

Ancient Civilizations

Vocabulary

1. **A.D.**—*Anno Domini*; the period of history which begins with the birth of Christ
2. **Akkad**—Mesopotamian city-state; world's first empire
3. **ancient history**—first civilizations that wrote and kept records; 3500 B.C. to 476 A.D.
4. **Assyrian Empire**—ancient Mesopotamian empire
5. **Babylon**—ancient Mesopotamian empire
6. **B.C.**—the period of ancient history before the birth of Christ
7. **Canaan**—area where the first Hebrews lived
8. **city-state**—ancient area with its own government and culture
9. **civilization**—complex society that has language, religion, a division of labor, and a social hierarchy
10. **cuneiform**—first form of writing
11. **empire**—large area of city-states controlled by one ruler
12. **Fertile Crescent**—area between the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers where the first civilizations emerged
13. **Gilgamesh**—ancient Babylonian epic poem
14. **Hammurabi Code**—collection of ancient Babylonian laws
15. **Judaism**—the religion practiced by the Hebrews, who were the ancestors of Jewish people
16. **Kingdom of Israel**—second kingdom of Israelites established by king David
17. **Mesopotamia**—region in the Fertile Crescent where the first civilization began; means "the land between the two rivers"
18. **Monotheism**—belief in one god
19. **prehistory**—time before recorded history
20. **Sumer**—Mesopotamian city-state
21. **Torah**—sacred text of Judaism; first five books of the Bible
22. **ziggurat**—Mesopotamian pyramid-shaped structure used for religious ceremonies