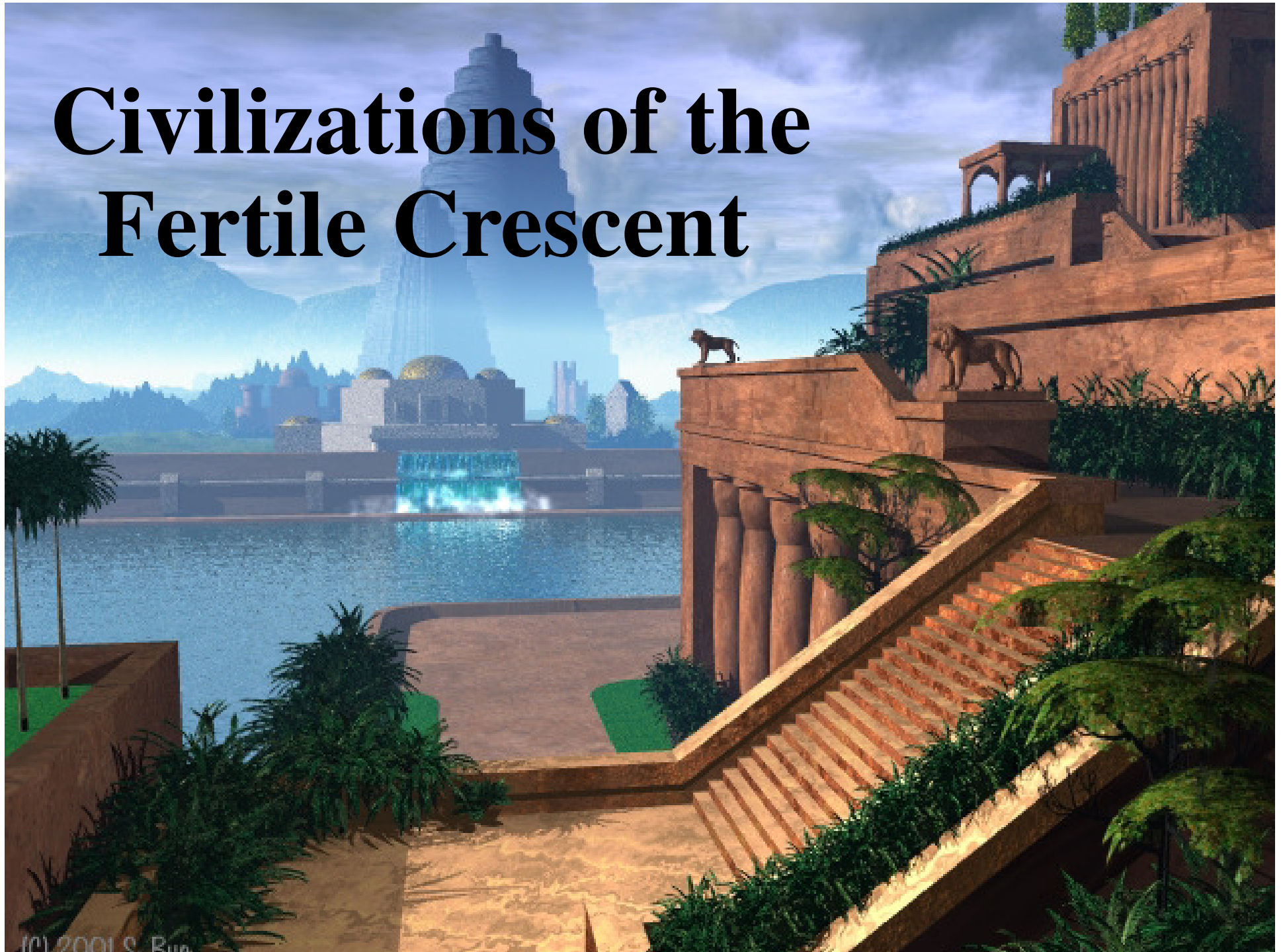


Civilizations of the Fertile Crescent



Tigris and the Euphrates Rivers

I. **Mesopotamia** (MEHS•uh•puh•TAY•mee•uh) means "land between two rivers."

A. Two great rivers pass through the Fertile Crescent are the **Tigris** (TY•grihs) and the **Euphrates** (yoo•FRAY•teez).



