

Middle East-Early Civilizations

Sumerians (3500 B.C.)

- Settled near the fertile Tigris and Euphrates delta.
- Established farming communities (grain & dates).
- Formed city-states with own ruler, gods, laws & army.
- Cuneiform- written language.
- Other achievements: wheel, sail, plow, accurate calendar, measurements based on 60.

Early Civilizations Video Questions:

- 1) What was the region between the Tigris and Euphrates known as? Mesopotamia
- 2) Why did the Sumerians settle in this Region? To farm the rich soil
- 3) What is a city state? Powerful cities that controlled the land around them.
- 4) What was a Ziggurat? Temples built to honor their gods

Crossroads of Culture

- Warfare & Trade creates a blend of cultures in the Middle East.
- Over thousands of years, many cultures have migrated there.

Babylonians (1700 B.C.)

- King Hammurabi created a code of law to provide justice (green text pg. 558-559).
- An “eye for an eye” code of justice.

Hittites (1500 B.C.)

- Iron weapons gave them an advantage over opposition.
- Adopted cuneiform & other ideas of previous civilizations.

Phoenicians (800 B.C.)

- Created an alphabet using 22 symbols.

Persian Empire (500 B.C.)

- Tolerated diversity among people.
- Improved roads and standardized the value of coins.

Other Civilizations:

- Greek, Romans, Hellenistic, & Byzantine empires also migrated to the Middle East leaving their imprint on the culture.