

SECTION
3

Reading for Understanding

▶ Key Ideas

BEFORE, YOU LEARNED

The physical geography of both Southwest Asia and South Asia is rich and varied.

NOW YOU WILL LEARN

In both regions, civilizations developed first in river valleys where there was an abundant supply of water.

▶ Vocabulary

TERMS & NAMES

Mesopotamia the land between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers

silt the fine soil carried by rivers and deposited on nearby lands

civilization an advanced form of culture that developed in cities

Sumer a region of city-states in Mesopotamia that was home to the first civilization

city-state a political unit made up of a city and its surrounding lands

ziggurat a temple built atop a series of increasingly smaller platforms

polytheistic believing in many gods

cuneiform the first-known writing system, which used wedge-shaped symbols and was developed in Sumer

Fertile Crescent a region stretching from the Persian Gulf northwest up the Tigris and Euphrates rivers and west over to the Mediterranean Sea

Hammurabi's Code one of the world's first law codes, compiled by the ruler Hammurabi

Harappan civilization an ancient civilization that developed along the Indus River

BACKGROUND VOCABULARY

grid a network of horizontal and vertical lines that create squares or rectangles

▶ Reading Strategy

Re-create the chart shown at right. As you read and respond to the **KEY QUESTIONS**, use the chart to note the main achievements of the civilizations discussed in this section.



See Skillbuilder Handbook, page R5

SUMMARIZE

SUMERIAN	HARAPPAN



GRAPHIC ORGANIZERS

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SECTION
3

HISTORY

River Valley Civilizations

Connecting to Your World

How would you get to sporting events or to the mall if the wheel had never been invented? How would you keep track of important information if you had no way to write it down? Think about what life would be like if your home didn't have indoor toilets, or if you couldn't wear cotton T-shirts or jeans. The people of ancient river valley civilizations invented many things that we rely on every day, including the wheel, writing, indoor plumbing, and cotton cloth.

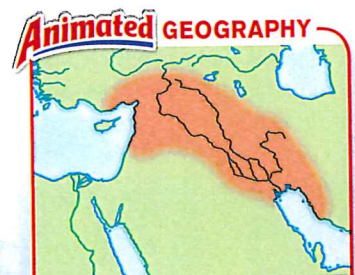


Wheel The two-wheeled chariot was invented by the Sumerians in Mesopotamia around 3000 B.C.

Mesopotamia and the Fertile Crescent

KEY QUESTION What are the main characteristics of civilization?

In Section 1, you learned that the Tigris and the Euphrates rivers flow from Anatolia to the Persian Gulf. What you didn't learn is that the land between the two has its own name—**Mesopotamia**, which means “land between the rivers.” In the spring, rain and melting snow in the Anatolian highlands fed the Tigris and Euphrates. As the swollen rivers rushed downhill, they picked up soil. When the rivers reached the flat region of Mesopotamia, they overflowed and spread over a wide area. The fine soil in the water, called **silt**, settled on the land. Silt is very fertile and makes good soil for farming.



Mesopotamia This floating village is located in the marshes of southern Iraq near the eastern end of Mesopotamia.

 [Click here](#) to learn more about Mesopotamia
[@ClassZone.com](#)

Civilization Arises The earliest humans lived by hunting animals and by gathering nuts, fruits, and seeds. Over time, they learned to save and plant some seeds to ensure they would have a food supply. That was the start of agriculture. When people began to irrigate their fields, their ability to grow crops improved and they had extra food.

Farming changed human life. Instead of wandering to find food, people settled in one place. In time, villages grew into cities. City dwellers had to figure out how to defend their city and how to do jobs such as building irrigation canals. To solve such problems, societies developed a more complex way of life. The advanced form of culture that arose in cities is called **civilization**. Civilization has five traits:

Advanced Cities Cities arose as places where farmers could store and trade their extra food.

Specialized Workers When a society has extra food, not everyone has to farm. Some can build houses or make pottery.

Complex Institutions A civilization has institutions such as an army, schools, a government, and a temple for worship.

Record Keeping People in cities needed to record information such as how much food they had stored. So civilizations developed record keeping, which involved writing.

