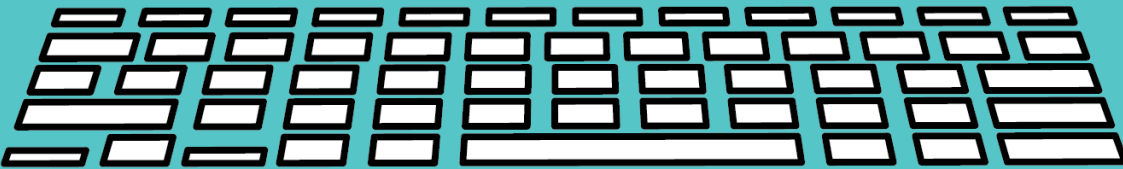
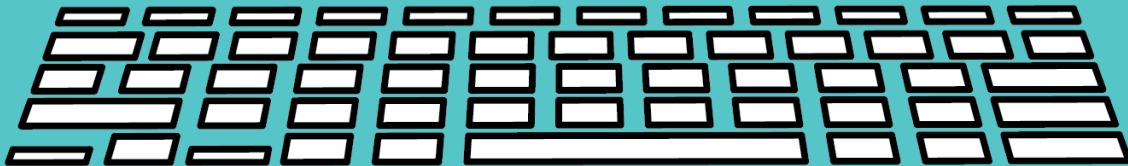


SUMERIAN
NUMBER
SYSTEM WAS
BASED ON THE
TWENTY SIX

| Short Answer | Type Answer Here |
|---|------------------|
| 1. How many major cities did Sumer have? | |
| 2. What was the region north of Sumer called? | |
| 3. What were the Sumerian temples called? | |
| 4. How many classes of people did the Sumerians have? | |
| 5. How many different empires did Babylon have? | |
| 6. What was the name of the ruler of Akkad? | |
| 7. What is the area of Mesopotamia known as today? | |
| 8. What was Sumerian writing called? | |



| Short Answer | Type Answer Here | Fill in the Blank | Type Answer Here |
|---|------------------|---|------------------|
| 1. How many major cities did Sumer have? | | 9. The laws Hammurabi had written were called Hammurabi's ____. | |
| 2. What was the region north of Sumer called? | | 10. Mesopotamia in Greek means "land between the ____". | |
| 3. What were the Sumerian temples called? | | 11. It was nicknamed the "____ of Civilization". | |
| 4. How many classes of people did the Sumerians have? | | 12. The Babylonian god was called ____. | |
| 5. How many different empires did Babylon have? | | 13. Assyrians were traders and ____ (merchants). | |
| 6. What was the name of the ruler of Akkad? | | 14. Sumerians created instruments made from ____ and ____. | |
| 7. What is the area of Mesopotamia known as today? | | 15. Hammurabi was the king of ____. | |
| 8. What was Sumerian writing called? | | 16. The ____ defeated old Babylon. | |



ANCIENT MESOPOTAMIA

The very first civilization known to man was Ancient Mesopotamia. Mesopotamia means "land between the rivers," which was the Tigris and Euphrates rivers. Today this area in the Middle East is known as Iraq. The Sumerians and Babylonians lived in the all part of Mesopotamia from 3500 BC to 600 BC.

The first time, cities developed, governments were created, and people learned to write. It was called the "Cradle of Civilization." Mesopotamia included various cities and villages. The Sumerians invented for producing crops with its first irrigation canals. The Sumerians invented allowing new settlements to form, the world's first cities grew. Society, laws, and kings were also born.

Sumer was the first civilization "born" between 4000 and 3000 BC. Sumer had 12 major city-states (cities), the most famous being Uruk, Umma, and Lagash. Over time, Sumerians created the first government and invented writing, called cuneiform. Other notable inventions include the wheel, saw, plow, frying pans, razors, cosmetics, harps, knives, and axes. The Sumerians belong to four different classes: priests, nobles, lower class, and enslaved persons.

The Sumerian artisans made intricate mosaics, jewelry, helmets, and pottery. They also created musical instruments made from bone and wood. Details were important, which led this civilization to write everything down. An interesting tidbit - only boys were allowed to go to school.

The region north of Sumer was Akkad. Akkad's ruler, named Sargon, conquered Sumer and created the first empire in the world. For the first time, Sumer city-states became united. The language shifted from Sumerian to Akkadian, which remained throughout much of Mesopotamia.

Sumerians built massive temples called ziggurats to honor the gods. These huge structures with giant steps stood in the center of town. Religious festivals were held on top of the ziggurats. Generally, the ziggurat was happy and busy. Following the Sumerians and Akkadians came the Babylonians from Babylon. The Amorites conquered Mesopotamia, and power shifted to Babylon. Babylon had two different empires - Old Babylonian (around 1600 BC) and New Babylonian empires. The Hittites defeated old Babylon, but Babylonians regained power in the 6th century BC. Babylon means "gate to the gods".

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Babylon used to be part of Sumer. However, over time it grew in size and power, and Babylonians did not speak the Sumerian language. Ultimately, King Hammurabi chose Babylon as the capital of Babylonia. He dedicated Babylon to the all-important god, Marduk. Babylonians were the first civilization to write down and record their laws. King Hammurabi was tired of people changing rules whenever they wanted to. So, he wrote the laws and consequences on stone and clay tablets for everyone to see. This was called Hammurabi's Code.

Babylon was surrounded by walls made with 15 million bricks. Everyone lived in the city, including farmers. There were canals, narrow and unpaved streets with three-story homes, and plenty of green crops. Babylonians threw trash into the streets. Over time, they would cover the roads (and waste) with a new layer of clay. This made the streets taller. Eventually, Babylonians had to build steps down to their front doors.

The street that led into the city was called Processional Avenue. The road led to Ishtar Gate, the gate of Babylon. The Hanging Gardens, one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, were also part of Babylon. Experts think that the Hanging Gardens were the first garden on a roof. It appeared that the garden was hanging in mid-air. In reality, the gardens were on a tiered terrace about 75 feet high. Towers and waterfalls were also in the Hanging Gardens.

Babylon was in the southern Mesopotamia. However, in northern Mesopotamia, Assyria was rising in the mountain region. Assyrians were traders and nomads (travelers) who were able to conquer the people to the east and west of Babylon. Always on the move, they expanded their region. The Assyrians changed the way ceremonies and funerals were held. They had cemeteries on the roofs, and even their homes to bury the dead. Around 1200 BC, the Assyrians finally took over Babylon, leaving it a pile of rubble. They said that the god Marduk would be angry for having destroyed the city, they built it back up, however, they abandoned the city. Eventually, people returned. Assyria remained in power for hundreds of years.

The Persians came later and took control of the Middle East, including Mesopotamia. They defeated the Babylonians and the Assyrians, and ended their rule. The Persian Empire was the last to rule Mesopotamia.

Much of the knowledge about Ancient Mesopotamia comes from the Library of Nineveh. The last Assyrian king collected thousands of ancient tablets from Sumer, Babylonia, and Assyria. Today, over 30,000 tablets have been discovered that give historians insight into Ancient Mesopotamia.

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