**River Valley Civilizations**

**Anthropology— the study of culture**

**Culture— The way a group of people live. (Religion, language)**

**Archeology — the study of early people through the examination of their physical remains.**

**Artifact -- object made by human beings. (Studied by archeologists)**

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| **Civilization/**  **location** | **Economic conditions** | **Social conditions** | **Political conditions** |
| **Sumerian**  **Civilization**  **3000 BCE**  **Mesopotamia-**  **Land between two rivers**  **Fertile Crescent**  **Tigris and Euphrates Rivers**  **Iraq --today** | **Mostly agricultural (farming)**  **Also traded with the use of the invention of the wheel.** | **Ziggurat—**  **Used for civic (city-state)**  **Pride and to honor the god or goddess of the city-state**  **Epic of Gilgamesh—**  **Search for immortality**  **Flood story**  **Creation of cuneiform**  **Writing system on clay with a special pen, stylus.**  **Pictograms used by scribes to keep records** | **Theocracy—government leaders were also religious leaders.**  **Kings had divine power** |
| **Babylonia--Mesopotamia** | **Agriculture** | **Patriarchal (family headed by the father)**  **But women were protected in some case by the Code of Hammurabi**  **Mesopotamian floods**  **were NOT PREDICTABLE**  **Made life more difficult.** | **Hammurabi gains control of Sumer.**  **Law code of 282 laws**  **Strict code of justice “eye for an eye”** |
| **Egypt**  **Nile River Valley** |  |  |  |
| **Indus River Valley**  **India** |  |  |  |
| **Yellow River Valley**  **China** |  |  |  |