

Chapter 2: Mesopotamia: 2-6 Chapter Review  
Book Title: World Civilizations  
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## 2-6 Chapter Review

### 2-6a Summary

Soon after the great thaw that came at the end of the last Ice Age, the first Neolithic villages and small towns sprouted up in the Levantine Corridor. Quickly, this new way of life spread to northern Mesopotamia. Sometime around the middle of the fourth millennium B.C.E., mutually dependent agglomerations of agriculturalists and skilled trades that we call towns and cities were founded in Mesopotamia, when an Asian people, the Sumerians, created them.

Originally headed by a theocratic priesthood and later by warrior-kings, the Sumerian city-states left their various successors a rich variety of new techniques and viewpoints, including the load-bearing wheel, the first sophisticated writing system, an accurate chronology and mathematics, and impressive architectural skills. Their religion seems harsh and pessimistic to us now, but it apparently reflected their perceptions of the dangerous world around them, in which natural and man-made disasters were common and the gods cared little for their human slaves.

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