



**Stone slab
describing a
sale
(receipt)**

Ancient Mesopotamia

Geography of the Fertile Crescent

Rise of Civilization

- Early peoples almost always settled near water
 - Crops would grow well
 - Animals lived along water
- Hunter-gatherers settled in Mesopotamia around 12,000 years ago
 - Mesopotamia – the land between the rivers
 - Tigris River
 - Euphrates River



Rise of Civilization

- The rivers flooded every year and brought silt
 - Silt - A mixture of fertile soil and tiny rocks; great for farming
- Eventually, with the help of agriculture, the population of Mesopotamia grew
 - Domesticated animals/plants
 - Created a surplus/trading
 - Developed government
 - Built villages/cities



Farming

- The floods that brought the silt also caused major problems
 - Destroyed crops
 - Killed livestock
 - Washed away homes
- Mesopotamians learned how to control water
 - Irrigation – A way of supplying water to land
 - Canals - Human-made waterways



Food Surpluses



- Because they could control water, the Mesopotamians created a surplus

- Surplus
- Division of Labor
- Trade
- Government
- Cities



- Soon, Mesopotamians were building the first cities in the world

Geography of the Fertile Crescent

- The Mesopotamians built almost all of their cities in the Fertile Crescent
 - Fertile Crescent - A large crescent of fertile farmland that extends from the Persian Gulf to the Mediterranean Sea

