**Information about Mesopotamia, Part One:**

Ancient Mesopotamia is included in a part of the world that was called "the fertile crescent".  Civilizations arose here because it was easy to grow food here.  With the relative ease of food production, people settled down in place, population grew, and towns and cities were built.

The Fertile Crescent includes the modern day countries of Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Palestine, and others.

Ancient Mesopotamia was located in what is now southern Iraq.  It was between two rivers, the Tigris and Euphrates.  In fact, the word Mesopotamia is Greek meaning "the land between the rivers".

In Mesopotamia, the land is very fertile.  In the Northern part of Mesopotamia, there are rivers and streams that are fed from the mountains.  In addition, there is a rainy season that helps water the soil.  While the southern region is much hotter and dryer, the two large rivers the Tigris and the Euphrates, allow irrigation.  The land between the rivers was filled with wildlife and edible vegetation making it an attractive area for early man to move in to.  Once they figured out how to grow crops there, civilization soon followed.

Source:

http://mesopotamia.mrdonn.org/geography.html

**Information about Mesopotamia, Part Two**

“Mesopotamia” is a Greek word meaning, “Land between the Rivers”. The region is a vast, dry plain through which two great rivers, the Euphrates and Tigris, flow. These rivers rise in mountain ranges to the north before flowing through Mesopotamia to the sea. As they approach the sea, the land becomes marshy, with lagoons, mud flats, and reed banks. Today, the rivers unite before they empty into the Persian Gulf, but in ancient times the sea came much further inland, and they flowed into it as two separate streams.

The land has too little rainfall to grow many crops on. As a result, much of it has been – and is still – home to herders of sheep and goat. These nomads move from the river pastures in the summer to the desert fringes in the winter, which get some rain at this time of year. At various times they have had a large impact on Mesopotamian history.

Near the rivers themselves, the soil is extremely fertile. It is made up of rich mud brought down by the rivers from the mountains, and deposited over a wide area during the spring floods. When watered by means of irrigation channels, it makes some of the best farmland in the world.

The marshy land near the sea also makes very productive farmland, once it had been drained. Here, the diet is enriched by the plentiful supply of fish to gain from the lagoons and ponds.

It is this geography that gave rise to the earliest civilization in world history. Agriculture is only possible in the dry climate of Mesopotamia by means of irrigation. With irrigation, however, farming is very productive indeed. A dense population grew up here along the Tigris and Euphrates and their branches in the centuries after 5000 BC. By 3500 BC, cities had appeared. The surplus food grown in this fertile landscape enabled the farming societies to feed a class of people who did not need to devote their lives to agriculture. These were the craftsmen, priests, scribes, administrators, rulers and soldiers who made civilization possible.
Source: https://www.timemaps.com/civilizations/ancient-mesopotamia/