

# ANCIENT MESOPOTAMIA ESCAPE ROOM

## READING #1

Mesopotamia means "the land between rivers." Ancient Mesopotamia refers to the land in the Middle East (Southwest Asia) between the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers. The two rivers flowed into the Persian Gulf, which is also known as "The Fertile Crescent." Mesopotamia is often called the "Cradle of Civilization" because it is where the first civilization was born. A civilization is a group of people with their own systems and ways of life. The land was perfect for producing crops with its fertile soil, rainfall, and warm climate, allowing new settlements. From there, the world's first cities grew. Society, laws, and kings were common. The Sumerian, Babylonian, and Assyrian civilizations were all part of Mesopotamia.

## DECODE

A = 🍏 G = 🌐 M = 🍷  
 B = 📖 H = 🍷 N = 🍷  
 C = 🖋️ I = 🧪 O = 🍷  
 D = 🏰 J = 📖 P = 🍷

## READING #5

The Babylonian Empire lasted for 260 years with the city of Babylon being the most powerful city in Mesopotamian history. The Babylonian's success would come and go, sometimes ruling much of the Middle East. They were the first to write down their laws. The Babylonian laws were created by King Hammurabi. The laws became known as the **LEGO** of Assyrians, like the Babylonians, saw success rise and fall. This group came from the northern areas of Mesopotamia. They recorded Mesopotamia's history on clay tablets. The Assyrians were the dominant power in Mesopotamia for 300 years. The **ROFVJQV** came later and took over a lot of the Middle East, including Mesopotamia. They defeated the Babylonians as well as the Assyrians and ended their rule.

## DECODE

A	B	C	J
D	E	F	M
G	H	I	P

## RECORDING SHEET #2

For each question below by revisiting the reading passages. Indicate the page number (# passage) you found the answer.

3. Who created the Babylonian laws?  
 A. Cyrus the Great  
 B. Naram-Sin  
 C. Sargon  
 D. Hammurabi

4. Who conquered the Sumer?  
 A. Naram-Sin  
 B. Rimush  
 C. Alexander the Great  
 D. Sargon

7. Mesopotamia means "the land between ----"  
 A. 15 years  
 B. 36 years

## RECORDING SHEET #1

Read each passage and decode the missing words. Write your answers below. Then, unscramble the mystery word found in the gray-shaded boxes. When you finish, complete the multiple-choice questions.

READING #1	1.								
	2.								
	3.								
READING #2	1.								
	2.								
	3.								
READING #3	1.								
	2.								
	3.								
READING #4	1.								
	2.								
	3.								
READING #5	1.								
	2.								
	3.								

# WHAT'S INCLUDED?

## MISSION


You have been assigned a top-secret mission of utmost importance. In the town of Crestwood, a daring thief – the priceless Emerald Star – was

## DIRECTIONS

- There are two goals to this activity:  
1. Unscramble a mystery word


## READING #1

Mesopotamia means "the land between  
 Ancient Mesopotamia




## READING #2

Mesopotamia was approximately 300 miles long and 150 miles wide. Early settlers set up their homes in villages and towns.




## READING #3

The Sumerians are credited as being the first humans to create a civilization. They were divided into twelve city-states.




## READING #4

The region north of Sumer was Akkad. The Akkadian ruler named HZITLM took control of Kish and conquered the Sumer. He created the Akkadian Empire and




## READING #5

The Babylonian Empire lasted for 260 years with the city of Babylon being the most powerful city in Mesopotamian history. The Babylonian's success would come and



## READING #6

Over the course of Mesopotamian history, 2343553124 shifted from one group to another. Kingdoms rose and fell



## RECORDING SHEET #1

Read each passage and decode the missing words. Write your answers below. Then, unscramble the mystery word found in the gray-shaded boxes. When you finish, complete the multiple-choice questions.

READING #	1	2	3
1			
2			
3			

## RECORDING SHEET #2

Time to find text evidence! Answer each question below by revisiting the reading passages. Indicate WHERE (what # passage) you found the answer.

1. Mesopotamia was approximately ____ miles long and 150 miles wide. A. 300 B. 600 C. 900 D. 1200	2. Who was the god of sun, truth, and justice? A. Utu B. Nanna C. Enllil D. Inanna	3. Who created the Babylonian laws? A. Cyrus the Great B. Naram-Sin C. Sargon D. Hammurabi	4. Who conquered the Sumer? A. Naram-Sin B. Rimush C. Alexander the Great D. Sargon
5. In 1921, Mesopotamia became the Kingdom of ____ A. Turkey B. Iraq C. Athens D. Saudi Arabia	6. How many laws were included in the Code of Hammurabi? A. 18 B. 82 C. 182 D. 282	7. Mesopotamia means "the land between ____" A. Mountains B. Rivers C. Lakes D. Forests	8. How long did Sargon rule for? A. 15 years B. 36 years C. 56 years D. 61 years

- 6 READING PASSAGES
- 6 PUZZLE DECODERS
- 18 FILL IN THE BLANK
- 12 MULTIPLE CHOICE Q'S
- TEACHER GUIDE
- ANSWER KEY
- STUDENT DIRECTIONS
- HINT CARDS

## TEACHER DIRECTIONS

Print **pages 5-10** just **ONE TIME** (these are the 6 short reading passages). You do NOT have to print these pages for every student! Spread them out and hang (or hide) them around the room. Leave enough room so a few students can gather around them.

