Assessment: Ancient Sumer

**Mastering the Content**
Select the letter next to the best answer.

1. A society has a stable food supply if
   - A. it gives food to the king.
   - B. it has enough food for its people. **CORRECT**
   - C. it buys food from other groups.
   - D. it gets food by hunting and fishing.

2. The Sumerian civilization had a social structure with different social levels and jobs. A social structure is
   - A. the way a civilization is organized. **CORRECT**
   - B. how many taxes a king collects from slaves.
   - C. the way scribes record social events.
   - D. how the government treats the lower classes.

3. Which of these ancient Sumerians most likely lived in a two-story house near the center of the city?
   - A. a skilled metalworker
   - B. a fisherman
   - C. a government official **CORRECT**
   - D. a merchant

4. Small, mud-brick houses at the edge of the city were the homes of
   - A. slaves.
   - B. traders.
   - C. potters.
   - D. farmers. **CORRECT**

5. Which one of these inventions most affected the food supply in Sumer?
   - A. the arch
   - B. the plow **CORRECT**
   - C. the wheel
   - D. the chariot

6. Who had these responsibilities?

   **To Do List**
   - [ ] Lead the army.
   - [ ] Enforce the laws.
   - [ ] Have temples built.
   - A. the king **CORRECT**
   - B. the priests
   - C. the scribes
   - D. the council
7. Which Sumerian belief about the king helped strengthen the social order?
   A. He was supported by the gods. CORRECT
   B. He cared most about the poor.
   C. He consulted with wise advisers.
   D. He wanted everyone to be happy.

8. Why were scribes important in Sumerian government?
   A. to entertain the rulers
   B. to write down the laws CORRECT
   C. to collect people’s taxes
   D. to teach the royal children

9. The building in the picture was most closely related to which of these features of Sumerian civilization?
   A. food
   B. writing
   C. religion CORRECT
   D. government

10. Which evidence shows that the Sumerians lived after the Stone Age?
   A. brick houses
   B. wooden plows
   C. copper jewelry CORRECT
   D. painted pottery

11. What was the main use of the items listed here?
    - Drums
    - Pipes
    - Lyres
    A. warfare
    B. irrigation
    C. construction
    D. entertainment CORRECT

12. Which invention made it possible for Sumerian armies to use chariots?
    A. wheels CORRECT
    B. swords
    C. sledges
    D. horseshoes
13. Which invention added strength and beauty to Sumerian buildings?
   A. glass  
   B. paints  
   C. arches CORRECT  
   D. concrete

14. What evidence found by archaeologists shows that Sumerians were not prehistoric?
   A. ziggurats  
   B. city walls  
   C. stone statues  
   D. written records CORRECT

15. This image shows cuneiform, the written language of the Sumerians. What did Sumerians use to produce cuneiform?
   A. poles pulled by oxen  
   B. a wedge-shaped stylus CORRECT  
   C. a net woven from reeds  
   D. feathers from large birds

16. Records of the goods people exchanged were made on
   A. metal coins.  
   B. clay tablets. CORRECT  
   C. animal hides.  
   D. flattened reeds.
Applying Social Studies Skills

Look at the three scenes below from the Standard of Ur. They show wealthy people at a banquet, workers bringing fish and animals to the banquet, and armies in battle.

Also, remember the seven characteristics of a civilization:
• stable food supply • arts
• social structure • technology
• government • written language
• religion

Use the scenes, the list, and your knowledge of history to answer the questions in the space provided.

17. Which of the seven characteristics of civilization does this image show? Explain your answer.

ANSWER: Possible answers: arts (musician playing lyre); social structure (wealthy people banqueting); or stable food supply (enough food for a banquet)
18. Which of the seven characteristics of civilization does this image show? Explain your answer.

ANSWER: Possible answers: social structure (workers bringing food for others to eat); stable food supply (fish, meat)

19. Which of the seven characteristics of civilization does this image show? Explain your answer.

ANSWER: Possible answers: technology (wheel on the chariot, possibly metal weapons); government (kings led armies, city-states fought each other)
Exploring the Essential Question: Why do historians classify ancient Sumer as a civilization?

Follow the directions to complete the item below.

20. Historians call Sumer one of the world’s first civilizations. Support this argument. Near each line extending from one of the seven outer circles in this diagram, write one sentence giving specific information—such as a description or an example—about that characteristic in Sumer.

**ANSWER:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Student completes accurate, specific sentences for all seven characteristics. Sentences are clearly stated, provide relevant details, and demonstrate command of standard English conventions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Student responds to most or all parts of the task, but sentences may lack details or not be clearly stated.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Student responds to at least one part of the task. Sentences may lack details or not be clearly stated.</td>
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