**Notes to take: Students are to copy down the definitions below using their own words. Notes that are not in the students own words will not be accepted. Students do not need to copy the context sections.**

***Vocabulary***

**city-state**

*Definition****:*** A self-governing state consisting of a city and surrounding territory

*Context****:*** Nippur was the most important city-state in Sumer.

**cuneiform**

*Definition****:*** The system of writing used by the ancient Sumerians

*Context*: Cuneiform writing looks more like symbols than pictures.

**epic**

*Definition****:*** A long poem telling the deeds of a hero and often centering on the ideals of a nation or culture

*Context:* The Epic of Gilgamesh teaches us to enjoy the time we have on Earth.

**immortality**

*Definition****:*** The quality or state of having an endless life

*Context*: Gilgamesh was unable to achieve immortality, but he was able to leave behind a legacy through the work he had done during his lifetime.

**Mesopotamia**

*Definition****:*** An ancient land located where we find the modern country of Iraq

*Context****:*** Mesopotamia means, “land between the rivers” and got its name because it was located between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers.

**Nippur**

*Definition:* A major city-state in the ancient Sumerian region of Mesopotamia

*Context:* Nippur was a busy trading center in Sumer and its most important religious city.

**scribe**

*Definition****:*** A person paid to write, especially in ancient times

*Context:* Mesopotamian scribes worked closely with the priests and kings.

**stylus**

*Definition****:*** A hard, pointed writing tool cut from a reed

*Context:* Sumerian scribe wrote with styluses they made from reeds.

**Sumerians**

*Definition****:*** Residents of Sumer, a region of the ancient land of Mesopotamia

*Context:* The Sumerians developed many inventions, such as the wheel and the plow.

**tablet**

*Definition****:*** A flat slab – often of clay or stone – suitable for an inscription

*Context*: The Sumerians etched symbols into wet clay tablets to create a permanent document of their activities.