3500 BC – 539 BC

Ancient Mesopotamia Quiz

Name _____ Date _____

Fill in the circle beside the best answer.

1. Where was Mesopotamia located?

- (A) Between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers in present-day Iraq
- (B) Between the Yellow and Yangtze rivers in present-day eastern China
- (C) Along the Indus River in present-day Pakistan and India
- (D) Along the Nile River in present-day Egypt and Sudan

2. What was cuneiform?

- (A) An early law code of 282 laws carved on a stone pillar
- (B) An early temple tower built of mud brick in the Sumerian cities
- (C) An early calendar of twelve months based on the moon
- (D) An early writing system of wedge-shaped marks on clay tablets

3. Who was Sargon of Akkad?

- (A) The king of Ur who built a great ziggurat and wrote an early law code
- (B) The first empire-builder, who conquered the Sumerian city-states
- (C) The Babylonian king who had 282 laws carved on a stone pillar
- (D) The Persian king who captured Babylon without a major battle

4. What was significant about Hammurabi's Code?

- (A) It showed that laws should be written down and displayed in public
- (B) It let the citizens of Babylon vote on new laws in an assembly
- (C) It was the first law code ever written, 300 years before any other
- (D) It ended slavery in Babylon and gave every person equal rights

5. Who were the Assyrians?

- (A) A small city-state famous for inventing cuneiform writing on clay
- (B) A feared empire with harsh military tactics, ruling from Egypt to Persia
- (C) A peaceful trading league with no army, linking Egypt to Persia
- (D) A sea power whose merchants spread the alphabet across the Mediterranean Sea

6. What ended the Assyrian Empire?

- (A) Persians under Cyrus captured the capital Nineveh in 539 BC
- (B) Egyptians and Greeks burned the capital Nineveh in 331 BC
- (C) Babylonians and Medes destroyed the capital Nineveh in 612 BC
- (D) Hittites with iron weapons sacked the capital Nineveh in 1600 BC

7. What was Nebuchadnezzar II's Babylon famous for?

- (A) Its great pyramids, the Sphinx, and the royal tombs in the Valley of the Kings
- (B) Its harbor lighthouse, the Great Library, and the tomb of Alexander
- (C) Its marble temples, the Parthenon, and the first Olympic Games
- (D) Its massive walls, the Ishtar Gate, and the legendary Hanging Gardens

8. Why is Mesopotamia called the cradle of civilization?

- (A) It produced the first paper, gunpowder, compass, and printed books
- (B) It produced the first democracy, coined money, alphabet, and Olympic Games
- (C) It produced the first cities, writing, law codes, and organized government
- (D) It produced the first pyramids, mummies, papyrus, and hieroglyphs

3500 BC – 539 BC

Ancient Mesopotamia Quiz: Answer Key

1. **A** Between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers in present-day Iraq

2. **D** An early writing system of wedge-shaped marks on clay tablets

3. **B** The first empire-builder, who conquered the Sumerian city-states

4. **A** It showed that laws should be written down and displayed in public

5. **B** A feared empire with harsh military tactics, ruling from Egypt to Persia

6. **C** Babylonians and Medes destroyed the capital Nineveh in 612 BC

7. **D** Its massive walls, the Ishtar Gate, and the legendary Hanging Gardens

8. **C** It produced the first cities, writing, law codes, and organized government