

ABOUT THIS PACKET

The Close Reading Passages in this packet allow students to work on comprehension skills after reading the passage several times searching for evidence.

TASK	OVERVIEW
TASK 1: FILL IN THE BLANK	The Fill in the Blank task has students using context clues to support the correct answer. Certain words are omitted, and students will use the word bank to find the correct answer.
TASK 2: VOCABULARY	The vocabulary activity helps kids understand new or unfamiliar words before they complete further activities.
TASK 3: CROSSWORD	Students will reread the passage searching for answers to the crossword puzzle.
TASK 4: TEXT MARKING	Students will reread the passage again looking for text-marking evidence and annotating the text.
TASK 5: TRUE OR FALSE	Now that students have read the passage several times, they should be able to answer the True or False questions with very little reference back to the reading. This task helps to show overall comprehension of the passage.
TASK 6: SUMMARY	After identifying key vocabulary words, searching for evidence and text-marking, students will fill out the final summary graphic organizer.
GRADE LEVEL	PASSAGE
4	MIDDLE
4	END
5	BEGINNING
5	MIDDLE
5	END
6	BEGINNING
6	MIDDLE
6	END
7	BEGINNING

TASK 1: FILL IN THE BLANK

Directions: Use the words below to fill in the reading.

conquered	temple	crops
writing	Sumerian	calendar
multiple	Asia	civilization

Mesopotamia means "the land between rivers." Ancient Mesopotamia refers to the land in the Middle East (Southwest) between the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers. Because of its location between the rivers, the soil was very fertile (good for crops). 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 was born. A civilization is a group of people with their own systems and ways of life. Today, this land is located mostly in the countries of Iraq and part of Iran, Turkey, and Syria.

Early settlers set up their homes in villages and towns in Mesopotamia around the year 4000 BC. With the great soil for growing they began to learn the process of farming. The towns grew bigger as more people came, and they soon became city-states, single cities that make up an entire state. To keep order in these cities, new ideas came about such as having a government, laws, ,

The first humans to create a civilization were the Sumerians. They were divided into city-states, with each one having its own government and king. They had a different god for each city and a for the god. They created a religious temple called a ziggurat in the center of every town. Sumerian religion was polytheistic which means they worshipped gods. Major gods included Anu (father of gods and the sky), Enlil (god of the air), Utu (god of sun, truth, and justice), Nanna (moon god), Inanna (goddess of love and war), and Ishtar (goddess of earth), and Enki (god of fresh water, wisdom, and magic). During this time, the Sumerians invented the wheel, wagon, , and a number-based system.

The Akkadians came after the Sumerians. The Akkadian ruler named Sargon the Sumer. He created the Akkadian Empire and brought all of the Sumerian cities under the rule of one leader. Their language also became the primary one instead of the language.

TASK 2: VOCABULARY PRACTICE

Directions: Choose 5 words from the reading that are unfamiliar or new to you and fill in the diagram below.



WORD



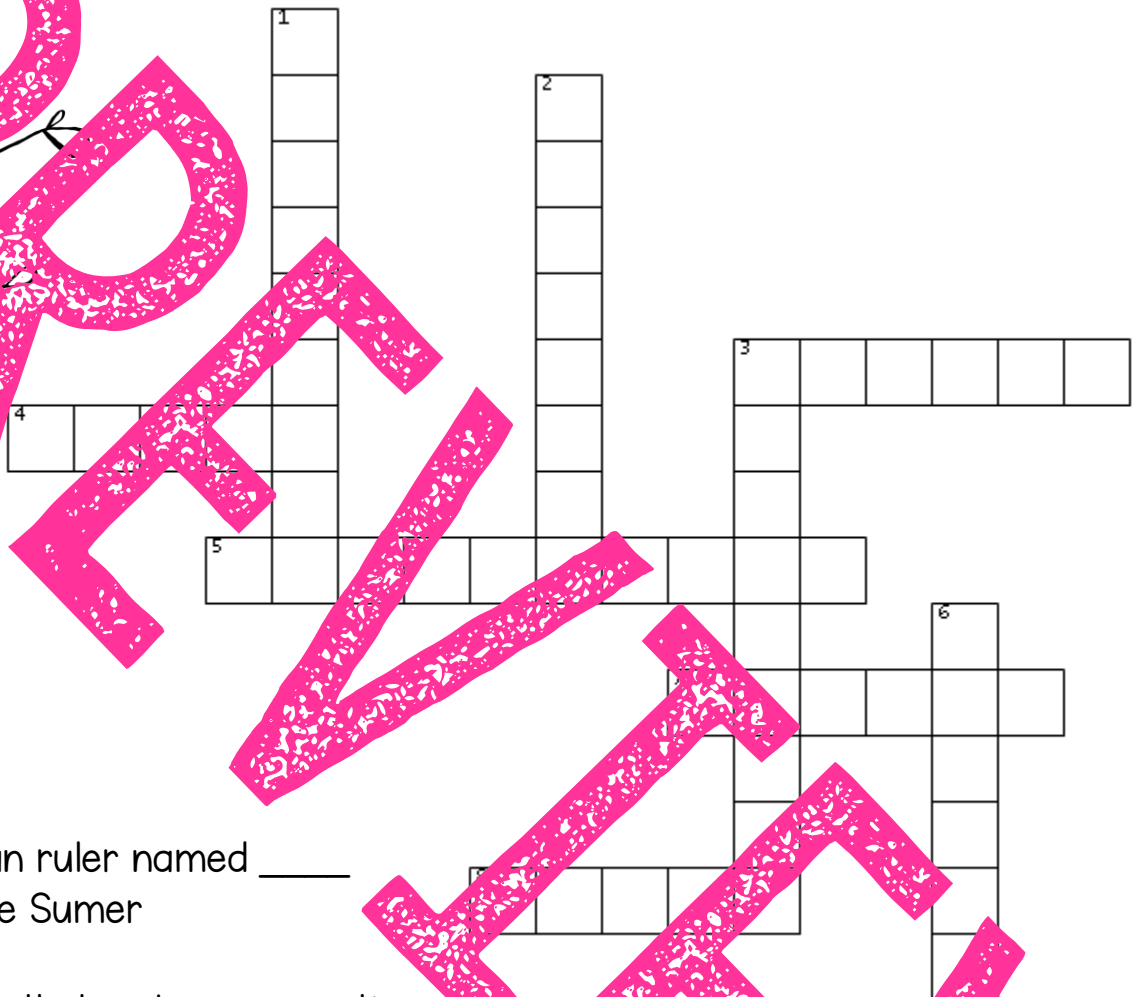
PICTURE



DEFINITION

TASK 3: CROSSWORD

Directions: Complete the crossword puzzle by reading the clues below and entering the correct response.



ACROSS

3. The Akkadian ruler named _____ conquered the Sumer
4. Moon god
5. Single cities that make up an entire state
7. Mesopotamia means "the land between _____"
8. The Persian Empire was founded by _____ the Great

DOWN

1. The Babylonian laws were created by King _____
2. Religious temple in the center of every town
3. The first humans to create a civilization were the _____
6. Mesopotamia is often called the "_____ of Civilization"



TASK 6: SUMMARIZE



TOPIC SENTENCE



SUPPORTING DETAIL

SUPPORTING DETAIL

SUPPORTING DETAIL



SUMMARY



MORE RESOURCES

Click on each icon!

