

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.	
pictograph	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.	
Fertile Crescent	An arc shaped region in Southwest Asia, with rich soil.	
cradle	Mesopotamia is often referred to as the ____ of civilization because it is the first place where complex urban centers grew.	
Sargon	The Akkadian King who defeated all of the city-states of Sumer and established the world's first empire.	
Hammurabi	The greatest Babylonian monarch, famous for his Code of Laws.	
Sumer	The earliest known civilization in Mesopotamia. The people of ____, called Sumerians, developed the world's first civilization.	