

Civilization in Ancient Mesopotamia

► Gathering the Facts

1. Turn to pages 10–11 of the Atlas. Read the introduction. Also look at chart B, “Sumerians Develop Writing,” and picture A and read its caption to complete the following paragraph.

The earliest known civilization was _____. It developed in an area called _____. The Sumerians were known for trading with places as far as _____ and _____. The Sumerians also created the first written _____. The language was made up of wedge shapes known as _____, which became the basis of written languages in Mesopotamia. Sumerians lived in independent _____, each with its own ruler, _____, and _____. They fought with _____ weapons. The neighboring region of _____ later conquered Sumer. Akkad also conquered the rest of the region surrounding the _____ and _____ Rivers.

► Places, Regions, and Landscapes

2. Look at map C, “Fertile Crescent and Mesopotamia.” Write **T** next to each of the following statements if it is true or **F** if the statement is false.
- Mesopotamia means “good farmland.” _____
 - Mesopotamia included all of the land between the Tigris River and the Sinai Desert. _____
 - The Fertile Crescent included Mesopotamia. _____
 - The Fertile Crescent included present-day Egypt. _____
 - The Fertile Crescent was bordered by the Mediterranean Sea and the Persian Gulf. _____
 - The dry desert made farming in the Fertile Crescent difficult. _____
 - Mesopotamia included parts of the present-day countries of Syria, Iraq, and Turkey. _____
 - The Fertile Crescent was located between deserts and mountains. _____

★ **Thinking About History**

3. Use the history question, "Is it a city or is it a state?" map D, "Sumer," and map E, "Akkadian Empire," to answer the following questions.

a. What is the difference between a city-state and an empire?

b. Explain why a city-state or an empire would be easier to rule.

➤ **People and Cultures**

4. Use map D, "Sumer," to identify the culture of the following city-states. Write **SU** for Sumerian, **SE** for Semitic, or **EL** for Elamite.

City-State

Culture

a. Ebla

b. Ur

c. Mari

d. Ashur

e. Susa

f. Akshak

g. Uruk

★ **Time and Change**

5. Use information from map D, "Sumer," and map E, "Akkadian Empire," to complete the following timeline.

