

Early River Valley Civilizations

Mesopotamia:

"Land Between the Two Rivers"

Why did
civilizations
occur?

8 Characteristics of Civilization

1. Cities - serve as administrative centers
2. Specialized workers (non food gathering)
3. Permanent records
4. Arts & Science develop
5. Political institutions - controlled a certain area
6. Status distinctions (based on wealth)
7. Long distance trade
8. Monumental building

The Ancient Fertile Crescent Area

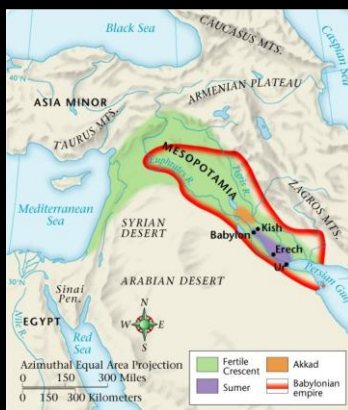


The Middle East: "The Cradle of Civilization"

Mesopotamian Empires



Sumer

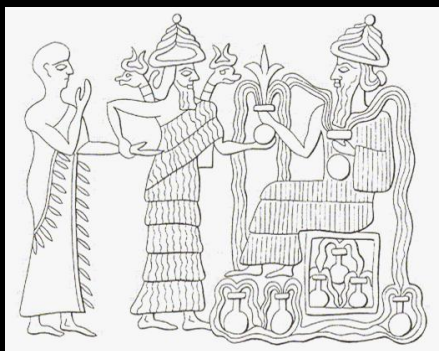


- The earliest civilization in the fertile valleys lying between the Tigris and Euphrates
- The first to create a literate, urban culture and highly-developed political institutions
- Beginning around 3000 BC, they began to form large city-states in southern Mesopotamia
- Were not unified in an empire, but created a cohesive culture based on their civilization

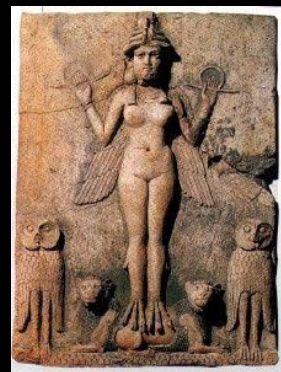
Sumerians



Sumerian Religion - Polytheistic



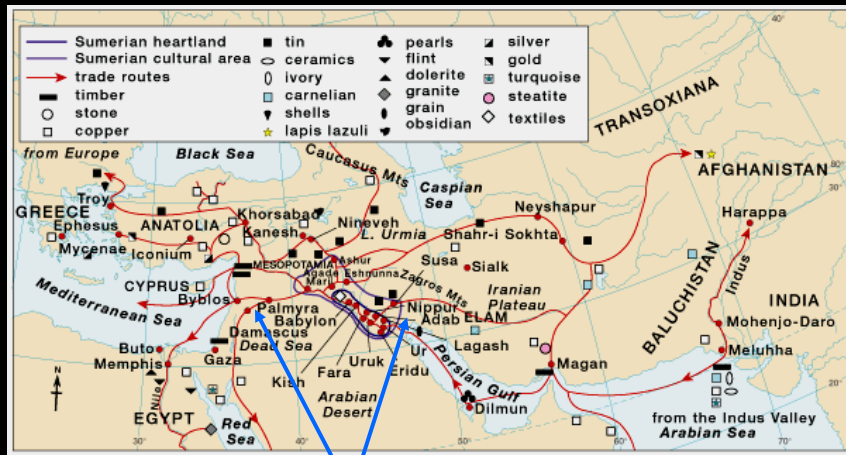
Enki



Innana

Anthropomorphic Gods

Mesopotamian Trade





















“The Cuneiform World”

