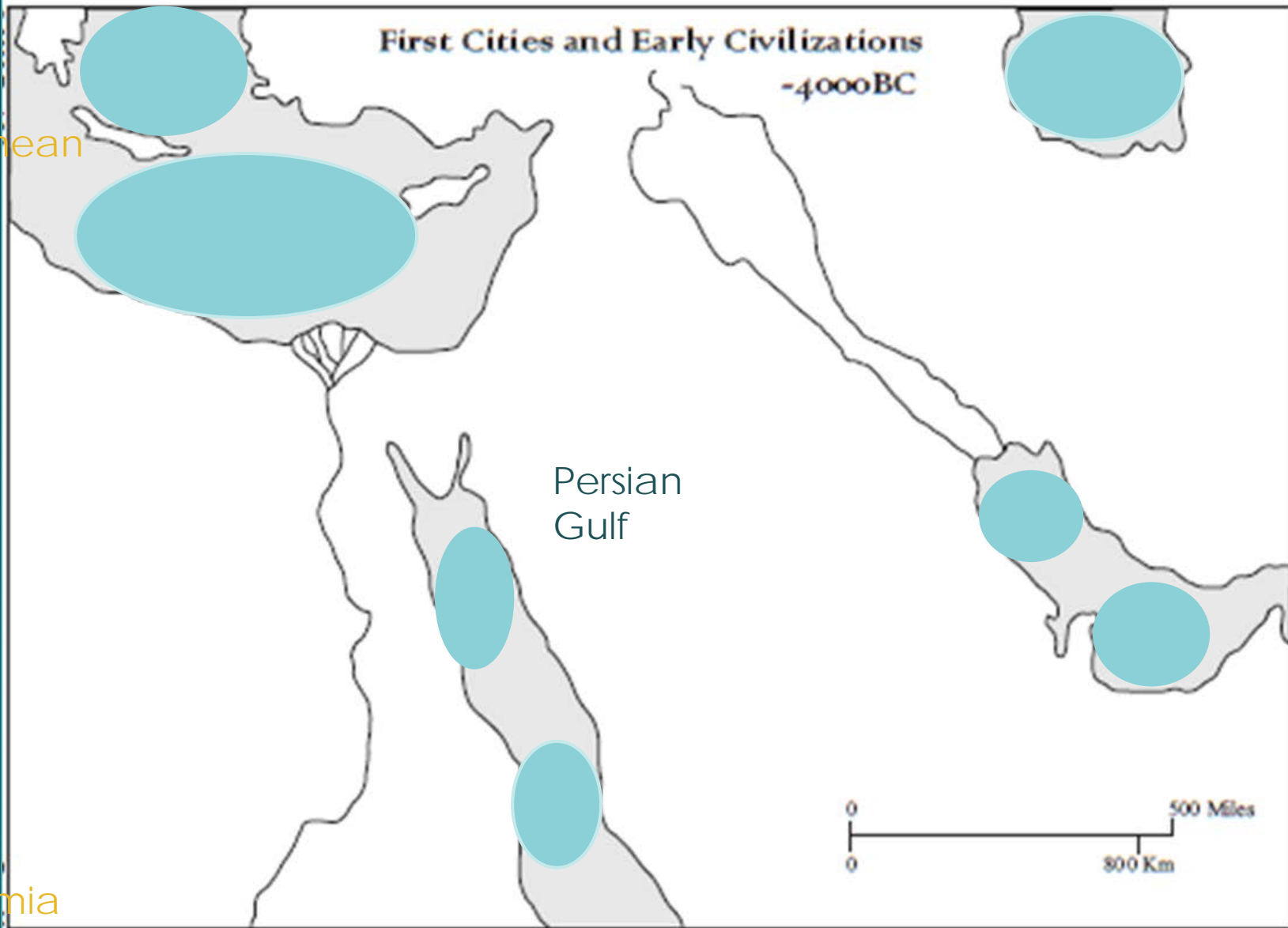


Caspian Sea  
Mediterranean Sea  
Nile  
Egypt  
Euphrates River  
Tigris River  
Red Sea  
Anatolia  
Arabian Desert  
Mesopotamia



*Directions: Use the map on pg. 28 of your textbook or pg 30 of the online textbook to complete the following tasks below.*

Label the following regions: Anatolia, Egypt, Arabian Desert, Mesopotamia

Label the following bodies of water: Mediterranean Sea, Red Sea, Persian Gulf, Caspian Sea, Nile River, Euphrates River, Tigris River

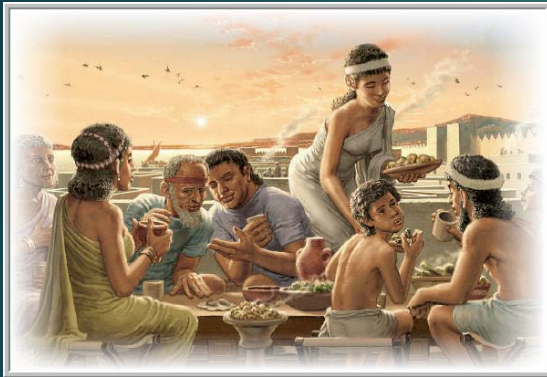
# 4 Early River Valley Civilizations- ERVC

- Mesopotamia Civilization - Tigris & Euphrates Rivers (Sumerian)
- Egyptian Civilization - Nile River
- Harappan Civilization - Indus River
- Ancient China - Huang He (Yellow) River



# Mesopotamia: Life in Sumer

Sumerians were the first people to migrate to Mesopotamia 5,500 years ago- that's about 3,500 BCE



Life in Sumer video  
Nomads to Farmers...

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ki8S5l83Ccc&list=PLXDguX5KyGMZmihM1X-oZPT87pEID00V5>

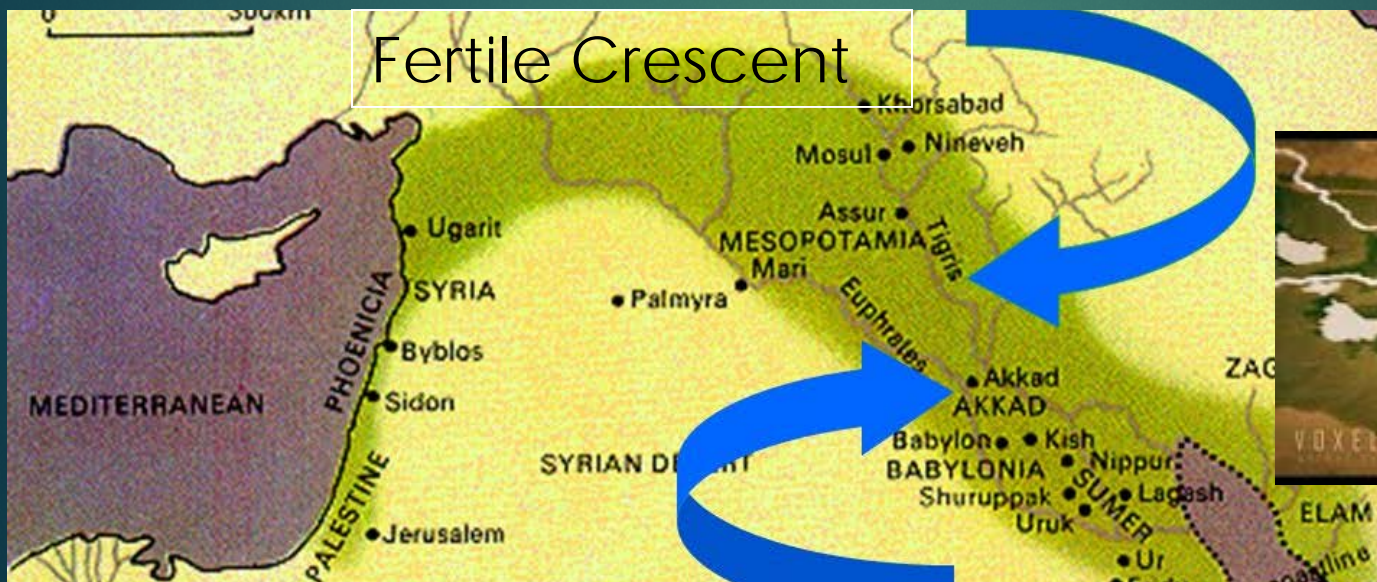
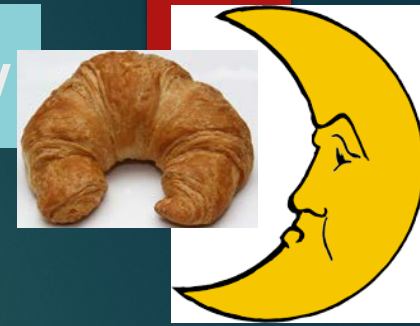
# Mesopotamia Geography

