

Mesopotamia WS #2 (Be complete when writing answers, so it makes sense to you.)

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1. Throughout history, people have settled along river systems because of what benefit?( 1 mark)

*These areas usually have rich soil and a water supply that's necessary for survival.*

2. A. What is the negative trade off when living beside or near a river system?( 1 mark)

*Living at such a location usually means you are living on a floodplain, which is an area that floods when river water overflows it's river bank.*

- B. What is a flood plain?( 1 mark)

*Area of land that floods when the river overflows its banks.*

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3. When do floods occur in this region?( 1 mark)

*In the springtime when the water fills the valley from surrounding mountains.*

4. Once the flood waters have flowed away, what are the people often left with?( 1 mark)

*Sun-baked ground*

5. What is the biggest challenge to farmers living in this region?( 2 marks)

*Controlling the flow of water so that fields would neither flood nor get so dry that they would bake from the heat.*

6. What does irrigation mean?( 1 mark)

*Bringing water to fields through some method.*

7. A. What are the first stages of irrigating...provide details.(2 marks)

*At first, people dug away parts of the riverbank so that the water would flow onto their land.*

- B. Why did they build dams and what were buckets used for?( 2 marks)

*They built dams to make pools and dipped water out of them with buckets tied to poles.*

- C. What are dikes and what were they used for?( 2 marks)

*Dikes are low walls made of dirt/stone/bricks that direct the flow of water.*

- D. Regarding civilization, what did the irrigation systems force people to do?( 1 mark)

*Irrigation systems forced people to cooperate and work together because they had to be consistently maintained for the good of everyone.*

- E. What did the network of canals promote and what did they become for this culture?( 2 marks)

*Network of canals promoted communication and cooperation among towns as well.*

8. Because of the farmer's success, food grew plentifully. This caused the population to increase, and so did the need of water. The desert contained a lot of salt, which rose to the surface of the soil because of irrigation.

9. A. What resulted in poisoning the soil to an extent that crops could no longer be grown and how long did this take?( 2 marks)

*The result was that people either died off or moved to more fertile land...this process took a few hundred years.*

- B. What was the possible result of this issue that grew over time.(2 marks)

*The result would be that new cities would arise in new locations...traders would move to these new cities that would become more powerful.*

- C. Is this issue much different when compared to issues we face today that make our society grow and thrive?

**Provide 2 examples...there are hints provided at the bottom of this page. (2 marks)**

*We know that automobiles and the usage of fossil fuels been poisoning the earth and producing greenhouse gases that has raised the earth's temperature; however, we are more than eager to buy or obtain a new car.*

*We know about how the planet is being filled with plastic that often releases dangerous chemicals into the earth; however, we still use plastic containers due to the convenience.*

- C. Neatly copy the cause and effect map from page 71.

*Omit this question.*

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10. What were some freedoms that Mesopotamian women enjoyed?( 4 marks)

*They could own property, slaves, run businesses and take part in trading.*

11. What are the four main civilizations of this region...the all rose to power, thrived, and then declined.( 4 marks)

*Sumer, Babylon, Assyria and Chaldea...*

12. How important were slaves at this time and what were a couple of ways that one became and/or obtained a slave?( 3 marks)

*Communities thrived partly through the hard work of slaves. Some were made slaves after being captured in battle, others sold themselves or their children into slavery to cover their debts.*

- 13. When one's basic needs such as sufficient food is met, what sort of other skills develop in civilizations?(5 marks)**  
*Because there is plenty of food, some people could make a living by creating goods or selling their services in exchange for surplus food. People began developing skills in: leatherwork, pottery, carpentry, weaving and metalwork.*
- 14. How did traders get around and what were their boats made of?( 3 marks)**  
*Sumarian traders sailed up and down the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers in small boats made of reeds with goatskin sails.*
- 15. What sort of items were traded and transported on much larger ships with neighbours and where did these important materials originate?(4 marks)**  
*-Building Stone from Africa      -Copper from Cyprus      -Gold from Egypt      -Cedar wood from Lebanon*
- 16. What items did Sumerians offer in exchange for items mentioned in number 15?(5 marks)**  
*Sumerians offered wool, cloth, jewellery, oil and grains.*
- 17. A. Why did Babylon become a centre for trade?( 1 mark)**  
*Babylon thrived as a trading centre because it lay at the centre of the main trade routes.*
- B. Where did their trade caravans travel to?( 2 marks)**  
*Babylonian caravans travelled to Persia and Asia Minor.*
- C. Where did their ships travel along and where to?( 2 marks)**  
*Along the rivers and along the coasts of Arabia and India.*
- 18. Trade with other civilizations and societies also spreads knowledge and ideas.**
- A. What are some new things learned from trade?( 3 marks)**  
*Learned about another's language, religion and inventions.*
- B. Provide 2 examples from the book of things that spread along the Mediterranean that first appeared in Mesopotamia?( 2 marks)**  
*New ways of making pottery, new tools for farming.*

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- 19. The Babylonians were among the first people to exchange money for goods.**
- What exactly was a shekel? Be precise.**  
*It was a form of money in the shape of a silver, copper or gold coin that weighed the same as 180 grains of barley.*
  - What was a mina?**  
*A Mina was a coin worth 60 shekels.*
  - What was a talent and how many grains of barley was one talent worth?**  
*A talent was worth 60 mina's, thus it was worth 3600 shekels!*
- 20. Who were scribes, what did they do and what did they use to record things?( 3 marks)**  
*People who sell their writing skills for a living, that kept records and accounts on clay tablets.*
- 21. A. Look at the map diagram at the top of page 74. List what Sumer traded to other societies...they traded both raw goods and finished goods.**

**Raw Goods**

Wool  
 Barley  
 Linseed oil

**Finished Goods**

Pottery  
 Jewellery  
 Woolen cloth  
 Leatherwork  
 Metalwork

**B. What did Sumer receive in trade from:**

- Cyprus?** *Copper and gold.*
- Elam?** *Copper and gold.*
- Indus Valley?** *Wood, ivory.*
- Arabia?** *Copper, Tin*
- Africa?** *Stone*
- Lebanon?** *Cedar wood*