AP World History – Unit 1: Foundations, 8000 B.C.E. to 600 B.C.E.

**Questions: Mesopotamia Crash Course World History #3**

**Directions:** Watch the video “Mesopotamia: World History Crash Course #3” on [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) and answer the questions below on this page or another sheet of paper.

1. When did Mesopotamian cities begin forming and what does the name of this civilization mean?
2. Mesopotamia was divided into city-states (a city that had control over the surrounding countryside) and one of the earliest of these was Uruk. What were some of the characteristics of this city-state?
3. Why were the two main rivers of this civilization both beneficial and problematic for the people of Mesopotamia?
4. Why were the priests at the top of the Mesopotamian social structure for so long? How did the palace and rulers (men) take over from the temple and priests (gods)?
5. How do we know so much about the civilization of Mesopotamia?
6. What was the most likely reason why the Mesopotamians created cuneiform?
7. Why did the city-state change around 2000 BCE? How did this change affect the governmental structure of the city-states?
8. Who was Hammurabi and why is he important to the story of Mesopotamia?
9. Why were territorial empires vulnerable to conquest?
10. Why were the Assyrians so good at conquering and what was their most important legacy to history, according to John Green?
11. The Neo-Assyrian Empire lasted 300 years from 911 to 612 BCE, but why did it fall?
12. How did Mesopotamia’s proto-socialist government contribute to the specialization of labor and the overall success of the civilization?
13. How does writing indirectly create social hierarchies and inequality?

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