Tigris River



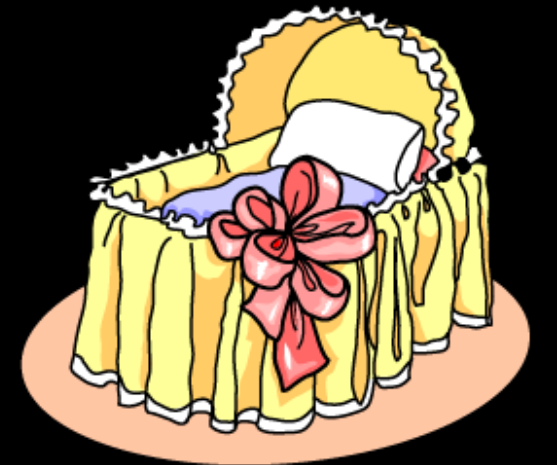
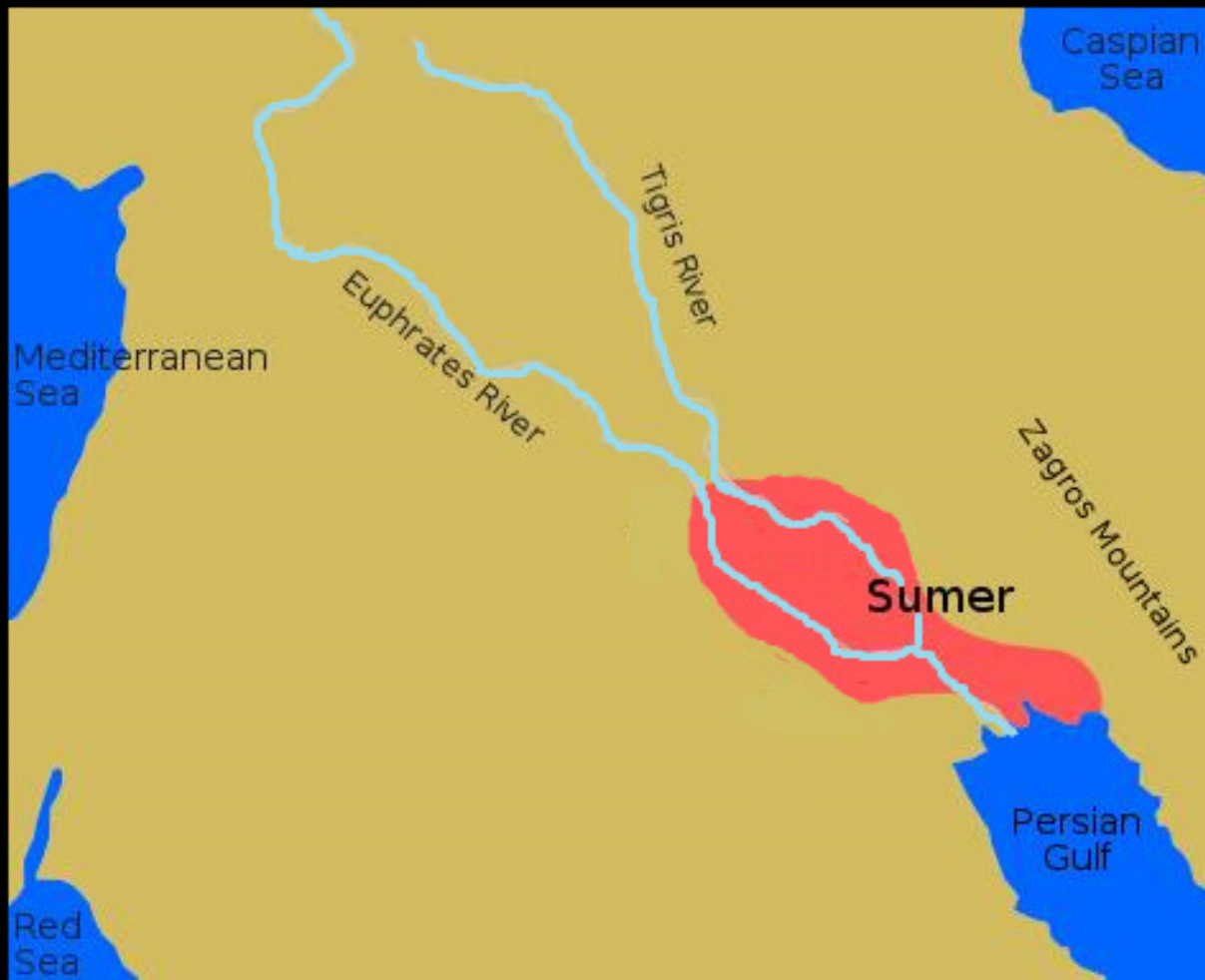
Euphrates River

