**Vocabulary for Mesopotamian Society and Innovations**

Polytheism- the belief that there are many gods

Deity- another word for a god; describe the gods in polytheistic religions.

Ziggurat- an ancient Mesopotamian temple tower with outside staircases and a shrine at the top

Artisan- a craftsperson

Patriarchal- describes societies, tribes, clans, families, or other groups ruled by a man who is known as a patriarch.

Empire- a large territory in which several groups of people are ruled by a single leader or government

Babylon- one of Earth’s great ancient cities, thrived for about 1,500 years. Babylon was located in the deserts of ancient Mesopotamia on the banks of the Euphrates River.

Cuneiform- writing that uses wedge-shaped characters

Hammurabi’s Code- was based on ancient Sumerian laws and was once thought to be the oldest set of laws in human history. He used these codes to unify his empire and to preserve order. He claimed that the gods had told him to create laws that applied to everyone in the empire.

Hammurabi- Hammurabi was the ruler of the first dynasty of Babylon, from about 1792 to 1750 BCE. He is the most famous ruler of that dynasty mainly because of the laws he set down.

Code of law- a collection of written laws and rules

Siege- a military blockade and attack on a city to force it to surrender