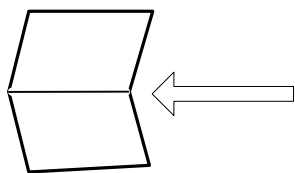
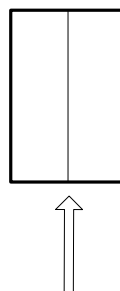


Keep in mind that children of the same age can have very different academic and motor skills. Some children may have trouble writing in some of the smaller spaces of this lapbook. If this describes your child, we encourage you to let your child dictate the answers and you write for him. A lapbook is to be a fun project, not stressful.

### Hamburger Fold-Fold horizontally



### Hotdog Fold-Fold vertically



**Dotted Lines**-These are the cutting lines.

**Accordion Fold**-This fold is like making a paper fan. Fold on the first line so that title is on top. Turn over and fold on next line so that title is on top again. Turn over again and fold again on the next line so that title is on top. Continue until all folds are done.

**Cover Labels**-Most of the booklets that are folded look nicer with a label on top instead of just a blank space. They will be referred to as "cover label."

### How Long Does it Take to Complete the Lapbook?

Doing a study guide page and mini-booklet a day, a 3-folder lapbook takes about one month to complete. However, you can expand the study portion and make it last as long as you like! That's the beauty of homeschooling! Do it YOUR way!

### Lapbook Assembly Choices

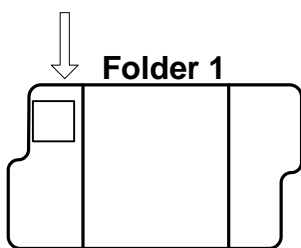
(see photos on how to fold and glue your folders together)

**We recommend using Zip Dry Glue or Elmer's Extreme.**

Choice #1 -Do not glue your folders together until you have completely finished all three folders. It is easier to work with one folder instead of two or three glued together.

Choice #2 -Glue all of your folders together before beginning. Some children like to see the entire project as they work on it. It helps with keeping up with which folder you are supposed to be working in. The choices are completely up to you and your child!

### How do I know where to place each template in the folder?

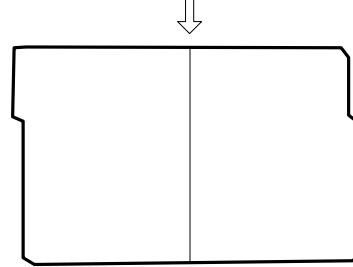


This placement key tells you the template goes in the first folder at the top of the left flap.

# Folding a Lapbook Base

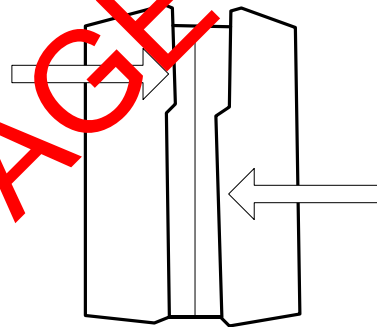
Gather the number of folders required for the project. Fold them flat as seen here.

Original fold line



For each folder, fold the left and right sides inward toward the original line to create two flaps. Crease so that the highest part of each flap is touching the original line. It is important not to let the two flaps overlap. *You may want to take a ruler and run it down each crease to make it sharper.*

Highest part of flap.



Glue your folders together by putting glue (or you may staple) on the inside of the flaps. Then press the newly glued flaps together with your hands until they get a good strong hold to each other. Follow this step to add as many folders as you need for your project. Most of our lapbooks have either 2 or 3 folders.

