\_Mesopotamia is a historical region in West Asia within the Tigris–Euphrates river system.

Present-day Iraq is located in the region formerly known as Mesopotamia.

Mesopotamia also includes parts of present-day Iran, Turkey, Syria, and Kuwait.

It is the site of the earliest developments of the Neolithic Revolution around 10,000 BC.

Mesopotamia inspired significant developments in human history, including the invention of the wheel.

The region saw the planting of the first cereal crops and the development of cursive script, mathematics, astronomy, and agriculture.

Mesopotamia is recognized as the cradle of some of the world's earliest civilizations.

The Sumerians and Akkadians dominated Mesopotamia from around 3100 BC to the fall of Babylon in 539 BC.

Sargon of Akkad began the rise of empires around 2350 BC.

The early second millennium BC saw the division of Mesopotamian society into Assyria in the north and Babylonia in the south.

The Neo-Assyrian Empire controlled much of the ancient Near East from 900 to 612 BC.

After the Neo-Assyrian Empire, the Babylonians dominated the region for a century until 539 BC.

Mesopotamia was conquered by the Achaemenid Empire in 539 BC.

Alexander the Great conquered Mesopotamia in 332 BC, after which it became part of the Greek Seleucid Empire.

By around 150 BC, Mesopotamia was under the control of the Parthian Empire.

The region became a battleground between the Romans and Parthians, with some western areas under Roman control.

In 226 AD, eastern Mesopotamia fell to the Sassanid Persians.

The region was divided between the Roman Byzantine Empire and the Sassanid Empire from 395 AD until the 7th century Muslim conquests.

Several native Mesopotamian states, including Adiabene, Osroene, and Hatra, existed between the 1st century BC and the 3rd century AD.

The term Mesopotamia means '(land) between rivers' in Ancient Greek.

Mesopotamia derives from the Greek words μέσος (mesos, 'middle') and ποταμός (potamos, 'river').. The name likely originates from an older Aramaic term, which is a calque of the Akkadian birit narim.

Mesopotamia is referenced in the Greek Septuagint to translate the Hebrew and Aramaic Naharaim.

The earliest Greek usage of Mesopotamia appears in The Anabasis of Alexander, designating land east of the Euphrates.

The Akkadian term biritum/birit narim corresponds to a similar geographical concept of the region.

Mesopotamia generally encompasses areas between the Euphrates and Tigris rivers, including parts of Syria, Iraq, and southeastern Turkey.

Upper Mesopotamia, also known as the Jazira, stretches from the sources of the Euphrates and Tigris down to Baghdad.

Lower Mesopotamia extends from Baghdad to the Persian Gulf, including Kuwait and parts of western Iran.

In modern academic usage, Mesopotamia often refers to the region until the Muslim conquests.

The Tigris and Euphrates rivers both originate in the Armenian highlands.

The climate of Mesopotamia is semi-arid, transitioning to a region of marshes in the south.

Overland routes in Mesopotamia typically follow the Euphrates due to the steep banks of the Tigris.

The southernmost part of the region is characterized by marshes, lagoons, and reed banks.

The arid environment of Mesopotamia transitions from rain-fed agriculture in the north to irrigation-dependent agriculture in the south.

Irrigation is supported by a high water table and melting snow from the Zagros Mountains and Armenian Highlands.

The mobilization of labor for canal construction has facilitated urban settlements and centralized political authority.

Agriculture is supplemented by nomadic pastoralism, where tent-dwelling nomads herd sheep, goats, and camels.

The region lacks building stone, precious metals, and timber, relying on long-distance trade for these resources.

A complex water-borne fishing culture has existed in the marshlands of southern Mesopotamia since prehistoric times.

Population increases and climatic instability have historically led to breakdowns in the cultural system.

Military invasions from marginal tribes have caused periods of trade collapse and neglect of irrigation systems.

Central authority over Mesopotamia has historically been ephemeral, resulting in fragmented local power structures.

The prehistory of the Ancient Near East dates back to the Lower Paleolithic period.

Writing emerged in Mesopotamia with Proto-cuneiform during the Uruk IV period in the late 4th millennium BC.

The recorded history of lower Mesopotamia began in the early third millennium BC with cuneiform records.

Mesopotamia's history concluded with the Achaemenid Empire's arrival in the late 6th century BC or the Muslim conquest in the late 7th century AD.

Mesopotamia is one of the four riverine civilizations where writing was invented.

Important historical cities in Mesopotamia include Uruk, Nippur, Nineveh, Assur, and Babylon.

Notable leaders from Mesopotamia include Ur-Nammu, Sargon of Akkad, Hammurabi, Ashur-uballit I, and Tiglath-Pileser I.

DNA analysis of 8,000-year-old remains in Germany shows similarities with modern populations in Turkey and Iraq.

Libraries existed in towns and temples during the Babylonian Empire.

An old Sumerian proverb stated, "he who would excel in the school of the scribes must rise with the dawn."

Both men and women learned to read and write in Babylonian society.

Semitic Babylonians needed to know the extinct Sumerian language and a complex syllabary.

Much Babylonian literature was translated from Sumerian originals, maintaining Sumerian as the language of religion and law.

Vocabularies, grammars, and commentaries on older texts were compiled for students.

The Epic of Gilgamesh is one of the most famous Babylonian literary works, translated from Sumerian by Sîn-lēqi-unninni.

The Epic of Gilgamesh consists of twelve books arranged on an astronomical principle.

