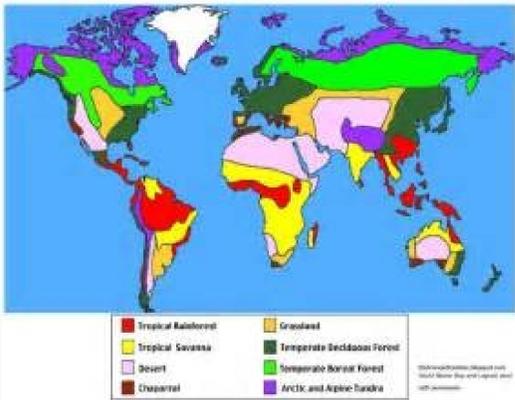


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**jacaranda PROJECT** 

# Ancient Mesopotamia

The world's first true civilization developed in an area known as Mesopotamia. The fertile heart of this region lay in the fertile floodplains between the mighty Euphrates and Tigris rivers. Traces of civilizations dating back to 7,000 BC have been found in the southern part of the region, while scattered remains of villages and agriculture (irrigated gardens) have been found to the north. This southern region was once called Sumer.

The Sumerians built the first cities, invented the wheel and used the world's first known form of writing called cuneiform. Their words were made from wedge-shaped symbols pressed into clay and thousands of written clay tablets have been found. Once the language was deciphered and translated, these tablets revealed a lot of information to historians about the region's laws, religion and understanding of astronomy, medicine and other subjects.

Mesopotamia was conquered by the Persian empire in 539 BC. About 200 years later it became part of the Macedonian empire when it was conquered by Alexander the Great. By AD 1500, it was part of the Turkish (Ottoman) empire. Today, most of what was once Mesopotamia lay within the country of Iraq.



- In what part of the country did the heart of ancient Mesopotamia lie? Suggest why this might have been the case.
- Compare the map above with a modern atlas of Iraq. Which modern Iraq towns or cities would have been under Sumerian rule? (Look at the ancient coastline).
- Use the map scale above to determine the approximate length of the Mesopotamian region.
- Suggest why the region of Sumer is sometimes referred to as the 'cradle of civilization'.
- What three different empires has the region that was once called Mesopotamia been a part of?



