

Make It Yourself

Imagine being a scribe in a Sumerian city-state and needing to record on a piece of clay or stone important information about your ruler. How hard do you think it was? This exercise will give you an idea of what writing on clay tablets was like!

Take some modeling clay or plaster of paris and shape it into a rectangular tablet about 8 inches by 10 inches (or larger if you would like). Wait until the clay hardens, just like a sunbaked clay tablet would. Then use the end of a pencil or another pointed implement to try to carve out a “king list” with all the names of the American presidents over the last twenty years. Do not forget to include the dates of each presidency so that your record tells others when the presidents were the elected leaders of the United States.

Be Creative

Most children in the ancient world were expected to help their families. Using some of the information you have learned so far in chapters 1 and 2, write a short fiction story about what your life would be like if you lived in ancient Sumer. What kinds of chores would you have to do? (Do you have to carry water, tend to the animals, work in the family vegetable garden, or help make mud bricks for new buildings?) How would you travel from your home to the village when you needed to visit the market or the temple? What kinds of food would your family eat?

Bonus Activities

Make the Connection

Circle all of the phrases that describe the culture of Mesopotamian city-states during the Sumerian Archaic Period.

fights over access to water

crops of olives and citrus fruits

one unified nation of Sumer

temples were always left in peace

rode on tamed horses

payments of tribute (sometimes)

simple fences for protection

writing system to keep count of ziggurats built

ruled over by an emperor

ruled by a political leader or by a high priest

group of citizens who made decisions for the good of the city-state

worshipped one god

Who Were They?

Complete each of the following sentences by choosing the correct name or term from the word bank and writing it on the line provided. (*Hint:* Not all of the words in the word bank will be used in this exercise!)

Fertile Crescent • supreme god • Kish • Gilgamesh • patron god • Nippur
monotheist • Sumer • Lugalbanda • polytheist • Sargon • Etana

1. A god chosen by the people to serve as the special protector or guardian of their city is a _____ **patron** _____ **god** _____.
2. The famous Sumerian king of Uruk was _____ **Gilgamesh** _____.
3. A person who worships only one god is a _____ **monotheist** _____.
4. The first important civilization in Mesopotamia was _____ **Sumer** _____.
5. The first-known emperor in history was _____ **Sargon** _____.
6. One of the three largest and most important Sumerian city-states was _____ **Kish** _____.
7. A person who worships more than one god is a _____ **polytheist** _____.

Bonus Activities

Practice the Facts

On the line provided, write the number of the correct vocabulary word beside each definition.

- | | | |
|----------------------------|--------------|--|
| 1. Semitic languages | <u> 9 </u> | A. The first period of Sumerian civilization, ca. 3200–2350 BC |
| 2. Nomad | <u> 10 </u> | B. Something people build that is designed to last a long time as a reminder of an important person or event |
| 3. Ziggurat | <u> 2 </u> | C. A person who moves around, often each season, usually to find new places with fresh food for himself or his herd |
| 4. Immigrant | <u> 7 </u> | D. A style of pyramid with smooth, slanted sides, such as those found in Egypt |
| 5. Kingdom | <u> 8 </u> | E. The ancient period, ca. 3000–1200 BC, when advanced groups of people learned to make tools and weapons out of bronze instead of stone |
| 6. Tribute | <u> 3 </u> | F. The style of step pyramid, made of clay bricks, that the ancient Sumerians used as a place to worship their gods |
| 7. True pyramid | <u> 4 </u> | G. A person who moves from one geographical place to settle down permanently in another land |
| 8. Bronze Age | <u> 1 </u> | H. A large family of languages that includes those spoken by the Akkadians, Babylonians, Hebrews, and Arabs |
| 9. Sumerian Archaic Period | <u> 6 </u> | I. Payment (such as money, goods, or manpower) that a strong kingdom demands from another society or kingdom |
| 10. Monument | <u> 5 </u> | J. A society ruled by a king or queen |

Write It Down

Complete each of the following questions by choosing the correct word from the word bank and write it on the line provided. (*Hint:* Not all of the words in the word bank will be used in this exercise!)

musician • Ur-Zababa • weights • universe • spears • cupbearer
gardener • Lugalzaggesi • taxes • bows • clothing • government • festivals

- In some of the legends about Sargon the Great, he was adopted by a gardener and worked as a cupbearer for the king of Kish.
- Sargon's army was made up of full-time soldiers who were armed with sturdy bows.
- Sargon defeated Lugalzaggesi in a surprise attack on the city of Uruk.
- Sargon combined all of the city-state governments to create one government.
- Sargon created a standard system for weights and one national system for taxes.
- Sargon's grandson, Naram-Sin, called himself "king of the universe."

