**Mesopotamia Vocabulary**

**Ancient Mesopotamia**: A region in and around the Tigris-Euphrates river system in

which some of the earliest civilizations formed.

**Fertile Crescent**: Land between the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers; the soil is rich in nutrients.

**Scribe:** A person in the community who wrote works on history, law, math and literature.

**Cuneiform**: The first system of writing invented by the Sumerians.

**Irrigation**: To use a network of ditches or canals to bring water to dry crops

**Ziggurat**: A large multi-level public building in the center of a city.

**City-State**: A self-governing central city and its surrounding villages.

**Hammurabi’s Code**: One of the earliest surviving sets of written laws; originated by the Babylonians.

**Polytheism**: The belief in many gods.

**Monotheism**: The belief in one god.

**Judaism**: The religion of the Hebrews; the oldest monotheistic religion

**Torah**: Grouping of five holy books which make up the Hebrew Bible.

**Ancient Egypt Vocabulary**

**Nile River**: A major river system in northeastern Africa; longest single river in the world

**Cataracts**: Rapids along a river.

**Delta**: Triangle-shaped area of land made from soil deposited by a river.

**Pharaoh**: Title of rulers from different periods of Ancient Egypt.

**Dynasty**: Sequence of rulers that typically come from the same family.

**Afterlife:** Life after death.

**Mummies**: Specially treated bodies wrapped in cloth.

**Pyramid**: Huge, stone tomb with four triangle shaped sides that meet in a point at the top.

**Sarcophagus**: Vessel for the permanent keeping of a mummy in Egypt.

**Ramses the Great**: Powerful Egyptian Pharaoh from the New Kingdom period.

**Papyrus**: Used to make paper in Ancient Egypt.

**Rosetta Stone**: A stone slab inscribed with hieroglyphics.

**Sphinx**: Imaginary creature with the body of a lion and the head of another animal or human.

**Hieroglyphics**: Writing system with both letters and symbols.

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