- ▶ Flat **open plain**.
- ▶ Mostly dry desert **EXCEPT** between the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers

Mesopotamia Means: **Land between two rivers**

-Another name and the Region's shape and soil is **Fertile Crescent**

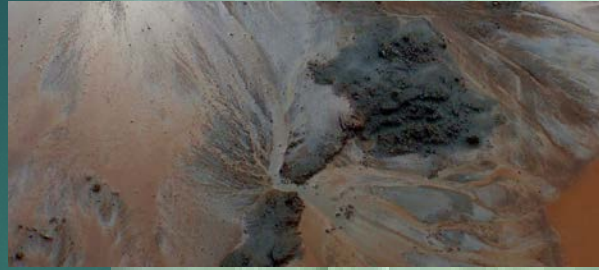
Located in present day **Iraq**, also Syria, Turkey.



# What is SILT?

sand, soil, mud, etc.,  
that is carried by  
flowing water and that  
sinks to the bottom of a  
river, pond, etc.

The Rivers flood the area at least  
once a year leaving behind silt.



**Sand**

**Silt**

**Clay**

**Thick rich  
soil  
that is left  
after  
flooding.**

# Disadvantages and Environmental Challenges

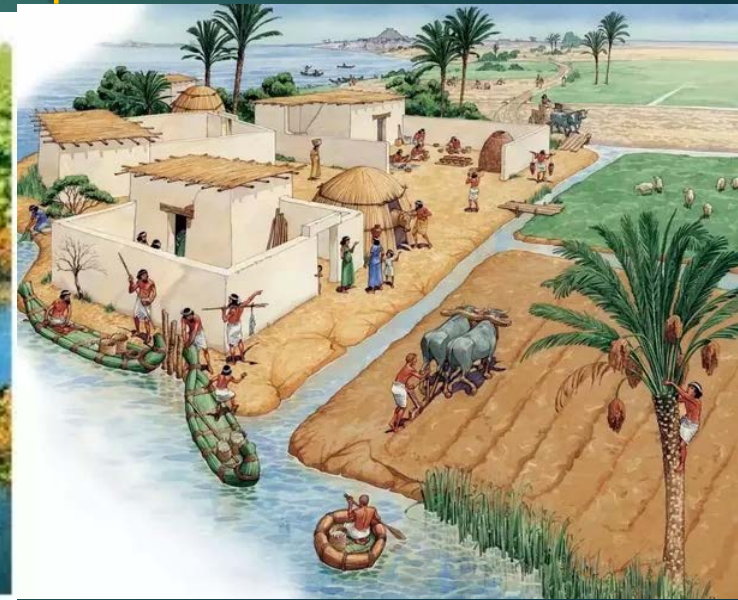
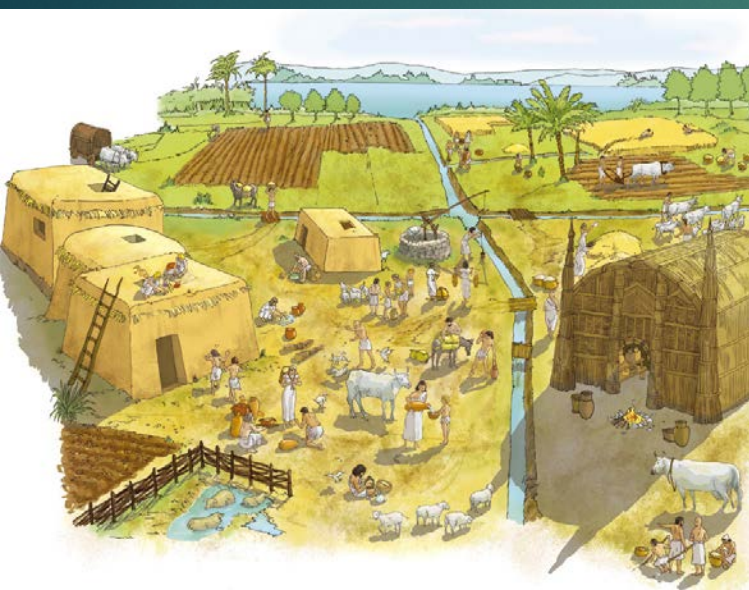


- ▶ **Unpredictable flooding**
  - ▶ Both rivers flooded
  - ▶ Dry summer months
- ▶ **No natural barriers** -middle of an open plain
  - ▶ Need protection!
- ▶ **Limited natural resources** – need stone, wood, metals and tools to use for tools and building

# Challenges and their Solutions



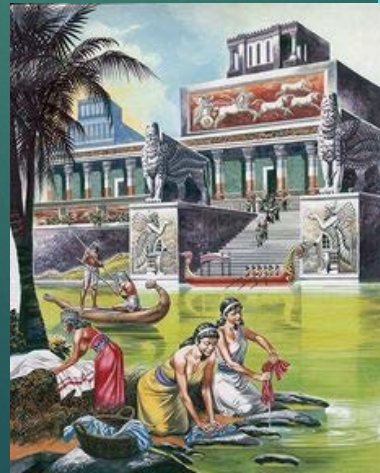
- ▶ Unpredictable flooding
  - ▶ **SOLUTION** – dug irrigation ditches that carried river water to their fields and allowed them to produce surplus crops.
- ▶ No natural barriers
  - ▶ **SOLUTION** – built city walls with mud bricks
- ▶ Limited natural resources (wood, metals and tools)
  - ▶ **SOLUTION** – traded with other people



# Advanced Cities: Creation of City States

- ▶ They function like an **independent country**.
- ▶ A **city-state** is: a state that has its own government and consists of a city and the area around it.
  - ▶ Same culture, but **different government**.

Examples of City-States in Sumer:  
Uruk- population of about 10,000  
Lagosh- Population- 19,000  
Umma- Population- 16,000





