**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.*

|  |
| --- |
| **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
 |