

MESOPOTAMIA Guided Reading Notes

Chapter 22, Lesson 1 (642-649)

Name: Key ☺ Date: _____ Period: _____

GUIDED READING: Complete the following notes as you read pages 642-649.

* (Reminder: All details can be found in the reading under each section.

The notes follow the same order as your text... so follow along!) ☺

Lesson 1: The Sumerians How does geography influence the way people live?

HEADINGS & MAIN IDEAS	DETAILS (Key details of each main idea section)
<p>The 1st Civilizations in Mesopotamia</p> <p>Why did people settle here?</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Civilizations 1st developed around <u>3,000</u> B.C. 2. The need to have <u>water</u> for <u>drinking</u> and <u>growing crops</u> influenced where people settled. 3. These people developed the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>social classes</u> depending on their occupations. • They did <u>specialized</u> types of work. • They set up governments to <u>pass laws</u>, <u>defend their land</u> and <u>carry out large building projects</u>. • They also developed a system of <u>values and beliefs</u>.
<p>The Two Rivers</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mesopotamia developed in what is now Southern <u>Iraq</u>. 2. Mesopotamia means "<u>the land between the rivers</u>" in Greek. 3. The civilization began on the plain between the <u>Tigris</u> and <u>Euphrates</u> Rivers. 4. Mesopotamia was located in the eastern part of the larger <u>Fertile Crescent</u>. 5. The Fertile Crescent includes parts of the modern countries of <u>Turkey</u>, <u>Syria</u>, <u>Iraq</u>, <u>Lebanon</u>, <u>Israel</u>, & <u>Jordan</u>.
<p>Early Valley Dwellers</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. People first settled in Mesopotamia about <u>7000</u> B.C. 2. They first settlers were <u>hunters</u> and <u>herders</u>. 3. By <u>4000</u> B.C. they built <u>farming villages</u> along the 2 rivers.

<p>Taming the Rivers</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Early Mesopotamian farmers used water from the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers to <u>water their fields</u>. 2. During the spring harvest, <u>rains</u> and <u>melting snow</u> from the mountains caused rivers to overflow their banks. This flooded the plains. 3. Sometimes, <u>unexpected</u> and <u>violent</u> floods swept away crops, homes, and livestock. 4. Flooded rivers were filled with <u>silt</u>. When the floods ended, silt was left on the <u>banks</u> and <u>plains</u>. 5. Over time, people in Mesopotamia learned to build <u>dams</u> to control the seasonal floods. 6. They dug <u>canals</u> that let water flow from a water source to their fields. 7. Irrigation let these early farmers grow <u>surpluses</u> - or extra amounts - of food. 8. When food was plentiful (surplus), not all people needed to farm. Some became <u>artisans</u>, or <u>skilled workers</u>. 9. They specialized in <u>weaving</u> cloth and making <u>pottery</u>, <u>tools</u>, and <u>weapons</u>.
<p>Sumer's Civilization City-States Arise</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The harsh landscape made it hard to travel by land and <u>communicate</u> with other groups. This meant that each city was largely <u>cut off</u> from its neighbors. As a result, Sumerian cities became <u>independent</u>. 2. Each city-state had its own <u>government</u> and was not part of any larger <u>governing</u> state. 3. The <u>population</u> of the city-states ranged from about <u>5,000</u> to <u>20,000</u> people. 4. Sumerians used <u>mud</u> from the rivers as their main building material. They mixed mud with <u>crushed reeds</u> (thick grass), formed bricks, and left them in the sun to <u>dry</u>. 5. Often city-states went to war over <u>resources</u> and <u>political borders</u>.

<p>Gods, Priests and Kings</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Sumerian people worshipped many <u>gods</u>, a type of belief known as <u>polytheism</u>. 2. The Sumerians thought that some gods had power over parts of <u>nature</u>, such as the <u>rain</u> or the <u>wind</u>. 3. Although Sumerians honored all the gods, each city-state claimed <u>one</u> as its <u>own</u>. 4. To honor its god, a city-state often included a large <u>temple</u> called a <u>ziggurat</u>, which means, "to rise high." 5. In the early days, <u>priests</u> of the ziggurat ruled the city-states. Later, Sumerian city-states became <u>monarchies</u>. 6. Sumerian kings claimed they received their <u>power</u> to rule from the city's <u>god</u>.
<p>Social Groups</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. People in Sumer were divided into <u>social classes</u>. 2. <u>Kings</u>, <u>priests</u>, <u>warriors</u> & <u>government</u> officials belonged to the upper class. 3. The middle class consisted of <u>merchants</u>, <u>farmers</u>, <u>fishers</u> & <u>artisans</u>. 4. <u>Enslaved people</u> made up Sumer's lowest class. 5. Men were the <u>head of the home</u>; boys went to <u>school</u> and were trained for a specific job. 6. Women & daughters ran the <u>home</u>.
<p>Farmers and Traders</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Wheat</u>, <u>barley</u>, and <u>dates</u> were the major crops. 2. Farmers also raised <u>sheep</u>, <u>goats</u> & <u>pigs</u>. 3. <u>Trade</u> was another key part of Sumer's economy. The Sumerians did not have some of the <u>goods</u> that they needed.
<p>Sumerian Contributions</p>	<p>Mesopotamia has been called the "<u>cradle of civilization</u>."</p> <p>It was the beginning of organized human society.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Writing was a way for Sumerians to keep records of their <u>lives</u> and their <u>history</u>.

Writing	<p>2. Writing was also a way to share information. They could <u>pass</u> on their ideas to later <u>generations</u>.</p> <p>3. Cuneiform writing system was made up of about <u>1,200</u> different characters.</p> <p>4. The name cuneiform comes from a Latin word meaning "<u>wedge</u>".</p> <p>5. Sumerians wrote on <u>clay</u> because they did not have paper.</p> <p>6. <u>Scribes</u> were official record keepers.</p>
Technology and Mathematics	<p>1. Many useful inventions included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They built the first <u>carts</u>, which were pulled by <u>donkeys</u>. • They also introduced vehicles into military use with the development of the <u>chariot</u>. • For river travel, Sumerians developed the <u>sailboat</u>. • They invented a wooden <u>plow</u> to help them in the fields. • Sumerians were also the first to make <u>bronze</u> out of copper and tin. They used <u>bronze</u> to craft stronger <u>tools</u>, <u>weapons</u> & <u>jewelry</u>. <p>2. The Sumerians also studied mathematics & astronomy.</p> <p>3. They used <u>geometry</u> to measure the size of fields and to plan buildings.</p> <p>4. They also made a <u>calendar</u> based on the cycles of the moon.</p>

It Matters Because: The Sumerians made important advances in areas such as farming and writing that laid the foundation for future civilizations.