Bonus Activities

Which Is Which?

Complete each of the following sentences by crossing out the *incorrect* word in parentheses.

- The ancient document that lists the kings of Sumer and gives information about these early rulers is called the (~~Emperors of the World~~ / Sumerian King) list.
- The Sumerians built their temples (~~on top of~~ / ~~deep inside~~) ziggurats and decorated them with (~~beautiful artifacts~~ / trees and plants).
- A writing system that uses (~~phonograms~~ / logograms) has symbols that represent entire words.
- A (~~scribe~~ / ~~linguist~~) was a specialist in reading and writing.
- Sargon chose the city of (~~Nippur~~ / Akkad) to be the capital of his empire.
- In addition to cuneiform, the Sumerians also invented (~~dominoes~~ / a numbering system) and constructed buildings with early forms of (~~domes and arches~~ / ~~underground rooms~~).
- Cuneiform was created as a way of recording (~~stories of kings and gods~~ / the taxes people paid).
- One reason why a writing system is important for a civilization is because it gives people a way to (~~share knowledge~~ / ~~avoid digging canals~~).

Write It Down

For each of the following questions, write the answer on the line provided.

- What did the Sumerians use to write? _____ **stylus** _____
- Can you remember how many symbols a well-educated scribe would have to memorize?
_____ **600** _____
- On what material(s) did the Sumerians write? _____ **clay** _____
_____ **tablets** _____
- What type of symbols do we combine to create words in our English language?
_____ **phonograms** _____
- A symbol that looks like the moon and represents the moon god Nanna would be an example of what kind of symbol? _____ **pictogram** _____

More Word Translation

Are you up for a challenge? See if you can use the cuneiform alphabet chart on page 71 to translate the following words from English into cuneiform. (Don't worry if your symbols do not look *exactly* like the ones shown in the chart. Some of these cuneiform symbols can be very tricky to write or draw!)

1. Sargon _____ 

2. Tax _____ 

3. History _____ 

4. Army _____ 

5. Hammurabi _____ 

Bonus Activities

Decode the Past

Complete the following “Big Picture of Ancient Mesopotamia” chart with information you learned in chapters 1–6.

THE BIG PICTURE OF ANCIENT MESOPOTAMIA

DATE	EMPIRE NAME	TYPE OF GOVERNMENT	MAIN LANGUAGE
ca. <u>3200</u> – 2350 BC	Sumerian Archaic Period	Many <u>city-states</u> ruling themselves and sometimes fighting	Sumerian
ca. 2350–2200 BC	<u>Akkadian</u> Empire	Empire founded by Sargon the Great	<u>Semitic</u> (Akkadian)
ca. 2200–2100 BC	<u>Gutian</u> invasion		
ca. 2100–2000 BC	Ur III Empire	Empire founded by <u>Ur-Nammu</u>	Sumerian
ca. 2000–1800 BC	<u>Interregnum</u>	Many city-states ruling themselves	<u>Sumerian</u> and Semitic (Akkadian)
ca. 1800– <u>1600</u> BC	Old <u>Babylonian</u> Period	Empire founded by Hammurabi	Semitic (Akkadian)

Be Creative

Enkidu was a friend to the animals in the forest. Use your imagination and write a conversation that Enkidu might have had with one of the forest animals. You might write about him comforting a bear who was caught in an animal trap, or talking to a wolf who was planning to harm a smaller animal. Be creative!

Bonus Activities

Which Came First?

Circle the correct answer for each of the following questions.

1. Which people invaded Mesopotamia first? Elamites *or* **Gutians**
2. Which emperor came first? **Ur-Nammu** *or* Hammurabi
3. Which style of pyramids was built first? smooth *or* **step**
4. Which empire was founded first? Ur III *or* **Akkadian**
5. Which group of people arrived in Babylon first? **Amorites** *or* Hittites
6. Which language was spoken first? Semitic *or* **Sumerian**
7. Which event came first? Hammurabi writes his law code *or* **Interregnum**

Bonus Activities

Decode the Past

Complete the following “Big Picture of Ancient Mesopotamia” chart with information you learned in chapters 1–6.

