

Answers

Art of the Fertile Crescent

Read p. 135-142 in *Art in Focus* and then answer the following questions.

1. Civilizations developed in a few great river valleys where deposits of rich soil produced abundant harvests.

2. What is the **Fertile Crescent**?

A river valley that extended about 170 miles north of the Persian Gulf between the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers.

3. What is **Mesopotamia**?

It is the eastern part of the Fertile Crescent.

4. Sometime before 4500 B.C., a people from the east known as Sumerians abandoned their wandering, tent-dwelling lifestyle to settle in Mesopotamia.

5. True or false: Sumerian temples served as centers of both spiritual and community life.

6. Why are the Sumerians considered to be a highly gifted and creative people?

- tilled the soil
- built houses
- constructed levees to control the floodwaters
- drained marshes
- dug irrigation canals
- invented wheeled transportation + the potter's wheel

7. a) What is a **ziggurat**?

It is a stepped mountain made of brick-covered earth.

b) What does it symbolize?

It symbolized the space or connection between earthly worshippers and their heavenly gods.

8. Examine figure 6.10 (Bull-headed Lyre Soundbox). What does it reveal?

It reveals that the Sumerians created music and musical instruments. It also testifies to the skill of early Sumerian artists.