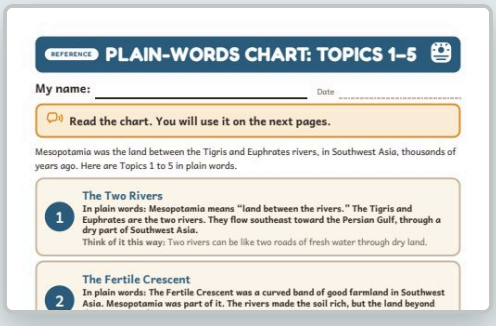
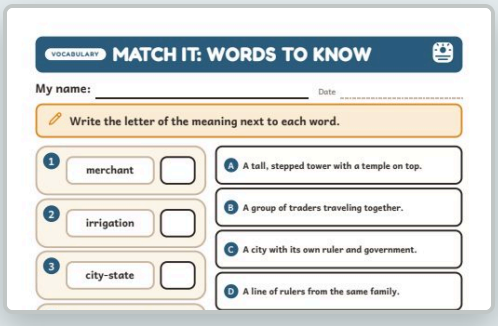
6TH–8TH · SOCIAL STUDIES

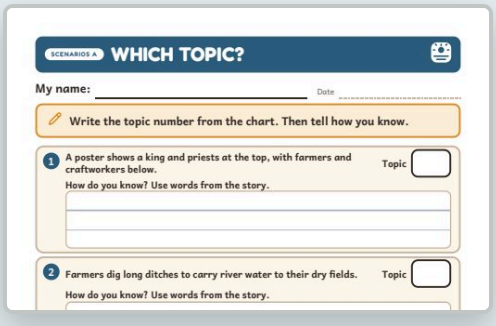
TOPICS 1-10

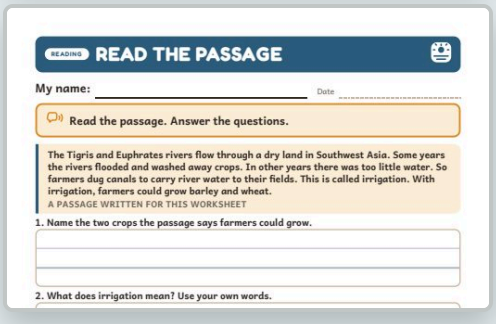
ANCIENT MESOPOTAMIA WORKSHEETS

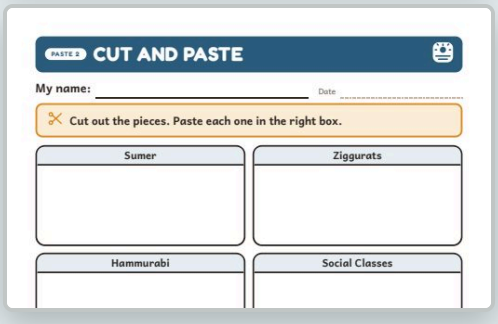
A plain-words chart, vocabulary match, scenarios, a social pyramid to fill in, a reading passage, a case study, writing organizers and cut-and-paste sorts. Keys, a tracker and a family page. Print, or type the answers. PDF.

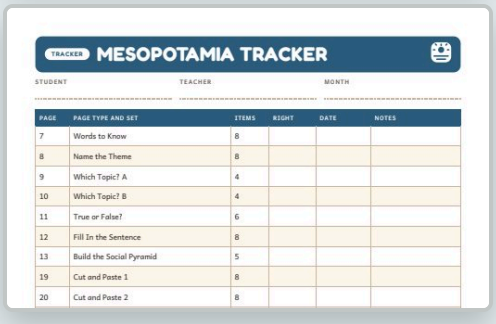












33 Pages | **13 Page Types** | **64 Items** | **16 Scenarios**

BRIGHT PATH SPED

START HERE

QUICK START

1 Start with the two charts

Pages 5 and 6 put ten topics about Mesopotamia in plain words, with a way to picture each. Read them aloud together and keep them on the desk; most pages ask the student to look something up.

2 Hand over a page

Every student page opens with a name line and one short instruction, with room to write. Nothing on it is written for an adult. The chooser below says which page for which job.

3 Check, then record

Answer keys are on pages 22 to 24. Record scores on the tracker (page 25) and the open-response pages by what you see, using the look-fors on page 24.