Advanced Technology Early civilizations developed new technologies such as irrigation and bronze tools.

CONNECT Geography & Culture

Cuneiform

For writing supplies, Sumerians used a material they had a lot of—tablets made of clay from the riverbeds. At first, Sumerians drew pictures that stood for words. Later, they used a sharpened reed to make wedge-shaped marks in soft clay. The marks were combined into symbols that became the writing system called cuneiform. When the clay dried, it hardened, making a permanent record.



Sumerian Civilization The first civilization of Mesopotamia arose in **Sumer**, which was a land of many city-states. A **city-state** was made up of a city and nearby farmlands.

Walls surrounded the cities of Sumer. Buildings were made of dried mud because few trees grew in Mesopotamia. In many Sumerian cities, one building towered over all the others. It was the **ziggurat**, a temple built on a series of increasingly smaller platforms that made the ziggurat peak like a mountain. The Sumerian people were **polytheistic**, which means they believed in many gods.

The Sumerians invented many things we still use today, including the wheel and the plow. The Sumerians also developed the first writing system, which is called **cuneiform**.

 **FIND MAIN IDEAS** Give the main characteristics of civilization.

City-States and Empires

KEY QUESTION Who were two rulers of Mesopotamian empires?

The first rulers of city-states were priests, because people believed priests communicated with the gods. However, cities often came under attack because they stored extra food and wealth that outsiders wanted. In wartime, military leaders gained power. Eventually, those leaders became permanent rulers called kings, chosen with the approval of the priests.

The First Empire In 2334 B.C., a ruler named Sargon came to power. He conquered many cities and became the first king to rule all of Mesopotamia. His empire stretched from the Persian Gulf up the two great rivers and over to the Mediterranean Sea, a region called the **Fertile Crescent**. Sargon built a wealthy capital city called Akkad. During his grandson's rule, invaders broke up the empire.

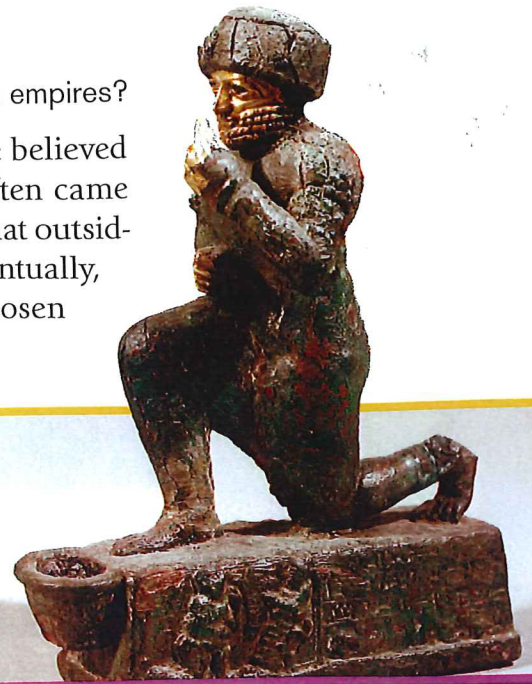
Hammurabi About 500 years after Sargon, another great empire rose in Mesopotamia. A king of Babylon named Hammurabi conquered other city-states and built a vast and powerful empire. Because of his conquests, Hammurabi was the ruler of many peoples with different customs. He wanted a consistent way to govern his subjects, so he compiled a set of laws that applied to everyone under his rule. **Hammurabi's Code** was one of the earliest law codes in the world. His concept of justice—that punishment should fit the crime—has continued to evolve.

SUMMARIZE Identify two rulers of Mesopotamian empires.

Indus River Valley Civilization

KEY QUESTION What were some of the accomplishments of the Harappan civilization?

An ancient civilization also developed on the Indus River in what is now Pakistan. As you know, monsoons cause South Asia to have a rainy season and a dry season. During the rainy season, the Indus River often flooded and deposited fertile silt on the land. Farming villages sprang up, and some gradually grew into cities.



HISTORY MAKERS

Hammurabi (died about 1750 B.C.)

