Mesopotamia Web quest:

Go to the British Museum website for Mesopotamia found at http://www.mesopotamia.co.uk/

Section 1: Geography

Click on Mesopotamia and enter Geography, and click on the picture. Fill out the following paragraph.

Mesopotamia is a Greek word meaning ___________________. The rivers are the __________ and __________ which flow through modern ________. The Euphrates also flows through much of Syria. Mesopotamia is made up of different regions, each with its own geography. The geography of each area and the natural resources found there affected the ways that ___________________. Northern Mesopotamia is made up of hills and plains. The land is quite fertile due to _______ ________, and the ___________________ flowing from the mountains. Early Settlers farmed the land and used ________, ________ and ________, from the mountains nearby. Southern Mesopotamia is made up of marshy areas and wide, flat, barren plains. ________ developed along the rivers which flow through the region. Early settlers had to ________ the land along the banks of the rivers in order for their _________________. Since they did not have many ___________________ ____________, contact with neighbouring lands was important.

1. Define Irrigation:

2. What did Irrigation do to the land and the developing civilization?

3. Why was contact with neighboring lands important?

4. Scroll down to the Explore section of the page, and find a map of Mesopotamia. Label the following locations. Click on the Magnifying class to make the Map bigger.
Go back to the geography page, and enter The Challenge. Use the first three paragraphs to answer the following questions on a separate sheet of paper.

5. The Farming Year:

A. Describe the climate of Ancient Mesopotamia?

B. How did farmers grow Barley in a land with little rainfall?

C. Describe what happened during the growing season?

Section 2: Time

1. Head back to the main index page and enter the section Time and fill in the following:

   Early civilizations first developed in Mesopotamia over ________________ ago. Some of the first ______ were established, a ____________ was developed, ________ were created and monumental _____________ were constructed. As each new group of people moved into the region, or took control of the government, they ________ some of the culture, traditions and beliefs of the people who had come before them. Therefore, certain aspects of civilization in Mesopotamia remained the ________, and some ___________ over time. Much of Mesopotamian history lay buried beneath the sand and soil for thousands of years. However, there were clues, such as the mounds known as “________”, and the ruins of ziggurats, that treasures lay below the surface. In the past two hundred years, people have begun to ______________ objects and buildings which reveal the ancient history of this region.

2. Define Excavate:
3. Scroll down the **Explore** and use the Mesopotamia Time Line to fill in the following questions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>3500 BCE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3200 BCE</td>
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<td>2800 BCE</td>
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**Section 3: Writing**

1. Head back to the Main Index Page and click on **Writing** and answer the following.

   Over five thousand years ago, people living in Mesopotamia developed a form of _________ to record and communicate different types of information. The earliest writing was based on _________, Pictograms were used to communicate basic information about _________ and _______. Over time, the need for writing changed and the signs developed into a ________ we call ________. Over thousands of years, Mesopotamian _________ recorded daily events, trade, astronomy, and literature on clay tablets. Cuneiform was used by people throughout the ancient _________ to write several different languages.

2. Define Pictogram:

3. Define Cuneiform:

4. Identify the following writing style as Pictogram or Cuneiform.

   [Image of Pictogram] [Image of Cuneiform]

   Click on **EXPLORE** to find out more about scribes of Mesopotamia.

5. Define Scribe:

6. Why were scribes very important people in the world of Mesopotamia?

7. Go back to the Writing page and click on **STORY** to discover the history of writing and answer the following questions.
A. Why was a writing system developed?

B. Draw the early symbol of barley in box #1. What type of tool was used to draw this early symbol?

C. What type of information was recorded concerning barley?

D. Why did the barley sign change shape?

E. Draw the cuneiform sign for barley in box # 2.

F. What were the two ways in which the barley sign could be used?
   1.
   2.

G. What type of information was cuneiform used to record? Give three examples.


I. Why was cuneiform used by other peoples?

J. Show the progression of writing symbols for one symbol found on the last page of the story.

Section 4: Sumerians
Head back to the main webpage and enter the Royal Tombs of Ur.

1. Which archaeologist excavated the site of the ancient Sumerian city of Ur?
Scroll down and click on **Explore** investigate the Royal Tombs of Ur by clicking on the blue outlined rooms.

2. Which room contained the Standard of Ur? _________.

3. Which room was known as the “Great Death Pit”? _________.

4. How many bodies were found there?

5. Name and describe one object found in the room (by clicking on the blue outlined drawings).

Head back to the main page and click on **Ziggurats** under the Sumerians section.

6. **Define Ziggurat:**

7. What do archeologist suspect Ziggurats were connected to?

8. Read the **story** of the Ziggurats and answer the following questions.
   
   A. Where was one of the oldest mud platform (a precursor to ziggurats) found?
   
   B. What was the connection between this platform and the cities' gods?
   
   C. What did Ur-Nammu build to show his power?
   
   D. Describe the Ziggurat of Ur.
   
   E. What was the ziggurat dedicated to?
   
   F. Where was one of the most famous ziggurats built? What was it called in English?

**Section 5: Babylon**

Click on **Trade and Transport** for Babylon.

1. T or F - Mesopotamia was a region with many natural resources.

2. Describe some of the items Babylon traded with other cities.
**Section 6: Assyrians**

Click on Warfare and answer the following questions.

1. When did the Assyrian kings send out armies to conquer new lands?

2. What was the benefit of conquering new lands?

3. Define Tribute:

**Section 7: Hammurabi’s Code**

Go to [http://mesopotamia.lib.uchicago.edu/interactives/hammurabi.html](http://mesopotamia.lib.uchicago.edu/interactives/hammurabi.html) and answer the following questions in your own words:

1. Who made this stela?

2. What is written on this stela?

3. What was the purpose of this stela?

4. What’s happening in this scene?