### CRYPTOGRAM

Use the cryptogram decoder to solve the clue.

### TXT MSG


Use the keypad to determine what letter each number pattern represents. Back in the day, you

### POLYBIUS

Use the decoder to determine the letter by the coordinates given. Each letter is represented by TWO numbers. The first number indicates the number across the TOP (RIGHT). The second number indicates the number on the left column (DOWN). If a square is empty, you'll need to

### SECURITY CLEARANCE: LEVEL 5 LEAD DETECTIVE


AGENT NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
CODENAME \_\_\_\_\_  
BADGE # \_\_\_\_\_



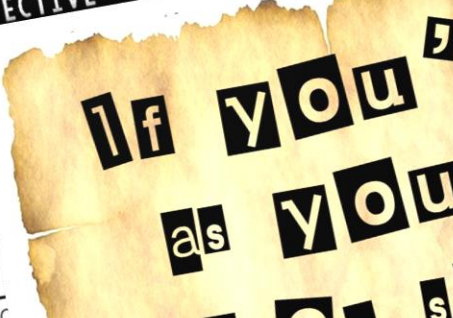
PRECINCT 5005

### SECURITY CLEARANCE: LEVEL 5 LEAD DETECTIVE

AGENT \_\_\_\_\_  
CODE \_\_\_\_\_  
BADGE \_\_\_\_\_



PRI



If you  
as you

# 6 PASSAGES

## READING #1

Mesopotamia means "the land between rivers." Ancient Mesopotamia refers to the land in the Middle East (southwest Asia) between the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers. The two rivers flowed into the Persian Gulf, which is also known as "The Fertile Crescent." Mesopotamia is often called the "Cradle of Civilization" because it is where the first civilization is a

## READING #2

Mesopotamia was approximately 300 miles long and 150 miles wide. Early settlers set up their homes in villages and towns in Mesopotamia around the year 4000 BC. With the great soil for growing crops, they began to learn the process of farming.

**333 555 666 666 3 444 66 4** was common, so farmers were challenged to learn to work with it. The invention of the seeder **7 555 666 9** was used because it allowed the farmers to plant seeds during the hot, dry months. The invention allowed farmers to plow the soil and plant seeds at the same time. Farmers planted fruits, vegetables, **44 33 2 8**, and sesame.



## READING #3

The Sumerians are credited as being the first humans to create a civilization. They were divided into twelve city-states, with each one having its own government and king. The most famous city-states were Kish, **1-7, 1-4, 1-7, 2-8**, Ur, and Lagash. Each city had a different god and temple. The Sumerians created religious temples called ziggurats in the center of every town. Religion of the Sumerians was polytheistic which means they worshiped multiple gods.

## #4

er was Akkad. **ZITLM** took over the Sumer. empire and city-states er and created d. The Akkadian ary one instead



## READING #6

Over the course of Mesopotamian history, **2343553124** shifted from one group to another. Kingdoms rose and fell, and capital cities moved from one Mesopotamian city to another.

The largest and most powerful city-state of the Sumer was Uruk. When it



## READING #5

The Babylonian Empire lasted for 260 years with the city of Babylon being the most powerful city in Mesopotamian history. The Babylonian's success would come and go, sometimes ruling much of the Middle East. They were the first to write down their laws. The Babylonian laws were created by King Hammurabi. The laws became known as the **LEGO** of the world. It included 282 laws.



## DECODER

	1	2	3	4
1	D	P		

## RECORDING SHEET #1

Read each passage and decode the missing words. Write your answers below. Then, unscramble the mystery word found in the gray-shaded boxes. When you finish, complete the multiple-choice questions.

#1																			
#2																			
#3																			

## RECORDING SHEET #2

Time to find text evidence! Answer each question below by revisiting the reading passages. Indicate WHERE (what # passage) you found the answer.

1. Mesopotamia was approximately _____ miles long and 150 miles wide. A. 300 B. 600 C. 900 D. 1200	2. Who was the god of sun, truth, and justice? A. Utu B. Nanna C. Enlil D. Inanna	3. Who created the Babylonian laws? A. Cyrus the Great B. Naram-Sin C. Sargon D. Hammurabi	4. Who conquered the Sumer? A. Naram-Sin B. Rimush C. Alexander the Great D. Sargon
5. In 1921, Mesopotamia became the Kingdom of _____. A. Turkey B. Iraq C. Athens D. Saudi Arabia	6. How many laws were included in the Code of Hammurabi? A. 18 B. 82 C. 182 D. 282	7. Mesopotamia means "the land between _____." A. Mountains B. Rivers C. Lakes D. Forests	8. How long did Sargon rule for? A. 15 years B. 36 years C. 56 years D. 61 years
9. _____ A. _____ B. _____ C. _____ D. _____	10. _____ A. _____ B. _____ C. _____ D. _____	11. _____ A. _____ B. _____ C. _____ D. _____	12. What city had a temple built by King Ashurbanipal? A. _____ B. _____ C. _____ D. _____



# TASK #2

READING #1

READING #2

READING #5

READING #6

## RECORDING SHEET #2

Time to find text evidence! Answer each question below by revisiting the reading passages. Indicate WHERE (what # passage) you found the answer.