# Complex Institution – Government

Each city-state had its

- ▶ **own government**
- ▶ **Center of Trade**
- ▶ **own Ruler**

-Originally **priests held** all the **power**

-As **wars** became more **frequent**, **kings** took over

- ▶ **Why?** Because the **kings were military leaders**

- ▶ **Dynasty:** system in which monarchs (rulers) pass power from father to son

-**Monarchs** ruled city-states

- ▶ City and the surrounding land it controlled



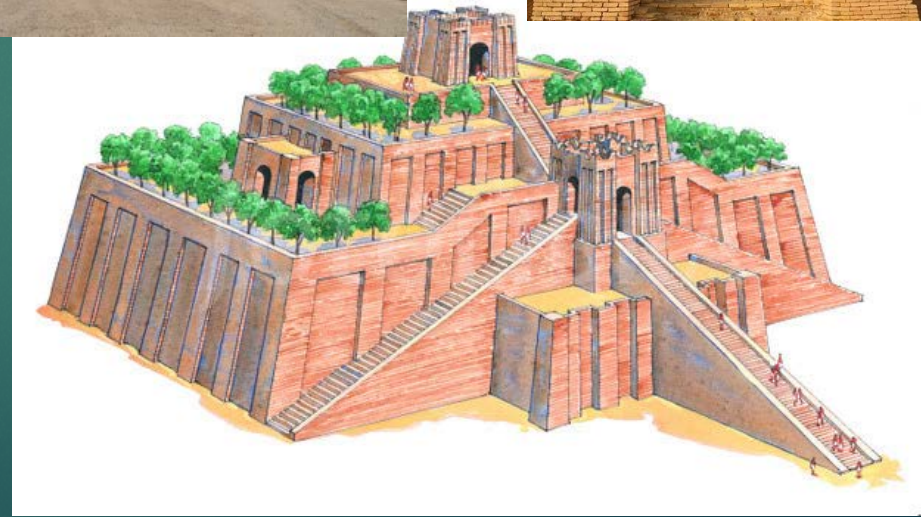
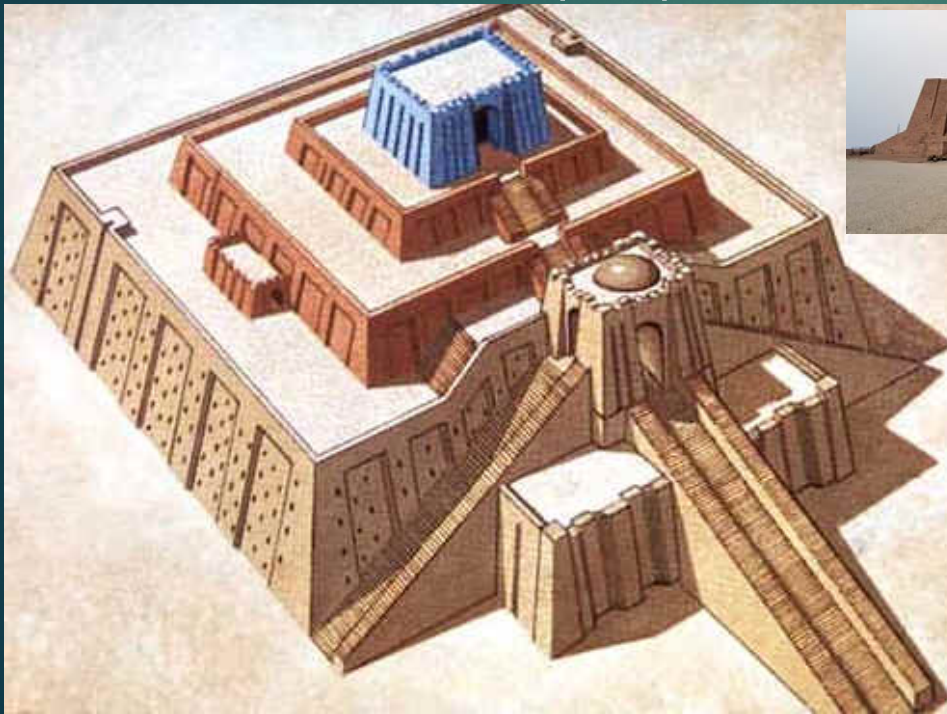
# Complex institution – Religion

▶ Ziggurat is: **The center of city life**

▶ **A temple**

-Surrounded by wall for protection

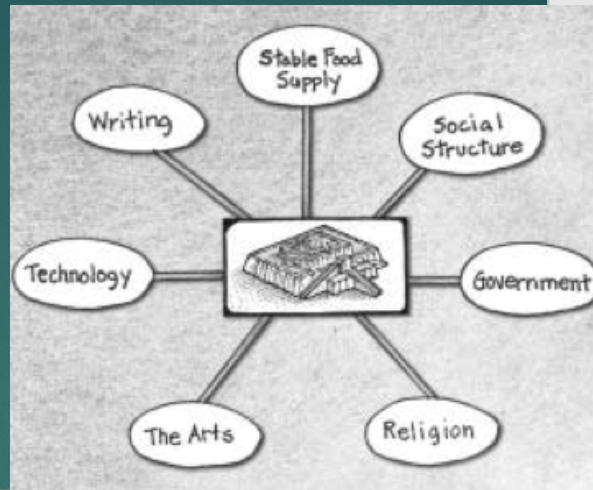
-Served varied purposes: store grain, ceremonies, trade



# Examples of ziggurats



Babylonian Ziggurat



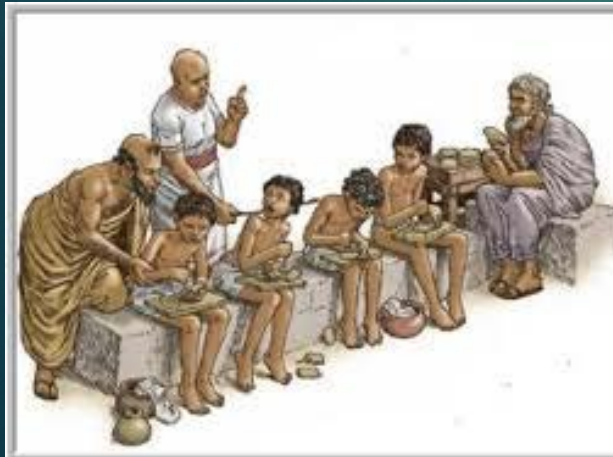
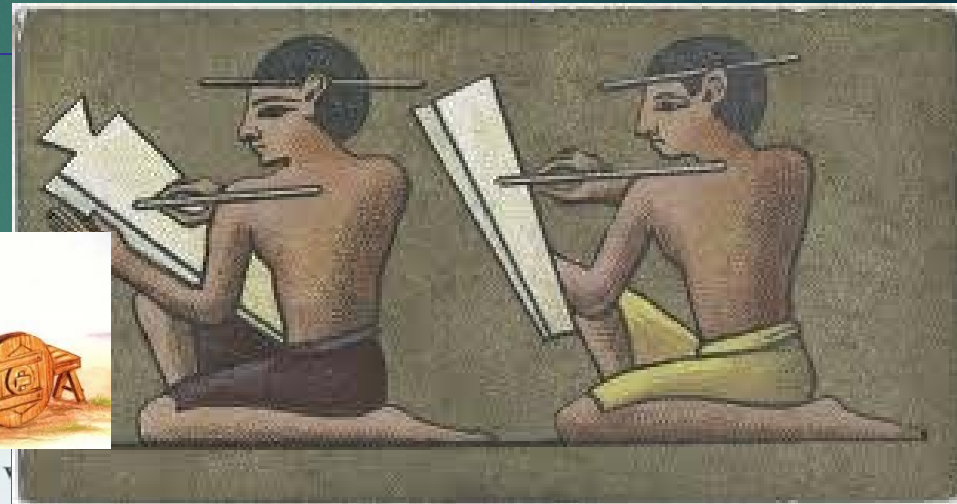
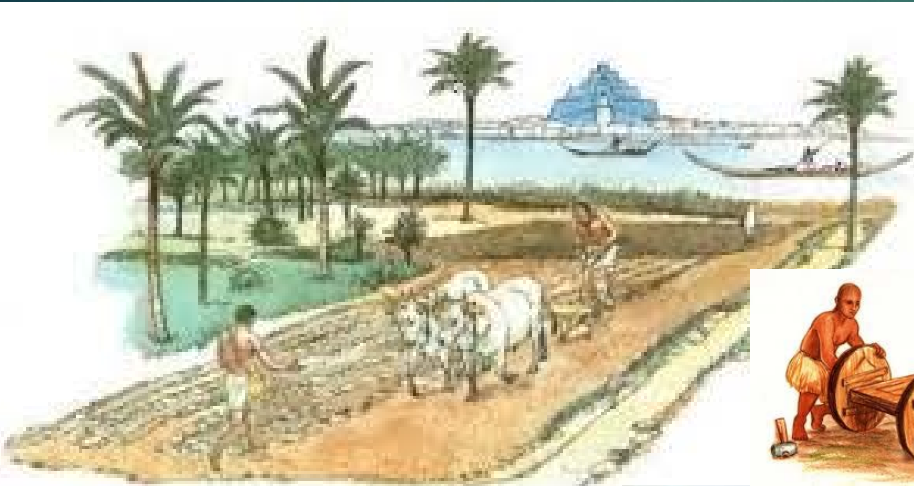
Ziggurat at Ur



# Specialized Workers

► Teacher, soldier, priests and scribes

-Scribes were very important- they wrote and kept records.



