

Name _____

Date _____

The Fertile Crescent

Read each question and circle the correct answer.

1. The fertile crescent got its name because

- A. it's in an arid valley in the Middle East.
- B. it's a land of rich soil that's ideal for agriculture.
- C. it's home to a wide range of animals
- D. it was one of the earliest civilizations.

2. Hammurabi's Code is a famous system of laws because it

- A. is thought to be one of the earliest written sets of laws.
- B. led directly to the development of democracy.
- C. had such lenient punishments, which allowed for personal freedom.
- D. was considered unfair, causing people to rebel in the world's first insurrection.

3. The Tigris and Euphrates are

- A. ancient civilizations from Mesopotamia.
- B. ancient structures used as temples.
- C. rivers that were important to ancient civilizations in Mesopotamia.
- D. two economic levels in the Sumerian class-based society.

4. Gilgamesh may be the world's most famous Sumerian leader because he

- A. had his adventures written in long poems.
- B. inherited Sargon's empire and made it even larger.
- C. conquered vast territories in the Middle East.
- D. ruled for hundreds of years.

5. Which of these people was said to have built the Hanging Gardens of Babylon?

- A. Hammurabi
- B. Sargon the Great
- C. Nebuchadnezzar
- D. King Saul

6. The Hebrews were unlike other cultures at the time because they

- A. lived in the most fertile area and therefore had the most food.
- B. could travel farther and faster than other people.
- C. were unwilling to trade with other cultures.
- D. believed in a single god.

7. Sumerian farmers built canals to

- A. make it easier to travel and trade with other peoples.
- B. prevent rivers from flooding and move water where they needed it.
- C. relieve pressure on the dikes and levees that were holding back the sea.
- D. encourage the formation of government and cooperation among peoples.

8. What was a city-state?

- A. a city that had its own ruler and government much like states today
- B. a city that was part of a much larger state or nation
- C. a city that was part of a huge empire ruled by a single king or queen
- D. an urban area within a large kingdom or empire

9. The Sumerians mainly used cuneiform to

- A. write decrees and challenges to other kingdoms.
- B. keep track of taxes and government issues.
- C. write the world's first dramas and comedies.
- D. create complex drawings and love poems.

10. The first gold coins were issued by

- A. the Hebrews.
- B. the Greeks.
- C. the Lydians.
- D. the Sumerians.