

MESOPOTAMIA: SOCIAL ORGANISATION (UNIT 10)

SOCIAL GROUPS		CHARACTERISTICS
Privileged people (minority)	Aristocracy (king, his family & nobility)	
	Priests	
	Civil servants: scribes	
Subjugated people (majority)	Free (they had rights)	Peasants
		Craftsmen
	Slaves & women (they had no rights)	

Highest position in army & government

- ✓ In charge of religious rituals
- ✓ Cooperation with government
- ✓ Possessions (land & workshops)

- ✓ Noble families
- ✓ Great power
- ✓ Taxes, commercial transactions, etc.

- ✓ Rented lands (property of the king or the temple)
- ✓ Cultivated barley, wheat, beans, chickpeas, cucumber...

Weavers, carpenters, goldsmiths ...

- ✓ treated as objects
- ✓ women were the property of men

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MESOPOTAMIA: CULTURE (UNIT 10)

RELIGION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Polytheistic ✓ Human-shaped gods ✓ No life after death ✓ Temples: a fortress / a ziggurat (a tower of several stages) ✓ Animal & human sacrifices 	
EDUCATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ First schools in the history of humanity ✓ Different levels of study ✓ Schools trained scribes, scientists, theologians, linguists, etc. ✓ Only for children from rich families ✓ Only for men 	
ART	ARCHITECTURE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Brick & adobe ✓ Decoration: reliefs, frescos & coloured clay strips ✓ Palaces (Khorsabad), monumental gates (Ishtar Gate) & temples (Marduk)
	SCULPTURE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Stone ✓ Akkadians and Sumerians: _ statues of kings & gods ✓ Assyrians: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ bulls with human heads ▪ reliefs with hunting & war scenes



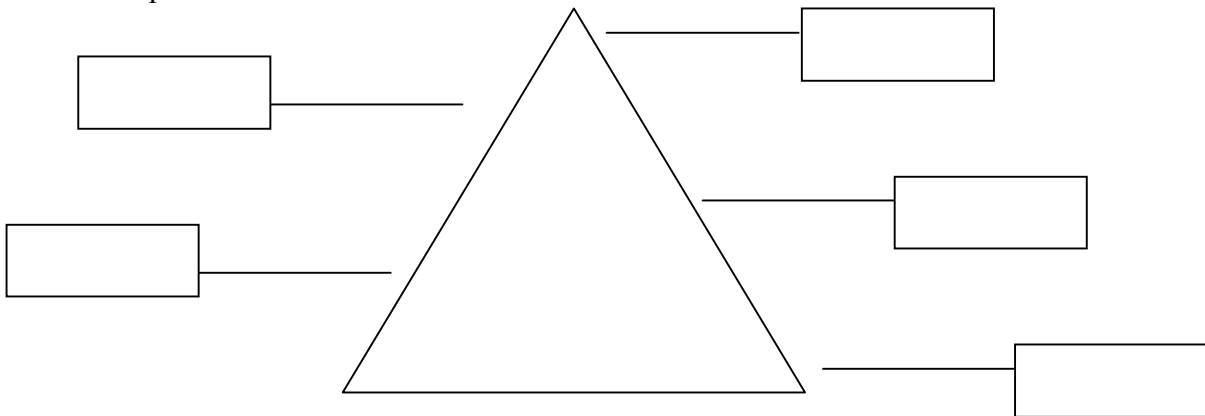
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MESOPOTAMIA: SOCIAL ORGANISATION

Full name: _____ Class: ____ No.: ____

TASK 1 (Reading):

Look at the chart about social organisation and complete the social pyramid of Mesopotamia.



TASK 2 (Reading):

Place each sentence in the corresponding group.

ARISTOCRACY	CLERGY	CIVIL SERVANTS	DOMINATED

- They sustained all the society with their work.
- They possessed lands and riches.
- They collected taxes.
- They controlled the highest positions in the army and government.
- They were in charge of religious ceremonies.
- They could be free or slaves.
- They were peasants or craftsmen.

TASK 3 (Writing):

Write a paragraph about the position of women in Mesopotamian society:



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MESOPOTAMIA: CULTURE

Full name: _____ Class: _____ No.: _____

TASK 1 (Writing):

Look at the chart about culture in Mesopotamia and write a paragraph about religion:



TASK 2 (Reading):

Complete this text about education with suitable words:

The first _____ in the history of humanity were found _____ Mesopotamia. At the beginning, _____ specialised in scribe training. Later the school became the centre of Mesopotamian culture and it trained scientists, _____, linguists, etc.

