**Study Guide – Ancient Mesopotamia**

Which invention most affected the food supply in Sumer?

the plow

What did Sumerians believe about the king that helped strengthen the social order?

He was chosen by the gods.

Why were scribes important in Sumerian government?

To write down the laws

What building was related to Sumerian religion?

The ziggurat

What was the main use for drums, pipes, and lyres?

Entertainment

Which invention made it possible for Sumerian armies to use chariots?

The wheel

Which invention added strength and beauty to Sumerian buildings?

The arch

What evidence found by archaeologists proved that Sumerians were not prehistoric?

Written records

What did Sumerians use to produce cuneiform?

A wedge-shaped stylus

Records of the goods people exchanged were made on…

Clay tablets

What was the chief purpose of dams and reservoirs?

To store water for later use

Why was a levee built?

To prevent floods

Why was silt a problem for the people of Sumer?

It clogged the irrigation canals

Sumerians build strong walls with…

Bricks made of mud

The name of Mesopotamia comes from its location, which was…

Between two rivers

The environment of Sumer was…

Low and flat, with little rain

One factor that made farming difficult in the area of Sumer was…

Lack of rainfall

What was most likely the reason that ziggurats were tall?

To honor the gods

What physical characteristic attracted human settlement in Mesopotamia? (map)

The Tigris and the Euphrates Rivers

Which of Hammurabi’s Code best reflects the inequality of rights of Sumerian citizens?

Punishments were not equal for slaves. For example:

“If a man put out the eye of another man, his eye shall be put out”

“If he put out the eye of a man’s slave, or break the bone of a man’s slave, he shall pay one-half of its value.”

Scribes had power in Sumerian society. What can you conclude from this statement?

People who could read and write had power.

Which of the following best describes cuneiform?

A form of writing using wedge shaped symbols

Why were Sumerian communities called “city-states”?

Each of them had its own ruler and farmland

What was Hammurabi’s Code?

The first written laws

What was the purpose of Hammurabi’s Code?

To control people’s lives and behavior

**Image of Stone Seal with Two Gods with Plow**

Which of the seven characteristics of civilization does this image depict?

The first characteristic of civilization that this image depicts is a Stable Food Supply – The Sumerians invented the plow. The plow made it easier and faster for farmers to grow crops. The farmers were able to produce more than enough food to feed all of their people. Producing enough food for all the people is considered a stable food supply.

A second characteristic of civilization that this image shows is Technology. The plow is an artifact that is considered technology because the plow was a tool that made the Sumerians work easier and faster.

Technology and a stable food supply are two important characteristics of civilizations.