

MESOPOTAMIA

INTRODUCTION

In Greek, Mesopotamia means “the land between two rivers”. It is located between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers. The area of Mesopotamia lies between Asia and the Persian Gulf. This area was known as the fertile crescent, due to arc of rich and fertile land that exists there.

Mesopotamia was first settled more than 12,000 years ago by groups of hunters and gatherers. They took advantage of the hot climate and fertile land, and worked to develop their farming skills. Over time, people learned to domesticate wild animals and grow wild plants. Barley was the most popular grain in Mesopotamia; it grew well, could be made into a type of porridge, ground for flour, and even brewed into an ancient form of beer. The abundance of food that was able to be produced help Mesopotamia become a thriving civilization.

Because farmers were able to grow plenty of food in Mesopotamia, people no longer had to spend all their time searching for food. Instead, people could make a living by creating or selling their services in exchange for surplus food.

There were two areas of Ancient Mesopotamia. The first was known as Southern Mesopotamia, and it was a flat plain. The second area was known as Northern Mesopotamia, and was a plateau that was bordered by mountains.

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List some key facts about where Mesopotamia was located.

List some key facts about farming in Mesopotamia.

Illustrate something to help you remember these facts.