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**Lesson 4: The Rise of Sumerian City-States**

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| **city-state** | an early city that was like a small, independent country with its own laws and government |
| **Euphrates River** | one of the two largest rivers in Southwest Asia that flow from the mountains in Turkey to the Persian Gulf |
| **irrigation** | a means of supplying land with water |
| **levee** | a wall of earth built to prevent a river from flooding its banks |
| **Mesopotamia** | in ancient times, the geographic area located between the Tigris River and Euphrates River |
| **silt** | fine particles of rock |
| **Sumer** | an area in southern Mesopotamia, where cities first appeared |
| **Tigris River** | one of the two largest rivers in Southwest Asia that flow from the mountains in Turkey to the Persian Gulf |