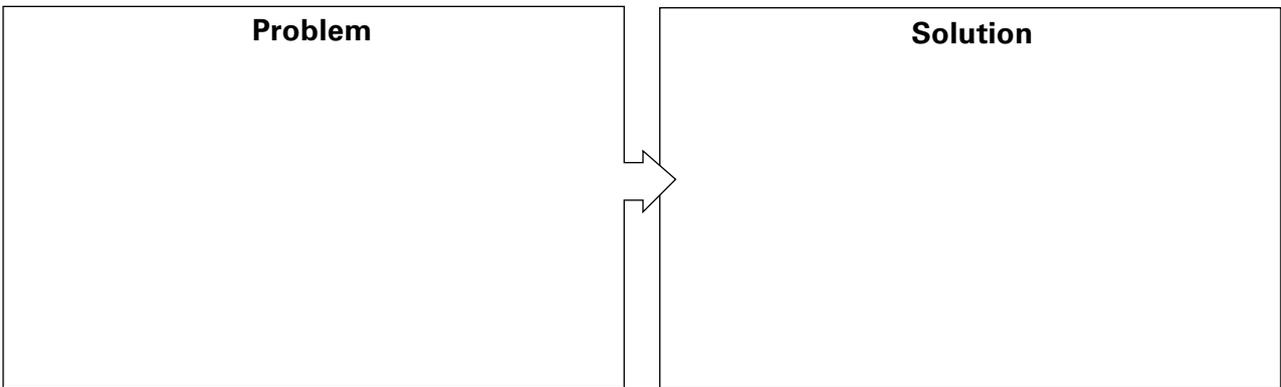


The Rise of Sumerian City-States

How did geographic challenges lead to the rise of city-states in Mesopotamia?

P R E V I E W

Think of a recent problem or challenge that you faced, and what you did to solve it. In the “Problem” box in the flowchart below, draw a simple illustration of the problem or challenge. Also in that box, write a one-sentence summary of the problem. In the “Solution” box, draw a simple illustration to show how you solved the problem. Also write one sentence describing the solution.



R E A D I N G N O T E S

Key Content Terms

As you complete the Reading Notes, use these terms in your answers.