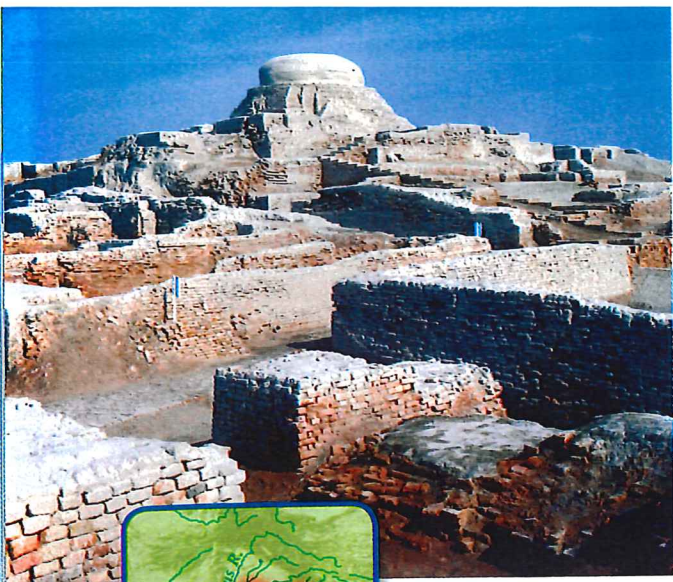
When Hammurabi became king, Babylon was a small state. Hammurabi led Babylon in conquering surrounding lands. One tactic he used was to dam main waterways to deprive his enemies of water.

During his reign, Hammurabi oversaw the creation of one of the world's oldest set of laws. He made Babylon so magnificent that for centuries after his death, it remained one of the most important cities of the ancient world.



ONLINE BIOGRAPHY

For more on the life of Hammurabi, go to the Research & Writing Center @ [ClassZone.com](https://www.classzone.com)



Mohenjo-Daro Ruins of the ancient city of Mohenjo-Daro, located in present-day Pakistan

Ruins of more than 100 settlements have been found spread across a vast area of South Asia. The two greatest cities of this civilization are called Mohenjo-Daro and Harappa, and the culture is called the **Harappan civilization**. It is also known as the Indus Valley civilization. The ruins of those cities show that the Harappan people had advanced technology and a system of measurement. The cities were laid out on a **grid** with straight streets that crossed at right angles. Houses had indoor plumbing, and there was a sewer system. The Harappan civilization used a system of weights and bricks that were a standard size. The Harappan people engaged in trade with Afghanistan, Persia, and Mesopotamia. The Harappans developed their own writing system to keep records. Around 2000 to 1500 B.C., the Harappan civilization declined, and people left the cities. No one knows why, but possible causes include earthquakes, a shift in the river's course, and attacking invaders. The Harappan people might simply have exceeded the environment's ability to support the population.

SUMMARIZE Describe accomplishments of Harappan civilization.



ONLINE QUIZ

For test practice, go to Interactive Review @ClassZone.com

Section 3 Assessment

TERMS & NAMES

1. Explain the importance of

- Mesopotamia
- civilization
- Sumer
- Harappan civilization

USE YOUR READING NOTES

2. Summarize Use your completed chart to answer the following question:

What were some achievements of the civilizations mentioned in this section?

SUMERIAN	HARAPPAN

KEY IDEAS

3. What were examples of complex institutions in Sumer?
4. What was Sargon's important achievement?
5. What are some possible causes for the decline of the Harappan civilization?

CRITICAL THINKING

6. **Make Inferences** Which developed first, specialized workers or complex institutions? Explain.
7. **Compare** How were the Sumerian and Harappan civilizations similar?
8. **CONNECT to Today** In Southwest Asia, farmers dig up objects from ancient ruins and sell them. Do you think historic objects should be kept in museums or owned by individuals? Explain.
9. **TECHNOLOGY** **Plan a Multimedia Presentation** Choose either the Sumerian or Harappan civilization and use books, the Internet, or a field trip to a museum to learn more about it. Plan a multimedia presentation showing its art, geography, and technology.

CHAPTER SUMMARY

Key Idea 1

Southwest Asia has vast deserts and extensive mountain ranges that are similar to those in certain parts of Africa.

