Section 1 Vocabulary

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| Fertile Crescent | Large arc of rich, fertile farmland |
| Silt | Mixture of rich soil and tiny rocks |
| Irrigation | A way of supplying water to an area of land |
| Canals | Human-made waterways |
| Surplus | More than what is needed |
| Division of Labor | An arrangement where each worker specializes in a particular task or job |

Section 2 Vocabulary

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| Rural | Countryside |
| Urban | City |
| City-State | A city and all the countryside around it |
| Gilgamesh | A king of Uruk, and a legendary figure in Sumerian literature |
| Sargon | The first Sumerian ruler to have a permanent army; he established the world’s first empire |
| Empire | Land with different territories or people under a single ruler.  |
| Polytheism | The worship of many gods (poly = many) |
| Priests | People who performed religious ceremonies |
| Social Hierarchy  | The division of society by rank or class |

Section 3 Vocabulary

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| Cuneiform | The world’s first system of writing |
| Pictographs | Picture symbols |
| Scribe | A Writer |
| Epics | Long poems that tell stories of heroes |
| Architecture | The science of building |
| Ziggurat | A pyramid-shaped temple tower |

Section 4 Vocabulary

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| Monarch | A ruler of a kingdom or empire |
| Hammurabi’s Code | A set of 282 laws that dealt with almost every part of daily life. |
| Chariot | A wheeled, horse-drawn cart used in battle.  |
| Nebuchadnezzar | The most famous Chaldean king who rebuilt Babylon |
| Alphabet | A set of letters that can be combined to form words |