Mesopotamia

Chapter 2- Section #1

* ***The Land Between Two Rivers:***
* The region where the Tigris and Euphrates rivers flow is called Mesopotamia. It is called Iraq today.
* The Tigris and Euphrates Rivers provide Mesopotamia with water and travel.
* The rivers flooded the land, depositing silt which was fertile and good for farming.
* The climate was arid with little rain.
* ***Controlling Water by Irrigation:***
* Yearly floods along the Tigris and Euphrates were unpredictable. The people didn’t know when they would come or how heavy the flooding would be.
* During times of drought, the rivers would drop making it difficult to water their crops.
* Farmers gained control by building levees to hold back the excess water and making irrigation systems to bring water to the fields.
* ***A Land of a Few Resources:***
* Mesopotamia lacked conventional building materials, so they used their natural resources of reed and mud.
* Due to the lack of natural barriers like mountains, they protected themselves from invasion by building brick walls around the towns.
* Mesopotamia traded to get the resources and luxury goods they lacked from people in southwest Asia.