The Sumerians used cattle, sheep, and other animals to help them with their work. They used a sign for the word as a picture. The sign for the word 'bull' in Sumerian was a picture of a bull.



Foot soldier



Brewer



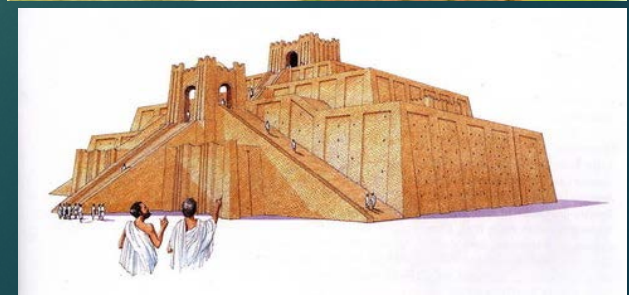
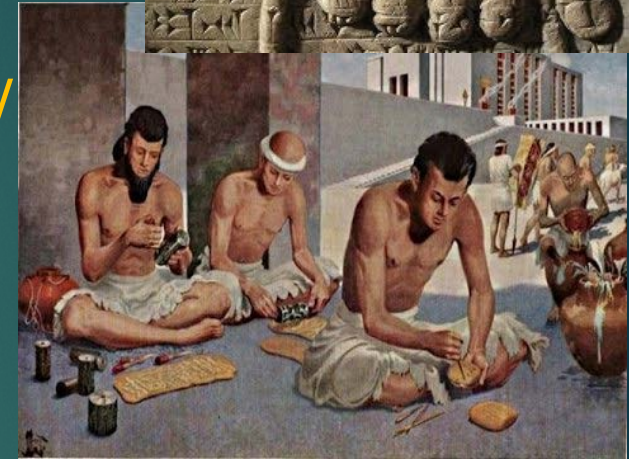
Musician



Servant carrying baggage

# Complex Institution –

- ▶ Religion: **Priests**: Have political and religious power = **Theocracy**
- ▶ Government: **officials and laws**
  - ▶ Education: **For training scribes.**
  - ▶ Economy:
    - Based off of **agriculture and trade**
    - Grain grown for **food** and **traded** for other goods
    - Ziggurat/marketplace: **place for trade**



# SUMERIAN SOCIETY

The Sumerians were the first civilization in this area..

The early Mesopotamians developed irrigation to grow food.

Food production in Mesopotamia led to the world's first civilization.

Sumerian advances included ziggurats, the wheel, and the first writing system.

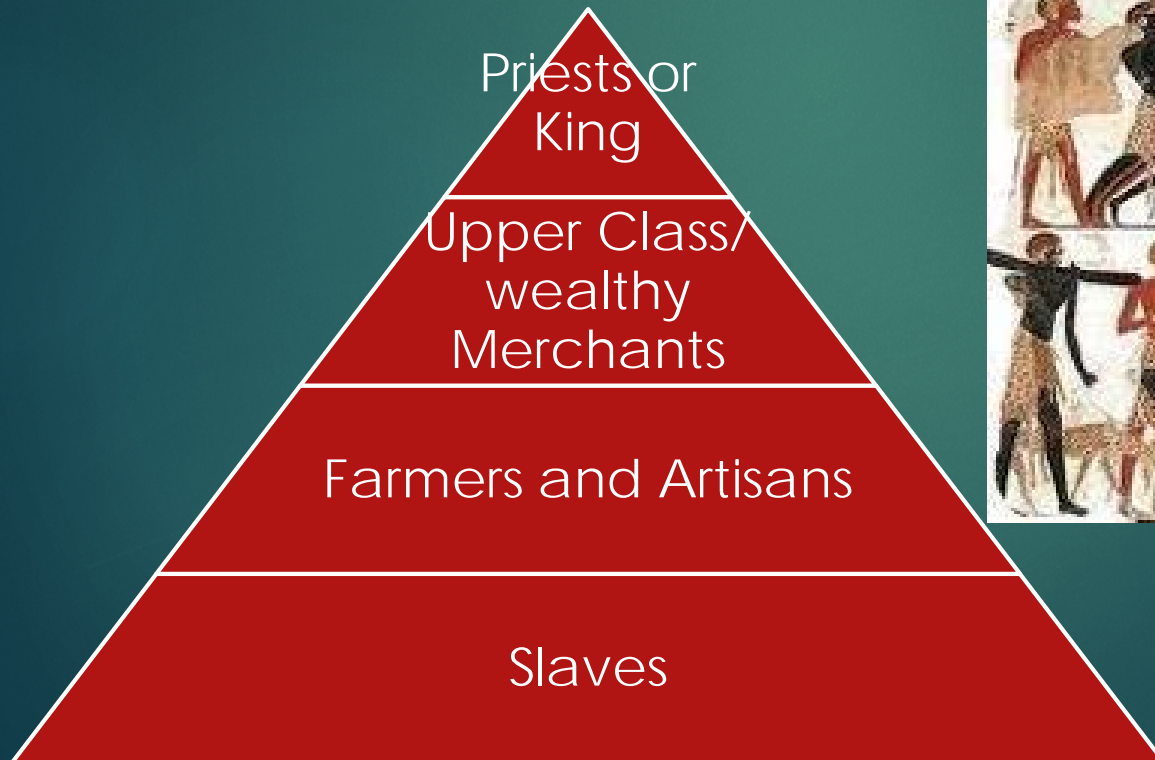
Later peoples developed the first written laws and the first empires.



# Sumerian society

Sumerian society grew complex, **split into social groups, or classes**  
- **Class systems unequal**; define who has power, less desirable jobs

1. King, priests were at top of Sumer's upper classes, had influence
2. Upper class included landowners, government officials, merchants
3. Most people were of in-between class, including farmers, artisans
4. Slaves made up lowest class



