

Mesopotamia Cuneiform Activity

Reading Comprehension

One of the skills you are working on this year is "active reading." Use your highlighted, underlined, and annotated classroom copy of the Mesopotamia Cuneiform lesson to get more practice with that important skill and to answer the following additional questions. If your classroom copy of the lesson already has the answers underlined or highlighted, you are off to a GREAT start building strong reading and research skills.

Additional Questions: Please use complete sentences and do your best with spelling, grammar, and punctuation to answer the following additional questions. Thank you!

1. What are pictographs?

Pictographs are pictures of things that act as words.

2. What ancient civilization invented cuneiform?

The ancient Sumerians invented the written language we call cuneiform.

3. What types of things did these ancient people write down?

The ancient Sumerians kept records and lists of things. They listed their household goods. They listed their court activity. They listed their sales and purchases. They even kept a list of their kings that was updated from time to time as new kings came to power. They also wrote down stories, including "The Epic of Gilgamesh."

4. Why do archaeologists need time to translate cuneiform?



























Because the shape of cuneiform letters and the meanings of various cuneiform symbols changed over time and varied by region, it is not easy to read. Therefore, archaeologists need time to translate cuneiform.

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Cuneiform Translation


Use the cuneiform decoder below to get some practice translating ancient Sumerian writing.


Activity: Cuneiform Translation


Cuneiform							
		a: 	b: 	c: 	d: 	e: 	f: 
g: 	h: 	i: 	j: 	k: 	l: 	m: 	n: 
o: 	p: 	q: 	r: 	s: 	t: 	u: 	v: 
w: 	x: 	y: 	z: 				


Your job is to translate this ancient language to discover some famous people and places in ancient Mesopotamia. Good luck!

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Gilgamesh
- 

Hammurabi
- 

Marduk
- 

Sumer
- 

Babylon