Lesson 1: The Fertile Crescent

Directions: Read the passage. Write the main idea and the details in the boxes.

Around the year 3500 B.C., one of the first civilizations began in a region known today as the Fertile Crescent. The center part of the Fertile Crescent is a land known as Mesopotamia.

Mesopotamia lies between two rivers, the Tigris and Euphrates. In fact, the word Mesopotamia means “the land between the rivers.” These rivers played an important role in the civilization that developed there.

The people who lived in Mesopotamia had to overcome many obstacles in order to survive. The climate in this part of the world did not make farming easy. During the extremely hot summers, the land was very dry. During the rainy season, the rivers flooded the land. Natural resources were limited to little more than water and soil. There were few trees to provide wood for construction and other uses.

Fortunately, the people were good problem solvers. They designed an irrigation system that brought water from the rivers to their fields. This system allowed them to grow crops such as straw. By mixing the straw with mud, they were able to make bricks for building shelters.

Notes for Home: Your child learned about one of the first civilizations.

Home Activity: Ask your child to identify the main idea and details of a favorite story or book. You may wish to make a chart similar to the one shown in this lesson and complete it together.