Cuneiform: “Wedge-Shaped” Writing

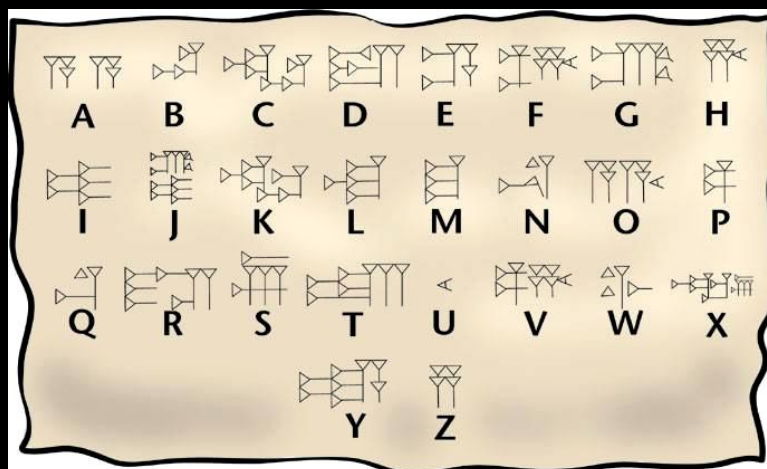


Cuneiform Writing

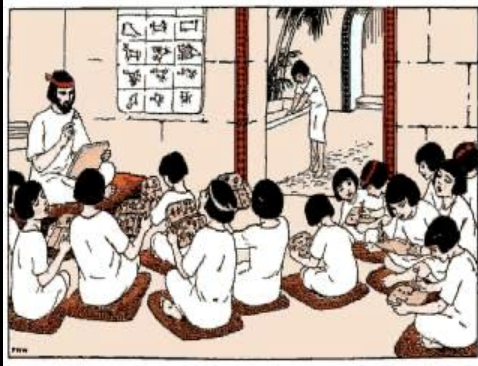
Development of Cuneiform, 3000 B.C.–600 B.C.

	Meaning of Pictograph					
	Ear of Barley	Head and Body of Man	Fish	Bird	Bowl of Food	Stream of Water
Pictographs c. 3000 B.C.						
Rotated Position Pictographs c. 2800 B.C.						
Cuneiform Signs c. 600 B.C.						

Deciphering Cuneiform



Sumerian Scribes



"Tablet House"



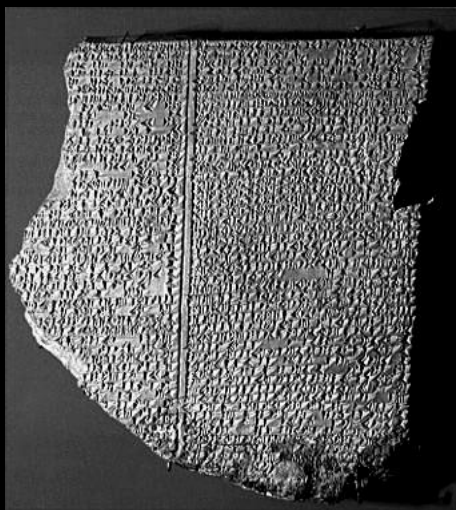
Sumerian Cylinder Seals



Gilgamesh

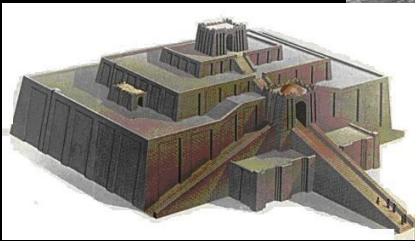


Gilgamesh Epic Tablet: Flood Story

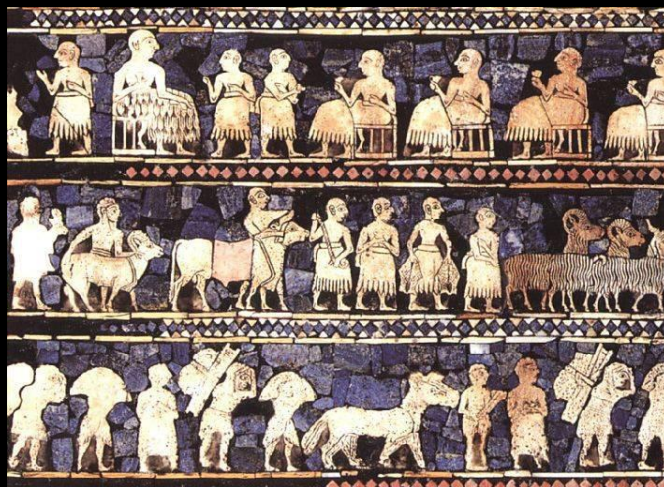


Ziggurat at Ur

- Temple
- “Mountain of the Gods”



The Royal Standard of Ur



Mesopotamian Harp



Board Game From Ur



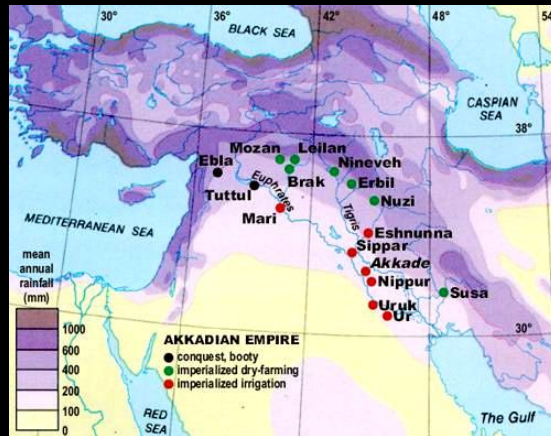
Sophisticated Metallurgy Skills at Ur



Sumerian Legacy

- Were defeated by Akkadians (who would become the Babylonians) who abandoned much of their culture and absorbed vast amounts of Sumerian culture, including their religion, writing, government structure, literature, and law
- The concept of civilization and of a monarchy was very enticing to those who came to conquer
- *The Sumerians would create a culture that would pass from people to people, religion to religion, and from language to language long after the Sumerians ceased to walk the sands of the area "between the rivers."*

