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Review Questions

•Why did people create the earliest cities? Note that several of the reasons that are

usually given are disputed. Which of the reasons seems to be most convincing to you? Why?

•Why did Sumer become the site of the first cities? Why did the Nile and Indus valleys become the next two sites?

•What is the connection between the creation of the first cities and the creation of the first states?

•What was the importance of writing to the creation of the first cities? Please consider all the uses of writing in your answer. Later we will encounter cities that had no writing. What do you think that they will lack in comparison to the cities of the fertile crescent that did have it?

•When ancient cities were defeated in warfare, lamentations were often composed over

their loss. What was the nature of the losses that were lamented?

•In what ways are our modern cities like the ancient cities of Sumer? In what ways are they different?