The Tigris and Euphrates Rivers rise in the mountains of Turkey and flow southeastward for more than a thousand miles, emptying into the Persian Gulf.

Sumer

I. **Sumer** is the world's first civilization which developed around 3500 B.C., in the region around the Tigris and Euphrates rivers.

A. Mesopotamia is often called the "**Cradle of Civilization.**"



City-States

I. By 3000 BC, many villages of Sumer had grown into city-states

A. **City-State** is an independent and self-governing city including the lands surrounding it.

1. Everyone spoke the same language, shared customs, religious beliefs, and worked together.

B. Sumer was not united.

1. Separate city-states had their own government and rulers.

C. The major city-states of Sumer included Erech, Kish, Lagash, and Ur

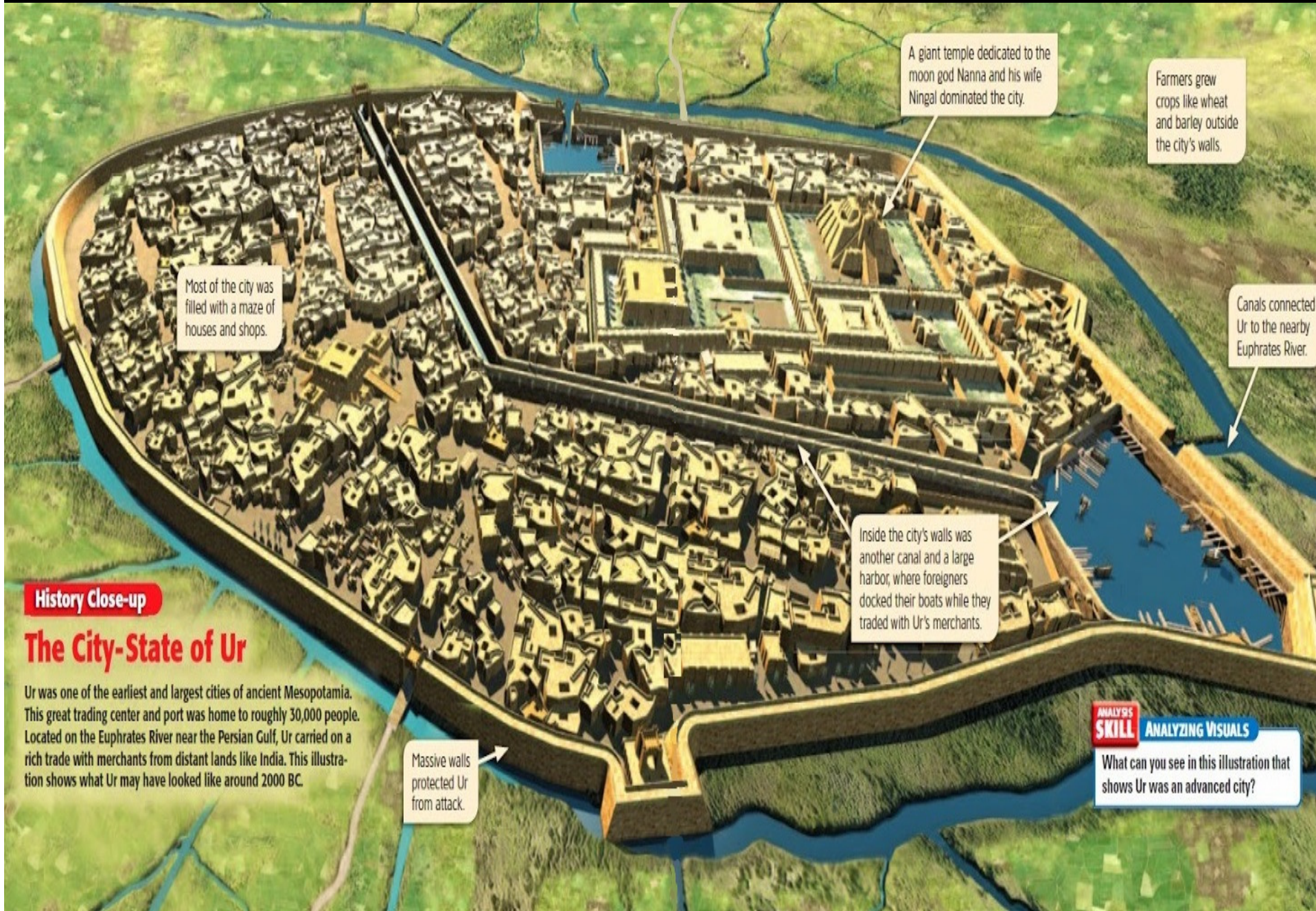
D. Competition over land and water rights often led to war.

