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Tender Heart High School, 29/4/24
Sector 33B, Chandigarh
Class VI

Subject:- History and Civics

Teacher:- Mili Bhatnagar

Chapter 3 The Mesopotamian Civilization

Good Morning Students!

This week we will study about another civilization which came up on the banks of the Tigris and Euphrates rivers and at present times refers to modern day Iraq. It was by 5000 BC that people from the adjoining deserts began to settle in the fertile land between Tigris and Euphrates rivers. The world's first civilization developed under the Sumerians.

For our knowledge of the civilization we depend mainly on archaeological sources found at Ur and Kish and the seals. Among literary sources is the 'Epic of Gilgamesh'. The main centres in Mesopotamian civilization were the cities like Ur, Kish, Nippur, Eridu, etc. The cities were divided into three parts

- The sacred area
- The walled city
- Outer town

The sacred area had a tower called the Ziggurat. It had the temple of the patron god of the city. There were offices and store houses also in this part of the city. The walled city and outer town had areas for the common people. The houses were of different sizes.

29/4/24

Class VIChapter 3Mili BhatnagarHistory and Civics

We find three classes in Mesopotamian society

- Upper - King holding highest position followed by priests, high officials and scribes.
- Middle - Farmers, artisans and traders
- Lower - Slaves.

The King was head of overall administration, upholding law and maintaining peace in the area.

The Mesopotamians were the worshippers of nature. They worshipped Sun, Moon and rains. There were many gods and goddesses and this we can conclude on the basis of the construction of temples for the patron god of the city.

As in other civilizations, agriculture was the main occupation of the people. Trade also flourished under the Mesopotamians and we have evidences of their trade with Harappan civilization.

MCQ

1. All three
2. Temple
3. Wheat
4. Moon God.