

ABOUT THIS PACKET

The 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 BLANKS	Using Close Reading strategies, students will use context clues to fill in the missing words in the reading passage. This will then be used as the main passage to use for the remaining tasks.
TASK 2: VOCABULARY	The vocabulary activity helps kids identify and understand new or unfamiliar words before they complete further activities.
TASK 3: RESPOND	Students will choose from three writing prompts and write their answer to just one of them using complete sentences.
TASK 4: TRUE OR FALSE	Students complete this activity to show overall comprehension of the passage. They may refer back to the passage when necessary. In the end, they add up the TRUE statements.
TASK 5: MULTIPLE CHOICE	For a quick formative check for understanding, students will answer 10 multiple choice questions.
TASK 6: WORD SEARCH	Students will search for key vocabulary words related to the topic. Several unused letters will spell out a secret message.
FINAL TASK: SUMMARY (OPTIONAL)	This is an optional summary graphic organizer to use if needed. Could be used for early finishers, an extension activity, or as a final check for understanding.
GRADE LEVEL	RANGE
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 country of Iraq and parts in 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, and even _____.

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 that 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), Ninhursag (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 #4: TRUE OR FALSE



EARN THIS!

Read each statement below and determine if it is true or false. If the statement is true, color the gear that corresponds to that question. If it is false, cross out the gear. When you are finished add the **TOTAL** of ALL TRUE gears.



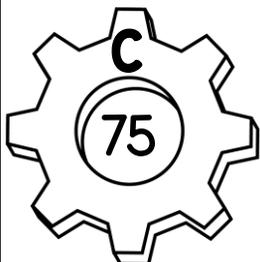
A. Sumerian religion was polytheistic which means they worshipped multiple gods.



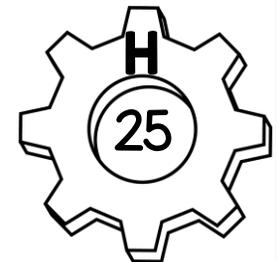
B. Cyrus the Great conquered the Sumer.



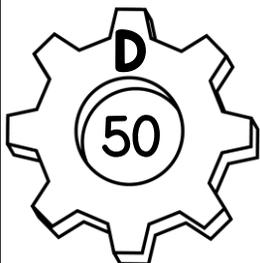
C. The Assyrians invented the wheel, wagon, calendar, and a number-based system.



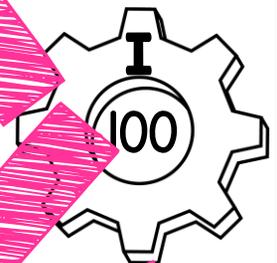
D. A ziggurat was a religious temple.



E. The Persian Empire was also called the Achaemenid Empire.



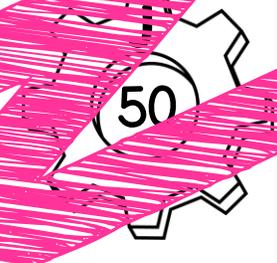
F. The Code of Hammurabi included 282 laws.



G. The Babylonian Empire lasted for 263 years.



H. Ancient Mesopotamia was located in Southeast Africa.



I. A civilization is a group of people with their own systems and ways of life.

J. Mesopotamia means "the land between rivers."

TOTAL: _____

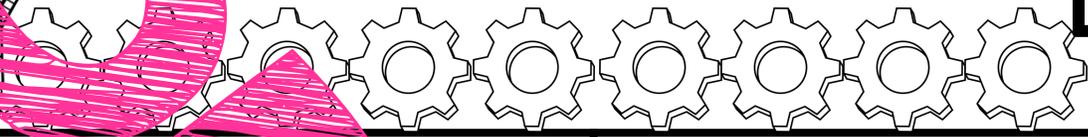
TASK #5: MULTIPLE CHOICE



EARN THIS!



Complete the multiple choice questions below by circling the correct answer.