WHICH PAGE FOR WHICH JOB

WHEN YOU WANT TO...	USE	PAGES
Introduce the unit	Plain-Words Chart, Match It	5, 6, 7
Check what they remember	Name the Theme, True or False, Fill In, Social Pyramid	8, 11, 12, 13
Apply it to real situations	Which Topic?, Case Study	9, 10, 15
Read and write	Read the Passage, Explain It, Build a Paragraph, Snapshot	14, 16, 17, 18
A hands-on sort	Cut and Paste, three mats	19, 20, 21
Record and report	Tracker, class grid, team note, family page	25, 26, 27, 28

Everything inside (33 pages)

- **17 student pages** in 13 page types, 64 scored items
- **16 scenarios** to sort by topic or theme, plus an invented case study
- **21 cut-and-paste pieces** on 3 mats, one a timeline
- **3 answer keys**, a tracker, a class grid, a team note, a family page
- A filled example, a phrase bank, a binder cover and divider tabs

Your standards, your words

These are textbook-level summaries for classroom use, with no exact dates. Every scenario, passage and the case study are invented. Write the standard or the district's wording you want students to see on the line on the tracker (page 25).

REFERENCE

PLAIN-WORDS CHART: TOPICS 1–5

My name: _____ Date .....

Read the chart. You will use it on the next pages.

Mesopotamia was the land between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers, in Southwest Asia, thousands of years ago. Here are Topics 1 to 5 in plain words.

1 The Two Rivers

In plain words: Mesopotamia means "land between the rivers." The Tigris and Euphrates are the two rivers. They flow southeast toward the Persian Gulf, through a dry part of Southwest Asia.

Think of it this way: Two rivers can be like two roads of fresh water through dry land.

2 The Fertile Crescent

In plain words: The Fertile Crescent was a curved band of good farmland in Southwest Asia. Mesopotamia was part of it. The rivers made the soil rich, but the land beyond the rivers was dry.

Think of it this way: A green strip of garden beside a dry, bare yard.

3 Floods and Irrigation

In plain words: Little rain fell in much of the region, and the rivers sometimes flooded in spring and washed away fields. Farmers dug canals and ditches to carry river water to their fields. This is called irrigation.

Think of it this way: A garden hose carries water to plants that the rain misses.

4 Sumer and City-States

In plain words: Sumer was in southern Mesopotamia. Its cities, such as Ur and Uruk, each had their own ruler and government. A city and the land around it is called a city-state.

Think of it this way: Imagine a small country made of one city and its farms.

5 Ziggurats

In plain words: A ziggurat was a tall, stepped tower in a Sumerian city, with a temple at the top. It stood at the center of the city, and priests took care of the temple.

Think of it this way: Think of a staircase-shaped tower that you can see from far away.

VOCABULARY

MATCH IT: WORDS TO KNOW

My name: _____ Date .....

Write the letter of the meaning next to each word.

1	merchant	
2	irrigation	
3	city-state	
4	ziggurat	
5	tablet	
6	Sumer	
7	scribe	
8	cuneiform	

A. A tall, stepped tower with a temple on top.

B. A group of traders traveling together.

C. A city with its own ruler and government.

D. A line of rulers from the same family.

E. A flat piece of clay used for writing.

F. A person trained to read, write and keep records.

G. Wedge-shaped writing pressed into clay.

H. The southern part of Mesopotamia.

I. Moving water to dry fields so crops grow.

J. A person who buys and sells goods.

Two of the meanings are not used.

SCENARIOS A

WHICH TOPIC?

My name: _____ Date .....

Write the topic number from the chart. Then tell how you know.

1 A poster shows a king and priests at the top, with farmers and craftworkers below. **Topic** ☐

How do you know? Use words from the story.

2 Farmers dig long ditches to carry river water to their dry fields. **Topic** ☐

How do you know? Use words from the story.

3 A student presses a reed into wet clay to make wedge-shaped marks. **Topic** ☐

How do you know? Use words from the story.

4 A king has his laws carved on a tall stone pillar for all to see. **Topic** ☐

How do you know? Use words from the story.

READING

READ THE PASSAGE

My name: _____ Date .....

Read the passage. Answer the questions.

The Tigris and Euphrates rivers flow through a dry land in Southwest Asia. Some years the rivers flooded and washed away crops. In other years there was too little water. So farmers dug canals to carry river water to their fields. This is called irrigation. With irrigation, farmers could grow barley and wheat.

A PASSAGE WRITTEN FOR THIS WORKSHEET

1. Name the two crops the passage says farmers could grow.

2. What does irrigation mean? Use your own words.

Mesopotamia means "land between the rivers." Villages grew into city-states such as Ur and Uruk. In the center of each city stood a tall, stepped temple tower called a ziggurat. Scribes pressed wedge-shaped marks into wet clay. We call this writing cuneiform.

A PASSAGE WRITTEN FOR THIS WORKSHEET

3. Fill in the two missing words from the passage.

A tall, stepped temple tower was a _____

Wedge-shaped writing is called _____

4. Why would living near the rivers help a village? Use a clue from the passages.

PASTE 2

CUT AND PASTE

My name: _____ Date .....

