

Word Families

noun	agriculture	People settled in Mesopotamia because it was a good area for agriculture.
adjective	agricultural	Wheat was one of the first agricultural products.
adverb	agriculturally	Mesopotamia was an agriculturally important part of the world.

noun	creator	The ancient Maya were the creators of temples and other beautiful structures.
noun	creation	The ancient Sumerians used clay and reeds for the creation of property records.
verb	create	The ancient Sumerians created tokens out of clay.
adjective	creative	Ancient peoples developed creative ways to record information.
adverb	creatively	Ancient peoples recorded information creatively, using materials such as clay.

noun	excavation	Early clay tablets and clay tokens have been found in excavations in Mesopotamia.
noun	excavator	Excavators found a clay tablet that dates from the time of the ancient Sumerians.
verb	excavate	When archeologists ¹ excavated the area, they found some ancient oracle bones.

¹BrE: archaeologists

noun	literacy	Literacy was not considered necessary before modern times.
noun	illiteracy	Illiteracy is a problem throughout the modern world.
adjective	literate	Few people were literate in the ancient world.
adjective	illiterate	An illiterate person cannot read or write.

noun	mythology	Mythology was very important in ancient civilizations.
noun	myth	Today we read the myths that were told in ancient times.
adjective	mythological	The Maya included mythological creatures in their writing system.

noun	specialty	That scholar's specialty is ancient Mayan culture.
noun	specialization	With the growth of agriculture, people developed specializations.
verb	specialize	Some scholars specialize in ancient studies.
adjective	specialized	Specialized skills are needed to identify ancient objects found in excavations.

Word Family Practice

Choose the correct word family member from the list below to complete each blank.

1..... working at ancient sites uncover objects that give us clues about life in the past. Household objects and tools that were used for 2..... can tell us a lot about how people lived long ago. Ancient people used a variety of materials to make the objects they used in daily life. Tools that were carved from wood, stone, and bone, and jars that were 3..... from clay are some examples of objects that have been found. Some of these objects are quite beautiful, and it is clear that they were made by people with 4..... skills. In ancient times, most people were not 5..... . However, traditional stories were an important part of ancient civilizations, and people told the 6..... of their culture to their children and grandchildren.

1. excavations	excavators	excavates
2. agriculture	agricultural	agriculturally
3. creation	creators	created
4. specialty	specializes	specialized
5. literacy	illiterate	literate
6. mythology	myths	mythological