Agricultural Revolution
Mesopotamia Review
Mesopotamia was located in the Middle East.
Mesopotamia was located in what is now the country of Iraq.
• People began to domesticate or tame animals.
  - these animals provided meat, milk, wool
• Because farmers had to stay close to their fields, they built permanent homes in villages
• The ability to farm became known as The Agricultural Revolution
What types of plants were domesticated in the Fertile Crescent?

- Barley and Wheat
- Lentils
- Muskmelon (now developed into cantaloupe, honeydew, etc)
- Chickpeas (garbanzo beans)
The **domestication** of plants and animals dramatically changed the way humans interacted with their environment.

Now, instead of merely living within their environment, humans were *managing* it.

**Domesticated** animals and plants now depend on humans for their survival.
• **Surplus** led to a larger population and specialization of labor  

• **The Five Characteristics of a Civilization:**  
  – Government  
  – Surplus  
  – Specialization of Labor  
  – Social Levels  
  – Culture
• Mesopotamia is the land between two rivers
• The Tigris and Euphrates Rivers gave life to Mesopotamia
• When the rivers flooded, they dug canals to irrigate the fields
• City-States had their own governments
  – The King was also the head priest
• Each city-state had a ziggurat, a grand temple to honor their most important god
  – Believed in more than 3,000 gods
  • Polytheism
• Mesopotamian writing is called cuneiform
• Scribes wrote on clay tablets
  – They mostly wrote trade receipts
• The Sumerian epic, Gilgamesh, is the oldest known written story
• The Sumerians invented
  – the wheel
  – the sailboat
  – the plow
  – number system based on 60
• Sargon conquered all the city-states of Mesopotamia and created the first empire
• Hammurabi was the king of Babylon
  – he created the Babylonian Empire
• The Code of Hammurabi was a collection of 282 laws
  – It was based upon social levels
    • it promised “An eye for an eye—a tooth for a tooth”
  – it influenced later civilizations