

King Tut's tomb contained four rooms. Within the rooms was the Great Throne, which was a beautiful wood-carved throne that was covered with gold. Other very valuable statues and chests were also found. This discovery of Tut's tomb gave the world an idea as to just how much wealth of the Egyptians was buried with the pharaohs.

The Egyptians also learned the secret of **mummification**, or the method for preserving dead bodies. Today's scientists still are not sure exactly how the Egyptians mummified dead bodies. When the tombs of the pharaohs were found and opened up, the scientists throughout the world were startled to find the bodies of the pharaohs wrapped in cloth. Beneath the cloth, the scientists found that the mummies still had skin on their bodies.

Complete Worksheet #4.

FROM MESOPOTAMIA TO IRAQ

The Mesopotamians

The **Mesopotamians** (**mess-u-pO-tA-mE-unz**) were a group of people that formed an important civilization along the **Tigris** (**tI-gris**) and **Euphrates** (**U-frA-tEz**) **Rivers**. This land between these two rivers formed the Fertile Crescent. This area between the rivers is now part of the country called **Iraq** (**i-rak**).

In ancient times Mesopotamian civilizations were ruled by different groups of people from the Middle East. Some of these early people were called **Sumerians** (**soo-majr-E-unz**), **Babylonians** (**ba-b-IOn-E-unz**), and **Assyrians** (**u-sear-E-unz**). These invaders from all over the Middle East each made

contributions to the development of the Mesopotamian civilization.

The Greeks and the Romans, who were Europeans, also controlled this area. Like many parts of the Middle East, Russia, and even parts of Europe, Mesopotamia was conquered by the **Mongols**. These fierce fighters from central Asia were among the most cruel conquerors. Then the Ottoman Turks from Turkey grew in importance and spread their power and influence throughout the Middle East. As this once great Ottoman empire began to decline, European powers had grown very strong.

Iraq Becomes a Nation

By the 1920s a large section of Mesopotamia became **Iraq**. Iraq was more or less controlled by the English. Despite the strong influence of the English, Iraq had its own kings. But just as Egypt overthrew its kings, Iraq also overthrew its **monarchs**, or kings. It was the army generals who had the most power in many of the Middle Eastern countries. Overthrowing the kings was only possible because of the power of the generals who had the support of the army.

The first military dictator of Iraq was **Kassim** (**k-sim**). Military dictators take over complete control of a country. The people of Iraq were really no better off under the military dictators, or generals, than they were under the kings.

In 1969 one of the worst of the military dictators became the president of Iraq. This man, **Saddam** (**s-dom**) **Hussein** (**who-sAn**) still ruled in the early 1990s. Although