Mesopotamia: From Nomads to Farmers

1. Which of the following was NOT an invention of the Sumerians?
   A) the plow
   B) a system of writing
   C) a 365-day calendar
   D) the wheel

2. What was the first thing that the Sumerians accomplished?
   A) nomadic hunting and gathering
   B) founding new city-states
   C) trading over long distances
   D) farming and domestication of animals

3. Why was Mesopotamia such a good area for growing crops?
   A) The land was covered with heavy vegetation.
   B) The rivers flooded, making it easier for planters to pull out weeds that might harm crops.
   C) The area did not have any agricultural pests.
   D) The rivers flooded and deposited rich soil.

4. How did the Sumerians solve the problem of flooding?
   A) They diverted the flow of the rivers into other areas.
   B) They rotated farming with nomadic herding.
   C) They built terraces on the mountains.
   D) They used gated ditches and levees.

5. How did the Sumerians keep time?
   A) They used an abacus to count the days and nights.
   B) They invented a calendar based on the moon and stars.
   C) They improved the function of sundials.
   D) They formulated the first mathematical equations to determine the hours in a day.

6. What tools did the Mesopotamians use for writing?
   A) a sharpened piece of reed, called a stylus, used on clay tablets
   B) a slender piece of wood that they dipped into colorful dyes
   C) a large, feather pen that they dipped in ink
   D) a darkened reed that they dipped into a mixture of charcoal and water

7. What was a result of the invention of the wheel?
   A) It controlled the irrigation devices to prevent flooding.
   B) It allowed the Sumerians to move faster in battles.
   C) It made people more dependent on human strength for transportation.
   D) It gave the Sumerians more freedom of movement.
8. What was an important Sumerian innovation that allowed people to work together to meet basic needs?
A) a system of writing
B) a specified work week
C) a transportation system
D) a city-state

9. Which statement best describes the benefits of a city-state?
A) It governed surrounding lands and had its own ruler.
B) It prevented wars with neighboring cities over land and water rights.
C) It allowed people to engage in other professions and be educated.
D) It united all the people under a central government.

10. Besides the ruler, who had the highest position in the social hierarchy?
A) a scribe
B) a caravan merchant
C) a priest
D) a soldier in the King's army

11. Unlike the Egyptian pharaohs, the rulers of the city-states were not worshipped as gods.
A) true
B) false

12. Why were ziggurats important to the Sumerians?
A) Scrolls that documented Mesopotamian history were encased in ziggurats.
B) They were built as tombs for the kings.
C) They protected the city from invaders.
D) They were built as temples to honor the gods and goddesses.

13. What did the Sumerians do to support the priests and kings?
A) developed new trading routes
B) enlisted their healthy sons into the army
C) paid taxes
D) captured slaves in wars
RSQC^2

Directions: Complete sections after watching video

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