Key Idea 2

The physical geography of South Asia is made up of mountains, plateaus, and fertile plains, and the climate has wet and dry seasons.

Key Idea 3

In both regions, civilizations developed first in river valleys where there was an abundant supply of water.

 For Review and Study Notes, go to Interactive Review @ [ClassZone.com](#)

NAME GAME

Use the Terms & Names list to complete each sentence on paper or online.

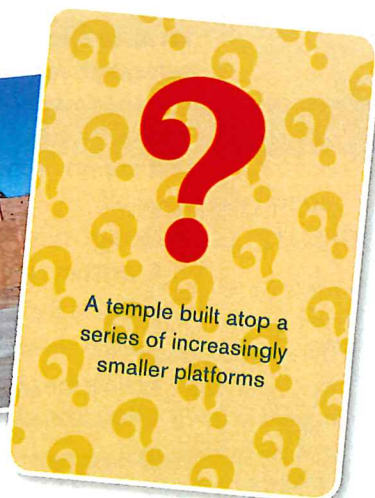
- I am a mountain range running between the Indian subcontinent and Asia. Himalayas
- I am the region that lies between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers. _____
- I am a landform covered mostly by desert. _____
- I flow from the Himalayas to the Bay of Bengal. _____
- I lie in the center of the Indian subcontinent. _____
- I am home to most of Turkey in Asia. _____
- I am the tallest of my kind in the world. _____
- I flow from the Himalayas to the Arabian Sea. _____
- I flow from Anatolia to the Persian Gulf not far from the Euphrates. _____
- I stretch from the Persian Gulf up two rivers and over to the Mediterranean Sea. _____

Anatolian peninsula
Arabian Peninsula
Deccan Plateau
Euphrates River
Fertile Crescent
Ganges River
Himalayas
Indus River
Plateau of Iran
Mesopotamia
Mount Everest
Sumer
Tigris River

Activities

Flip Cards

Use the online flip cards to quiz yourself on the terms and names introduced in this chapter.



Crossword Puzzle

Complete an online crossword puzzle to test your knowledge of Southwest Asia and South Asia.

ACROSS

- Sumerian writing system that used clay tablets



VOCABULARY

Explain the significance of each of the following.

1. Arabian Peninsula
2. Anatolian peninsula
3. Plateau of Iran
4. Tigris River
5. subcontinent
6. Indus River
7. monsoon
8. Mesopotamia
9. ziggurat
10. Fertile Crescent



Explain how the first term in each group relates to the terms that follow.

11. civilization: city-state, cuneiform, ziggurat
12. subcontinent: Himalayas, Deccan Plateau

KEY IDEAS

1 Physical Geography of Southwest Asia

13. Where are the three subregions of Southwest Asia located in relationship to each other?
14. What is a qanat, and how does it work?
15. What is the main climate on the Arabian Peninsula?
16. Why does Turkey's water project worry its neighbors?

2 Physical Geography of South Asia

17. How were the Himalayas formed?
18. How were the Maldives formed?
19. What happens when the summer monsoon brings either too much or too little rain?
20. What are the dangers associated with cyclones?

3 River Valley Civilizations

21. What is one positive result of having rivers that overflow their banks during spring floods?
22. How did humans change from hunting and gathering to farming?
23. How did the leadership of city-states in Sumer change from priests to kings?
24. What were Harappan cities like?

CRITICAL THINKING

25. **Compare and Contrast** Create a table to compare and contrast the physical geography of Southwest Asia and South Asia.

SOUTHWEST ASIA	SOUTH ASIA

26. **Draw Conclusions** How did Sumerian priests retain some power under kings?
27. **Compare** What do the Indus, Ganges, and Brahmaputra rivers all have in common?
28. **Connect to Language Arts** An ancient Sumerian proverb says, "Whoever has walked with truth generates life." What do you think that means?
29. **Five Themes: Human-Environment Interaction** Cities with the gridlike design of Harappan culture were found across South Asia. How might that have happened?

Answer the ESSENTIAL QUESTION

How have physical geography and history interacted in Southwest and South Asia?

