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| Artisan | A worker **skilled** in a craft. |
| Astronomer | Person who studies **stars**, **planets**, and other heavenly bodies. |
| Babylon | The chief city of ancient Mesopotamia and the **capitol** of the Babylonia kingdom. |
| Caravan | A group of **traders** traveling together. |
| City-state | A **city** and its surrounding lands that act as a **government**. |
| Civilization | **Complex society** with cities, organized government, art, religion, class divisions, and a writing system. |
| Cuneiform | Mesopotamia **writing** system.  Groups of wedges and lines used to write several languages of the Fertile Crescent. **Oldest** known form of writing. |
| Empire | A group of countries under a single authority. |
| Epic | A long narrative **poem** telling of a hero's deeds. |
| Fertile Crescent | An arc of rich **farmland** in Southwest Asia, between the Persian Gulf and the Mediterranean Sea. |
| Gilgamesh | A legendary Sumerian king who was the hero of an **epic** collection of mythic stories. |
| Hammurabi | Babylonian king who codified the **laws** of Sumer and Mesopotamia (died 1750 BC). |
| Hammurabi's Code | A set of **laws** put together by Babylon’s most powerful king. |
| Hanging Gardens of Babylon | Built by king **Nebuchadnezzar**, a huge jungle tower. It is one of the seven wonders of the world. |
| Irrigation | A way of **supplying water** to an area of land. |
| Merchants | People who **buy and sell** goods. |
| Nebuchadnezzar | A Babylonian king who conquered Jerusalem, and built the Hanging Gardens of Babylon. |
| Nineveh | The major city of Assyria, and known for its **library**. |
| River Valley | The **fertile** land surrounding a **river**. |
| Sargon | Built history's **first empire** by conquering all the Sumerian cities. |
| Scribe | A person who **writes**. |
| Sumerians | Created the wheel; **earliest** civilization. |
| Tigris and Euphrates River | Two **rivers** on either side of **Mesopotamia** flowing southeastward to the Persian Gulf. |
| Ziggurat | A huge mud-brick **temple** built by the ancient Sumerians. |