

## FERTILE CRESCENT FACTS



1. Before the rise of civilization people were nomadic. What does this mean? *They traveled from place to place hunting and gathering food*
2. How was the behavior of nomadic people regulated? *Through unwritten customs*
4. How did ancient people progress in their social organization? *Nomadic clans to villages to city-states to empires*
4. The first civilizations developed near these two rivers. *The Tigris and Euphrates*
5. Why did the first civilizations develop in river valleys? *Because annual flooding left silt on the surrounding land which enriched the soil*
6. How did the first farmers cope with challenges posed by rivers? *They learned to control flooding and use irrigation systems*
7. What was the name of the area that gave birth to the first civilizations? *Mesopotamia*
8. What do all civilizations need to survive and grow? *Resources*
9. What was the first civilization of the ancient world? *Sumer*
10. What are the five key elements of civilization? *1) Centralized Government; 2) Organized Religion; 3) Arts, Architecture, and Public Works; 4) Job Specialization and Social Classes; and 5) Writing*
11. What does polytheistic mean? *Believed in many gods and goddesses*
12. How did the Hebrews differ from other ancient people? *Were monotheistic, not polytheistic*
13. What was the most important religious duty of ancient citizens? *To keep their gods happy*
14. What were temples in the Fertile Crescent called? *Ziggurats*
15. What stood at the top of each Ziggurat? *A shrine to the chief god or goddess of the city*
16. Why did ancient rulers build large palaces and temples? *To make the citizens believe in the power and strength of the rulers and gods*
17. What claim did ancient rulers claim to justify their authority? *The will of the gods*
18. What does it mean when we say that rulers in the ancient world were hereditary leaders? *Leadership was passed from father to son*
19. What caused conflicts among the first civilizations of the Fertile Crescent? *They competed to control land and water*
20. What developed as a result of the need to control the rivers, collect taxes, and build public works projects? *The first centralized governments in history*
21. List any three groups of people who developed civilizations in the Fertile Crescent. *Akkadians, Assyrians, Babylonians, Hebrews, Hittites, Medes, Persians, Phoenicians, and Sumerians*
22. What tasks did the first organized governments perform? *Write laws, collect taxes, provide food supply, and maintain defense*
23. Why were the first laws written? *To regulate the behavior of people who were now strangers to one another in cities*
24. In the ancient world, who was specially trained to read and write? *A scribe*
25. What did ancient people invent to record grain harvests and keep accurate records of the seasons? *Writing*
26. How did ancient rulers use public works projects to ensure the cities' food supplies? *Built irrigation systems, roads, and bridges and kept records of harvests*
27. How did ancient rulers use public work projects to provide for the defense of the city? *Built walls around the city to protect it from attack*
28. How did cities change the way people worked? *People specialized in jobs for the first time*
29. Why were people able to specialize in jobs in early civilizations? *Surpluses in food meant that not everyone had to search for food*
30. Ranking people according to their jobs led to this. *The development of the first social classes*

