trade with others. Sumerians were able to import what they needed and export any surplus. They used cuneiform to keep records of this. This also helped to spread culture an allowed people to share any new technologies.