

Geography of Mesopotamia

Chapter 3, Lesson 1 *textbook pages 82-86*

ESSENTIAL QUESTION How did the land between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers support agriculture?

<u>Mesopotamia</u> Region is called Mesopotamia, “land between the rivers”	_____ and _____ rivers are in Southwest Asia - they start in mountains of today’s Turkey, Kurdistan - flow southeast through today’s Iraq to _____. Rivers provide water and a means for travel - area had few roads, so boats carried heavy loads on river currents.
<u>Fertile Soil</u>	Mountain rain and melting snow _____ rivers, carried soil to plains - overflowed onto floodplain—flat land bordering banks - deposited fine soil, or _____, making land fertile, _____ for crops
<u>Semiarid climate</u>	Hot summers, less than 10 inches of annual rainfall - Crops grew in this dry region because of _____, fertile soil - many _____ villages across southern Mesopotamia by 4000 B.C.

REVIEW QUESTION

What made Mesopotamia a good region for farming?

Controlling Water by Irrigation

ESSENTIAL QUESTION How did the climate affect farmers?

<u>Floods and Droughts</u>	Annual _____ unpredictable, came sometime between April and June - farmers didn’t know when to plant or how big _____ would be. Drought—period without enough _____ and snowfall—lowered river levels - made it hard to water _____; people starved if crops failed.
<u>Irrigation</u>	By 6000 B.C., _____ canals carried water from _____ to fields - workers unclogged canals, built dams to hold back floodwaters

REVIEW QUESTION

How did Mesopotamians water their crops during droughts?

Finding Resources

ESSENTIAL QUESTION How did Mesopotamians cope with a lack of resources?

Mud Houses and Walls	Mesopotamia had no _____ for wood, lacked building materials - used mud for _____, plaster; these materials crumbled easily Area had few _____ or natural barriers so it was easy to invade - other regions' peoples often stole from or _____ Mesopotamians - Mesopotamians built mud walls around villages for protection
Finding Resources	Mesopotamians traded their _____ grain for stone, wood, metal - surplus means more than they needed for themselves Digging canals, building walls, _____ were done continuously - community leaders began to _____ groups to do the work

REVIEW QUESTION

Why was trade important in Mesopotamia?

Draw it!

Goal: To explore the geographic relationship between resources and settlement in river valley civilizations

Use the textbook page 84 to **create a diagram** showing a river flowing from mountains through a floodplain to a gulf.

Draw an arrow to show which way the river is flowing. **Label** the following areas: mountains, river, floodplain, gulf.

Color the fertile region green (use the map on page 79 as a model). **Add captions** to explain how rivers pick up soil and how they deposit it on the floodplain.

Erosion is the wearing away of sand, soil, or rock by water or wind.

Deposition happens when sediments, soil and rocks are added to a landform or land mass.

