

Name _____ Class _____ Date _____

Unit 2 Vocabulary Words– Mesopotamia

Word	Definition	Illustration
levee	A wall of earth built to prevent a river from flooding its banks.	
irrigation	A means of supplying water to an area of land.	
silt	A mixture of rich soil and tiny rocks	
division of labor	The type of arrangement in which each worker specializes in a particular task or job.	
city-state	An early city that was like a small, independent country with its own laws and government; it consisted of the city and the countryside around it.	
empire	Land with different territories and peoples under a single rule.	
polytheism	The worship of many gods.	
priests	People who perform religious ceremonies.	
social hierarchy	The division of society by class or rank.	
pictographs	A picture symbol.	
scribe	A person who writes.	
cuneiform	The world's first system of writing; it used a stylus to make wedge-shaped symbols on clay tablets.	
epics	Long poems that tell the stories of heroes.	
architecture	The science of building.	
ziggurat	A pyramid shaped temple tower; an ancient Mesopotamian temple tower with outside staircases and a shrine at the top.	

Become familiar with and be able to identify the following terms.
(Tell who, what, or where they are.)

Fertile Crescent
Tigris River
Euphrates River

Sumer/Sumerians

Akkadians
Sargon

Babylonia/Babylonians
Hammurabi