There were different _____ of study, _____ elementary, in which students learnt to read and _____, to the most advanced, in which students _____ other subjects.

Only children _____ rich families went to school, because the _____ could not afford the required expenses. And only men could _____ to school, access was forbidden for _____.



TASK 3 (Writing)

Answer the following questions about art:

1. What materials do they use for construction in Mesopotamia?

2. How do they decorate their buildings?

3. What kind of buildings are important in Mesopotamian art?

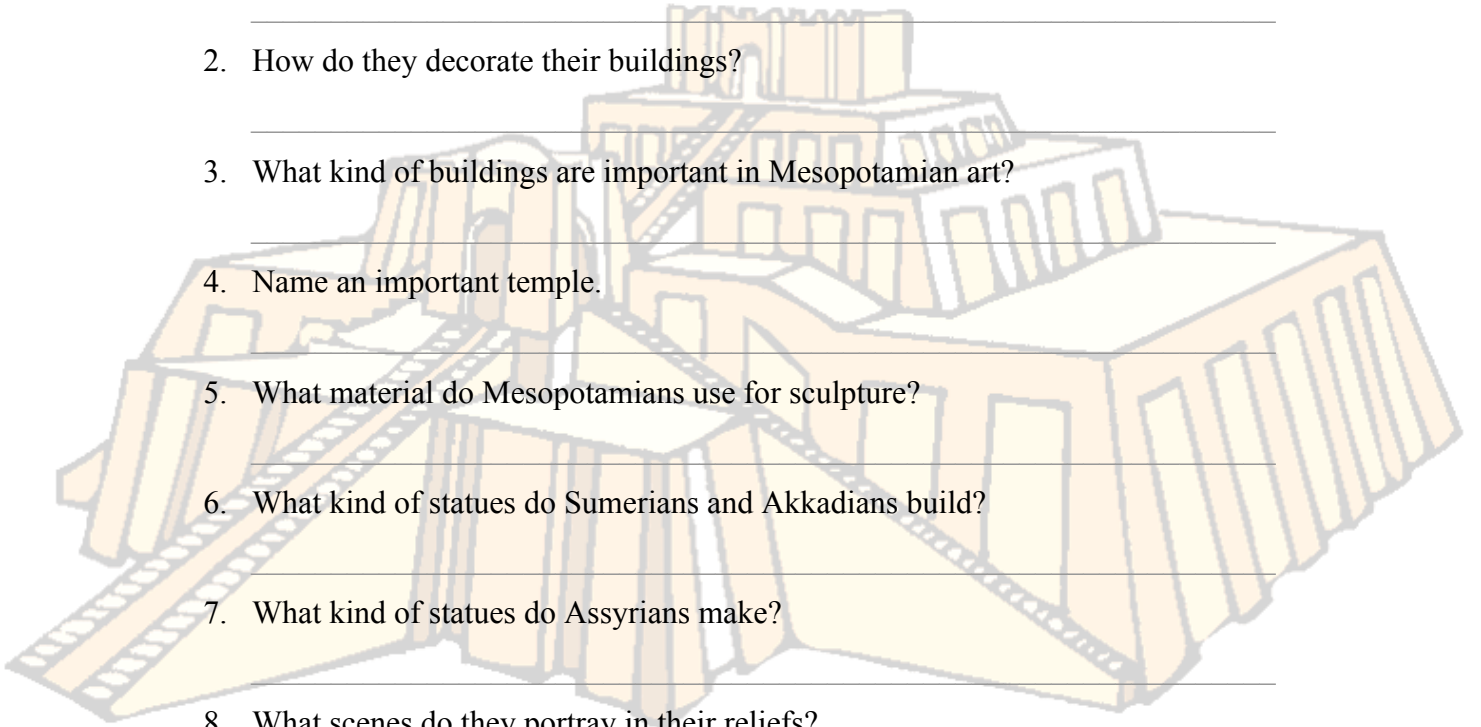
4. Name an important temple.

5. What material do Mesopotamians use for sculpture?

6. What kind of statues do Sumerians and Akkadians build?

7. What kind of statues do Assyrians make?

8. What scenes do they portray in their reliefs?



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TASK 4 (Reading):

Match the words and the definitions:

arch - fresco - relief - vault

1. sculptural technique in which shapes project out from the scene. _____

2. curved structure that can be supported by two pillars or bridge the gap of a wall.

3. arched structure which covers the space between two walls or several pillars.

4. Pictorial technique which consists of applying colours on a surface made of layers of fresh plaster. _____

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