

The Four River Valley Civilizations

Mesopotamia. "The Land Between the Rivers"

Use your textbook to write 3 or 4 descriptors about the geography of Sumer:

Tigris & Euphrates Rivers
Deposits of silt → "The Fertile Crescent"
Irrigation systems and dams

8-
p. 10

- A. For the early part of its history Sumer was a collection of warring city-states, each independent from the other. Examples: Ur, Uruk, Kish
- B. Priests were the leaders in society. The people built ziggurats: temple-towers as centers of religious and political life. The Sumerian religion honored many gods—they were polytheistic. Religion played such an important role in the society that many historians classify early Sumerian society as a theocracy -- a government by divine authority.
- C. A hierarchy developed in the society, with each class of people on a specific level. This will become the pattern for nearly every civilization—not only in the ancient world, but throughout all history.