Written Response Write a two- or three-paragraph response to the Essential Question. Be sure to consider the key ideas of each section about the rise of civilization in the region. Use the rubric below to guide your thinking.

Response Rubric

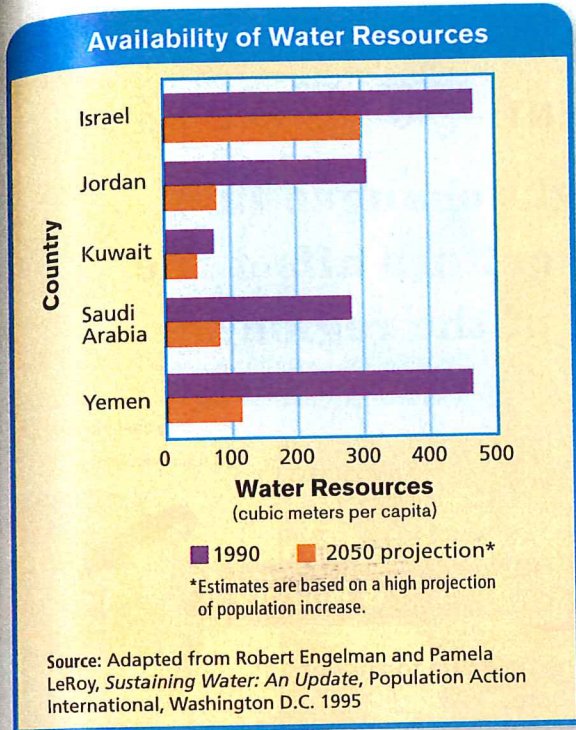
A written response will

- discuss the physical geography of each region
- relate physical geography to Sumerian civilization
- relate the physical geography of South Asia to the Harappan civilization

- Online Test Practice @ ClassZone.com
- Test-Taking Strategies and Practice at the front of this book

BAR GRAPH

Use the bar graph and your knowledge of Southwest Asia to answer questions 1 and 2 on your paper.



1. Which country is projected to have the greatest supply of water by 2050?

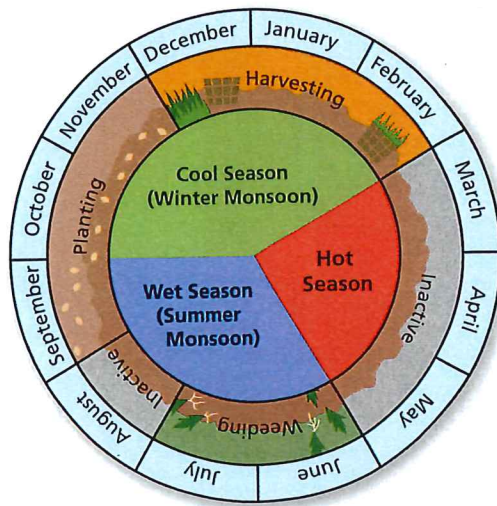
- A. Yemen
- B. Israel
- C. Kuwait
- D. Jordan

2. Which country is projected to have the smallest supply of water by 2050?

- A. Kuwait
- B. Jordan
- C. Saudi Arabia
- D. Yemen

INFOGRAPHIC

Use this Indian farming calendar to answer questions 3 and 4 on your paper.



Source: India Country Studies

3. Which season is the most productive?

4. Which season is the least productive?

GeoActivity

1. INTERDISCIPLINARY ACTIVITY-ART

Working in a small group, find photographs of the statues and jewelry created by the ancient Sumerian and Harappan civilizations. Choose three from each region, and plan a multimedia presentation that will show and compare the art of the two regions.

2. WRITING FOR SOCIAL STUDIES

Research to learn what some of the laws in Hammurabi's code were. Write a review of those laws, quoting two or three examples and then explaining what you think their effect on society was and whether they were fair.

3. MENTAL MAPPING

Create an outline map of South Asia and label the following:

- Himalayas
- Arabian Sea
- Deccan Plateau
- Bay of Bengal
- Indus River
- Indian Ocean
- Ganges River
- Sri Lanka
- Brahmaputra River