

## LESSON – 1

### MESOPOTAMIAN CIVILIZATION

#### I. Additional Questions:

1. The city was divided into three main parts – the **sacred area**, the **walled city on the mound** and the **outer town**.
2. The Mesopotamians introduced architectural forms such as **arches**, **domes**, **columns** and **vaults** in the construction of buildings.
3. The **temple-towers** were monumental structures made from sun-baked bricks.
4. The upper class consisted of the members of **royal family**, **priests** and **high officials**.
5. The middle class consisted of **farmers**, **artisans** and **traders**.
6. The lower class consisted of **slaves**.
7. The **father** was the head of the family and enjoyed **special privileges**.
8. They built an elaborate and highly developed **irrigation system** to ensure a **steady supply of water** throughout the year.
9. They built **dykes** to control floods.
10. They invented the **ox-drawn plough** to increase the agricultural yield.

#### A. Fill in the blanks.

1. The two rivers associated with the Mesopotamian civilization were the **Tigris** and the **Euphrates**.
2. The three major civilization that rose and fell in the Mesopotamian Valley were **Sumerian**, **Babylonian** and **Assyrian** civilizations.
3. Mesopotamia is called the **cradle** and **grave** of many civilizations.

4. To ensure steady supply of water throughout the year, the Mesopotamia's built an **elaborate and highly developed irrigation system**.
5. The Mesopotamians built **dykes** to control floods.

**B. Match the following:**

A	B
1. Civilization	advanced system of social development
2. Sumerian civilization	world's first civilization
3. Ziggurats	temple-tower
4. Hanging Gardens of Babylon	one of the seven wonders of the ancient world
5. King	representative of God on earth

**C. Choose the correct answer:**

1. Dams/Canals/**temple-towers** were found in the sacred area of the city of Ur.
2. The main occupation of the Mesopotamians was **agriculture**/trade/art and craft.
3. The Mesopotamians are believed to be the first to cultivate barley/**wheat**/pulses.
4. The Mesopotamians kept a record of the business accounts on paper/**clay tablets**/parchments.
5. Each Mesopotamian city had its own special **God**/king/ priest.

**D. State whether the following are true or false.**

1. Mesopotamia is called the cradle and grave of many civilizations - **True.**
2. Natural barriers surrounded Mesopotamia - **False.**
3. Mesopotamian girls were sent to school to learn to read and write- **False.**
4. The Mesopotamians had trade relations with people in the Indus Valley - **True.**
5. The king was regarded as the representative of God on earth - **True.**

**E. Answer the following questions in one or two words/ sentences:**

**Question 1.** What is the meaning of the word ‘Mesopotamia’?

**Answer:** Mesopotamia means ‘the land between two rivers’ in Greek language. The Mesopotamian civilization developed between the rivers Euphrates and Tigris.

**Question 2.** Name any two crops cultivated by the Mesopotamians.

**Answer:** Wheat was the first crop that cultivated by the Mesopotamians. Barley, pulses and fruits were also cultivated by them.

**Question 3.** What did the Mesopotamians invent to increase agricultural yield?

**Answer:** To increase agricultural yield, they invented the ox-drawn plough. They also used the wheeled wagon for transportation of goods. The modern world is indebted to them for these inventions.

**Question 4.** What were the important specialized skills of the Mesopotamians.

**Answer:** Pottery, weaving and metal work were important specialized skills of the Mesopotamians.

**Question 5.** How do we know that the Mesopotamians had trade links with the people of the Indus Valley?

**Answer:** Seals found in the Indus valley, show that the Mesopotamians had trade links with the people of Indus valley.

**Question 6.** What were greatest contributions of the Mesopotamians in the field of architecture.

**Answer:** The Mesopotamians introduced architectural forms such as arches, columns, domes and vaults in the construction of buildings.

1. Their temple-towers and The Hanging Garden of Babylon is a brilliant specimen of Mesopotamian architecture. This is believed to be one of the greatest contributions of Mesopotamia in the field of architecture.

