

LM 1.11 Try Your Hand at Mapping

NAME _____

DATE _____

1. Study the Map

Study the map of Mesopotamia. Note the size of the region, the important features, and their location. For example, how far away is the Caspian Sea from the Black Sea? How does the width of the Caspian Sea compare with the width of the Black Sea? What are the key features of the shape of the Persian Gulf?

2. Plan Your Map

Determine a starting point for your map. Think about what should be in the centre of the map and what should appear in the four corners of the page. Use most of the sheet of paper to sketch your map.

3. Practise Your Map

Practise sketching a freehand map of Mesopotamia while looking at the map on the overhead projector. Your sketches should include the following geographic features:

- Red Sea
- Caspian Sea
- Black Sea
- Mediterranean Sea
- Persian Gulf
- Tigris River
- Euphrates River
- Taurus Mountains
- Zagros Mountains
- Arabian Desert
- Fertile Crescent

NOTE: The Fertile Crescent runs from the Taurus Mountains in the north to the Arabian Desert in the south and from the Eastern Mediterranean to the Zagros Mountains. Ancient Mesopotamia is in the Fertile Crescent, but the Crescent is bigger than Mesopotamia. It includes such modern countries as Syria, Lebanon, Cyprus, Jordan, Israel, and Kuwait.

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LM 1.11 Try Your Hand at Mapping *Continued*

4. Create Your Final Product

After practising with a few sketches, begin to create your final map lightly using a pencil so that you can erase and make corrections. When you are satisfied with your pencil sketch, apply colours to your map. Use heavier lines and darker shading for more important features and similar symbols and patterns for similar features. Label the geographic features, using larger text for more important features and smaller text for less important ones. Be sure your labels are clearly written and correctly spelled. When you have finished, submit your map to your teacher for evaluation. Your work will be evaluated based on the criteria below.

5. Review the Assessment Criteria

Your teacher will use the following criteria to assess your map. Review this information before you complete this activity.

CRITERIA	LEVEL 1	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 3	LEVEL 4
<i>Knowledge/Understanding</i> <i>Accurate proportions and relative locations have been identified and duplicated</i>	Limited accuracy in proportions and relative locations of a few features	Satisfactory accuracy in proportions and relative locations of some features	Good accuracy in proportions and relative locations of most features	Skilled accuracy in proportions and relative locations of all features
<i>Communication</i> <i>Mapping conventions followed, with accurate labelling</i>	Developing mapping skills, but with many labels spelled incorrectly	Adequate mapping skills, with some labels spelled incorrectly	Effective mapping skills, with most labels spelled correctly	Exceptional mapping skills, with all labels spelled correctly