Chapter 2 The Rise of Civilization: The Art of the Ancient Near East

Multiple Choice Select the response that best answers the question or completes the statement.

1. The change in the nature of daily life, from hunter and gatherer to farmer and herder, first occurred in ______________.
   a. Mesopotamia   c. Africa
   b. Europe       d. Asia

2. Mesopotamia is known as the __________ ___________.
   a. River Crescent   c. Fertile Crescent
   b. Delta Crescent   d. Pearl Crescent

3. The ___________ ruled the northern Mesopotamian empire during the ninth through seventh centuries BCE.
   a. Sumerians    c. Akkadians
   b. Assyrians    d. Sasanians

4. What site did Leonard Woolley excavate in the 1920s in southern Mesopotamia?
   a. Royal Cemetery at Giza  c. Royal Palace at Nineveh
   b. Ziggurat of Ur          d. Royal Cemetery at Ur

5. The ___________ are credited with developing the first known writing system.
   a. Assyrians   c. Sumerians
   b. Babylonians d. Elamites

6. The most famous Sumerian work of literature is the _____________________.
   a. Illiad              c. Odyssey
   b. Tale of Gilgamesh   d. Tale of Urnanshe

7. In Sumerian cities the ________ formed the nucleus of the city.
   a. temple   c. palace
   b. market   d. treasury

8. The temples of Sumer were placed on high platforms or ___________.
   a. pyramids   c. daises
   b. ziggurats  d. towers

9. What is the theme of the Stele of the Vultures?
   a. warfare   c. trade
   b. prayer    d. royal contract
10. The earliest known name of an author is _____________.
a. Nanna b. Enheduanna
c. Sargon d. Gudea

11. Hammurabi is most famous for his _____________.
a. oratory b. palaces
c. law code d. diplomacy

12. What is bitumen?
a. asphaltlike substance b. plantlike substance
c. marblelike substance d. alabasterlike substance

13. Around 1595 BCE Babylon was conquered and sacked by the _________.
a. Akkadians b. Sumerians
c. Assyrians d. Hittites

14. The Assyrian __________, a winged, man-headed bull, served to ward off the
king’s enemies.
a. stylus b. lamassu
c. stele d. lyre

15. The most important source of knowledge about Persian architecture is the palace
at ___________.
a. Ctesiphon b. Babylon
c. Bishapur d. Persepolis

16. Cyrus of Persia, founder of the Achaemenid dynasty, captured ________ in the
sixth century B.C.
a. Persepolis b. Bishapur
c. Ctesiphon d. Babylon

17. Alexander the Great’s general Seleucus founded his dynasty in which of the
following areas:
a. Persia b. Assyria
c. Babylon d. Sumer

18. In the third century CE, the Sasanians rose to power to challenge the power of
___________.
a. Athens b. Persepolis
c. Rome d. Egypt

19. Shapur I erected a great palace at ________, the capital of the Sasanian empire.
a. Persepolis b. Bishapur
c. Ctesiphon d. Babylon
20. Shapur I captured the Roman emperor ________ near Edessa (in modern Turkey).
   a. Julius Caesar       c. Caesar Augustus
   b. Constantine        d. Valerian

Slide Questions

A. Ziggurat, Ur (Figure 2-15)
   21. What is the period?
   22. What is the construction material?
   23. How does this work conform to the period?

B. Reconstruction, Dur Sharrukin (Khorsabad) (Figure 2-20)
   24. How does this citadel reflect the image that the Assyrians wanted to project?

C. Figure 2-22
   25. What is this?
   26. Why is this work significant?
   27. How does this image express power?
   28. What is the medium?

D. Warka Vase (Figure 2-5)
   29. How does this work express the Sumerian design?
   30. How does this work reflect Sumerian society?
   31. How does the work express Sumerian religious thought?
   32. What is the medium?

E. Victory Stele of Naram-Sin (Figure 2-13)
   33. Why is this work significant?
   34. What stylistic innovations are present in this work that distinguish it from earlier Mesopotamian art?
   35. What is the medium?