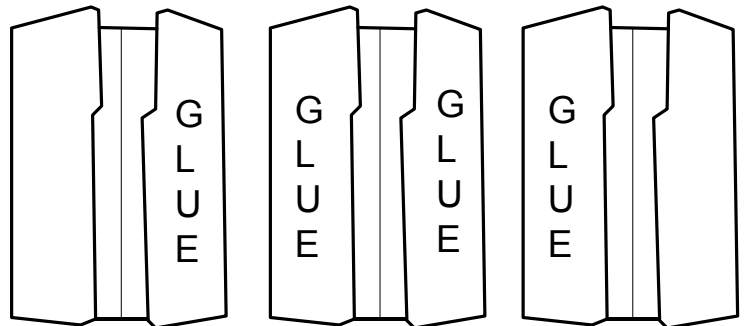
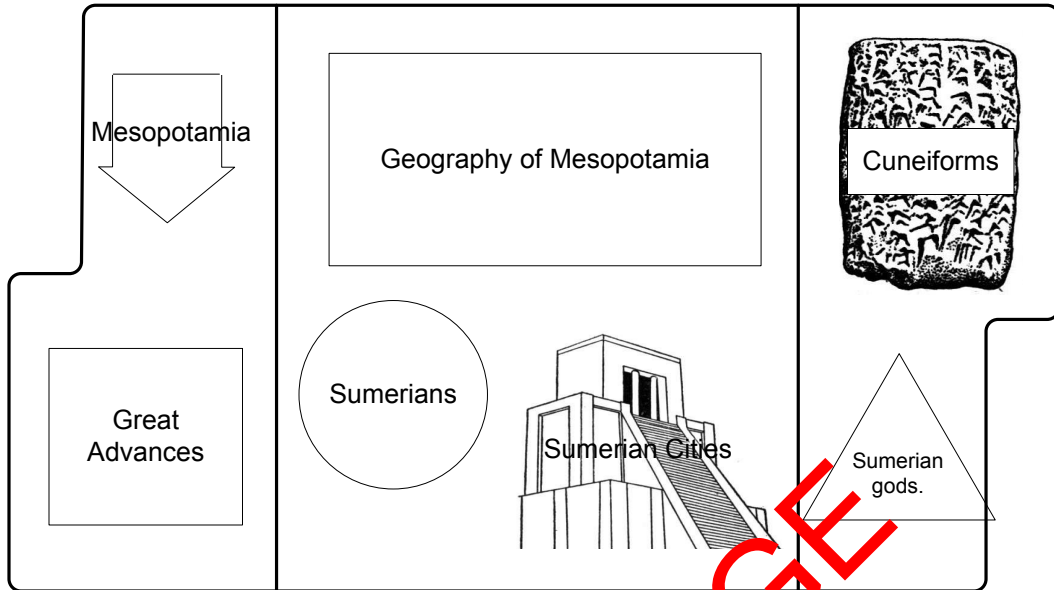


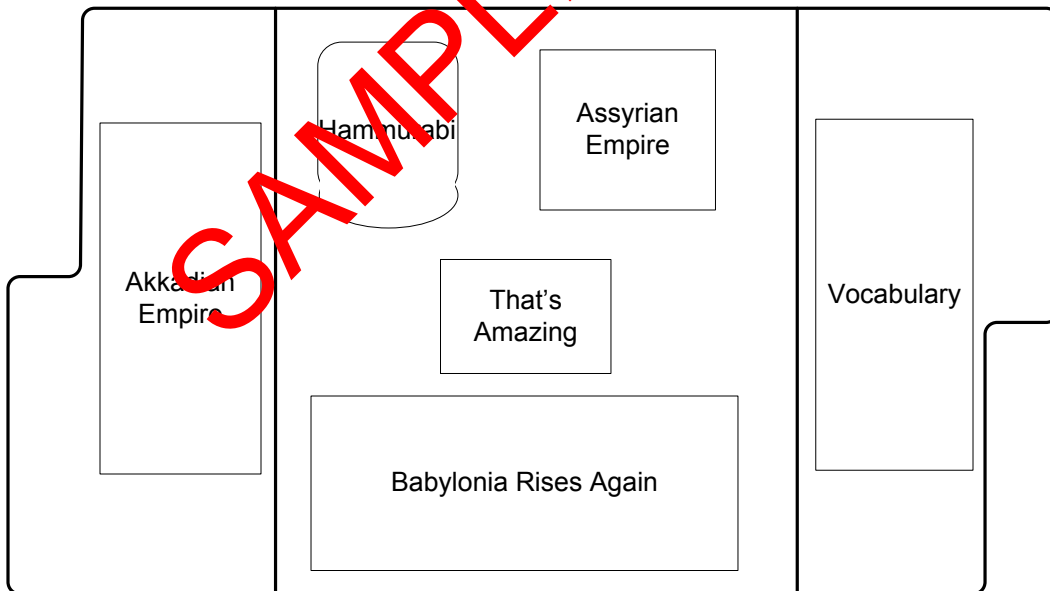
Photo of a completed lapbook base



# Folder 1



# Folder 2



Cut out the page around the dotted lines. Glue to the front of your closed lapbook. Add details to complete the scene of Mesopotamia.