**Question 7.** How do we know that Mesopotamians believed in life after death?

**Answer:** Drinking vessels ornaments, weapons etc. have been found in some graves. By these things we know that Mesopotamians believed in life after death.

**Question 8.** What led to the decline of the Mesopotamian Civilization?

**Answer: The following causes led to the decline of the Mesopotamian civilization.**

1. The Euphrates River is lifeline of this great civilization, unexpectedly changed its course. The region became more and more dry like a desert.
2. Winds and sandstorms might have been responsible for the destruction of Mesopotamian civilization.

**F. Answer the following questions briefly:**

**Question 1.** What were the main features of town planning in Mesopotamia?

**Answer:** The city was divided into three main parts-the sacred area, the walled city on a mound and the outer town. The sacred area had the temple-tower or ziggurat dedicated to the patron God of the city. There were smaller temples dedicated to other gods. This area also had the storehouse as well as the ^ offices. People lived in the walled city and the outer town areas. Houses were built along the streets. Each house had a central courtyard with room around it.

**Question 2.** What were greatest contributions of the Mesopotamians in the field of architecture.

**Answer:**

1. The Mesopotamians introduced architectural forms such as arches, columns, domes and vaults in the construction of buildings.
2. Their temple-towers and The Hanging Garden of Babylon is a brilliant specimen of Mesopotamian architecture. This is believed to be one of the greatest contributions of Mesopotamia in the field of architecture.

**Question 3.** Give an account of (a) the social structure and (b) family life in the Mesopotamian society.

**Answer: (a) The Mesopotamian Society was divided into three classes:**

1. **The upper class:** The members of the royal family, priests and high officials were under the upper class.
2. **The middle class:** This class consisted of farmers, artisans and traders.
3. **The lower class:** This class consisted of slaves.

(b) The father was the head of the family. The rights of women were protected. Children were brought up very strictly and boys were sent to schools to study arithmetic, reading and writing. Girls were trained in dance and music.

**Question 4.** What were the important occupations of the Mesopotamians?

**Answer:** The main occupation of the Mesopotamians was agriculture.

**Question 5.** Give a brief account of trade that developed in Mesopotamia.

**Answer:** Stone, timber and metal ores were scarce in Mesopotamia and so these commodities were traded for the produce of the fields. A flourishing foreign trade developed. Food grains and finished products were exported to the Mediterranean countries and Egypt.

**Question 6.** Explain briefly the religious beliefs and practices of the Mesopotamians.

**Answer:** The Mesopotamians believed in many gods. Every city had its own special God. They worshipped the sun, rain, moon and stars. Mesopotamians believed that the king was the chief priest and the representative of God on earth. The priests occupied a very important position in society. The Mesopotamians also believed in life after death.

**Question 7. Write short notes on the following:**

(a) Ziggurat (b) Family life

**Answer: (a) Ziggurat**— Ziggurats were temple-tower, found in the sacred area of

the city of Ur. They were monumental structures made from sun-baked bricks. They were dedicated to the patron god of the city. They were many storeys high and ‘ decorated with tiles, precious stones and marble. Ziggurats were also used as schools, granaries and trade centers.

**(b) Family life** — The father was the head of the family. The rights of women were protected. Children were brought up very strictly and boys were sent to schools to study arithmetic, reading and writing. Girls were trained in dance and music.

**Question 8.** Give a brief account of the decline of the Mesopotamian Civilization?

**Answer: The following causes led to the decline of the Mesopotamian civilization.**

1. The Euphrates River is lifeline of this great civilization, unexpectedly changed its course. The region became more and more dry like a desert.
2. Winds and sandstorms might have been responsible for . the destruction of Mesopotamian civilization.