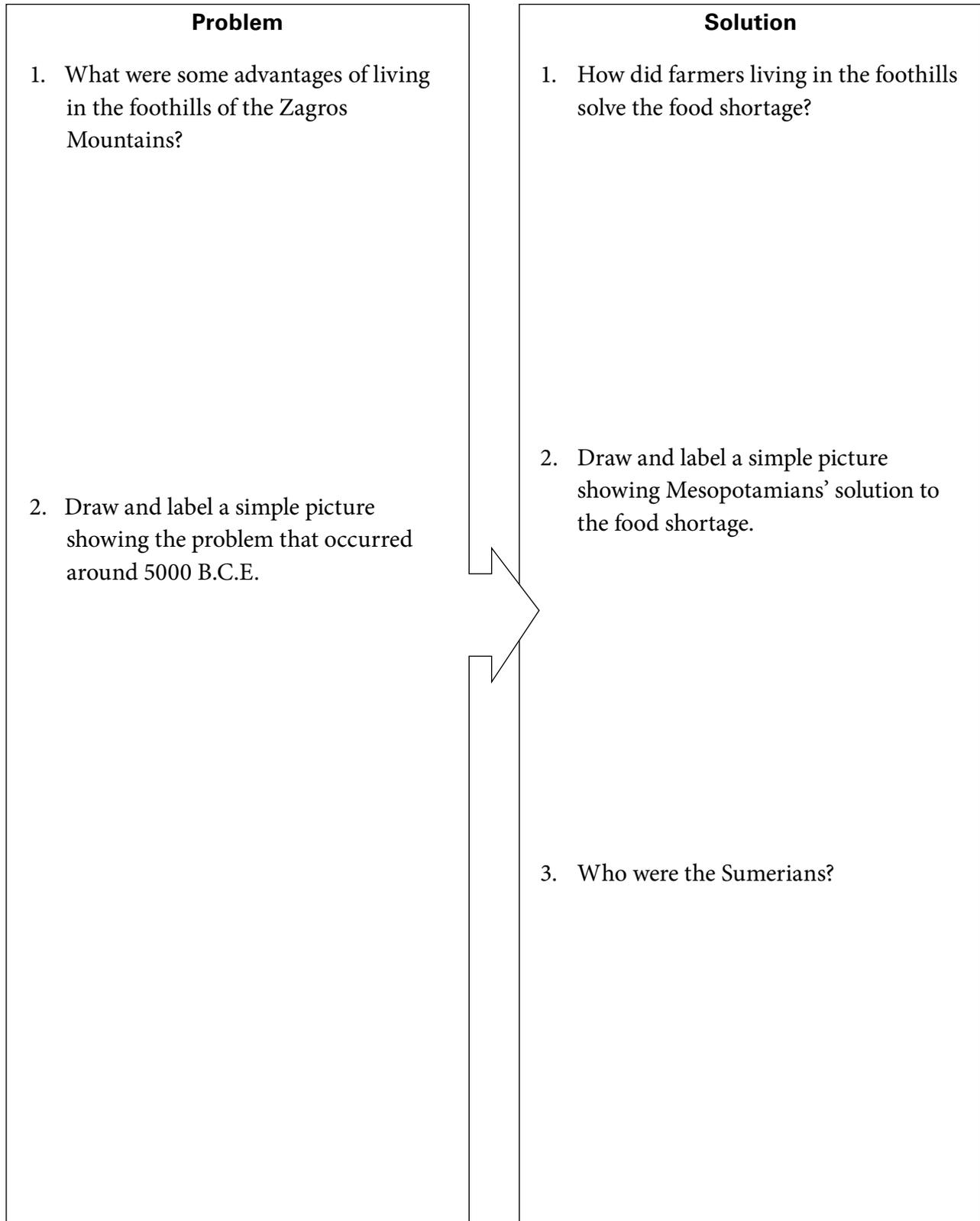
- | | | | |
|--------------|-----------------|------------|------------|
| Mesopotamia | Euphrates River | irrigation | silt |
| Tigris River | Sumer | levee | city-state |

Section 2

List five words or phrases that characterize the geography of Mesopotamia. Circle the one characteristic that might pose the biggest challenge to people living there. In a complete sentence, explain why you chose this characteristic.

