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



Preview

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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.



Ancient Mesopotamia

Fact Card

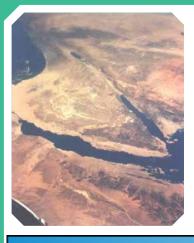
1

Scavenger Hunt

Ancient Mesopotamia

Fact Card

2



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



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

nictures Later it used special



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Mesopotamia

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Mesopotamia



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!



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



Ancient Mesopotamia

Fact Card

5



Sumer was the first civilization, but the world didn't know much

Scavenger Hunt

Ancient Mesopotamia

Fact Card





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



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Mesopotamia



Mesopotamia





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!



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.



Ancient Mesopotamia

Fact Card

9



Ancient Mesopotamia

Fact Card





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



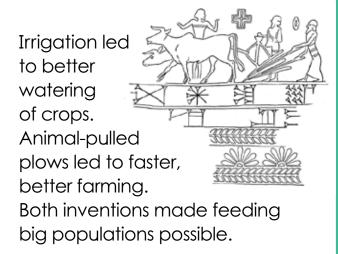
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Mesopotamia

Mesopotamia

IZ





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.



Ancient Mesopotamia

Fact Card



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

Scavenger Hunt

Ancient Mesopotamia

Fact Card



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

Mesopotamia

16



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!

Mesoporan.

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.

Ancient Mesopotamia Fact Card





Ancient Mesopotamia Fact Card



Many historians say Mesopotamia



Preview

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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?

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? Preview Please log in to download the printable version of this worksheet. 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?

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?



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

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

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?



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

Cyrus the Great