Short Answer

36. Briefly describe the nature of daily life in Mesopotamia (Fertile Crescent).
37. Briefly describe the palace at Ctesiphon.
38. Define *pictograph*.
39. Describe the White Temple, Uruk (modern Warka).
40. Define votive offering.
41. What is hierarchy of scale?
42. Who was Enheduanna?
43. Summarize the law code of Hammurabi.
44. Who was Gudea?
45. What is a cylinder seal?
ANSWERS

Multiple Choice
1. A page 31  11. C page 43
2. C page 31  12. A page 42
5. C page 32  15. D page 48
7. A page 33  17. A page 49
8. B page 33  18. C page 49

Slide Questions
A.  21. Sumer Third Dynasty of Ur. **Page 41**
    22. Baked brick, laid in bitumen for the facing of the entire monument. **Page 42**
    23. It reiterates the importance of religion in this society; this is one of the largest ziggurats constructed at this time. **Page 41**

B.  24. It expresses the might of the Assyrians and Sargon II. The strong defensive walls show the nature of the times, a period of almost constant warfare. The palace has a basic symmetry, however it does ramble across the landscape. It is a grand expression of the power and might of the Assyrians in general and Sargon II in particular. **Page 45**

C.  25. Probably an episode from the campaigns of Ashurnasirpal, as he drove his enemies into the Euphrates River; a battle sequence. **Page 46**
    26. It is narrative detail that is distinct and unequaled in the Ancient Near East. Only Rome would create as complete narration as the ancient Assyrians, and this relief highlights the strength of the army and their prowess in battle. **Page 46**
    27. It tells the story in as complete detail as possible, it is vivid and legible, and all who saw this could understand easily the content. It is a reflection of the power of Ashurnasirpal and his victory. **Page 47**
    28. (painted) Gypsum relief. **Page 46**

D.  29. The innovative presentation of the three tiers (bands or registers) will have a long history in the visual vocabulary. The artist has presented the figures conceptually consistent with previous renderings, the stately procession of men with offerings conforms to Sumerian design. **Page 35**
    30. It presents a view of a deeply committed people, expressing thanks to
31. It presents a view of the profoundly held religious views of the people, as they are gathering to present to the goddess offerings in thanks for her generous assistance in increasing crops and herds. **Page 35**

32. Alabaster. **Page 34**

E. 33. The king is presented in the horned helmet of the god, signifying his divinity, a complete change from earlier traditions. This presentation gives the king the divine power. He is invincible; the gods are not primary in his victory, and he is completely responsible for the conquest of the Lullubi. **Page 40**

34. The artist created an innovative composition by setting the scene in a landscape and by placing the figures within this landscape, instead of organizing the figures in horizontal registers. **Page 41**

35. Pink sandstone. **Page 40**

**Short Answer**

36. Humankind first learned to use the wheel and the plow, how to control floods, and construct irrigation canals. **Page 31**

37. The central feature is a great *iwan* or monumental audience hall covered by a barrel vault; the façade is divided into a series of horizontal bands of blind arcades that are expressly decorative. **Page 50**

38. Simplified pictures standing for words. **Page 32**

39. It was oriented to the four cardinal points of the compass, did not accommodate large throngs of worshippers, and had several chambers. The central hall was set aside for the deity and housed a stepped altar. **Page 33**

40. A gift of gratitude to the deity usually made in fulfillment of a vow. **Page 35**

41. An artistic convention in which the height of the individual depicted indicates the level of that individual’s importance. **Page 35**

42. Enheduanna was the daughter of King Sargon, a priestess of the moon god Nanna at Ur, and a poet who wrote hymns to the goddess Inanna. Her name is the earliest recorded of any author in history. **Page 41**

43. A comprehensive law that prescribed penalties from adultery to murder to cutting a neighbor’s trees. **Page 43**

44. Powerful ruler of Lagash, an extremely devout individual, as well as prosperous and proud, he commissioned numerous statues of himself petitioning and thanking the gods for their generosity to him and Lagash. **Page 42**

45. A prized possession indicating status and rank, it was used to identify ownership and prevent unlawful openings of containers or storage. **Page 39**