

ABOUT THIS PACKET

Each reading passage in this packet allows students to work on comprehension skills after reading the passage several times searching for evidence.

OVERVIEW

THE CASE

Read the case aloud to your students so they understand the mission.

QUESTIONS

There are 18 questions to be answered by reading the passage and marking the text evidence.

CLUES

After answering each question, the students will **erase** their answer choice on their answer sheet. After all questions have been answered, the suspect, evidence, and location will be revealed.

GRADE LEVEL

RANGE

4

BEGINNING

4

MIDDLE

5

BEGINNING

5

MIDDLE

5

END

6

BEGINNING

6

MIDDLE

6

END

7

BEGINNING

ZIGGURATS

Mesopotamia, meaning "the land between rivers," was located between the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers in the Middle East (mostly present-day Iraq). There, the first civilization came into existence thousands of years ago. A civilization is a group of people with their own way of life. Mesopotamia featured four major empires or civilizations.

Very large, terraced, step-like structures were created as places of worship. These structures, known as ziggurats, were located in major cities. The ziggurats honored the main god of each city. Mesopotamia had a polytheistic religion, which meant they worshipped many deities, or gods. Ea was the god of wisdom and magic, Anu was the god of the sky, and Enlil was the god of the earth, storms, and agriculture.

Ziggurats were built by different groups of early civilizations. The first ziggurat was built in Ur, the original city of the Sumerians. The ziggurats were referred to as Etemenanki by the Sumerians which meant "the foundation of heaven and earth." The Babylonians, Akkadians, and Assyrians continued the tradition of building ziggurats as places of worship. Sumerians created a form of writing called cuneiform and used clay tablets to inscribe written documents and record stories. Today, this is how we know what about them.

The structures were built with mud bricks on the inside while the outside was made with baked bricks. The bricks were dried under the sun. Hundreds of thousands of bricks were used to make just one ziggurat. The mud bricks were not very sturdy and because of the rain and wind, the structures had to be rebuilt multiple times after falling apart.

The ziggurats resembled Egyptian pyramids, but they were not used as tombs. Ziggurats had a square base, with the structure at the bottom being the largest and getting smaller as it went up. Unlike a pyramid, some had steps that led to the upper levels but there were no chambers (rooms) or passageways inside of the ziggurats. They were not used as places

3 What is another word for gods?



Ishtar's



Tiggurats



Deities



Cuneiform

4 Mesopotamia means "the land between _____."



Rivers



Trees



Mountains



Forests

5 Very few ziggurats remain with just _____ known to exist.



63



51



45



32

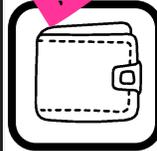
6 _____ was the goddess of Nineveh.



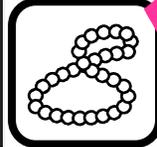
Enki



Ishtar



Mesopotamia



Enlil

7

The legend of Sargurath was believed to be located at Mogha Zambil in modern day _____



Turkey



Saudi Arabia



England



Iran

8

Mesopotamia featured _____ major empires or civilizations.



11



9



7



4

9

Who was the god of the earth, storms, and agriculture?



Etemenanki



Enlil



Murdock



Aten

10

Only the _____ were allowed inside of the temple.



Peasants



Priests



Sumerians



Babylonians

CASE FILE

Cross out the images you use as an answer. What remains will solve the case!

SUSPECTS



LOCATION



EVIDENCE



CONGRATULATIONS

YOU SOLVED
THE CASE!



LEAD DETECTIVE NAME:

CONGRATULATIONS

YOU SOLVED
THE CASE!



LEAD DETECTIVE NAME:

MORE RESOURCES

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