# Exploring Mesopotamia

SAMPLE PAGE



# Mesopotamia: Land Between Two Rivers

A long, long time ago, before there were any cities or countries, people used to roam throughout the land hunting and gathering whatever food they could find. Life was hard. As the time passed, men learned many things. They discovered how to grow their own food and how to tame animals.

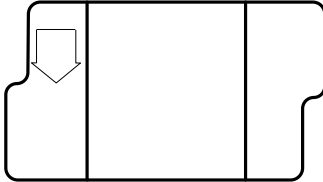
No more wandering! Farming made it possible for men to stay in one place. People learned that to grow crops and to feed their animals, they needed land and water. It was natural, then, to settle close to rivers. Rivers provided plenty of water for both crops and animals.

As people settled to live from the land, they naturally banded together to protect and help one another. The first cities were born. The first cities were built in a land called Mesopotamia.

The word **Mesopotamia** means “land between two rivers” in Greek. Mesopotamia lies in the Middle East between the Euphrates and Tigris Rivers in present day Iraq. It was here, around the year 3500 B.C., that the first cities were built and where the first civilizations flourished. A civilization is formed by a group of people banding together to protect and help one another in order to make it easier to survive and thrive. Mesopotamia became the home of the Sumerian, Assyrian and Babylonian civilizations. Because it gave birth to the first civilizations, Mesopotamia is known as the cradle of civilization.