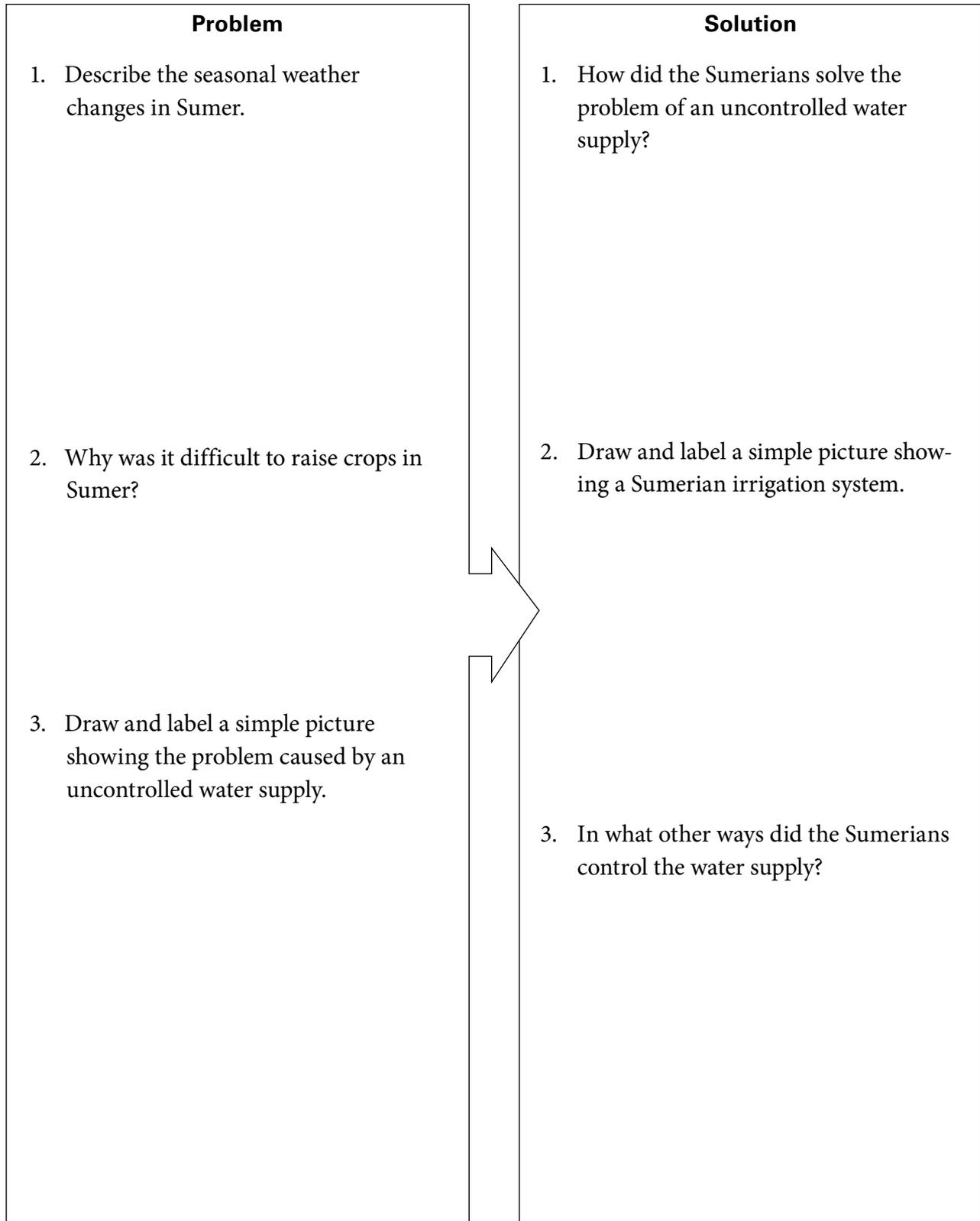
Section 3

Use complete sentences to answer the questions in the flowchart.