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## LN – 2

### The Egyptian Civilization

#### I. Additional questions:

1. The ancient Greek historian, **Herodotus** called Egypt the ‘**Gift of the Nile**’.
2. The **deserts** served as natural barriers to foreign invasions.
3. Egypt was invaded and ruled by the **Hyksos tribes**.
4. Cities were divided into **Upper (southern)** and **Lower (Northern)** regions.
5. The **Great Pyramid at Giza** is one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World.
6. The early Egyptians wore dresses made of **White Linen**.
7. In Egypt there were skilled craftspeople such as **potters, goldsmiths, carpenters, weavers, sculptors and painters**.

8. The medium of exchange were usually **grain, silver** and **copper**.
9. The **pharaohs**, the rulers of Egypt, were also worshipped as gods.
10. The **Pyramids** were the tombs of the pharaohs.

**A. Fill in the blanks.**

1. The Nile provided water for **irrigation** and also served as a **national highway**.
2. Egyptian women were treated with **respect**.
3. The staple diet of the ancient Egyptians consisted of **wheat** and **beer**.
4. Egyptian houses had small windows high up on the walls to keep out the **sun** and let in the **daylight**.
5. The chief occupation of the ancient Egyptians was **agriculture**.
6. Two examples that prove that the Egyptians were great builders are **Pyramids** and **Sphinx**.
7. Two important gods of the Egyptians were **Ra** and **Osiris**.

**B. Match the following:**

A	B
1. Herodotus	ancient Egyptian script
2. Pharaohs	rulers of Egypt
3. Pyramids	tombs of ancient Egyptian kings
4. Sphinx	a mythological animal
5. Mummy	preserved dead body

**C. Choose the correct answer:**

1. Ptolemy/**Herodotus**/Alexander called Egypt the 'Gift of the Nile'.
2. The history of ancient Egypt was divided into **three**/six/ eight.
3. The **father**/mother/grandfather was the head of the family in ancient Egypt.
4. Men and women in ancient Egypt wore dresses made of **white linen**/silk/satin.

5. **Ra/Orisis/Pharaoh** was worshipped as the sun god.

**D. State whether the following are true or false.**

1. Women were more or less equal to men in the eyes of law - True
2. Only the woman in ancient Egypt wore jewellery - False.
3. The Egyptians followed the barter system - True.
4. The ruler of Egypt was known as the pharaoh - True
5. The city of Alexandria was founded by Alexander the Great - True

**E. Answer the following questions in one or two words/ sentences:**

**Question 1.** How did the Egyptian desert help in the development of Egyptian culture and civilization?

**Answer:** These deserts served as natural barriers to foreign invasions. So the early Egyptian settlers enjoyed many years of peace and security. This atmosphere help in the development of Egyptian culture and civilization.

**Question 2.** What are the periods in which the history of ancient Egypt is divided?

**Answer: The history of ancient Egypt is divided into three periods.**

1. The Old Kingdom approximately 3,000 BCE- 2,000 BCE
2. The Middle Kingdom approximately 2,000 BCE -1,700 BCE
3. The New Kingdom approximately 1,600 BCE – 1,100 BCE.

**Question 3.** Which Egyptian monument is one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World?

**Answer:** Great Pyramid at Giza, built by King Khuruf or Cheops.

**Question 4.** What is a mummy?

**Answer:** The preserved dead body is called Mummy.



**Question 5.** How was a body mummified?

**Answer:** A dead body was embalmed with spices and wrapped in a fine linen.

**Question 6.** Why did the ancient Egyptians preserve the bodies of the dead?

**Answer:** The Egyptians believed in life after death, So they preserve the body of the dead.

**Question 7.** Name the most important nature god of the Egyptians.

**Answer:** The Egyptians worshiped many gods and goddesses connected with nature. Ra, the sun god, and Osiris, the god of the dead, were among the most important gods.

**Question 8.** Name the founder of the city of Alexandria.

**Answer:** The Great Alexander founded the city of Alexandria.

**F. Answer the following questions briefly:**

**Question 1.** Why was Egypt called the ‘Gift of the Nile’?

**Answer:** Nile has proved a great boon for Egypt. The river Nile makes the land quite fertile. The Egyptian farmers can grow crops on the same fields year after year. Nile also served as a highway and made navigation possible. This way promoted trade and commerce within the country as well as with other countries of the world. Rightly Egypt has been called ‘The Gift of Nile.’

