GRAPES OF MESOPOTAMIA

DAY 1
Geography

- Land between the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers
- Area between the rivers was the **Fertile Crescent** or **Mesopotamia**
  - In Southwest Asia, mostly in modern-day Iraq
- Area had rich farmland where people mainly grew grain (wheat/barley)
  - River flooded
- Made of two parts, a plateau in the north and a flat plain in the south
- The south is where the first civilization was formed in Sumer
The Fertile Crescent/Mesopotamia
SUMERIAN CIVILIZATION

...in five minutes or less
Monday Map Activity: Civilizations of Mesopotamia

- You need
  - Colored pencils
  - A pen—no pencils can be used
- You are going to complete the map activity that is going to be handed out to you.
- You need to use your textbook AND the attachment that Mrs. Santizo shared with you in your email.
Warm-up: Tuesday

- Get out your notebook
- Get out homework that we reviewed yesterday.
- Get out your map, if you took it home to complete.
Ancient Mesopotamia

Key:
- Major city states
- Major Kingdoms
- Rivers
- Water

Geographic Features:
- Black Sea
- Mediterranean Sea
- Syrian Desert
- Mountains
Religion (Pg. 114 in text)

- Sumerians were **polytheistic** and believed that the gods controlled everything
  - What is polytheistic?
    - It is the worship of MANY Gods or Deities
  - It was important to please the gods with good things (offerings)
- Priests had a high place in society
  - They interpreted wishes of gods
Achievements

(Pg. 115 in text)

- Created first writing system called cuneiform
  - Pictures could be symbols or sounds
  - They were carved into clay tablets
- Were the first to create the wheel and wheeled devices (carts, pottery wheel)
- Created the plow to increase farm production
- Architects created pyramid shaped towers called ziggurats as the city temples
  - They also made advances in math and science
One group that conquered all of Mesopotamia were the Babylonians led by Hammurabi.

After creating his empire, Hammurabi created Hammurabi’s Code, the first set of written laws.

There were 282 laws that covered every part of daily life:
- Trade, loans, theft, marriage, injury, murder

Important because this was the first set of laws that were written down so that everyone could see what was against the law.
Warm-up: Wednesday

- We will watch the Brainpop video about the Sumerians for our warm-up.
- During the video, write down at least 4 facts about the civilization. You will post your response in Edmodo after the video.
- Brainpop: Sumerians
Class Review-On your page 11c on the left side page create a 3 column T-Chart

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Geography</th>
<th>Religion</th>
<th>Achievements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Politics pg. 112,113 and 116 textbook

● Basic political unit in Sumer was a city-state, the city and surrounding rural area
  ○ Most people lived in rural areas

● Ruled by Kings

● City-states warred with each other and had to build large militaries

● First empire in Sumer was under king Sargon
  ○ Ruled for 50 years

● King Gilgamesh becomes major figure in Sumerian literature
Sumerian society was put into a social hierarchy, showing who was most important: 1<sup>st</sup> was Kings, 2<sup>nd</sup> Priests, 3<sup>rd</sup> were merchants/traders, 4<sup>th</sup> farmers, 5<sup>th</sup> slaves

- Kings believed they were chosen by gods to rule
- Men in Sumer could be politicians and could receive an education, women took care of the home and children
- Merchants/Traders set up trade networks to far away places trading grain for gold and silver