Mesopotamian mathematics utilized a sexagesimal (base 60) numeral system.

This numeral system is the basis for the 60-minute hour, 24-hour day, and 360-degree circle.

The Sumerian calendar was lunisolar, comprising three seven-day weeks in a lunar month.

The Babylonians measured the circumference of a circle as three times the diameter.

They calculated the area of a circle as one-twelfth the square of the circumference, assuming π as 3.

The volume of a cylinder was calculated as the area of the base times the height.

The volume of a frustum of a cone or square pyramid was incorrectly calculated as the height times half the sum of the bases.

A Babylonian tablet approximated π as 25/8 (3.125).

The Babylonian mile was a measure of distance equal to about seven modern miles (11 km).

The Babylonian algebraic system allowed for algorithmic calculations.

The clay tablet YBC 7289 (c. 1800–1600 BC) provides an approximation of √2 accurate to about six decimal digits.

Early Mesopotamian civilization began around 7500 BC in Jarmo.

The 7th–5th millennium BC saw the rise of various cultures: Hassuna in the north, Halaf in the northwest, Samarra in central Mesopotamia, and Ubaid in the southeast.

The Ubaid culture later expanded to encompass the entire Mesopotamian region.

The Code of Hammurabi, composed around 1755–1750 BC, is the longest and best-preserved legal text from the ancient Near East.

The Code of Hammurabi is written in the Old Babylonian dialect of Akkadian by Hammurabi, the sixth king of Babylon.

The earliest written language in Mesopotamia was Sumerian, an agglutinative language isolate.

Semitic languages were also spoken alongside Sumerian in early Mesopotamia.

Akkadian became the dominant language during the Akkadian and Assyrian empires.

Sumerian was retained for administrative, religious, literary, and scientific purposes even after Akkadian's dominance.

Old Aramaic became the official language of administration in the Neo-Assyrian and Achaemenid empires.

The last Akkadian texts date from the late 1st century AD.

Cuneiform was invented for Sumerian around the mid-4th millennium BC.

The term "cuneiform" means "wedge-shaped," referring to the stylus used to create signs in wet clay.

The earliest cuneiform texts come from the temple of Inanna at Uruk.

Mastering the early logographic cuneiform script was challenging, limiting the number of trained scribes.

A syllabic script was adopted under Sargon's rule, increasing literacy among the Mesopotamian population.

Akkadian gradually replaced Sumerian as the spoken language around the turn of the 3rd and 2nd millennium BC.

Sumerian continued to be used as a sacred and literary language until the 1st century AD.

The Epic of Gilgamesh is regarded as the earliest surviving notable literature from ancient Mesopotamia.

Mesopotamian kings and queens were believed to be descended from city gods, but they were not considered gods themselves.

Kings often referred to themselves as "king of the universe" or "great king," and commonly used the title "shepherd" to signify their responsibility for their people.

Assyrian provinces were named after their main cities, each governed by a governor responsible for taxes, military recruitment, and law enforcement.

Under Hammurabi, Babylon transformed from a small state to a major city, becoming known as Babylonia and a center of learning.

Walled cities emerged as communal violence increased, leading to conflicts over land and resources among city-states.

The earliest recorded war dates to around 3200 BC, though major warfare was more common from about 2500 BC onward.

Gilgamesh, a legendary king of Uruk, was celebrated for military feats and portrayed as two-thirds god in later tales.

The Stele of the Vultures commemorates Eannatum of Lagash's victory over Umma and is the oldest monument celebrating a massacre.

Warfare became a key part of the Mesopotamian political system, with neutral cities often mediating disputes.

King Sargon unified Sumer and expanded into modern-day Syria, marking a significant military campaign.

Assyrian and Babylonian palace walls often depicted military victories, showing enemies in flight or hiding.

Neo-Babylonian kings employed deportation to maintain control and sought tribute, valuable materials, and labor from conquered peoples.

The Volga trade route connected Baghdad to other trade networks.

Vasco da Gama's sea route between India and Europe (1497–1499) affected Mesopotamian trade.

The opening of the Suez Canal in 1869 further impacted trade routes.

Genetic studies on modern Iraqis are limited due to political instability.

Research indicates that all Iraqis share significant genetic similarities across ethno-religious groups.

Mesopotamian Arabs are genetically closer to Iraqi Kurds than to other Arab populations.

No significant Y-DNA variation differences were observed among Iraqi Mesopotamian Arabs, Assyrians, or Kurds.

Contemporary Assyrians and Yazidis in northern Iraq may have genetic continuity with ancient Mesopotamians.

Among northern Iraqi Assyrians, subclades J and R were found at 36% and 41%, respectively.

The prevalence of R and J macrohaplogroups is linked to pre-Last Glacial Maximum events in the Near East.

Historians suggest that Iraq's Marsh Arabs may be closely related to the ancient Sumerians.

The Iraqi-Assyrian population shows significant genetic connections to other Iraqis, particularly Mesopotamian Arabs.

The geography of Mesopotamia influenced its political development, leading to the formation of city-states.

Sumerian city-states were often independent and protective of their autonomy.

Efforts to unify Sumer were largely unsuccessful for centuries.

Eannatum achieved a temporary unification of Sumer before it was conquered by the Akkadians in 2331 BC.

The Akkadian Empire was the first to maintain a peaceful succession of kings.

The Akkadian Empire was short-lived, as it was conquered by the Babylonians shortly after.