**First Civilizations Notes**

**Definitions**- city state, cuneiform, bureaucracy, theocracy, polytheistic, empire, ziggurat, Hammurabi’s code, Old Kingdom, Middle Kingdom, Fertile Crescent

**Places-** Mesopotamia, Egypt, Nile River, Tigris River, Euphrates River, Babylon, Red Sea, Mediterranean Sea, Persian Gulf

Explain each aspect of culture

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Government |  |
| Religion |  |
| Social Structure |  |
| Arts and Architecture |  |
| Writing |  |

1. Where was Mesopotamia located?

2. Why was this a good location?

3. What did the controlling of floods allow the Mesopotamians to do?

4. What were the three kingdoms in the region?

5. What was the role of city-states?

6. What was the earliest culture to control the region?

7. What were the major city-states?

8. What is a theocracy?

9. Who were the most important figures?

10. Where did the kings and priests claim to get their authority?

11. What were some of the architectural achievements of the Sumerians?

12. What was the most important building in each city-state?

13. What was its major function?

14. What does polytheistic mean?

15. What were Sumerian gods and goddesses like?

16. How did the people of Samaria keep them happy?

17. Who was the nobility in Sumer?

18. Who were the commoners?

18. How were they taxed?

19. Who did the Sumerians trade with?

20. What was Sumerian writing called?

21. Why was it important to have a written language?

22. What about the geography of Mesopotamia made it easy to conquer?

22. Who defeated the Sumerians around 2400 B.C.?

23. How were they different than the Sumerians?

24. The Akkadians formed the world’s first known\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

25. What is an empire?

26 What empire took control next in the region?

27. Who was their most famous leader?

28. What was the Code of Hammurabi?

29. Where were they posted?

30. What were the punishments like?

31. Who had the most harsh punishments?

32. What was a fundamental part of the code?

33. What were three other inventions of Mesopotamian cultures?

34. What is cultural diffusion?

35. What caused cultural diffusion in this region of the world?

**Egypt**

How did the Nile help Egypt’s civilizations grow (five ways)?

What geographical barriers kept Egypt safe from outside invasion?

List the three major periods of Egyptian history.

What was each period like?

**Old Kingdom**

Who created the first Egyptian dynasty?

What were the Egyptian rulers known as?

What was the role of a bureaucracy?

Why did they build pyramids?

What did these tombs contain?

**Middle Kingdom- The Golden Age**

Where did the Egyptian kingdom expand to?

How did the pharos change?

What did the pharos have the people of Egypt do during this time?

What ended the Golden Age in Egypt?

What did they learn from the invaders?

**New Kingdom**

How did the pharos change?

What did Akhenaton do?

Who took over Egypt after the death of Akhenaton?

What destroyed this kingdom?

**Religion**

What was the purpose of religion in Egypt?

Why did they mummify rulers and important people?

What two types of gods did Egyptians worship?

Who was Osiris?

Who was Isis?

**Society and daily life**

What did most Egyptians do for a living?

Who was at the top of society?

What did they do?

Who was the largest group?

What role did they play in society?

What was the main goal of the arranged marriages in ancient Egypt?

What was the role of women?

**Writing, Arts and Cultural Achievements**

What was Egyptian writing called?

What was it used for?

What did they keep records on?

List four other architectural and cultural achievements.

Why did Egyptians keep a calendar?

Why was Egyptian medicine famous?

Why did Egyptians use cosmetics?