1. Where was Ancient Mesopotamia located?

- A. Asia
- B. Africa
- C. Australia
- D. South America

6. Mesopotamia is often called the “___ of Civilization.”

- A. Ziggurat
- B. Crescent
- C. Cradle
- D. City-state

2. The Babylonian law code created by King ___.

- A. Ashurbanipal
- B. Cyrus the Great
- C. Sargon
- D. Hammurabi

7. How long did the Babylonian Empire last?

- A. 260 years
- B. 360 years
- C. 460 years
- D. 560 years

3. Who was the god of sun, truth, and justice?

- A. Nanna
- B. Utu
- C. Anu
- D. Enlil

8. What were single cities that make up an entire state called?

- A. State cities
- B. State territories
- C. City counties
- D. City-states

4. Who founded the Persian Empire?

- A. Cyrus the Great
- B. Hammurabi
- C. Sargon
- D. Ashurbanipal

9. Who created the Akkadian Empire?

- A. Hammurabi
- B. Sargon
- C. Ashurbanipal
- D. Cyrus the Great

5. Mesopotamia means “the land between ___.”

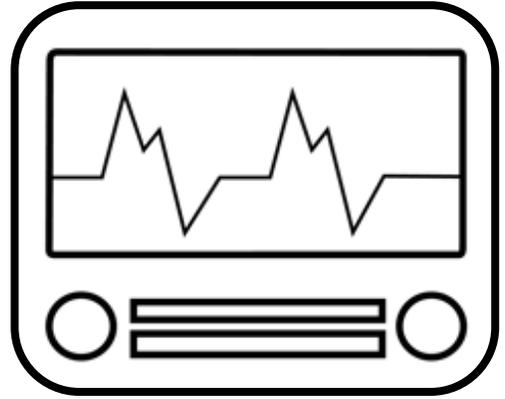
- A. Trees
- B. Mountains
- C. Rivers
- D. Oceans

10. Who was the father of gods and the sky?

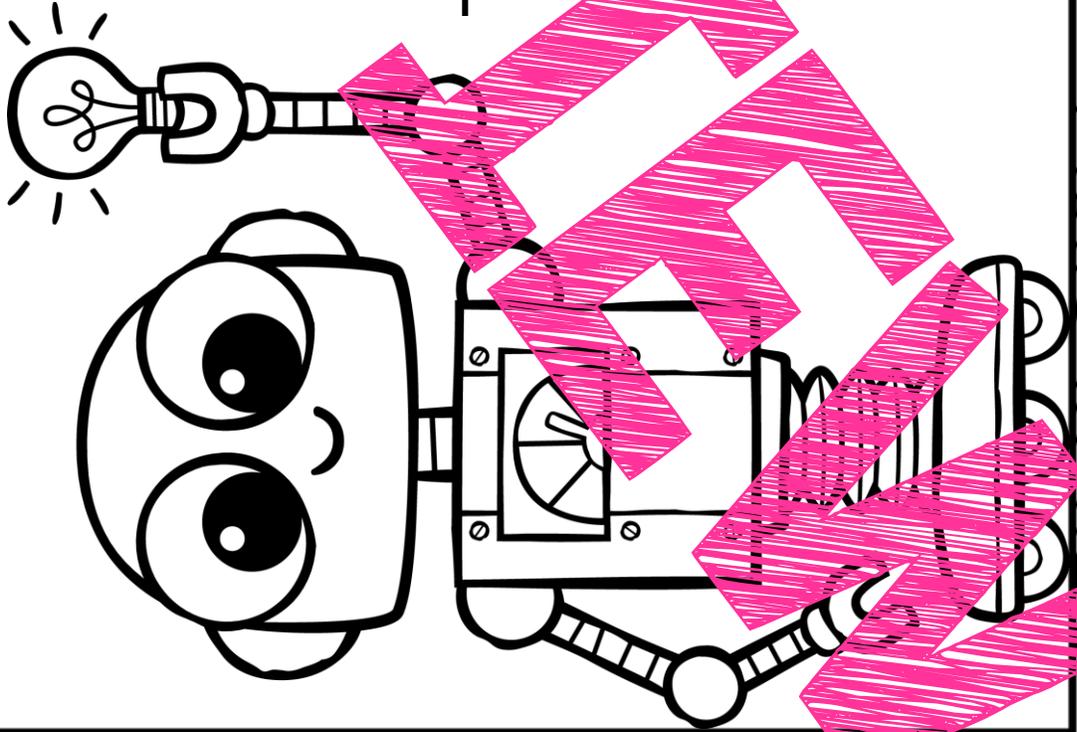
- A. Utu
- B. Nanna
- C. Enki
- D. Anu

BOT CARDS

Complete all 6 tasks correctly, then color and assemble your robot.



Brilliant Bot Builder



a *read*

*For successfully
completing 6 reading
comprehension tasks.*

MORE RESOURCES

Click on each icon to learn more!