1. Mesopotamia was approximately \_\_\_\_\_ miles long and \_\_\_\_\_ miles wide.  
A. 300  
B. 600  
C. 900  
D. 1200

2. Who was the god of sun, truth, and justice?  
A. Utu  
B. Nanna  
C. Enlil  
D. Inanna

3. Who created the Babylonian laws?  
A. Cyrus the Great  
B. Naram-Sin  
C. Sargon  
D. Hammurabi

4. Who conquered the Sumer?  
A. Naram-Sin  
B. Rimush  
C. Alexander the Great  
D. Sargon

READING #

READING #

READING #

READING #

5. In 1921, Mesopotamia became the Kingdom of \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. Turkey  
B. Iraq  
C. Persia  
D. Arabia

6. How many laws were included in the Code of Hammurabi?  
A. 18  
B. 82  
C. 282  
D. 413

7. Mesopotamia means "the land between \_\_\_\_."  
A. Mountains  
B. Rivers  
C. Seas  
D. Plains

8. How long did Sargon rule for?  
A. 15 years  
B. 36 years  
C. 50 years  
D. 72 years

READING #

READING #

READING #

READING #

# CITE TEXT EVIDENCE

9. What city do historians think was the first major city formed?  
A. Utu  
B. Rimush  
C. Nineveh  
D. Eridu

10. What was the largest and most powerful city-state of the Sumer?  
A. Akkad  
B. Kish  
C. Uruk  
D. Nineveh

11. Who was the final leader of the Akkadian Empire?  
A. Shar-Kali-Sharri  
B. Manishtusu  
C. Rimush  
D. Hammurabi

12. What city had a library built by King Ashurbanipal?  
A. Akkad  
B. Nineveh  
C. Kush  
D. Uruk

READING #

READING #

READING #

READING #

4-DIGIT CODE: How many times did you use the following reading passage numbers based on your answers above?

READING #2

READING #3

READING #6

READING #5

# PRINT & GO



# HOW IT WORKS













## ENGAGING READING COMPREHENSION PRACTICE!











**1** Students work individually (or in pairs) and visit 6 passages with "missing words."

**2** Students will decode the missing words and record them on **Answer Sheet #1**. They will then unscramble a mystery word from the gray-shaded boxes.

**3** Students will then answer 12 multiple-choice questions, revisit the passages and cite where they found the answers on **Answer Sheet #2**. This will lead to a 4-digit code.

### READING #1

Mesopotamia means "the land between    ." Ancient Mesopotamia refers to the land in the Middle East (Southwest Asia) between the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers. The two rivers flowed into the Persian Gulf, which is also known as "The Fertile Crescent." Mesopotamia is often called the "    of Civilization" because it is where the first civilization was born. A civilization is a group of people with their own systems and ways of life. The land was perfect for producing crops with its fertile soil, rainfall, and warm climate, allowing new settlements. From there, the world's first cities grew. Society, laws, and kings were common. The Sumerian, Babylonian, and Assyrian empires were all part of Mesopotamia from 3500 BC to 612 BC. Historians believe that     was the first of the major cities formed. Today, the cities are located

- DE**
- A = 
  - B = 
  - C = 
  - D = 
  - E = 
  - G = 
  - H = 
  - I = 
  - J = 
  - K = 

### RECORDING SHEET #1

For each passage and decode the missing words. Write your answers below. Copy the word found in the gray-shaded boxes. When you finish, complete the mystery word.

### RECORDING SHEET #2





Time to find text evidence! Answer each question below by revisiting the reading. Write the number of the passage you found the answer.





1. Mesopotamia was approximately \_\_\_\_\_ miles long and 150 miles wide.  
A. 300  
B. 600
2. Who was the god of sun, truth, and justice?  
A. Utu  
B. Nanna  
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3. Who created the Babylonian laws?  
A. Cyrus the Great  
B. Naram-Sin  
C. Sargon  
D. Hammurabi
5. In 1921, Mesopotamia became the Kingdom of \_\_\_\_\_.
6. How many laws were included in the Code of \_\_\_\_\_?
7. Mesopotamia was the first \_\_\_\_\_.

# BENEFITS



THINK OUTSIDE THE BOX!

-  ANTICIPATORY SETS
-  UNIT REVIEW
-  EARLY FINISHERS
-  STATIONS
-  SUB PLANS
-  PARTNER WORK
-  ENRICHMENT

-  NO PREP
-  PRINT & GO
-  CROSS-CURRICULAR
-  HIGHLY ENGAGING