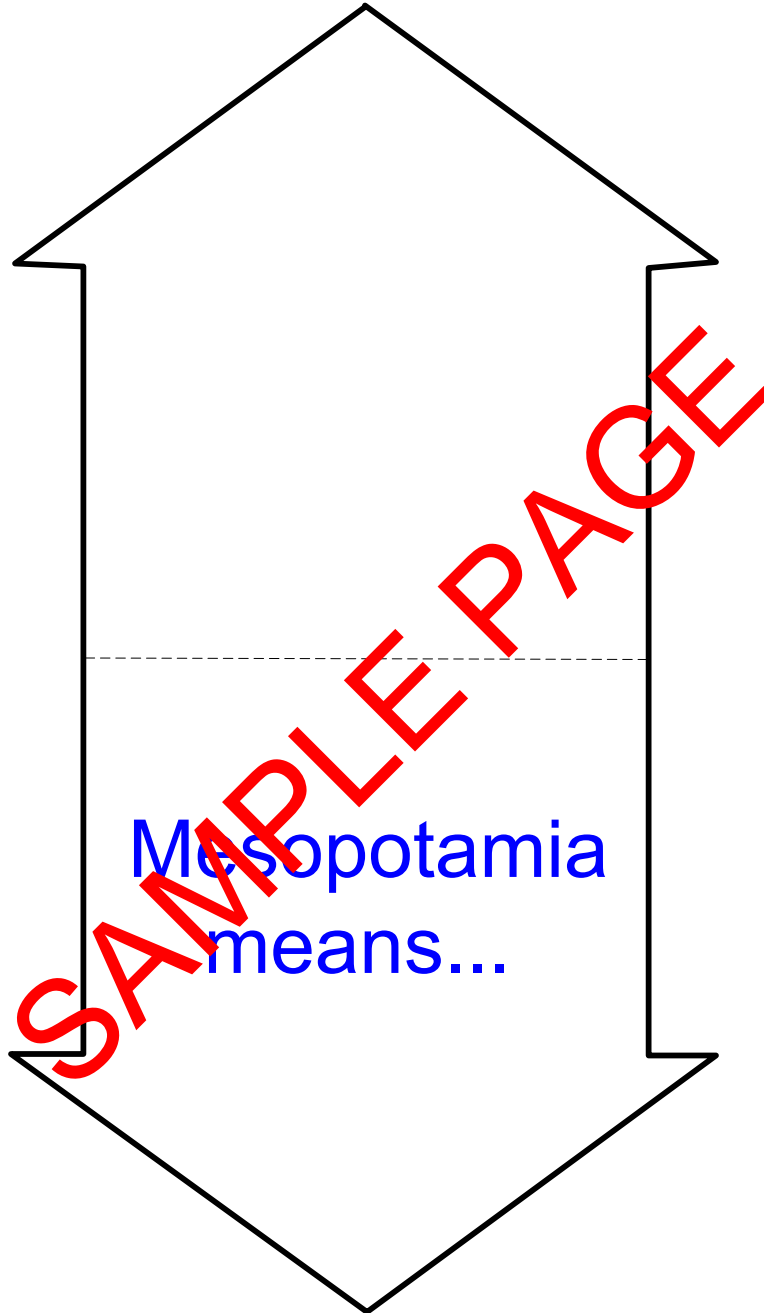
**Folder 1**



**Read Mesopotamia: Land Between Two Rivers.**

Cut out booklet as one piece. Fold in half. Glue into lapbook.

**Directions:** Inside of the booklet, write or draw what you have learned. Have an adult write for you, if needed.



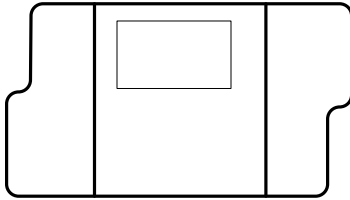
# Geography of Mesopotamia

As it was mentioned before, the word Mesopotamia comes from the Greek language. It means “land between two rivers.” This name was given to the land that lies between the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers in modern day Iraq in West Asia. The portion of land located south of modern day Baghdad, the capital of Iraq, was known in ancient times as the land of Sumer and Akkad - Sumer being the land in the most southern portion, while Akkad is located where the two rivers are close together. Both regions later formed Babylon. The northern portion of Mesopotamia was known as Assyria.

This land forms part of what is known as the **Fertile Crescent**. A fertile land is one that is rich in resources which make growing crops easy. This land, in the shape of a crescent moon, extends from Egypt to the Persian Gulf. In this region, Mesopotamia is the most fertile land. Its northern part is made up of hills and plains. Seasonal rain keeps the land moist and ready for crops to grow. The southern part is marshy and hot with hardly any rainfall.

The historic Tigris and Euphrates Rivers are at the heart of this land. Both rivers are born in the mountains of Turkey. The Euphrates is longer than the Tigris but it is quite shallow, making it difficult for ships to go through. The Tigris is deeper and navigable. Navigable means that ships can go through. Before dams were invented, these rivers caused a lot of destruction when they flooded.

