**The Rise of Sumer - KEY**

**SECTION 2: The Rise of Sumer**

*Directions: While reading “The Rise of Sumer” on pages 122-126, answer the questions below.*

1. Where and how did most Sumerians live?

***Farmers in the countryside***

1. What were city-states and how did they get along with each other?

***The basic political unit of Sumer consisting of a city and the land around it; often fought each other for farmland***

1. What is polytheism?

***The worship of many gods***

1. What powers did Sumerians believe their gods possessed?

***Power over harvests, floods, illness, health, and wealth***

1. What purpose did the wall around the city serve?

***Protected the city from attack***

1. Who made up the middle ranks of society in Sumer?

***Craftspeople, merchants, and traders***

**SECTION 3: Sumerian Achievements**

*Directions: While reading “Sumerian Achievements” on pages 127-131, complete the chart below.*

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| **Invention of Writing**   * Form of writing called cuneiform; used a stylus to write on clay tablets * Pictographs – pictures used to represent objects * Scribes (writers) were hired to keep written record of government meetings * Sumerians wrote stories, proverbs, songs, and even epics (poems about heroes) | |
| **Technical Inventions**   * Wheel: first wheeled cart & potter’s wheel * Plow to increase farm production * Clocks, sewers under the city, bronze tools & weapons, even jewelry | **Math & Science**   * Math system based on the number 60 * Measured area of triangles & rectangles * Science: long list of plants, animals, etc * Ingredients from animals, plants, and minerals to create healing drugs |
| **Architecture**   * Rulers and rich members of society lived in large houses * Most Sumerians lived in 1-story houses * Largest & most impressive buildings in societies were temples (ziggurats) | **The Arts**   * Statues of gods, clay pottery * Gold, silver, and gem jewelry * Cylinder seals: stone cylinders engraved with design * Enjoyed music: instruments and singing hymns |