Mesopotamia

**The Fertile Crescent:**

1. **What does “Mesopotamia” mean?**
* **It means the land between the rivers**
* **Tigris and Euphrates Rivers**
1. **Describe the physical geography that surrounds Mesopotamia.**
* **Plains (flat land – open to invasion)**
* **Surrounded by deserts “land is too dry for farming”**
* **Between the Mediterranean Sea and Persian Gulf.**
1. **Why would civilizations want to develop on the Fertile Crescent?**
* **The rivers provided water for bathing, drinking, and watering (irrigation) the crops.**
* **The rivers also provided fertile soil for farming = agricultural surplus**
* **The rivers also allowed people to travel and trade with other civilizations = becoming prosperous (rich).**

**The Sumerians and their Contributions:**

1. **What role did religion play in ancient Sumerian society?**
* **Polytheistic = worshipped many gods**
* **Worshipped their gods in ziggurats**
* **Forced conquered people to worship their gods.**
1. **Were the Sumerians an advanced civilization? WHY????????**
* **Yes, because they had many inventions such as the: WHEEL, DIVIDED A CIRCLE INTO 360 DEGREES, DIVIDED THE MINUTE INTO 60 SECONDS, WRITING (CUNEIFORM), IRON PLOW, ORGANIZED GOVERNMENT, BUILT ZIGGURATES, BUILT IRRIGATION CANALS TO WATER THEIR CROPS.**
1. **Which Sumerian invention had the greatest impact on future civilizations?**
* **Wheel: people could travel farther, used to help them with farming.**
* **Cuneiform: way to record and save history for other civilizations**

**The Babylonians and Hammurabi:**

1. **What was Hammurabi’s code and why is it so important?**
* **1st set of written laws and punishments**
* **1st legal system**
* **Important because the people know what the laws are and what their punishments will be.**
* **Difficult to change the law or punishment once it’s written down.**

**The Assyrians:**

1. **What new technologies did the Assyrians employ to conquer Babylon?**
* **Iron weapons**
* **Chariots (wheel and horses)**
* **Battering rams- heavy logs used to break down city walls.**

**Mesopotamia was located in the modern day country of *IRAQ.***

The world’s first **monotheistic** religion, **Judaism**, begins in Mesopotamia, modern-day Iraq.