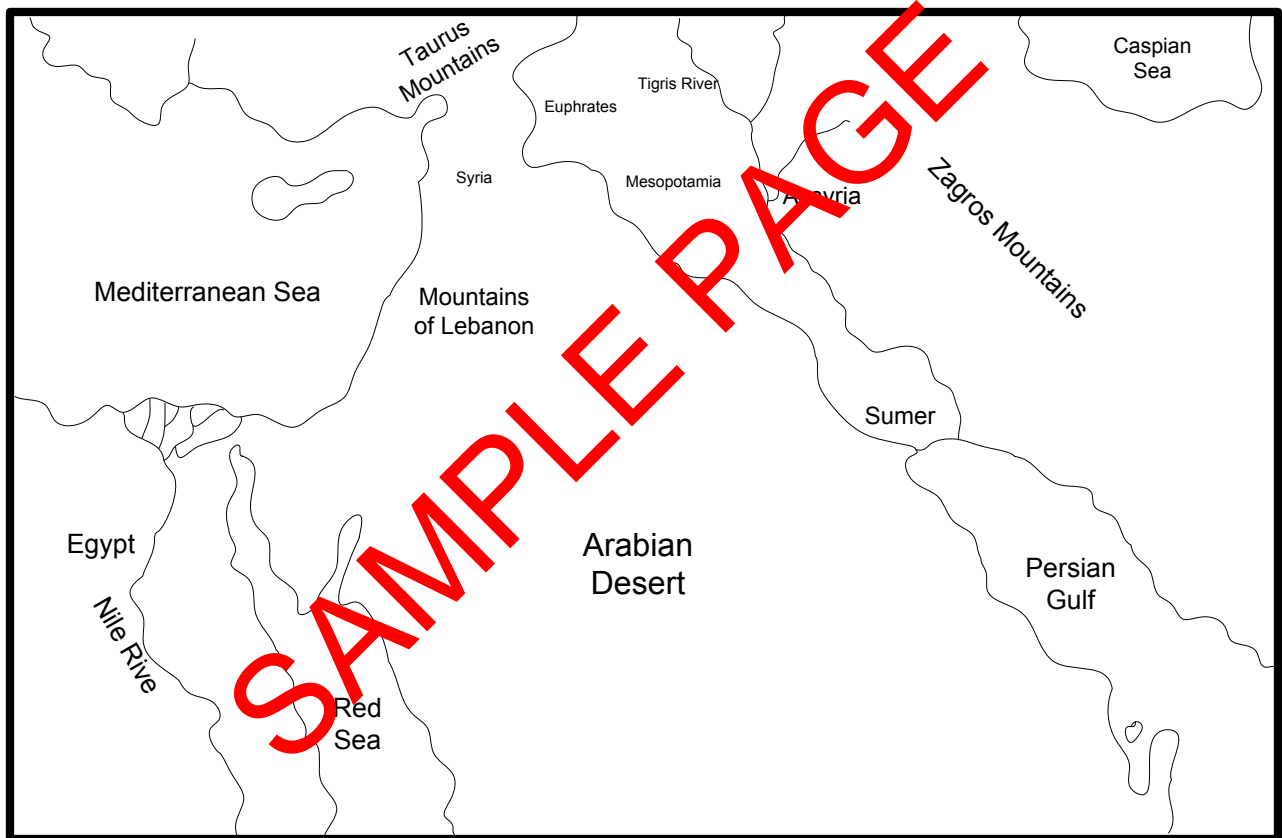
## Folder 1



### Read Geography of Mesopotamia.

Cut out the booklet.

**Directions:** Trace the Euphrates River and Tigris River in blue. Shade the area that was Mesopotamia in yellow. Shade the area that was Assyria orange. Shade the area that was Sumer in purple. Shade the area that was Akkad in green. Shade the area that was known as the Fertile Crescent in red.





## The People of Mesopotamia Were Great Scholars

In Mesopotamia, great advances in science and technology were made. Besides the cuneiform writing, there are many Mesopotamian great achievements:

~ It was in Mesopotamia where the wheel was first used. The wheel was quickly used on vehicles. These wheeled vehicles made moving heavy objects easier.

~ Mesopotamians needed ways to water or irrigate their land so that their crops would grow. This need prompted them to create excellent irrigation systems.

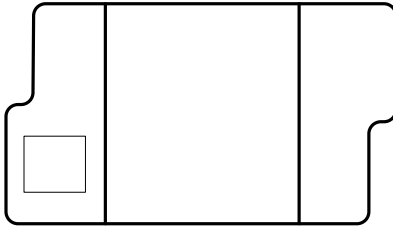
~ To build these systems, calculations were needed. This fact spurred the development of mathematics. Mesopotamians had a well-established number system. Based on the number 60, they were able to add, subtract, divide, and multiply.

~ They also used their 60-based system to measure time. The year was divided in 12 months of 30 days each. Each day was divided into two periods of 12 hours each. They also divided the circle into 360 degrees.

~ From the tall ziggurats, Mesopotamian priests (especially the Babylonians) kept a careful observation of the stars and the moon. This made them great astronomers.

~ Mesopotamians were the first builders to use the arch. This made it possible for them to build great structures.

**Folder 1**



**Read The People of Mesopotamia Were Great Scholars.**  
Cut out booklet as one piece. Fold the back section up and then glue down the flaps to form a pocket. Glue into lapbook.  
**Directions:** Cut out the cards on the next page. On each card, draw or glue a picture of the invention.

# Great Advances



Flap

Flap

**SAMPLE PAGE**

Hamburger Fold

Wheel

Irrigation System

Number System

Arch

**SAMPLE PAGE**