**Question 2.** Describe the structure of dwelling houses in ancient Egypt.

**Answer:** Dwelling Houses— Houses were built around the crossing of two major roads. They were made of sun-baked bricks. Almost all the houses had flat roofs. The number of rooms in each house depended on whether the family was rich or poor. While most of the people lived in a one or two-room house without bathrooms, the richest people lived in three storied houses, usually made of stone, with as many as thirty rooms with bathrooms, gardens and pools. An average house had three rooms, a courtyard and a kitchen area. A narrow staircase led to the roof.

The windows were small and were placed high up close to the ceiling to keep out the sun and let the daylight enter.

**Question 3.** Describe briefly the social structure of ancient Egypt.

**Answer:** The Egyptians were divided into three distinct classes. These are following

1. **The upper class:** The upper class consisted of the royal family, rich landowners, high ranking priests, government officials and doctors.
2. **The middle class:** The middle class consisted of merchants, manufacturers, crafts persons and the lower clergy.
3. **The lower class:** This class consisted of the peasants, At the bottom of the social hierarchy were the slaves who were mainly prisoners of war.

**Question 4.** Describe the family life of the ancient Egyptians.

**Answer:** The families were close -knit groups. The relationship between the husband, wife and children was usually close. The father was the head of the family. Women were treated with respect and their property rights were protected. Children enjoyed carefree and happy lives. Wealthy families lived lives of luxury and pleasure.

**Question 5.** State the main occupations of the ancient Egyptians. Discuss any two.

**Answer:** Agriculture, Domestication of Animals, Art and craft, Architecture and Engineering, Trade and commerce, mummification are the main occupation of the ancient Egyptians.

**Agriculture:** The chief occupation of the Egyptians was agriculture. The Nile provided water for irrigation. The Egyptians farmers can grow crops on the fertile land year after year. Their chief crops were wheat, barley and millet. Vegetable and fruits were also grown.

**Domestication of Animals:** The second occupation of Egyptian was domestication of Animals. Pigs, Cows, Sheep, goats, camels, doves and geese were domesticated.

**Question 6.** Give an account of trade in ancient Egypt.

**Answer:** Trade was earned on both by land and sea routes. For internal trade, goods were transported by boats and barges along the Nile and by road on camels and donkeys. For foreign trade, the Egyptians built the world's first seafaring ships. They exported linen, wheat, glassware, jewellery and furniture. They imported gold, ivory, copper and cedar wood. The king controlled foreign trade. The barter system was used and the mediums of exchange were usually grain, silver and copper.

**Question 7.** Describe the religion of people in ancient Egypt.

**Answer:** The Egyptians worshiped many gods and goddesses connected with nature. Ra, the sun god, and Osiris, the god of the dead, were among the most important gods.

The pharaohs, the rulers of Egypt, were also worshiped as gods. Each god had his own temple and priest. Every city, town and village had its own favourite god. Certain animals and birds such as the jackal, crocodile, bull and hawk were also worshiped.

The Egyptians believed in life after death. So, they preserved the body of the dead. A dead body was embalmed with spices and wrapped in fine linen. Such a preserved body is known as a mummy. Food, wine, clothes, furniture, jewellery and weapons were put into the tombs. The pyramids were the tombs of the pharaohs.

**Question 8.** Why did the Egyptian civilization decline?

**Answer:** The decline of the Egyptian empire set in with the collapse of the New Kingdom. Egypt was repeatedly invaded by the Babylonians, Assyrians, Persians and finally by Alexander the Great. Alexander founded the city of Alexandria. It later, became one of the greatest cultural centres of the ancient world during the reign of Ptolemy, one of the generals of Alexander. Ptolemy was the founder of the last dynasty of Egypt.