

## Activity Sheet

### Part A. Build Vocabulary

**Key Terms** Write a key term in each blank to help complete the paragraph.

**civilization:** an advanced form of culture

**Sumer:** a region in southern Mesopotamia in which the first civilization arose

**city-state:** a community that included a city and its nearby farmlands

**ziggurat:** a temple, the largest and most important structure in a Sumerian city

**polytheism:** a belief in many gods and goddesses

**king:** the highest leader of a group of people

The people of (1) \_\_\_\_\_ believed in four main gods. This belief, called (2) \_\_\_\_\_, meant that priests had a great deal of power in Sumer until the time when a (3) \_\_\_\_\_ became a ruler. People paid priests for their services at a (4) \_\_\_\_\_, a huge structure in Sumerian cities. The early (5) \_\_\_\_\_ of Sumer contained many political forms of the (6) \_\_\_\_\_, where large numbers of people lived close to their farmland.

### Part B. Cooperative Work

Work with your classmates to determine the answers to the questions.

Life in Sumerian City-States	
1. Who were the Sumerians? Who were their leaders?	
2. What are the traits of civilization? What kind of religion was practiced in Sumer?	
3. When did Sumer arise? When did Sumer become a kingdom?	
4. Why did people create cities and a civilization? Why were priests so important in Sumerian city-states? Why did Sumerians find a need to create a writing system?	
5. How were Sumerian city-states arranged?	