

Chapter 2: Mesopotamia: 2-6b Key Terms

Book Title: World Civilizations

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Chapter Review

2-6b Key Terms

Babylon (Most important of the later Mesopotamian urban centers.)

city-states (States or societies that are dominated by a single city.)

cuneiform ((kyoo-nEE-eh-form) Mesopotamian wedge-shaped writing begun by the Sumerians.)

Epic of Gilgamesh ((GIHL-gah-mesh) One of the earliest epics in world literature, originating in prehistoric Mesopotamia.)

Fertile Crescent (A belt of civilized settlements reaching from Lower Mesopotamia across Syria, Lebanon, and Israel and into Egypt.)

Hammurabi's law code (History's first known law code, written by King Hammurabi in the eighteenth century B.C.E.)

Hittites ((HIHT-tites) An Indo-European people who were prominent in the Near East around 1200 B.C.E.)

Levantine Corridor (Region that included most of present-day Israel-Palestine, Lebanon, Syria, and northern Iraq. Archaeologists have discovered the earliest evidence of agriculture here.)

Mesopotamia (Literally, the "land between the rivers"; the fertile lands between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers where the earliest known civilizations appeared in the fourth millennium B.C.E.)

Natufians (The earliest settlers of the Levantine Corridor, they founded the first known settled communities.)

patriarchy ((PAY-tree-ahr-kee) A society in which males have social and political dominance.)

polytheism (A religion having many gods.)

Semitic ((seh-MIT-ic) Adjective describing a person or language belonging to one of the most widespread of the western Asian groups; among many others, it embraces Hebrew and Arabic.)

Sumeria (The earliest known civilization, based on city-states located in southern Iraq along the Tigris and Euphrates rivers.)

theocracy (The rule by gods or their priests.)

ziggurats ((ZIHG-goo-raht) The stepped and elevated temple structures that the ancient Mesopotamian civilization erected in honor of its gods.)

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