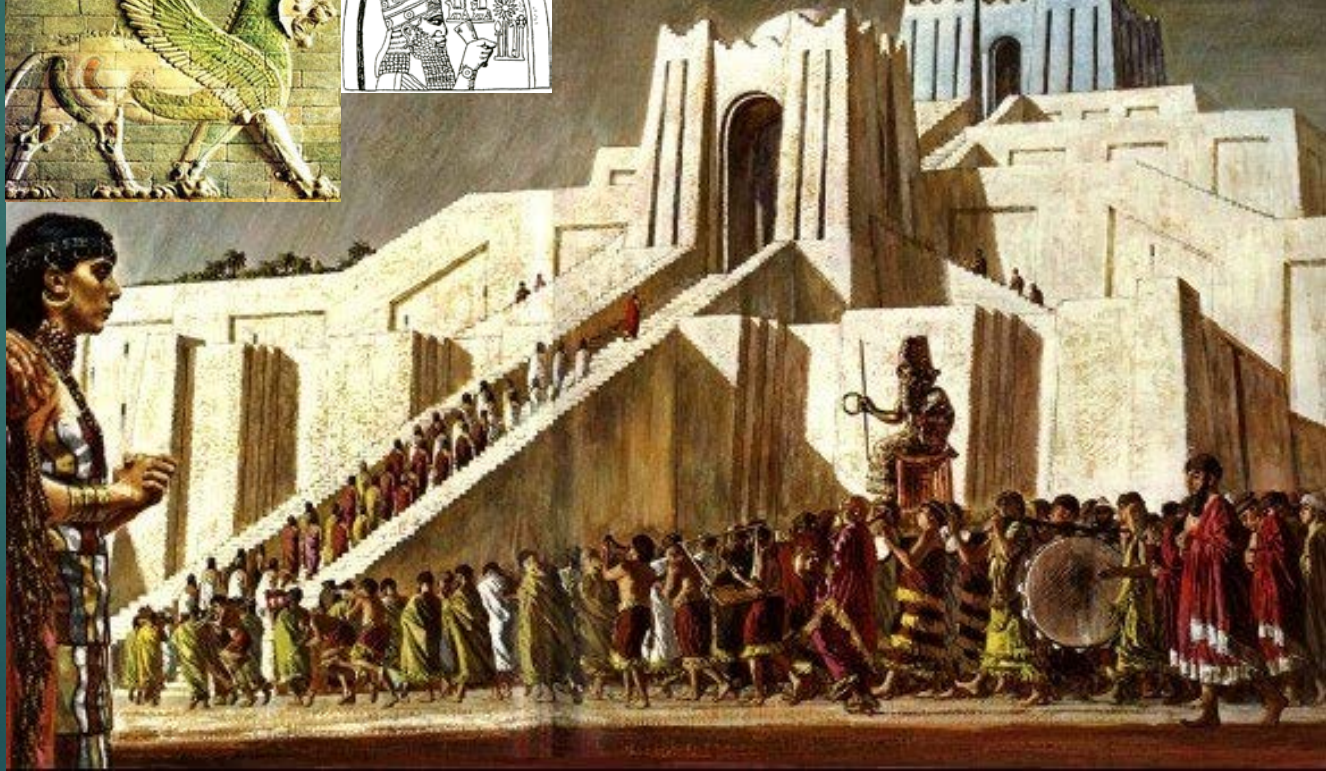
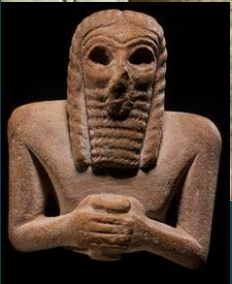
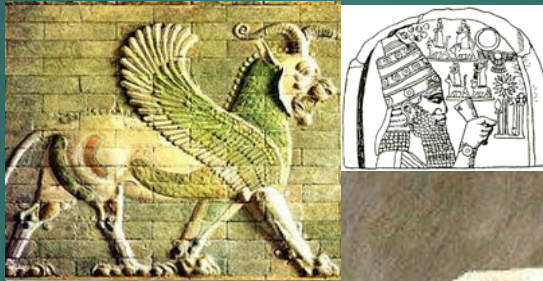
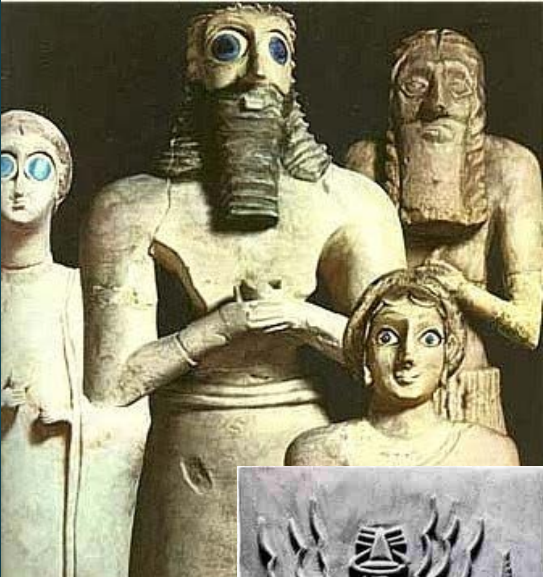
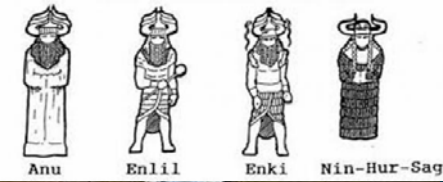
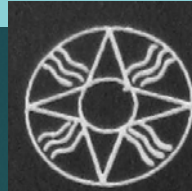
# Complex Institutions- Religion

## ► Polytheistic- belief in many gods

-about 3,000 gods

-worshiped their gods at temples called Ziggurats.

-Please gods to prevent their anger.





# Religion

## ► Major god

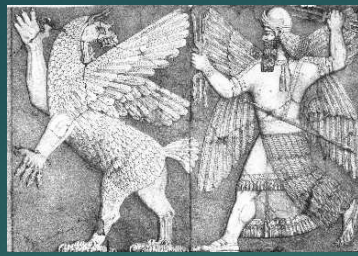
-God of Cloud and Air= **Enlil**

-Sumerians described their gods as doing many of the same things humans do.

## ► Afterlife-

-**soul of the dead** would travel to the “**land of no return**”

-Not a good or bad place- **is not heaven or hell.**



**ENKI**



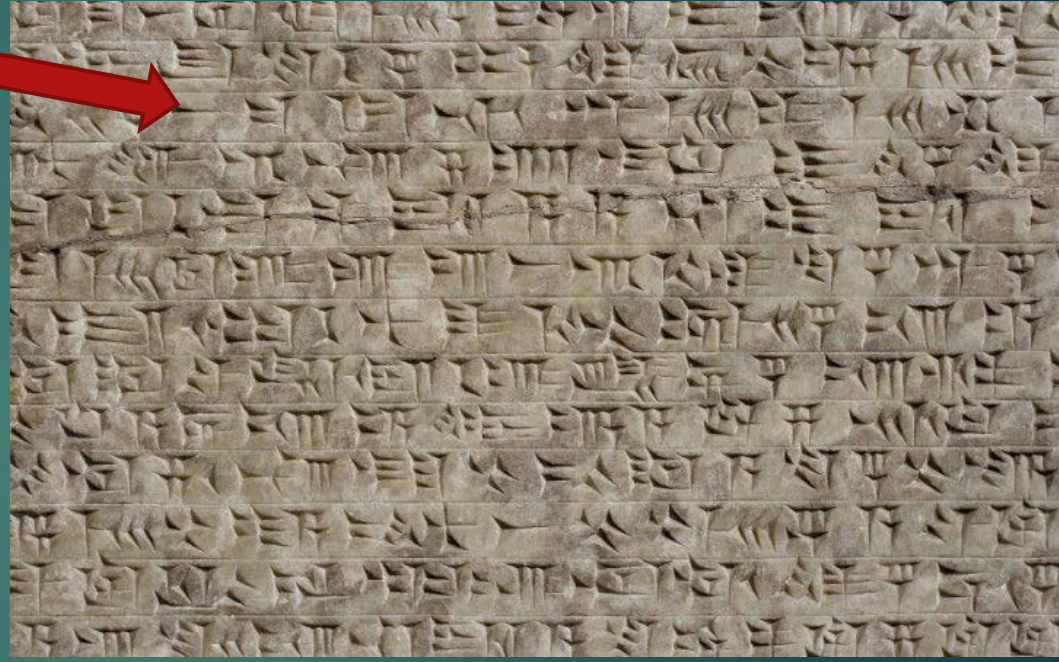
**ENLIL**



# Record Keeping-Cuneiform Tablets

## BEGINNING OF WRITTEN HISTORY

- ▶ Sumerian invention – system of writing- **Cuneiform**
- ▶ Records of business, historical events, customs, and traditions.
- ▶ Took the form of pictographs – wedge shaped symbols
- ▶ Only used by scribes – men that were trained
- ▶ **Baked clay tablets** in the sun to preserve the writing
- ▶ **Records of business, history, customs, traditions.**
- ▶ What is their written language?  
**Pictograms: pictures that represent something.**



# Technological Advancements



- ▶ Cuneiform
- ▶ Wheel
- ▶ Sail
- ▶ Ox drawn plow
- ▶ **FIRST to use bronze**
- ▶ Weapons



- ▶ **Other achievements...**
  - ▶ Earliest sketched maps
  - ▶ Astronomy
  - ▶ A number system

The Sumerians invented a seed sowing machine, which could plant seeds more quickly and evenly than sowing by hand.



