

Mesopotamia

-Successful early river civilization

Location

Between the **Tigris** and **Euphrates** rivers

People

-Sumerians

-Sumerians were **polytheistic**, believed in many gods

Contributions/Inventions

-The wheel

-Sailboats

-the 60-minute hour and 60-second minute

-Cuniform

-Helped keep track of tax and payments

-Recorded history

Government

As civilizations expanded, Sumerians formed **city-states**

-**Ziggurats** were built inside city-states as places of religious worship, a place for government offices, and storage space

Eventually **city-states were conquered and turned into Empires

-they were weak from fighting

-they were not unified

-they were constant fights for power among the city-states

Laws

-Code of Hammurabi

-punishments were made to "fit the crime"

Egypt

Location

-Nile River

-Cataracts, or waterfalls/rapids in the Nile River made travel very difficult

-Ancient Egyptian farmers used **Shadoofs** to transfer water from the river to storage bins

Inventions/Contributions/Culture

-Hieroglyphics-Writing system that used symbols to represent sounds

-Believed in embalming the body of deceased pharaohs to prepare for the afterlife

Government

Theocracy-political leader was also the religious leader

-Leaders were called Pharaohs

-Pharaoh's were believed to be "god's from Earth"

Egyptian empires were more successful than city-states because they were more **unified