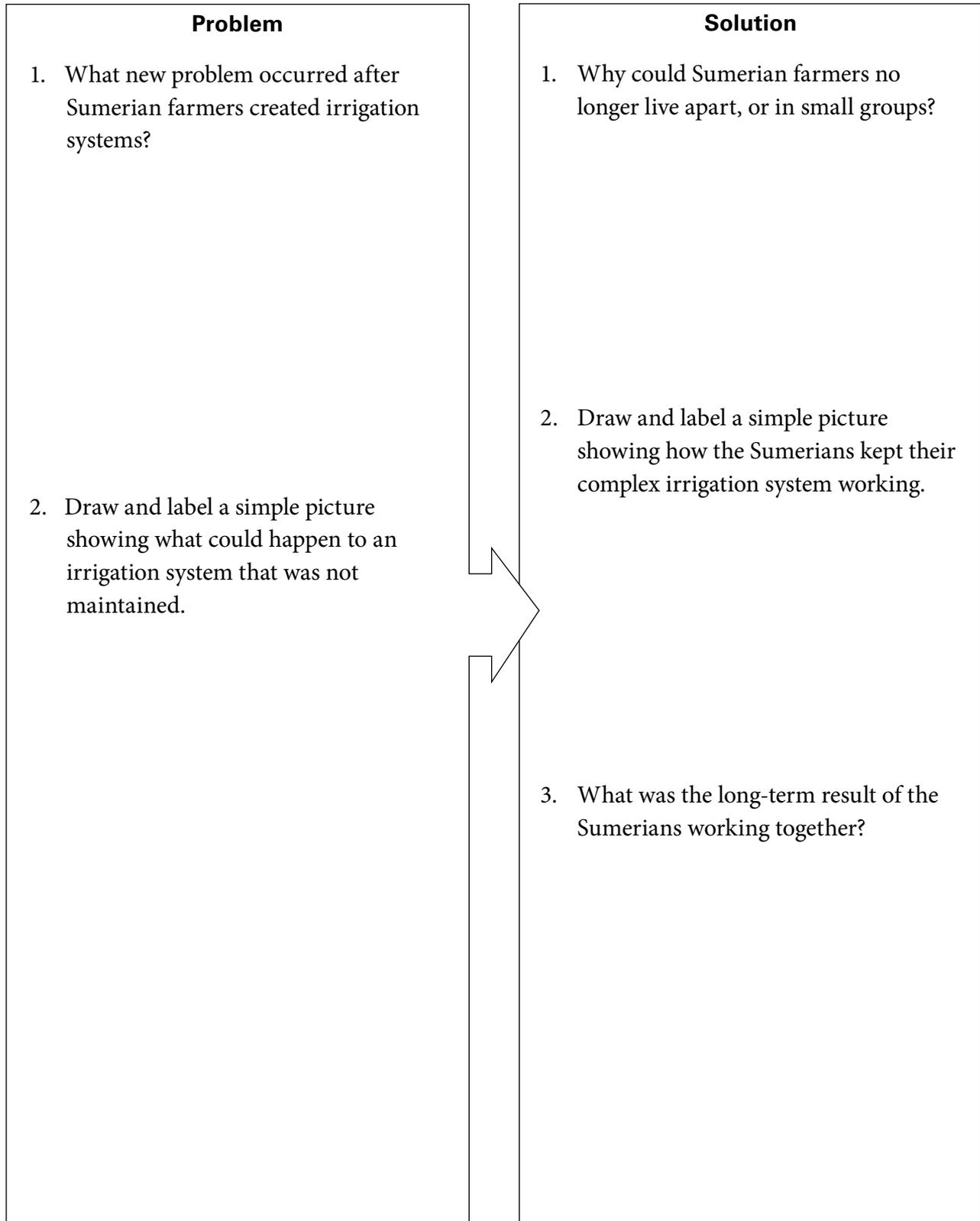
Section 4

Use complete sentences to answer the questions in the flowchart.



