

Chapter 3.3 Reading Centers

\* MUST do 3 out of 4 sections!

Center 1: Chapter 3.3 Reading (all pages)

1. How did Ancient Sumerians create cuneiform?
2. What did Sumerians use cuneiform for?
3. How did calendars help farmers?
4. Which invention was most helpful to traders?
5. How did the start of metalworking help Ancient Mesopotamian farmers?

**Center 2: Levees and Dams (page 4 Green Book Passage)**

What is the meaning of the word Mesopotamia?

- A. the land between two rivers
- B. large, fast river
- C. land of military power
- D. the Tigris River god

2. What is a levee?

- A. a wall that guides the flow of water away from a dam
- B. a natural rock formation that helps contain water
- C. a very large well that is used to contain water gathered by a dam
- D. a hill that prevents a river from overflowing its banks

3. How did dams and levees support Mesopotamian civilization?

- A. Dams and levees helped create irrigation systems that supported agriculture.
- B. Dams encouraged a growth in recreational activities, while levees helped create numerous Mesopotamian industries.

Dams and levees held back flood waters to keep Mesopotamia a desert landscape.

D. Dams and levees were only used for military purposes, and helped Mesopotamians defeat enemies.

4. Ancient Mesopotamians are remembered for having an advanced culture. In what ways are their technological advances still important and useful today? Use specific examples from the reading passage in your answer.

**Center 3: The Development of the Wheel (page 5) - Green book**

1. Why were runners placed under a cart?

- A. so the cart could go further on the roller
- B. so the cart could carry more weight on the roller
- C. because they helped the cart balance on the roller
- D. because there was extra wood from cutting the roller

2. How did Mesopotamian agriculture benefit from the wheel?

- A. Wells could be dug faster.
- B. Different crops could be cultivated.
- C. More food could be transported at one time.
- D. Water wheels could be used to power farm equipment.

3. What did the wheel help advance in ancient Mesopotamia?

- A. pottery
- B. religion
- C. the printing press
- D. record keeping

4. Try to imagine life without the wheel. Do you think you could survive without the wheel? Use specific examples from the text to explain your answer.

**Center 4: King Hammurabi (Page 6) - Green Book**

Hammurabi addresses every social class in Babylonian society with his rules. The term social class refers to which of the following?

- A. the rules for how to act when out in public
- B. a place where students went to learn Hammurabi's Code
- C. a group of people who make all the rules for society
- D. groups of people in society organized by wealth and power

2. According to the passage, what was the punishment for stealing sheep?

- A. death
- B. two years in jail
- C. replace the sheep with double the number of stolen sheep
- D. pay a fine 30 times greater than the value of the sheep

3. Which of the following was a military technique used by Hammurabi to defeat the kingdom of Larsa?

- A. releasing a dam to flood approaching soldiers
- B. retreating before battle could begin
- C. writing a revised version of the code
- D. cutting off the food supply to Larsa

4. Today, people look at Hammurabi's Code as a way to better understand Mesopotamian society. How can the code teach us about issues of equality and the importance of law in ancient Mesopotamia? In your answer, use supporting details and examples from the passage.