

ANCIENT ADVENTURES: A MESS IN MESOPOTAMIA

ANSWER KEY

Discussion Questions

1. Describe the streets in a typical Sumerian city-state.

The streets were usually very narrow and merchants sold goods to passersby.

2. Which city-state in ancient Sumer was probably one of the most important? Why do you think this was this so?

The city of Ur was probably one of the most important. Accept a variety of student answers to explain why they think this was so (possibly the presence of the massive Ziggurat of Ur).

3. What was the climate of ancient Mesopotamia like? How did that affect the way people lived?

The climate of ancient Mesopotamia was hot and dry. People needed to develop new ways to get water to their crops and their cities. Irrigation canals were extremely important.

4. Name two major rivers of Mesopotamia. Why did the people of this land depend on these rivers for survival?

The Tigris and Euphrates Rivers were the major rivers of Mesopotamia. Water was critical to survival. Irrigation canals were used to divert water from the rivers to crops.

5. What was the purpose of the ziggurat? Why do you think it was so high above the city-state?

The purpose of the ziggurat was to make offerings to the gods. Accept a variety of student answers to explain why they think this was so (possibly to reach up to the realm of the gods).