

QUESTIONS:

WEEK AGENDA: Work with a partner to analyze the information on page 33 in your textbook and answer the questions below.

1. Before there was writing, how did Sumerians keep track of what they traded? Describe the system.
2. What change was made to the system around 3500 BCE? Why would this be easier?
3. How did this system of inventory (keeping track of what you sell) become writing?
4. Why do you think Sumerians wrote Cuneiform in clay rather than, say, paper?

Mesopotamia

5. Was living along the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers beneficial to Mesopotamia?
6. If Sumerians believed the gods controlled nature, what might they assume about the gods' personalities from what they saw in nature?
7. If Mesopotamia was so fertile, why did they need to trade?

8. Why was Mesopotamia so vulnerable to outside invaders?

9. Why would Mesopotamia be an attractive target for nomadic groups?

10. What are some examples of Mesopotamian “firsts”?

11. Writing was first developed in Sumer. What were some of the uses of writing?

12. Who was Hammurabi?

13. If laws had existed for a long time before Hammurabi, why was his Code so special?