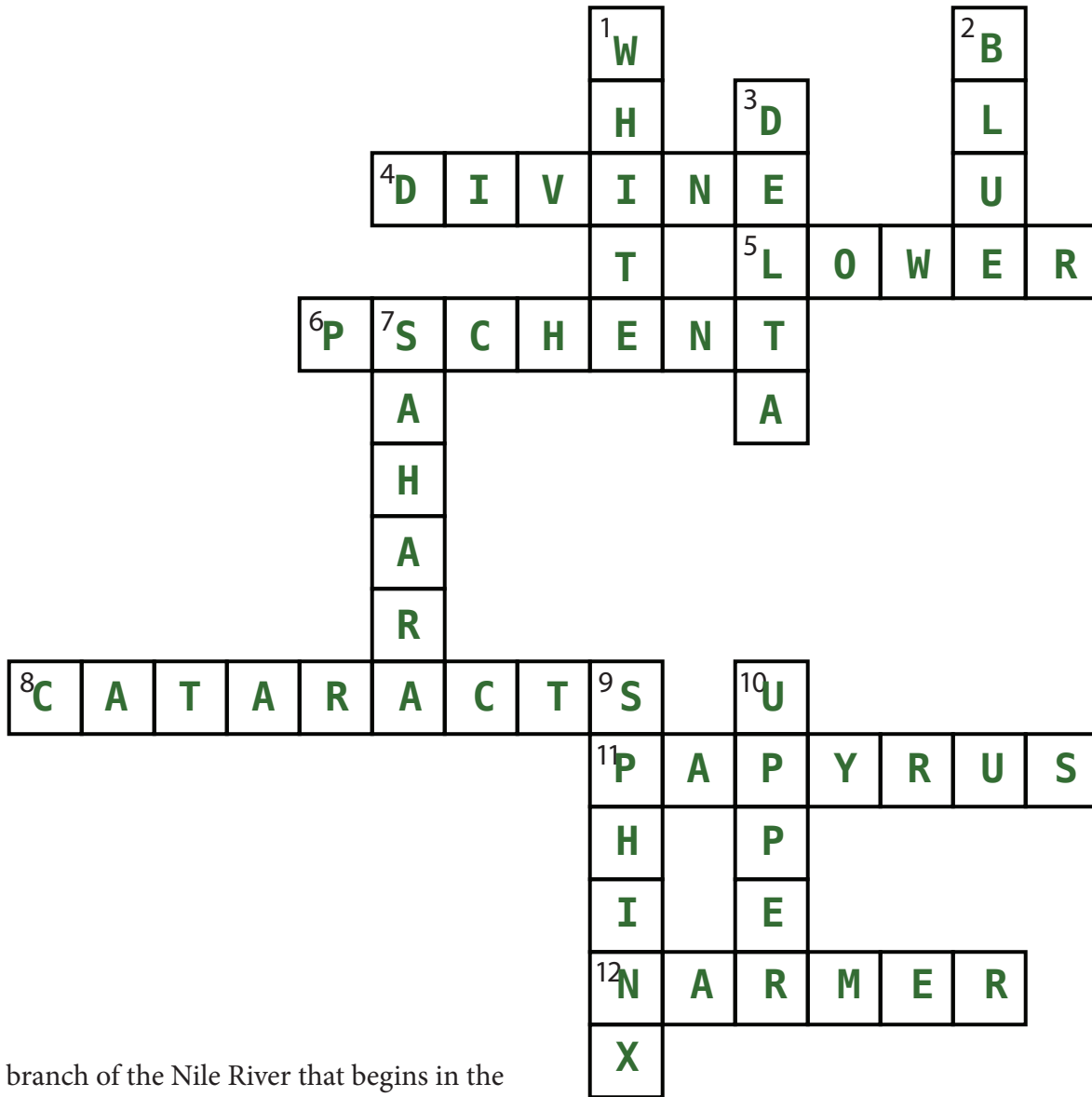
THE BIG PICTURE OF ANCIENT MESOPOTAMIA

DATE	EMPIRE NAME	TYPE OF GOVERNMENT	MAIN LANGUAGE
ca. <u>3200</u> – 2350 BC	<u>Archaic</u> Archaic Period	Many city-states ruling themselves and sometimes fighting	Sumerian
ca. <u>2350</u> – 2200 BC	<u>Akkadian</u> Empire	Empire founded by Sargon the Great	Semitic (Akkadian)
ca. 2200–2100 BC	<i>Gutian</i> <u>invasion</u>		
ca. 2100–2000 BC	<u>Ur</u> <u>III</u> Empire	Empire founded by Ur-Nammu	<u>Sumerian</u>
ca. 2000–1800 BC	Interregnum	Many <u>city-states</u> ruling themselves	Sumerian and Semitic (Akkadian)
ca. 1800– <u>1600</u> BC	Old Babylonian Period	Empire founded by <u>Hammurabi</u>	<u>Semitic</u> (Akkadian)

Bonus Activities

Can You Recall?

Use the following clues to fill in the crossword puzzle with the correct vocabulary words.



Down

1. The branch of the Nile River that begins in the African mountains at Lake Victoria
2. The branch of the Nile River that begins at Lake Tana in Ethiopia
3. A fertile piece of land, usually shaped like a triangle, at the mouth of a river
7. The largest desert in the world, covering about 3.5 million miles
9. A mythical creature with a lion body and a human head
10. The southern part of Egypt that was upstream on the Nile River

Across

4. Coming from, related to, or being a god
5. The northern part of Egypt that was downstream on the Nile River
6. The double crown of ancient Egypt
8. Steep rapids or waterfalls in a river
11. A reed from which the Egyptians made a paper-like material, sandals, boats, and other things
12. One of the pharaohs who helped unite Upper and Lower Egypt into one kingdom

Bonus Activities

Draw a Picture

Imagine that you are an archaeologist who has just discovered a new pyramid in Egypt. In the space below, draw a picture of some of the artifacts you would hope to find inside in order to learn more about the pharaoh's life.