Cut out the pieces. Paste each one in the right box.

Sumer	Ziggurats

Hammurabi	Social Classes

Cut on the dashed lines.

King of Babylon	King and priests at the top	Cities such as Ur and Uruk	Tall, stepped temple tower
Priests cared for the temple	His code listed crimes and punishments	Each city had its own ruler	Enslaved people at the bottom

TRACKER

MESOPOTAMIA TRACKER

STUDENT _____ TEACHER _____ MONTH _____

PAGE	PAGE TYPE AND SET	ITEMS	RIGHT	DATE	NOTES
7	Words to Know	8			
8	Name the Theme	8			
9	Which Topic? A	4			
10	Which Topic? B	4			
11	True or False?	6			
12	Fill In the Sentence	8			
13	Build the Social Pyramid	5			
19	Cut and Paste 1	8			
20	Cut and Paste 2	8			
21	Cut and Paste 3	5			

PAGE	OPEN-RESPONSE PAGE	DATE DONE	WHAT I SAW
14	Read the Passage		
15	Case Study		
16	Explain It		
17	Build a Paragraph		
18	Topic Snapshot		

How to fill this in

Write how many items the student got right with no prompt, and the date. A blank means not tried yet, never wrong. There are 64 items on the 10 scored pages. The charts (pages 5 and 6) are not scored. Answer keys: pages 22 to 24. Filled example: page 29.

THIS MONTH WE ARE WORKING ON (YOUR OWN STANDARD OR WORDING)

EXAMPLE DANA'S TRACKER

Dana K. is invented; nothing on this page describes a real student. The blank tracker is on page 25.

STUDENT **Dana K. (an invented student)**

TEACHER **Mr. Reyes (invented)**

MONTH **October**

PAGE	PAGE TYPE AND SET	ITEMS	RIGHT	DATE	NOTES
7	Words to Know	8	7	10/1	Mixed up two meanings
8	Name the Theme	8	8	10/2	–
9	Which Topic? A	4	3	10/6	Needed a prompt on one item
10	Which Topic? B	4	4	10/7	–
11	True or False?	6	5	10/8	Missed one false sentence
12	Fill In the Sentence	8	7	10/9	Needed a prompt on one item
13	Build the Social Pyramid	5	4	10/10	Swapped two steps
19	Cut and Paste 1	8	8	10/3	–
20	Cut and Paste 2	8	–	–	–
21	Cut and Paste 3	5	–	–	–

How to read it

Dana K. has done **8 of 10** scored pages and got **46 of 51** items right with no prompt. **3** pages were all right and **5** carry a note. Every number here comes from the table above.

The family note this tracker would produce

"This month Dana finished 8 pages and got 46 of 51 items right. Dana is solid on Name the Theme and the cut-and-paste sort; the next thing to practice is saying which words in a story point to a topic." — every number in it is a row of the table above.

What the table points to

5 pages carry a note and each is short of full. The pages left blank (2 of them) are not tried yet, never wrong.

THANK YOU FOR USING THIS RESOURCE

Everything here was built for the teacher who has a table of students who each need a different amount of support learning and explaining what they learn. If this helped, leaving feedback on TPT helps other teachers find it.

Everything inside, one more time

- **17 student pages** in 13 page types, 64 scored items, every answer computed in code from the lists on the page.
- **21 cut-and-paste pieces** on 3 mats, **3 answer keys**.
- **1 tracker, 1 class grid, 1 team note, 1 family page, 1 filled example, 1 phrase bank** (17 starters), **1 binder cover** and divider tabs.

How this file avoids guessing

Wherever a student picks among printed spots — the lettered meanings, the box of words, the order of the pieces on the cut strip — the position of the right answer is checked in code so it never sits in the same spot three times in a row.

No real student anywhere in this file

The filled example on page 29 names "Dana K.," an invented student used only to show how the tracker fills in. Every scenario and the case study are invented, and nothing here is legal advice. Once you fill in a real student's name, the tracker, class grid and team note (pages 25, 26 and 27) do carry real information — keep completed pages secure the same way you would any other record.

Something missing or wrong?

Please use the **Ask a Question** tab on the product page first — every question is read, and a fix to the file is a free update you re-download from **My Purchases**.

WHAT'S NEXT FROM THIS STORE

For the same students: transition and career readiness, plus a K-2 community set.



Student Transition Career Readiness Portfolio
A career readiness portfolio for students in transition.



Transition and Life Skills Data Sheets Bundle
Vocational, career and daily-living data sheets.



Community Helpers Worksheets K-2
Match, who am I, and a cut-and-paste sort for K-2.

Part of the Bright Path Sped collection — new products are added regularly. Click **Follow** on the store page and TPT will email you when new products go up.

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