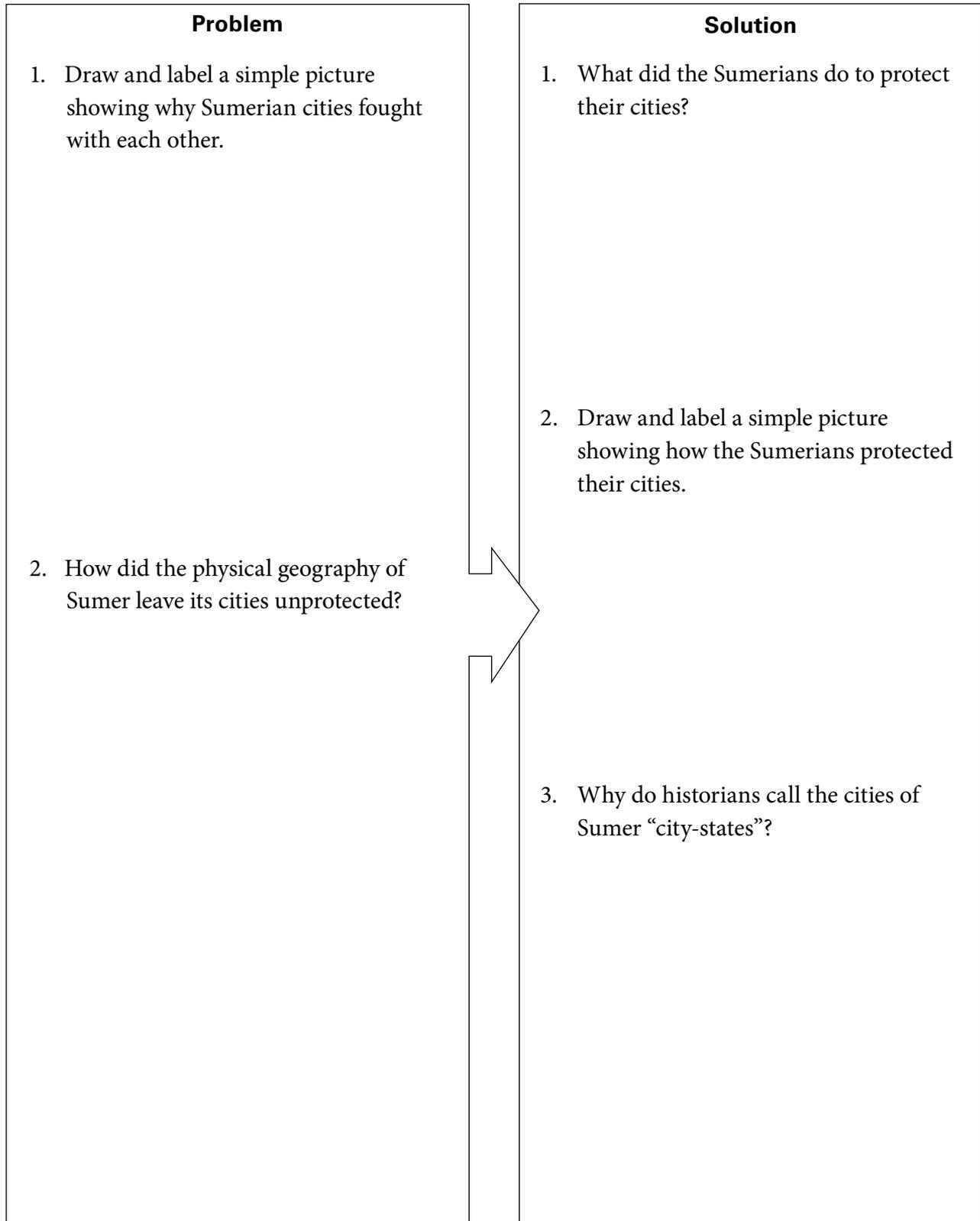
Section 5

Use complete sentences to answer the questions in the flowchart.



