

## ST. XAVIER'S SCHOOL, PURULIA

Phase – II

Subject – History

Date – 27.05.2020

### Chapter – 1: The Mesopotamian Civilization

Keypoints:-

- a) Mesopotamia means 'the land between two rivers' in Greek Language. The Mesopotamian Civilization developed between the two rivers – Euphrates and Tigris.
- b) Information about Mesopotamia civilization can be found in the archaeological sources like Ziggurat at Ur and seals, 'The Epic of Gilgamesh'.
- c) The towns of Akkad and Babylon were located to the north of Summer, Mesopotamian civilization was a succession of societies such as Sumerians, Akkadians, Babylonians and Assyrians.
- d) The society consisted of royal family, priests, landlords, writers, traders, slaves etc.
- e) Mesopotamian region was very fertile, and agriculture was the main occupation of the people.
- f) Ur is one of the well known cities of ancient Mesopotamian Civilization.
- g) Mesopotamians had trade relations with the Indus Valley Civilization of the Indian Subcontinent.
- h) The Sun God was an important God. The king was regarded as God's representative on Earth, and was also the chief priest.
- i) The Mesopotamians believed in life after death.
- j) The Hammurabi code is one of the oldest legal codes known to humans.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS:-

1. Name the four river valley civilizations.

Ans – (a) The Mesopotamian Civilization.

- (b) The Egyptian Civilization.
- (c) The Indus Valley Civilization.
- (d) The Chinese Civilization.

2. Mesopotamian Civilization is also called 'the cradle of civilization'. Why?

Ans- Mesopotamian Civilization is often referred to as the 'Cradle of Civilization', due to the fact that the earliest forms of human society began in this region. Sumerians, Akkadians, Babylonians were the earliest tribes that settled here.

3. How do we know that the Mesopotamians had trade relations with the Indus Valley?

Ans – Seals found in the Indus Valley show, that the Mesopotamians had trade links with the people of the Indus Valley.

4. Name the three major civilizations that rose and fell in the Mesopotamian Valley.

Ans – the major civilizations that rose and fell in the Mesopotamian Valley are as follows:-

- a) Sumerian Civilization – on the lower valley of Euphrates.
- b) Babylonian Civilization – on the north-eastern side of Sumer.
- c) Assyrian Civilization = on the highland in the north.

5. Name the greatest contributions of the Mesopotamians in the field of architecture.

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

ziggurat-towers and Hanging Garden of Babylon is a brilliant specimen of Mesopotamian architecture. This is believed to be one the greatest contributions of Mesopotamians in the field of architecture.

6. What led to the decline of the Mesopotamian Civilization?

Ans: i) Euphrates Rivers was the life line of this great civilization, unexpectedly change its course. The region became drier like a desert.

ii) Winds and sandstorms might have been responsible for the destruction of Mesopotamian Civilization.

### WRITE A SHORT NOTE ON THE FOLLOWING:-

1) Cuneiform:-It was the wedge-shaped script of the Mesopotamians written on the clay tablets. It was written from right to left with a pen made of reed of bone.

2) Religion:- Mesopotamians believed in many Gods. Every city had its own special God. They worshipped the sun, rain, moon and stars.

3) Family life :- The father was the head of the family. Boys were sent to school while girls learnt cooking and other household works. Women were not treated equal to men.

### Fill in the blanks:-

a) The word 'civilization' comes from the Latin word 'civitas' which means city.

b) The sacred area consisted of a tower, called ziggurat.

c) Enheduanna was a priestess in Akkad.

onian God was, Marduk.

- e) The Great Ziggurat of Ur was dedicated to Nanna-the moon god.
  - f) Ur was the biggest city in Sumer.
  - g) Farming was the main occupation.
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### Home Task

1. a) What is Ziggurat ?
  - b) Name three important specialized skills of the Mesopotamians.
  - c) Which crop was first cultivated by the Mesopotamians ?  
Name three other crops cultivated by them.
  - d) What were the main achievements of the Mesopotamians ?

\* Write and learn all these above questions and answers.

\* Write down fill in the blanks in your notebook.

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