Raised strengthening ridge

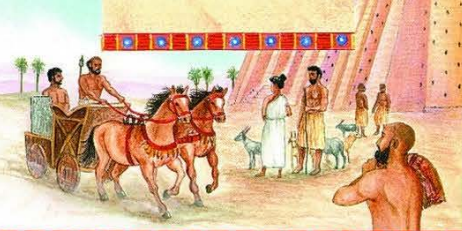
Hilt

Pommel



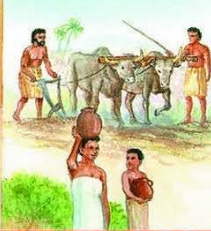


# MESOPOTAMIA



**c. 5000 B.C.**

Farmers settle in southern Mesopotamia (Iraq) in an area called Sumer. They use irrigation to water their crops.

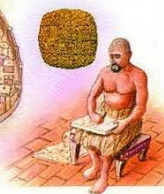


**c. 3500 B.C.**

The Sumerians build cities that house thousands of people.

**c. 3100 B.C.**

The Sumerians invent cuneiform writing, a system made up of wedge-shaped characters.



**c. 3000 B.C.**

The Sumerians use carts with wheels.



**c. 2700 B.C.**

Gilgamesh rules the Sumerian city of Uruk. He becomes the subject of many legends.



**c. 2000 B.C.**

Sumer is overtaken by invaders.



**c. 2300 B.C.**

Sargon conquers northern and southern Mesopotamia, and founds the world's first great empire.



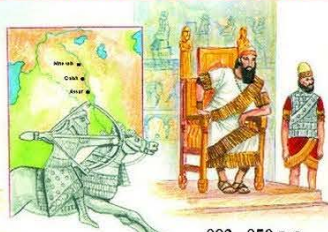
**1792–1750 B.C.**

Hamurabi rules Babylon and expands his territory to include most of Mesopotamia. He establishes a new code of laws for his people.



**1595–1157 B.C.**

Babylon is invaded by the Hittites, and then by the Kassites. The Kassites rule Babylon for four hundred years.



**c. 1300 B.C.**

In northern Mesopotamia, the Assyrians begin building up their empire. Their major cities include Assur and Nineveh.

**883–859 B.C.**

Ashurnasirpal II rules Assyria. He selects Kalhu as his capital, and builds a palace there.

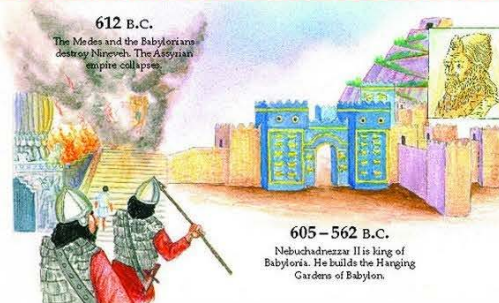
**704–681 B.C.**

Sennacherib rules Assyria from Nineveh. He establishes a Royal Library of clay tablets.



**612 B.C.**

The Medes and the Babylonians destroy Nineveh. The Assyrian empire collapses.



**605–562 B.C.**

Nebuchadnezzar II is king of Babylon. He builds the Hanging Gardens of Babylon.

**539 B.C.**

The Persians capture Babylon, and make Babylon the part of the Persian Empire.

**331 B.C.**

Alexander the Great defeats the Persians, and makes Babylon the capital of his empire. After his death, Babylon crumbles.



# Those Accomplished Mesopotamians

Long before the modern world ever knew about the splendors of Mesopotamia, it had benefited from the accomplishments of this long-lost world. The Mesopotamians were the first people known to study the heavens, use the arch and the wheel, compile laws, and keep written records. Their legacy was passed down to us by the people they conquered and the people who conquered them. Here are some of their achievements.



**A Sumerian, VW** buggies, bicycles—we wouldn't have any of them without the Mesopotamians, who were the first to use the wheel for



transportation (perhaps inspired by their pottery wheels). Wheels allowed animals to pull heavy loads and made battle chariots a formidable weapon.

**Y The Assyrians** were probably the first to develop an armored "car" to use in battle. The battering ram



**A Assyrians used** inflatable animal skins as personal "boats" to help them cross a



**> The lens, made** by Assyrians, is the earliest known example of glass used for magnification.

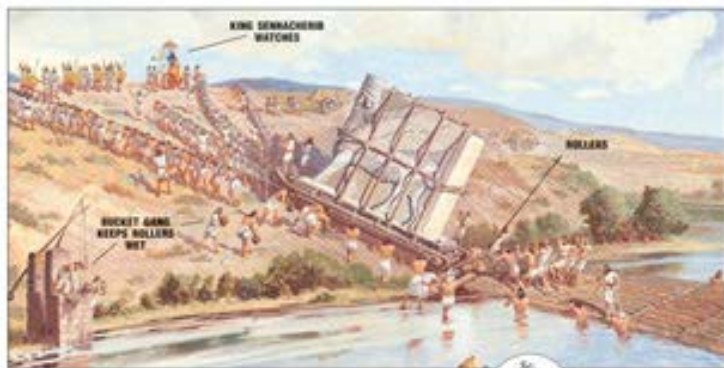


**A Mesopotamian** were the first chemists. They used natural materials to make such useful items as soap, herbal remedies, and dyes. By studying the soil and sand used in pottery-making, they learned to make glass. They also discovered that copper and tin could be combined to make a stronger metal, bronze.



**< Mesopotamian** builders were the first to use the arch, an advance that allowed doorways and roofs to hold more weight.

**> A human-headed, four-ton bull** is moved from a raft up a sledge by chains of captives. Monumental buildings, guarded by gigantic sculptures, are evidence of the Assyrians' engineering abilities.



**> Much of our** modern number system is based on the number 10 (probably going back to people counting on their 10 fingers). The Mesopotamians used this decimal system and a more complex one built around the base of 60, which is reflected today in our measurement of seconds, minutes, and hours, as well as the number of



degrees in a circle. Mesopotamians were also the first to use place value to indicate a number's value and the first to invent a symbol to indicate nothing, or zero.

## MAGNIFICENT MESOPOTAMIANS

After her husband died (around 883 B.C.), Queen Semiramis ruled the Assyrian empire until her son was old enough to take the throne. She restored Babylon, which her husband had destroyed in a military campaign, to its former magnificence. Semiramis extended the empire as far south as the Arabian peninsula, and north to Turkey. She is also credited with inventing trousers—for traveling, conduct on military campaigns and to make it hard for the enemy to tell if a horseback rider was male or female.



**A THE BOARD GAME** was played by Mesopotamians, but the rules have not been found. The 4,500-year-old clay-wheeled animal at right was most likely a toy.



**< The Mesopotamian** is carefully studying a palm tree. Mesopotamians were great list makers, compiling descriptive lists of plants, animals, and minerals.



So, you want antibiotics with that?

### Think Piece!

Which of the accomplishments of the Mesopotamians do you think is most important?

**A Mesopotamian** were the first to use baked-brick ovens, not pits of hot coals. Some ovens had cooking ranges for boiling and frying food.



**< Mesopotamian** recorded the positions of bright stars, naming constellations and dividing the sky into 12 sections, each named after a nearby constellation. Our names for the 12 signs of the zodiac are based on Latin and Greek translations of Mesopotamian names. Mesopotamian astronomers may have recorded the earliest sightings of Halley's comet.



**< A The Sumerians** probably invented stringed musical instruments, such as the harp and lyre. Burial sites at Ur contain beautifully carved instruments, evidence of their popularity.

