

Ancient Mesopotamia Scavenger Hunt Activity

Materials:

- 18 Ancient Mesopotamia fact cards (pages 2–6)
- Ancient Mesopotamia questions worksheet (pages 7–8)
- scissors
- scotch tape

Preparation

Print the fact cards and cut them apart.

Make copies of the Ancient Mesopotamia questions worksheet (2-sided). Each student will need his or her own copy.

Hide the 18 Ancient Mesopotamia fact cards around your classroom where students will be



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Management tips

You may want to make this a silent activity so students don't share answers with each other.

You can have the kids work by themselves or with partners.

Don't be afraid to hide the facts in tough places. Kids think it's more fun when they have to search around a little.

Examples of good hiding spots might include:

- sticking out of a book, like a bookmark
- the back of the classroom door
- lying flat on the classroom bookshelf
- on the side of the bookshelf
- on the back of the teacher's chair

Have a plan for students who finish early. You may want to have an assignment for them to complete when they're done, or you may have them help other students find fact cards.



Scavenger Hunt

Ancient Mesopotamia

Fact Card

1



The eastern edge of the Fertile Crescent includes Mesopotamia. The western edge is less certain. Some

Scavenger Hunt

Ancient Mesopotamia

Fact Card

2



Cuneiform is the world's oldest writing system. At first, it used

pictures. Later, it used special



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Mesopotamia

3

Mesopotamians were the first to break the day into 24 hours with 60 minutes each. They were



also the first to have a 12-month calendar. Their leap years had a whole extra month!

Mesopotamia

4



Early humans likely invented wheels more than once. Sumer invented one around 3500 B.C.E. It was used to more easily make pottery.



Scavenger Hunt

Ancient Mesopotamia

Fact Card

5



Sumer was the first civilization, but the world didn't know much about it until the 1840s. That's

Scavenger Hunt

Ancient Mesopotamia

Fact Card

6



Many Mesopotamian buildings were made of mud or sun-dried clay bricks. They were quick to



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Mesopotamia

7



Sargon of Akkad built the first empire. He became "King of the Four Corners of the World." It was all in Mesopotamia, but it seemed like the whole world to them!

Mesopotamia

8



The Royal Game of Ur is one of the oldest board games. Boards from around 2500 B.C.E. still exist. The two-player game uses both luck and strategy.



Scavenger Hunt

Ancient Mesopotamia

Fact Card

9



Not all of Hammurabi's Code's 282 laws and punishments are "an eye for an eye." One law said

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Ancient Mesopotamia

Fact Card

10



Iron weapons are stronger than bronze ones. The Hittites were some of the first to smith with it. That and their war chariots helped them conquer



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Mesopotamia

11

Irrigation led to better watering of crops.

Animal-pulled plows led to faster, better farming.

Both inventions made feeding big populations possible.



Mesopotamia

12



Written pieces of the *Epic of Gilgamesh* date as far back as 2100 B.C.E. Some are fuller than

others, but no complete copy has ever been found.



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Ancient Mesopotamia

Fact Card

13



Big collections of records date back to 2500-B.C.E. Sumer in Ebla. Assyria's Library of Ashurbanipal (7th century B.C.E.)

Scavenger Hunt

Ancient Mesopotamia

Fact Card

14



Mesopotamians had more than 3,000 gods! Elil was a god of wind and earth. Ishtar, pictured, was a goddess of love and war. Manzat



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Mesopotamia

15



There are no signs of the Hanging Gardens of Babylon. Historians think they were either destroyed in an earthquake, never existed, or were misnamed gardens from Nineveh!

Mesopotamia

16



Kubaba is the only woman in the *Sumerian King List*. It says she ruled for 100 years sometime around 2500 B.C.E. She was likely just a myth.



Scavenger Hunt

**Ancient
Mesopotamia**

Fact Card

17



Scavenger Hunt

**Ancient
Mesopotamia**

Fact Card

18



Many historians say Mesopotamia



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Name: _____

Ancient Mesopotamia Scavenger Hunt

Fact Card 1: Different historians think the western end of the Fertile Crescent is...

Fact Card 2: Later cuneiform began using shapes to stand for which parts of language?

Fact Card 3: What was added to the calendar in a Mesopotamian leap year?



Fact Card 6: Houses made of sun-dried clay brick are quick to do what three things?

Fact Card 7: What were kings of the Akkadian Empire also called?

Fact Card 8: When were the oldest existing Royal Game of Ur boards made?

Fact Card 9: What was Hammurabi's punishment for a vet killing an ox?

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Fact Card 10: Name two things that helped the Hittites conquer Babylon.

Fact Card 11: Which two inventions made feeding big populations possible?

Fact Card 12: How many complete original copies of *Epic of Gilgamesh* are there?



Fact Card 15: Name one reason historians give for the missing Hanging Gardens of Babylon.

Fact Card 16: Who is the only female ruler listed in the *Sumerian King List*?

Fact Card 17: What was the maximum number of floors in a ziggurat? _____

Fact Card 18: Which ruler is often said to have ended ancient Mesopotamia?

Ancient Mesopotamia Scavenger Hunt

Fact Card 1: Different historians think the western end of the Fertile Crescent is...

... in Sinai or by the Nile.

Fact Card 2: Later cuneiform began using shapes to stand for which parts of language?

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Fact Card 9: What was Hammurabi's punishment for a vet killing an ox?

paying the owner $\frac{1}{4}$ of its value

Ancient Mesopotamia Scavenger Hunt

Fact Card 10: Name two things that helped the Hittites conquer Babylon.

iron weapons and war chariots

Fact Card 11: Which two inventions made feeding big populations possible?

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Fact Card 18: Which ruler is often said to have ended ancient Mesopotamia?

Cyrus the Great