Pictures will vary. Students might draw pictures of artifacts such as jewelry, papyrus scrolls, pieces of furniture, statues or other sculptures, precious gems, etc.



Who Am I?

Write the name of each pharaoh or Egyptian figure on the blank line, then find each name in the word search on the following page.

1. I, _____ **Snefru** _____, am the first pharaoh of the Fourth Dynasty and built three pyramids: the Meidum Pyramid, the Bent Pyramid, and the Red Pyramid.
2. I am _____ **Djoser** _____, the second pharaoh of the Third Dynasty who ordered the construction of the first-known Egyptian pyramid.
3. I am a _____ **nomarch** _____, or the local ruler of a nome.
4. I am _____ **Narmer** _____, one of the pharaohs who united Upper and Lower Egypt into one country, ca. 3200 BC, and started the First Dynasty.
5. I am _____ **Menes** _____, the legendary pharaoh once believed to have united the land of Egypt.
6. I am _____ **Khufu** _____, the Fourth Dynasty pharaoh who built the Great Pyramid.
7. I am _____ **Imhotep** _____, an important vizier and the architect of the first Egyptian pyramid.

Who Am I? Word Search

S	O	I	M	G	N	F	X	F	P	A	P	H	P	C	K
H	O	S	F	B	O	K	D	K	E	W	V	K	B	U	H
Y	K	C	T	F	M	W	Y	P	X	X	J	E	Z	C	U
Z	Z	O	N	W	A	D	C	B	W	H	A	I	J	T	F
D	Z	R	Q	R	R	T	B	F	I	B	X	S	Y	K	U
J	T	P	D	Y	C	J	B	X	T	N	A	F	X	T	R
O	U	I	V	J	H	H	X	I	T	I	N	V	F	I	C
S	F	O	C	F	A	W	P	A	Q	J	E	V	Y	P	P
E	J	N	A	L	I	Y	L	E	E	H	N	C	N	B	I
R	Z	C	E	C	P	M	F	G	B	I	V	U	A	S	R
Z	X	W	K	U	U	H	H	I	Z	N	L	C	R	Y	W
M	E	N	E	S	M	D	B	O	S	G	R	G	M	X	F
L	E	Z	M	T	X	S	T	V	T	K	C	U	E	J	D
E	N	W	V	W	C	L	A	D	V	E	V	M	R	S	K
S	N	E	F	R	U	P	G	X	P	X	P	T	K	B	N
I	Z	I	I	L	L	T	F	J	F	R	Z	J	K	Z	J

Bonus Activities

Practice the Facts

On the line provided, write the number of the correct vocabulary word beside each definition.

