

Aim: Were the Ancient River Valley Civilizations of Mesopotamia and Egypt more similar or different?



Compare/Contrast

- Finding similarities and difference between two or more events, people, places or ideas

Categorization Strategies

- When comparing and contrasting, consider using a few of these categories to provide a solid comparison.
- Political
- Economic
- Social
- Cultural
- Religious
- Geographic



Mesopotamia

- Mesopotamia
- “The land between the rivers”
 - Rivers were NOT a reliable source of water
 - Ran dry in summer
 - flooded in spring
 - create irrigation systems - built dams, canals, and ditches

Government

- Theocracies - kings served as both government leaders AND high priests
- City-states
 - governed themselves
 - An independent political unit with its own government
 - protected by defensive walls
 - Engaged in near-constant wars

Sumer







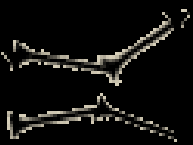

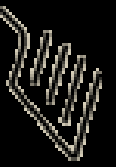


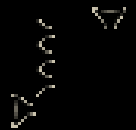
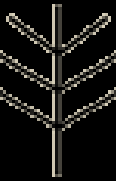
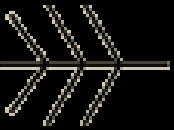
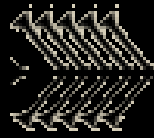









- The first civilization to develop in Mesopotamia (5,500 B.C.E.)
- Sumerians shared common culture, language, and religion

Cities

- Ziggurat - was the center of city life
 - Priests conducted rituals & sacrifices to city gods
 - Served as storage for grains, fabrics, gems

Writing System

3200 BCE 3000 BCE 2400 BCE 1000 BCE

sag 'head'				
gin 'to walk'				
su 'hand'				
še 'barley'				
ninda 'bread'				
a 'water'				

- Cuneiform = Sumerian system of writing
 - Symbols represented complex ideas

Writing System



- Scribes were trained to read & write documents and stories
 - Epic of Gilgamesh - oldest story in the world

Religion

- **polytheism** - belief in more than one god
 - Each city-state had its own god
 - Negative outlook on life and the afterlife
 - Believed gods were selfish and had no regard for humans

Compare/Contrast

- List three similarities between ancient Mesopotamia and Ancient Egypt.
- List two differences between ancient Mesopotamia and Ancient Egypt.

- Why do you think these civilizations failed in the long run?