**The Rise of Sumer**

Complete the chart while reading Ch 5, S2 (p. 122-126) of the Eastern World textbook.

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| **Characteristics** | **Notes** |
| **Cities** | * Most Sumerians were farmers who lived in the countryside (rural) outside of the cities (urban) * Had city-states: cities with their own leaders/government with the countryside around it * City-states fought for farmland, resulting in strong armies and thick walls around cities * City-states gained and lost power over time |
| **Government** | * Sargon the Akkadian, took over Sumer in the 2300sBC, along with most of the Fertile Crescent and made the world’s first EMPIRE * First ruler to have a permanent army (professional soldiers) * Sargon was emperor over 50 years, his empire only lasted about 150 years, because hostile tribes conquered Akkad * Sumerians eventually rebuilt Ur and took over Mesopotamia |
| **Religion** | * Religion was very important to Sumerian society – basis of everything * Polytheistic – Enlil-air, Enki-wisdom, Inanna-love & war, Utu-sun, Nanna-moon * Each city-state had one god to be its special protector (Ur-Nanna the moon god) * Sumerians believed success in life depended on pleasing the gods, all had to serve and worship the gods * Priests were important, they “interpreted” what the gods wanted and gave offerings * Temples called **ziggurats** |
| **Society** | * Sumerians developed the first civilization by 3,000BC in Sumer, in Mesopotamia * Kings were at the top – claimed to be chosen by the gods * Second were priests * Next were skilled craftspeople, merchants, and traders – trade was important! * Next were farmers and laborers who made up the largest group * Slaves at the bottom * Men were the leaders, made laws, were educated, women stayed at home, had no rights * Upper class women were educated – Enheduanna was first female writer in history |