

Aim: How did the Sumerians develop a civilization?

I. Mesopotamia

1. Means the land between two rivers
2. It is in between the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers
3. Located in the Fertile Crescent
4. Sumerians, Babylonians, and Persians formed here
5. located in present day Iran & Iraq

II. Sumerian Civilization

- 3000 BC the first city-states were formed
- city-states shared common characteristics
- They constantly competed against each other

III. Sumerian Government, Religion & Society

1. Government was a theocracy (religious rulers govern society)
2. Religion: polytheistic: had 3000 gods
3. They believed the afterlife to be a grim place
4. Priests had political power
5. Social Structure:
 - Ruler
 - Nobles
 - Priests
 - Commoners
 - Farmers
 - Slaves

IV. Sumerian Jobs & Achievements

- Jobs: merchants, artisans, and scribes
- Number system based on 60. (60 minute hours, and 360 degree circle)
- Developed astronomy, algebra & geometry
- Created the wheel
- Early medicine used plants for cures
- Cuneiform was the earliest form of writing

V. Arts & Architecture

- The Epic of Gilgamesh
- Created Ziggurats
- Ziggurats are temples built for the gods to bring the people closer to the gods & the gods closer to the people