# DAY TO DAY

The ruins of Mesopotamia reveal more about kings and battles than about the ordinary citizens who lived there. Still, artifacts and ancient writings tell us something about the day-to-day lives of the people. What was it like to live in Mesopotamia?

◀ **MESOPOTAMIAN** cylinder seals combined beauty and usefulness. Carved in stone, they produced a raised image when rolled on moist clay (below). The image could be used to mark a merchant's shipment or stamp an official document.



▶ **HOUSES WERE** made of the only abundant building material, mud bricks. Square or

rectangular, the houses were constructed around a central courtyard. Cities were maze

of narrow, winding streets. Some had drainage systems, and some homes even had flush toilets. Trash, however, was thrown into the street until it piled up so high that steps had to be cut down to doorways.

▶ **EARLY GARMENTS** were knee- to calf-length skirts worn by women and men. Later, a shawl-like piece of wool was draped over one shoulder.



## MESOPOTAMIAN FASHION

**WORKER**  
STIRRING MILK

**STRAINER**

**STOOL**

**CHURNING**  
STRAINED CREAM  
INTO BUTTER

**COVERED**  
**WORKER**  
MILKING COW

**CALF**



▶ **OUTSIDE OF CITIES**, farmers raised cattle, sheep, goats, and pigs for meat, milk, leather, and wool. They also grew wheat, barley, and millet in their fields. Fig, pomegranate, and other fruit trees shaded gardens full of cucumbers,

peas, onions, garlic, lettuce, lentils, turnips, and chickpeas. Domesticated animals, such as cows and goats, were raised on the pastures and provided a steady supply of milk, butter, meat, and skins.



◀ **AT THE TOP OF** Mesopotamian society were kings and their families, followed by large landowners and high-ranking government officials, military leaders, and priests. The next rung of society was held by

merchants, scribes, and craftspeople. Below them were farmers, hunters, and herders. At the lowest level of society were slaves—military captives or citizens who had fallen into debt.

**CITY ARTISANS**, including potters, carpenters, metal workers, leather workers, brocket weavers, and jewelers, produced both necessities and luxury items.



◀ **IN THE HOME**, women spun sheep's wool with hand-spindles. The thread was then woven into cloth, both for their family's use and for extra income.

▶ **EXCESS CROPS** and cloth were traded for wood, gold, silver, precious gems, and other natural resources lacking in Mesopotamia. Traders went as far as Syria, Africa, and even India. Wood from Lebanon is being unloaded from this ship.



▶ **SOME OF WEALTHY** families went to school from age six, mainly to learn to read and write cuneiform, the wedge-shaped writing inscribed on clay tablets. By copying a variety



of texts, they also learned about animals and plants,

mathematics, and literature. Girls learned cooking, spinning, and household management from their mothers and family slaves. Some were taught cuneiform in the home.

# Stop here

# MESOPOTAMIA

The history of Mesopotamia is measured in millennia rather than centuries. For three thousand years (beginning in 3500 b.c.), kingdoms rose and fell, empires expanded and contracted, outsiders conquered and were repelled. During that time, three dominant civilizations held center stage at various times: **the Sumerians, the Babylonians, and the Assyrians.**



### 3 ASSYRIA 1115-612 B.C.

In hilly northern Mesopotamia, the small city-state of Assyria slowly grew to become a powerful kingdom. Using chariots, battering rams, and armored horses, the Assyrians conquered Babylon in 689 B.C., as well as other independent states, uprooting the people they conquered and forcing them into slave labor. However, in 612 B.C., Chaldean people from southern Babylonia, who had gained control of Babylon, joined the Medes people from Iran and sacked the capital Nineveh. The Assyrian empire never recovered.



Assurnasirpal II,  
king of Assyria.

### 2 BABYLONIA 1792-539 B.C.

The city of Babylon inherited the culture of Sumer and, under Hammurabi (1792-1750 B.C.), became the seat of a strong central government and a great cultural and religious center. Babylonians created the 60-minute hour, a calendar with 12 lunar months, and advanced multiplication tables. Cyrus, king of Persia, conquered Babylonia in 539 B.C., ending its glory days forever.

Bronze statue of Hammurabi,  
ruler of Babylonia



### 1 SUMER 3500-2006 B.C.

The first civilization developed in Sumer, the marshy area at the southern end of the fertile plain between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers. Sumerians developed a system of writing, enabling people to keep records and transmit knowledge. They also developed metal working and were early users of the wheel. Sumer, however, became weakened by constant warfare. It was overrun by invaders in 2006 B.C., and the region splintered into small kingdoms.



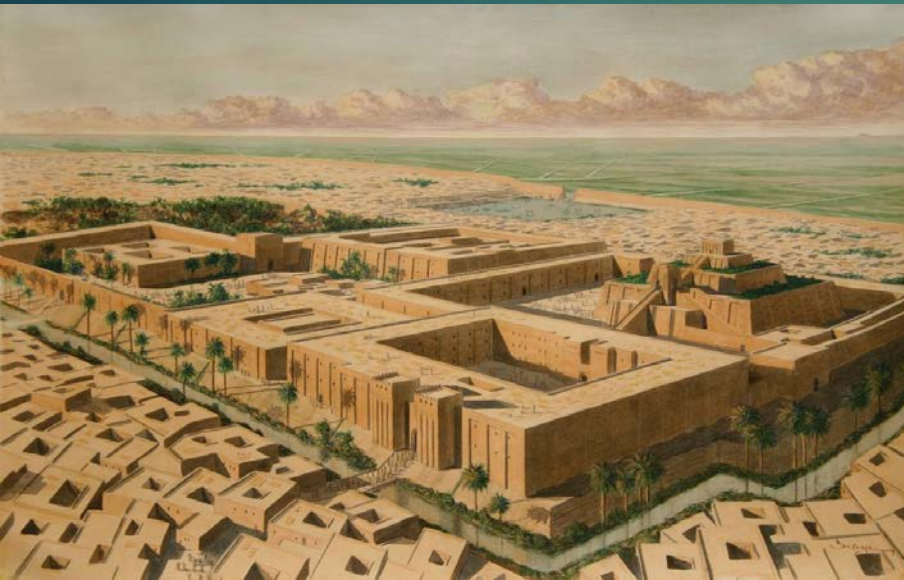
Statue of King  
Gudea, who  
developed  
long-distance  
trade in  
timber  
and  
metal  
artistry





# Why did Empires Start?

- ▶ Under the leadership of **individual kings**, leaders start looking to **expand** their city-states
  - ▶ Why? **Land** (crops, people, crafts)= wealth
  - ▶ This marks the **beginning of empires**
- ▶ **Empire**: a group of nations or peoples ruled by one leader



# Why is Sargon important?

1<sup>st</sup> Empire: Sargon Dynasty  
2340 BCE- 2125 BCE

- ▶ Founder: Sargon of Akkad
- ▶ Adopted many of the Sumerian practices/beliefs for his empire
- ▶ Expanded his city-state from the north of Sumer to the Persian Gulf

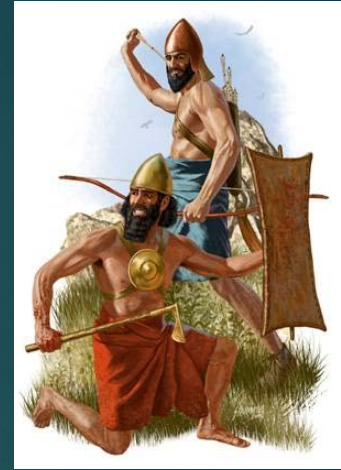
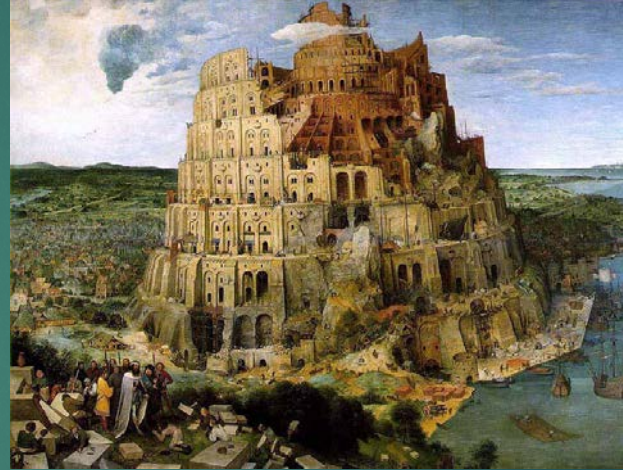