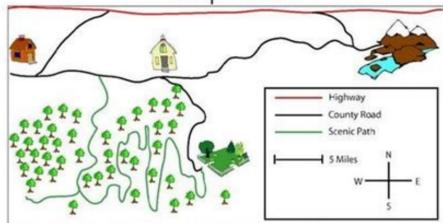
# Geography

## ME ON THE MAP

K-1 9 WEEKS SOCIAL STUDIES

Sarah  
ME  
City  
State  
Country  
Continent  
Planet

## Map Skills



1. If you take County Road from the house to the church, about how many miles would you travel to get there?

2. Which road gives you the shortest distance from the house to the park?

3. Which direction would you travel going from the house to the church?

4. What would be the fastest way to get from the house to the mountains?

5. About how many miles is it from the park to the mountains?

6. Which direction would you travel going from the mountains to the house?

7. According to this map, what is the only reason you would want to take the highway?

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The map legend is sometimes called the map key. You can find common foldable printed road maps and large road maps in bound atlas form. You might be in a major metro area and consult the subway map, as an alternative to taking a bus or car. Learning to read a map and navigate on land will help with directions on a road trip, hiking or orienteering. This value in highlighting spatial relationships is a key asset to a printed map legend. Types of Maps Legends There are many different types of maps, so the map legend varies according to the purpose of the map. One of the best things about Pinterest is that you can pin the ideas that you like best to a board to save for printing later. 50States.com This fun and comprehensive resource website has several options for printable maps. If you are holding a hiking map, you can gauge the distance between your start and your turnaround loop using a printed map. MORE FROM REFERENCE.COM Royal Castle Floor Plan FREE Learn the cardinal directions of North, South, West, and East with this fun direction-following activity. Lakeside Campground Map FREE Use the map of "Lakeside Campground" to answer the questions about the cardinal directions North, South, East, and West. As you travel around this neighborhood, tell which direction you're moving. Includes cardinal directions: North, West, South, and East. Students write exactly where they live, including continent, country, state, town, and street. This map of the USA shows major industries of mining, farming, lumber, oil, and fishing. Use the map to answer the questions. They're all free and easy to download, and you may even find yourself becoming addicted to all the incredible choices. Pinterest You may think of Pinterest as the place to go for home decorating ideas and recipes. There's practically an entire library of maps at your fingertips when you search on Wikimedia Commons. Resource Websites for Teachers There are a ton of websites that offer free resources for teachers and homeschool parents, and those sites have plenty of printable maps. MORE FROM QUESTIONSANSWERED.NET Maybe you're looking to explore the country and learn about it while you're planning for or dreaming about a trip. Second, a paper map doesn't require batteries so you don't have to worry that it won't work. Made with kindergartners and first graders in mind, this geography activity asks students to look at a simple map of a park and use the map key (or legend) to help them color and circle the requested items. Many are important to guide you along the way. Study the legend to understand details in the map. Titles All maps have titles. Otherwise, if you can't share them, you can have them for personal use. You have to watch the permissions for any of the maps you find if you're looking for maps to share. The nice thing is, you don't have to spend a ton of money on expensive maps. You'll find color maps and black and white maps. Check your map area, and then consult the map key for a clearer definition of the part of the map you're seeing. The map legend's purpose is also to show relationships between certain things. The map and its legend can highlight not only the distance but also the complexity or ease of your trip using a public subway. You'll also find blank state maps that you can download and print, as well as links to other sites where you can find free maps. Read these tips as a guide for map reading for beginners. Benefits What are the benefits to learning to read a paper map? It can be an important skill to master. From simple outline maps to detailed full-color maps to fun maps with special patterns or stylized lettering, you're likely to find multiple options for high quality printables. Color variations or contour lines depict the terrain for rivers, hills, valleys and high elevation. This information is printed on the road and topographical maps. Maybe you're a homeschool parent or you're just looking for a way to supplement what your kids are learning in school. The site even has several options of maps for every state and some territories. With cell phones and GPS trackers, it's almost a lost art. For a teacher or homeschool parent, you can even find maps that have no labels on them at all so that you can quiz your kids. On more specialized maps, the map legend will differ. If you're a meteorologist, you will consult weather maps and climate maps. A map legend shows colors, shapes, and symbols to define a certain characteristic of the map. Early maps were first started getting made on tablets made from clay, and later onto parchment paper and finally to printed maps and book atlases. Today, there are many types of maps and their corresponding legends. A dashed line usually maps out the borders and a solid line frames the map. A compass rose may be displayed to show where north, south, east and west are positioned. The map legend often also has a scale to help the map reader gauge distances. Map legends historically have been fixed elements on a printed map, but interactive digital maps often include dynamic map legends. What's on a Map Legend? You can find maps for coloring, as well options you probably never thought of. But the popular idea cataloging website offers loads of options for printable maps. Some of them offer loads of information, while others are perfect for testing students. A map legend will show colors and shapes for the political influences, such as parties, that are dominant in a particular state or region. While you're there, you can enjoy the tons of facts and quizzes about the states that you can find on the site. Note the title of the map as it defines what the map is navigating. On these resource sites, you can find maps that publishers and other teachers have geared specifically for different ages of children. Interstate and state highways will be laid out to help with directions navigating through the specified state. 50States.com is a great place to find printable maps, but it's also a great way to learn more about the country. Wikimedia Commons If you're looking for all kinds of maps that you can print and use at home, Wikimedia Commons has an astonishing array of maps of all kinds. CC0/Free-Photos/Pixabay Maps are a terrific way to learn about geography. The symbols could show a design for train tracks, symbols for gas stations, hospitals, restrooms, lodging and flags for schools. And third, you don't have to worry about lost signals in remote areas like cell phones and GPS trackers can do. Scale Understand the map's scale with ratios for distance. In fact, you can find plenty of free printable maps of the United States with different options that fit your needs. Using a Map Legend Map legends are often found in a top or bottom of a map, with a color or symbol and a description for what these colors and symbols mean. As an added bonus, this worksheet can also double as a coloring page! See in a Lesson Plan View answers Add to collection Assign digitally Common Core State Standards Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) Virginia Standards of Learning (SOL) Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) BC Performance Standards Alberta Program of Studies The Australian Curriculum (ACARA) The Victorian Curriculum (F-10) No standards associated with this content. Just go to the site and search "printable United States maps," and you'll come across hundreds of printable maps and even ideas for activities to go with the maps you've printed. State landmarks will have symbols to let you know where to find them. Grids Maps have grids with lines running vertically and horizontally representing longitude and latitude. On physical geographic area maps, the shapes and symbols likely show the location for towns and cities, rivers and lakes, government buildings, county borders, and highways. First, you'll never get lost if you can read a map like a pro. On a physical location map, you might find areas of lakes, rivers, and mountain ranges highlighted in the map legend for the type of map that's being used. In this social studies worksheet, students will be reading a map in no time. For example, on a map of a large building or complex, doors, windows, exits, stairwells, fences, property boundaries, and more will be highlighted in the map legend. Types of Printed Maps Since the dawn of man, mapmakers and cartographers have created maps for guidance by travelers. Having a voice direct you in your car via your mobile device is an innovation few of us could live without today. If you're looking to find maps for kids, these websites are some of your best bet. This is a survival skill that will be useful on trips, vacations and when exploring in nature. If you're using a map of the state of Wisconsin or a map of the state of Indiana, you'll have road maps for that individual state. However, printed maps and their legends can often guide us in ways our travels that small screens cannot. For instance, looking at a larger map can give travelers an idea of what's in the surrounding area, and not just on the direct route to the location. Use it as a visual reference to calculate your route. Legend or Key The legend or key is marked on the map. You can download and print maps with state names and capitals filled in, or you can print blank maps. On a political map, you will find areas of influence pertaining to a political party or individual politician. The scale indicates the ratio of inches to miles or centimeters to kilometers to help you judge the distance between your starting point and your ending point. Give these sites a try and see if you can find exactly what you're looking for. You can find blank maps, maps with bright colors, maps that highlight bodies of water - you name it, you can find it here. You can find simple geographical maps, historical maps, topographical maps and pretty much anything in between. There are reference maps, political maps, population maps, gender maps, and more. Benefits of Printed Maps Printed maps have lost general usage during the past 20 years, due to the rise of satellite-aided GPS on mobile devices. Here are some of the best places to find free printable U.S. maps: The National Map Website The United States Geological Survey (USGS) has a wonderful website with a wealth of high quality maps of the United States and North America. Some maps specify true north as the North Pole or magnetic north where the compass points to Canada. Once you've learned the basics of reading a map, you're no longer a beginner. MORE FROM QUESTIONSANSWERED.NET Geographical applications and skills Pexels A map legend is a side table or box on a map that shows the meaning of the symbols, shapes, and colors used on the map. It uses symbols to let you know what's ahead.

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