1. Vizier 6 A. The study of found objects, such as tools, that once belonged to groups of people who lived in the past
2. Monument 4 B. A period when a kingdom is prosperous and at peace, and the people are able to focus on impressive achievements, such as building monuments, writing literature, and making new discoveries
3. Eroded 8 C. A position that passes from a ruler to his relative (usually his son) after he dies
4. Golden age 10 D. The study of how human societies have changed over time; a record of events that happened in the past
5. Nomarch 7 E. A rectangular raised platform made of mud bricks that has a flat roof and sloping sides and covers an elaborate underground tomb
6. Archaeology 2 F. Something people build that is designed to last a long time as a reminder of an important person or event
7. Mastaba 9 G. A small region in ancient Egypt
8. Hereditary position 11 H. The writing material of the ancient Egyptians
9. Nome 1 I. A chief official of a pharaoh or Middle Eastern ruler
10. History 12 J. Steep rapids or waterfalls in a river
11. Papyrus 5 K. The ruler of a small region in ancient Egypt
12. Cataracts 3 L. Worn away slowly by wind, water, or a harsh chemical such as an acid

Bonus Activities

Which Came First?

Circle the correct answer for each of the following questions.

- Which hieroglyphic script was used first? demotic or **hieratic**
- Which deity was the first patron god of Thebes? **Mentu** or Amun
- Which artifact was created first? **Narmer Palette** or Rosetta Stone
- Which pharaoh came first? Amunhemhet I or **Mentuhotep II**
- Which disaster struck Egypt first? **a time of famine** or the Hyksos invasion
- Which style of tomb was built first in Egypt? step pyramids or **mastabas**

Which Came First?

Unscramble the words to fill in the missing pieces of text.

In 1799, a French soldier in Egypt found a stone with the same message carved on it in two Egyptian scripts, hieroglyphic and **DEMOTIC**, and also in the **GREEK**

EOMCDTI

EEGKR

language. Because it was found near the town of **ROSETTA**, this stone is called

TASRETO

the Rosetta Stone. The stone had been carved in **196** BC by Egyptian

691

PRIESTS during the rule of Ptolemy V. The message on the stone praised the king for

ERIP TSS

his **GENEROSITY** and his faithfulness to the gods. Once historians had learned how to read

ISNEOGYETR

these hieroglyphics, they were able to translate the words carved on **MONUMENTS** and the

USOMNTNEM

walls of Egyptian **TOMBS**. These translations helped them discover much of what we

BMTSO

know today about ancient Egyptian history and **DAILY** life.

AYIDL

Bonus Activities

Practice the Facts

On the line provided, write the number of the correct vocabulary word beside each definition.

- | | | |
|--------------------|-----------|--|
| 1. Hieratic script | <u>7</u> | A. Able to last for a long time without falling apart |
| 2. Mummification | <u>9</u> | B. Coming from, related to, or being a god |
| 3. Eroded | <u>6</u> | C. The land of the dead believed to exist below the earth |
| 4. Demotic script | <u>5</u> | D. A period when there is not enough food to feed the people in a particular area |
| 5. Famine | <u>8</u> | E. The local ruler of a nome |
| 6. Underworld | <u>1</u> | F. The Egyptian cursive writing system that was used for day-to-day writings, such as business matters and government document |
| 7. Durable | <u>10</u> | G. A chief official of a pharaoh or Middle Eastern ruler |
| 8. Nomarch | <u>3</u> | H. Worn away slowly by wind, water, or a harsh chemical such as an acid |
| 9. Divine | <u>4</u> | I. The writing system of the Egyptian people and the script used for all non-religious writing |
| 10. Vizier | <u>2</u> | J. The process of preserving a dead body so that it will not decay after death |

What Happens Next?

Number the following scrolls to put the steps of building a pyramid in order.

The scrolls contain the following steps:

- 6**: Crude copper tools are used to shape the blocks to fit very snugly together.
- 5**: Ropes and levers are used to lift the stone blocks into place.
- 3**: Water is poured on the sand to make it smooth and slippery.
- 2**: The stone blocks are pulled across the desert with sleds and strong ropes.
- 7**: A limestone coating is applied to the outer edges of each block.
- 4**: Blocks are pulled higher and higher up ramps.
- 1**: Large blocks are cut from mountain quarries (places where there was plenty of stone).