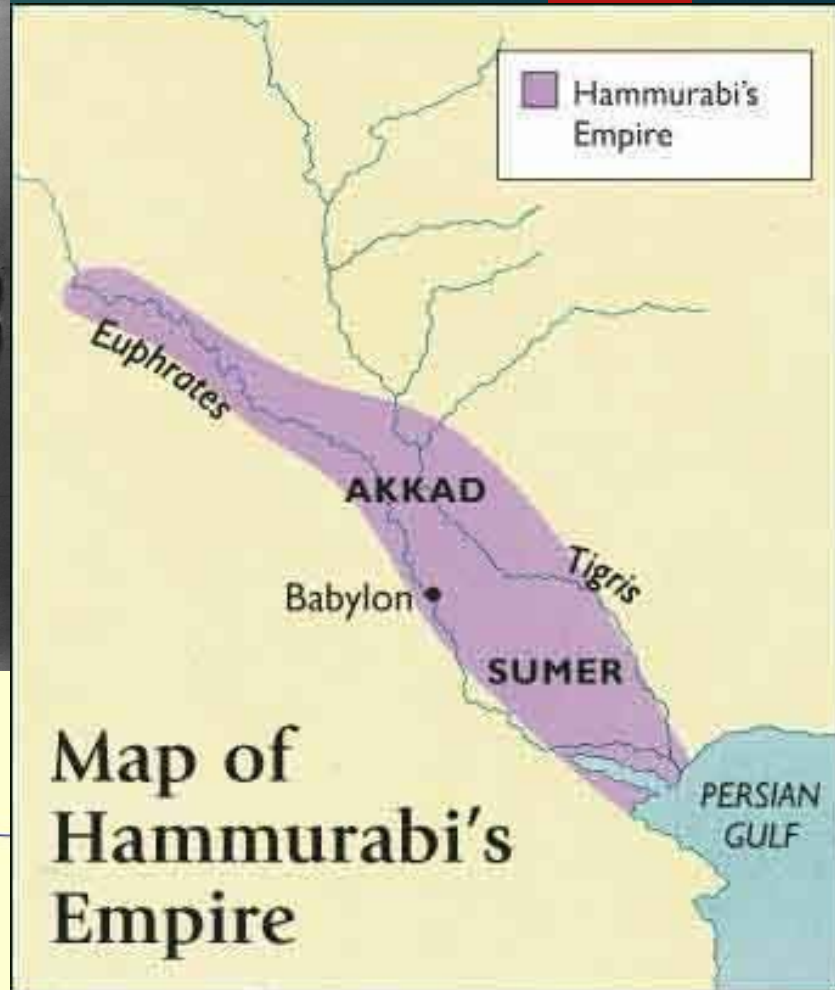
# The Akkadian Empire



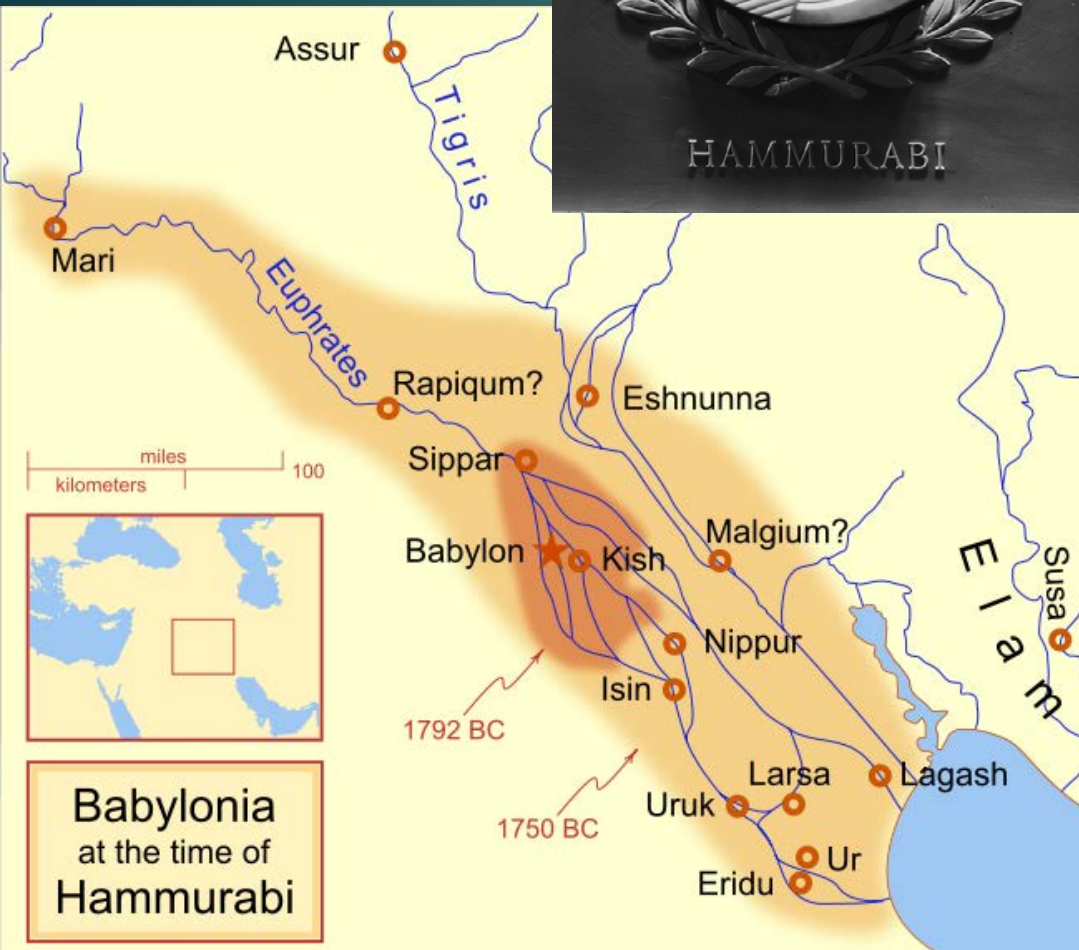
# What is important about the Babylonian Empire?

- ▶ Hammurabi created an empire out of the former Akkadian territories
- ▶ Relocated capital to Babylon
- ▶ Maintained Sumerian practices
  - ▶ Language and religion
- ▶ Hammurabi wanted to stabilize his rule by creating a standard code of law





Map of Hammurabi's Empire



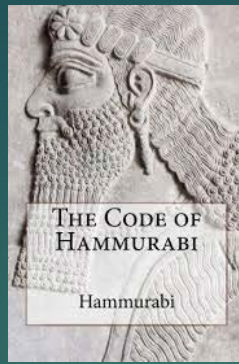
Babylonia at the time of Hammurabi

# Why is Hammurabi's code important?

- ▶ First uniform code of law
- ▶ Engraved on stone and placed throughout the empire



# HAMMURABI'S CODE



▶ Strict in nature

“the punishment fits the crime”

“eye for an eye”

▶ Laws were applied differently to different genders and different social classes



▶ A new way of thinking – the government was responsible for what occurred in society.



“if a man destroys the eye of another man, they shall destroy his eye.”

*Hammurabi 1750BC*