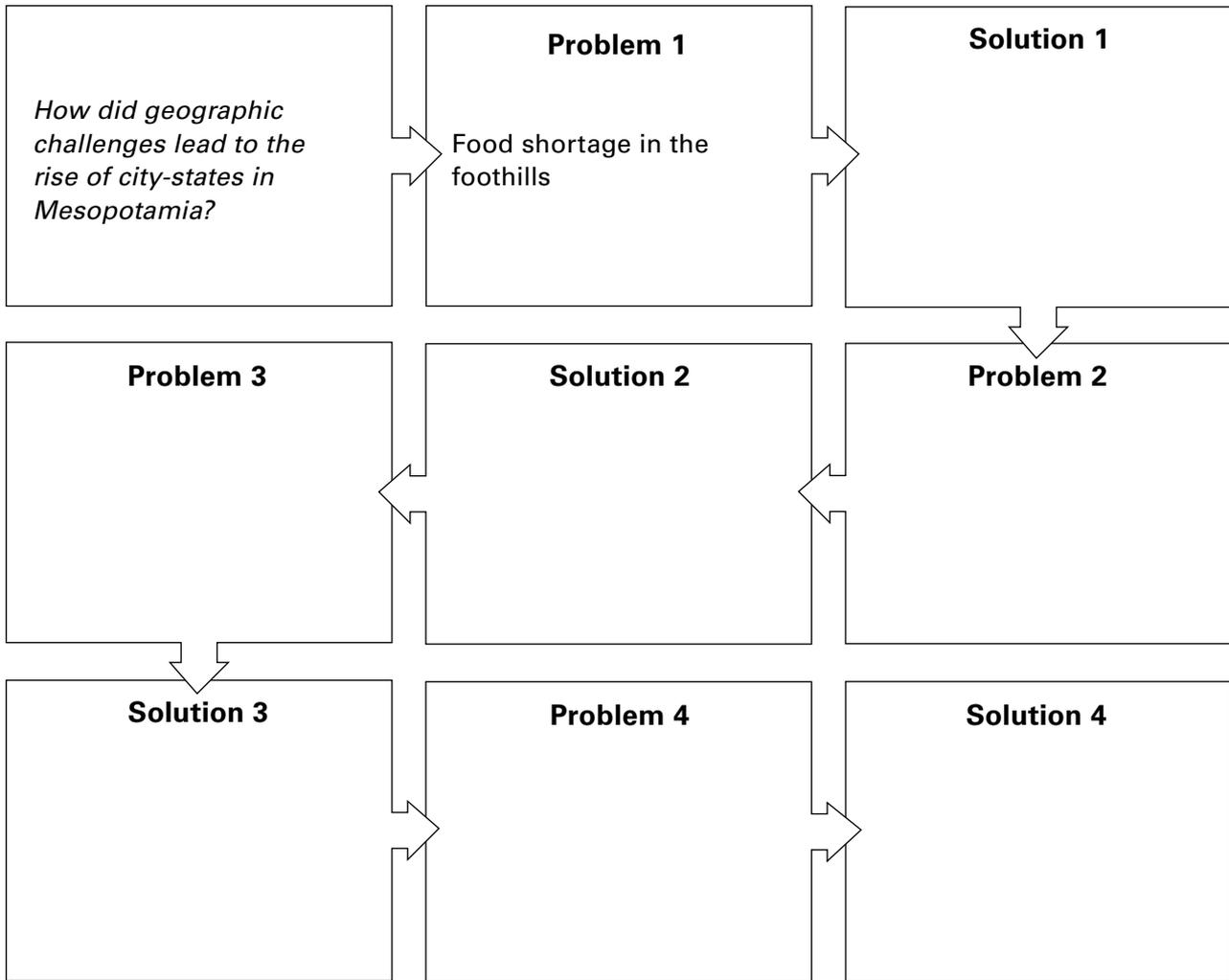
Section 6

Use complete sentences to answer the questions in the flowchart.



Section 7

To complete the flowchart, summarize how geography led to the rise of Sumerian city-states. In the appropriate boxes below, list each problem and its solution, as described in the reading.



P R O C E S S I N G

On a separate sheet of paper, create a real estate advertisement to encourage people to move to one of the Sumerian city-states. Include the following:

- A clever title for the advertisement, to catch the reader’s eye. Be sure it includes the words *Sumerian City-State*.
- At least three illustrations representing the ideas the Sumerians came up with to solve key problems.
- A caption for each visual that describes the solution and why it helped make this Sumerian city-state a desirable place to live.

READING FURTHER

Preparing to Write: Analyzing Artifacts

Suppose that you are an archaeologist living five hundred years from now. You are excavating at a site in a flat, deserted area. From reading history books, you know that there was once a big city here. One day, you and your team find the artifact shown below. It is a two-sided coin of some sort. What can you learn from it?



Side 1



Side 2

What five things do you notice about Side 1?

What five things do you notice about Side 2?

Using your observations in the lists above, what are three conclusions you might reach about the unknown society that used this artifact?

Writing to Support a Conclusion

List five personal artifacts found in your bedroom. Then write a paragraph describing one conclusion a future archaeologist might make about you. Use the examples from your list of personal artifacts to support that conclusion. Details about the personal artifacts should strongly support the conclusion.

Use this rubric to evaluate your paragraph. Make changes to your work if you need to.

| Score | Description |
|-------|---|
| 3 | Personal artifacts (details) strongly support the conclusion. The paragraph uses both simple and more complex sentences well. There are no spelling or grammar errors. |
| 2 | The paragraph presents a fairly well-constructed conclusion (topic sentence). Personal artifacts (details) mostly support the conclusion. The paragraph uses both simple and more complex sentences fairly well. There are some spelling or grammar errors. |
| 1 | The paragraph presents a weakly-constructed conclusion (topic sentence). Personal artifacts (details) do not support the conclusion well. There is little use of more complex sentences. There are many spelling or grammar errors. |