Sargon of Akkad: The World's First Empire [Akkadians]



The Babylonians



- Their greatest innovation was centralization of political rule
 - No longer dominated by city-states we see the emergence of empire under powerful monarchs
- Took control of the region, creating world's first empire -
 - when several peoples, nations, or previously independent states are placed under the control of one ruler
- Sargon of Akkad - first to unify

Hammurabi's [r. 1792-1750 B. C. E.] Code



Hammurabi, the Judge



Code of Hammurabi

- One of the first sets of laws in the ancient world
- Written by a Babylonian King
- Stressed Retribution
- A way of guaranteeing "equal" protection
- Gives a glimpse at what these people valued and what was important to them

Hammurabi's Code



#196: If a man put out the eye of another man, his eye shall be put out.

#198: If he put out the eye of a freed man, or break the bone of a freed man, he shall pay one gold mina.



Babylonian Math



Babylonian Numbers

1	∟	11	∟∟	21	∟∟∟	31	∟∟∟∟	41	∟∟∟∟∟	51	∟∟∟∟∟∟
2	∟∟	12	∟∟∟	22	∟∟∟∟	32	∟∟∟∟∟	42	∟∟∟∟∟∟	52	∟∟∟∟∟∟∟
3	∟∟∟	13	∟∟∟∟	23	∟∟∟∟∟	33	∟∟∟∟∟∟	43	∟∟∟∟∟∟∟	53	∟∟∟∟∟∟∟∟
4	∟∟∟∟	14	∟∟∟∟∟	24	∟∟∟∟∟∟	34	∟∟∟∟∟∟∟	44	∟∟∟∟∟∟∟∟	54	∟∟∟∟∟∟∟∟∟
5	∟∟∟∟∟	15	∟∟∟∟∟∟	25	∟∟∟∟∟∟∟	35	∟∟∟∟∟∟∟∟	45	∟∟∟∟∟∟∟∟∟	55	∟∟∟∟∟∟∟∟∟∟
6	∟∟∟∟∟∟	16	∟∟∟∟∟∟∟	26	∟∟∟∟∟∟∟∟	36	∟∟∟∟∟∟∟∟∟	46	∟∟∟∟∟∟∟∟∟∟	56	∟∟∟∟∟∟∟∟∟∟∟
7	∟∟∟∟∟∟∟	17	∟∟∟∟∟∟∟∟	27	∟∟∟∟∟∟∟∟∟	37	∟∟∟∟∟∟∟∟∟∟	47	∟∟∟∟∟∟∟∟∟∟∟	57	∟∟∟∟∟∟∟∟∟∟∟∟
8	∟∟∟∟∟∟∟∟	18	∟∟∟∟∟∟∟∟∟	28	∟∟∟∟∟∟∟∟∟∟	38	∟∟∟∟∟∟∟∟∟∟∟	48	∟∟∟∟∟∟∟∟∟∟∟∟	58	∟∟∟∟∟∟∟∟∟∟∟∟∟
9	∟∟∟∟∟∟∟∟∟	19	∟∟∟∟∟∟∟∟∟∟	29	∟∟∟∟∟∟∟∟∟∟∟	39	∟∟∟∟∟∟∟∟∟∟∟∟	49	∟∟∟∟∟∟∟∟∟∟∟∟∟	59	∟∟∟∟∟∟∟∟∟∟∟∟∟∟
10	∟∟∟∟∟∟∟∟∟∟	20	∟∟∟∟∟∟∟∟∟∟∟	30	∟∟∟∟∟∟∟∟∟∟∟∟∟	40	∟∟∟∟∟∟∟∟∟∟∟∟∟∟	50	∟∟∟∟∟∟∟∟∟∟∟∟∟∟∟		

The Mesopotamians



Sargon



Ashurbanipal



Hammurabi



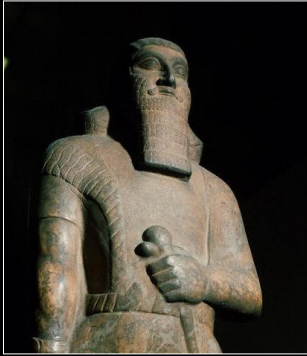
Gilgamesh

The Assyrians



- Northern Mesopotamia
- More fertile, more rain
- Why important? More valuable...
 - what do you do with things you value? Protect them (i.e. bank, safe) so The Assyrians needed strong self defense
- Defense soon leads to offense (pride, greed, religious conviction, etc)

The Assyrians



- Conquest
 - Iron weapons
 - Use of terror tactics
 - Found difficulty governing large area with different peoples - stressed control
- Knowledge
 - Acquisition of old and new
 - Ashurbanipal brings together 25,000 cuneiform tablets
 - Creates the first library
- *The Assyrian state was forged in the crucible of war, invasion, and conquest*

Indo-European Migrations: 4m-2m BCE



The Middle East: "The Crossroads of Three Continents"

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