**Fertile Crescent Geography**

Entry#\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Complete the notes while reading Ch 5, Section 1 of the Eastern World textbook.

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| 1. Why would early people want to settle by a river? 2. **Crops grow well near rivers** 3. **Water is available** 4. **Regular floods made the soil rich** |
| 1. What region is Mesopotamia a part of? Where is this region?   **Fertile Crescent – it stretches from the Persian Gulf to the Mediterranean Sea in the Middle East** |
| 1. Explain the two parts of Mesopotamia.   **Northern Mesopotamia – is higher on a plateau with mountains on the north and east sides**  **Southern Mesopotamia – flat plain**  **The Tigris and Euphrates Rivers flow from the northern highlands to the southern plains and into the Persian Gulf** |
| 1. Why would the yearly flooding of the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers actually help people?   **The flooding brought silt – a mixture of rich, fertile soil and tiny rocks, which made the land ideal for farming** |
| 1. When was and how did the first settlements in Mesopotamia become a civilization?   **Settlements started as early as 7,000BC**  **The farm settlements grew wheat, barley, and other grains livestock, birds, and fish were also good sources of food plenty of food led to population growth and villages formed. Eventually the villages became civilizations.** |
| 1. How did farmers control the river’s waters in an arid region?   **Irrigation – they dug large storage basins to catch rainwater, then they dug canals from the storage basins to a network of ditches. The ditches brought water to the fields. They built up the river banks to hold back the floodwaters.** |
| 1. What is division of labor? How did people in Mesopotamia get to that point?   **Because farmers were more productive, people were free to do other jobs.** |
| 1. When did cities first start appearing in Mesopotamia?   **4000-3000 BCE** |
| 1. What did most people do in Mesopotamia and why were cities important?   **Most people farmed or were artisans (they made stuff).**  **Cities were important because of trading, provide the leaders with power bases and centers of culture, religion, and politics.** |