

Guided Reading

Mesopotamia

Lesson 1 *The Sumerians*

ESSENTIAL QUESTION

How does geography influence the way people live?

What are the characteristics that make up a culture?

The First Civilizations in Mesopotamia

Determining Causes and Effects After people settled in the Mesopotamian region, certain developments led to the formation of the Sumerian Civilization. These developments had a cause and effect relationship. In the flow chart below, name three of these developments. The first development has been provided.

1. People settled in Mesopotamia.

2.

3.

4.

5. Describing Write three sentences that describe the terrain of Mesopotamia.

Guided Reading *Cont.*



Mesopotamia

Sumer's Civilization

Listing The first column below identifies five elements of Sumerian city-states. In the second column, write one fact about each element.

Elements of Sumerian City-States	Facts
Location	1.
Economy	2.
Population	3.
Politics	4.
Religion	5.

Guided Reading *Cont.*



Mesopotamia

Categorizing Sumerian society had three classes. Each class consisted of people who held certain positions. For example, a person who was a priest was part of the upper class.

Below is a list of positions in Sumerian society and a table divided into classes. Fill in the table with the appropriate words from the list.

- | | | |
|---------|---------------------|----------|
| artisan | merchant | criminal |
| warrior | slave | king |
| debtor | government official | farmer |

Sumerian Society	
Upper Class	6. _____ _____ _____
Middle Class	7. _____ _____ _____
Lower Class	8. _____ _____ _____

9. Identifying Identify four goods that Sumerians received from other regions in exchange for Sumerian goods.

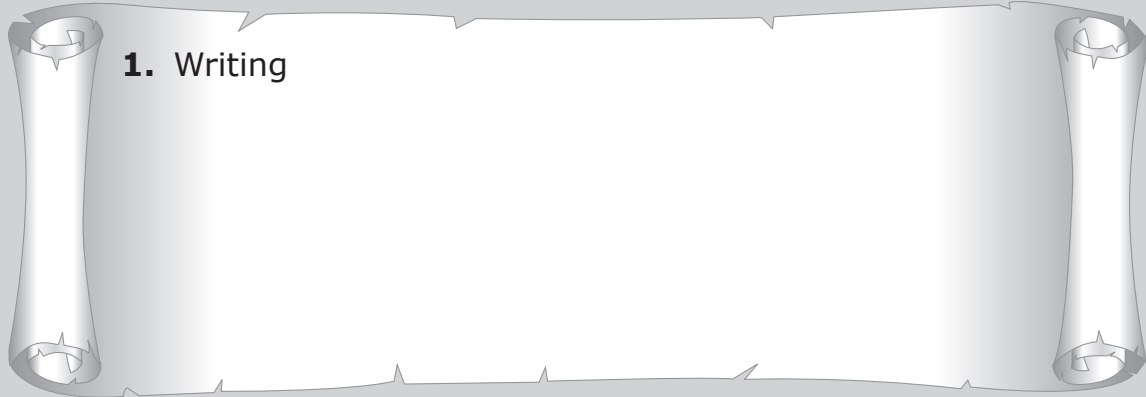
Guided Reading *Cont.*

Mesopotamia

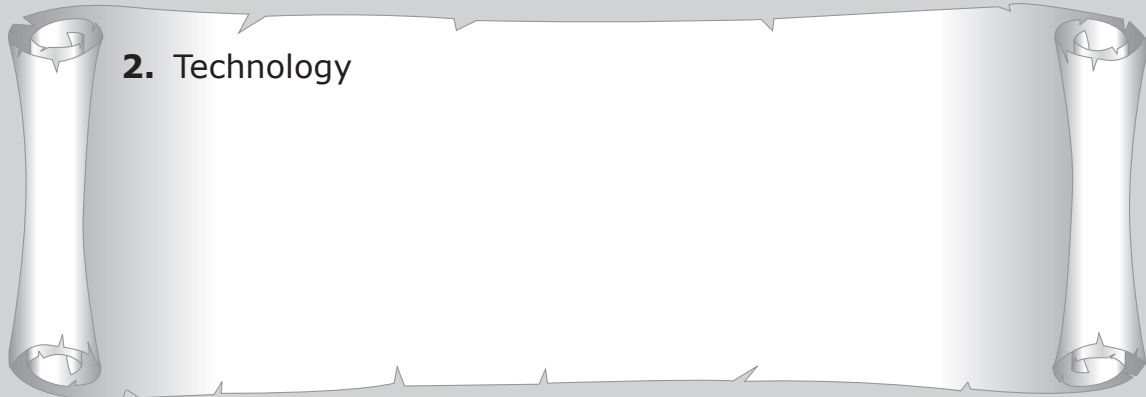
Sumerian Contributions

Describing You are a historian recording the various contributions Sumerians made in writing, technology, and mathematics. Describe some of those contributions on the scrolls below.

1. Writing

A large, horizontal scroll graphic with a light gray background and a darker gray border. The scroll is unrolled, showing a blank space for writing. The ends of the scroll are rolled up, and there are small, dark, irregular shapes along the bottom edge, suggesting texture or damage.

2. Technology

A large, horizontal scroll graphic with a light gray background and a darker gray border. The scroll is unrolled, showing a blank space for writing. The ends of the scroll are rolled up, and there are small, dark, irregular shapes along the bottom edge, suggesting texture or damage.

3. Mathematics

A large, horizontal scroll graphic with a light gray background and a darker gray border. The scroll is unrolled, showing a blank space for writing. The ends of the scroll are rolled up, and there are small, dark, irregular shapes along the bottom edge, suggesting texture or damage.