

Brunswick School Department
Social Studies
Grade 6 Fertile Crescent

Unit Overview

The ancient Mesopotamians left behind a large legacy that helped to shape the current world today. This unit will immerse students in the development of written language, the development of codified law and the development of a society. They will learn how rivers and new agricultural techniques improved the Mesopotamians' ability to manage uncontrolled water supplies. Geography will be studied in the context of how it influences culture.

Essential Understandings

- Geography dictates human settlement patterns.
- Ancient civilizations laid the foundation for future societies.
- Characteristics of civilizations are common across time and place.
- The relationship between humans and environment is reciprocal; humans are both impacted by and impact their environments in significant ways

Priority Standards and Performance Indicators

(as based on the Maine Learning Results)

P.S. SS -1 Conduct and present original research that utilizes primary and secondary sources in order to analyze, interpret and explain historical (and/or) contemporary social studies topics.

- a. Locate relevant information that includes multiple perspectives from varied sources.
- b. Demonstrate facility with notetaking, organizing information, and creating bibliographies.
- d. Use information ethically and legally.

P.S. SS-4 Utilize concepts and processes from geography to understand issues involving people, places, and environments in the United States and the world.

- a. Identify the major regions of the Earth and major physical features and political boundaries using a variety of geographic tools.
- b. Describe the impact of change on physical and cultural environments.
- d. Describe the dynamic relationship between geographic features and various cultures, including the cultures of Maine Native Americans, various historical groups in the United States, and other cultures in the world.

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P.S.SS-5 Draw on concepts and processes from history to develop historical perspective and understand issues of continuity and change in the community, Maine, the United States, and world.

a. Explain that history is the study of the written record of the past, based on available evidence from a variety of sources.

Examples of Formative / Summative Assessments

- Mesopotamia Pre and Post Test
- Analyze and explain the factors that lead to a stable and lasting society
- Compare and contrast the Akkadians, Babylonians, Assyrians, and Neo-Babalonians.
- Vocabulary quiz
- Chapter 2 activities Prentice Hall - The Ancient World textbook
- Examine an epic tale for clues about a specific society's beliefs and values
- GRAPES Flipbook
- Empires Essay

Sample Texts and Materials/Resources

- Publications:
 - *Mesopotamia*, Kids Discover
 - *World History: Mesopotamia*, Benchmark Education
 - *The Ancient World*, Prentice Hall
 - *The First Civilizations*, National Geographic
 - *Gilgamesh the King, The Revenge of Ishtar, and The Last Quest of Gilgamesh*, (Ludmila Zeman)
- Videos:
 - *Mesopotamia: Return to Eden*, Time Life Video
- Websites:
 - Teacher Portaportals and home pages
 - Mr. Donn's Mesopotamia
 - Ducksters Mesopotamia
 - British Museum - Mesopotamia
- National Geographic for Kids - Iraq
- Flocabulary - "We're in that Fertile Crescent"
- Brain Pop