Sumerian City-States

**Directions:** In this activity you will be taking on the role of ancient Mesopotamians to experience the changes that occurred in this period. Changes that were a result of a series of problems that people faced and solved. As Mesopotamians, your group will work together to solve four key problems to better understand the changes that occurred.

**Read the description of each problem before listening to the audios and looking at the transparencies.**

**Problem A:** Pretend you are Neolithic farm families sitting around the dinner table, your stomachs are growling, and it has just been announced that dinner has been canceled. Listen to the recording, and then review the details of the problem as described on the transparency.

Examine the image closely and use the information to discuss the four options listed. Choose the option you think will best solve the food shortage problem and prepare to **justify your choice with 2 reasons.**

When finished **read section 4.3 and complete reading notes** in your interactive notebooks for that section.

**Problem B:** Pretend you are standing ankle deep in water and staring out at flooded fields that will die because of all the excess water.

Discuss the critical thinking question on transparency 4B. Plan and create your water control system on white paper. Be prepared to explain how it works.

When finished **read section 4.4 and complete reading notes** in your interactive notebooks for that section.

**Problem C:** While listening to the audio, pretend you are standing in an irrigation canal, holding shovels under the hot sun.

Examine the image closely and use the information to discuss the four options listed. Choose the option you think will best solve the food shortage problem and prepare to **justify your choice with 2 reasons.**

When finished **read section 4.5** **and complete reading notes** in your interactive notebooks for that section.

**Problem D:** While listening to the audio, **pretend you are holding a sword or spear and looking out the windows of your homes.**

Discuss the critical thinking question on transparency 4D. Plan and create your defense plan. Be prepared to explain how it works.

When finished **read section 4.6 and complete reading notes** in your interactive notebooks for that section.