1. For many years, the city-states of Ur and Uruk fought each other.



With no natural barriers for protection, a Sumerian village was nearly defenseless. For defense, they built city walls with mud bricks.

Ur



A giant temple dedicated to the moon god Nanna and his wife Ningal dominated the city.

Farmers grew crops like wheat and barley outside the city's walls.

Most of the city was filled with a maze of houses and shops.

Canals connected Ur to the nearby Euphrates River.

Inside the city's walls was another canal and a large harbor, where foreigners docked their boats while they traded with Ur's merchants.

History Close-up

The City-State of Ur

Ur was one of the earliest and largest cities of ancient Mesopotamia. This great trading center and port was home to roughly 30,000 people. Located on the Euphrates River near the Persian Gulf, Ur carried on a rich trade with merchants from distant lands like India. This illustration shows what Ur may have looked like around 2000 BC.

Massive walls protected Ur from attack.

ANALYSIS SKILL ANALYZING VISUALS

What can you see in this illustration that shows Ur was an advanced city?

Overcoming the Environmental Challenges

I. Flooding

A. Floods were not predictable.

1. Some years the floods were mild, but in other years they were severe and destroyed villages and killed thousands of people.

II. Droughts

A. Period of very dry weather.

B. Crops dried up and caused massive famine.



Flooding



Droughts

Silt

I. Each spring, the Tigris and Euphrates rivers flooded Mesopotamia.

A. **Silt**- A thick bed of rich mud left after the flood water receded.

1. Farmers then planted grain in this rich silt.

II. The Euphrates carried five times more silt than the Nile River in Egypt.

B. The silt left behind sometimes measures up to eight feet.



Irrigation

I. Around 3,000 B.C., Mesopotamian farmers learned to **irrigate** their crops by digging a great network of canals and dikes to carry river water to their fields.

A. This allowed them to produce a surplus of wheat and barley at harvest time.

1. The surpluses from their harvests allowed villages to grow.



Mesopotamian Economy

I. The natural resources of Sumer were limited.

A. Building materials and other necessary items were scarce.

II. Mesopotamia developed a trade network.

A. **Barter Economy.**

1. System of trade of one product for another without the use of money.

a. Surplus grain exchanged for woven wool blankets.

b. Exchange of surplus grain for stone or lumber.

c. Merchants journeyed north to barter for precious metals.

1c. Artisans bartered for metals and made jewelry, tools, and weapons.



Cuneiform

I. Cuneiform

A. Sumerian writing

1. Cuneiform ((kyoo NEE uh form) means "wedge-shaped."

B. Cuneiform was written with a sharp reed, called a stylus, on a soft, wet clay tablet about the size of a postcard.

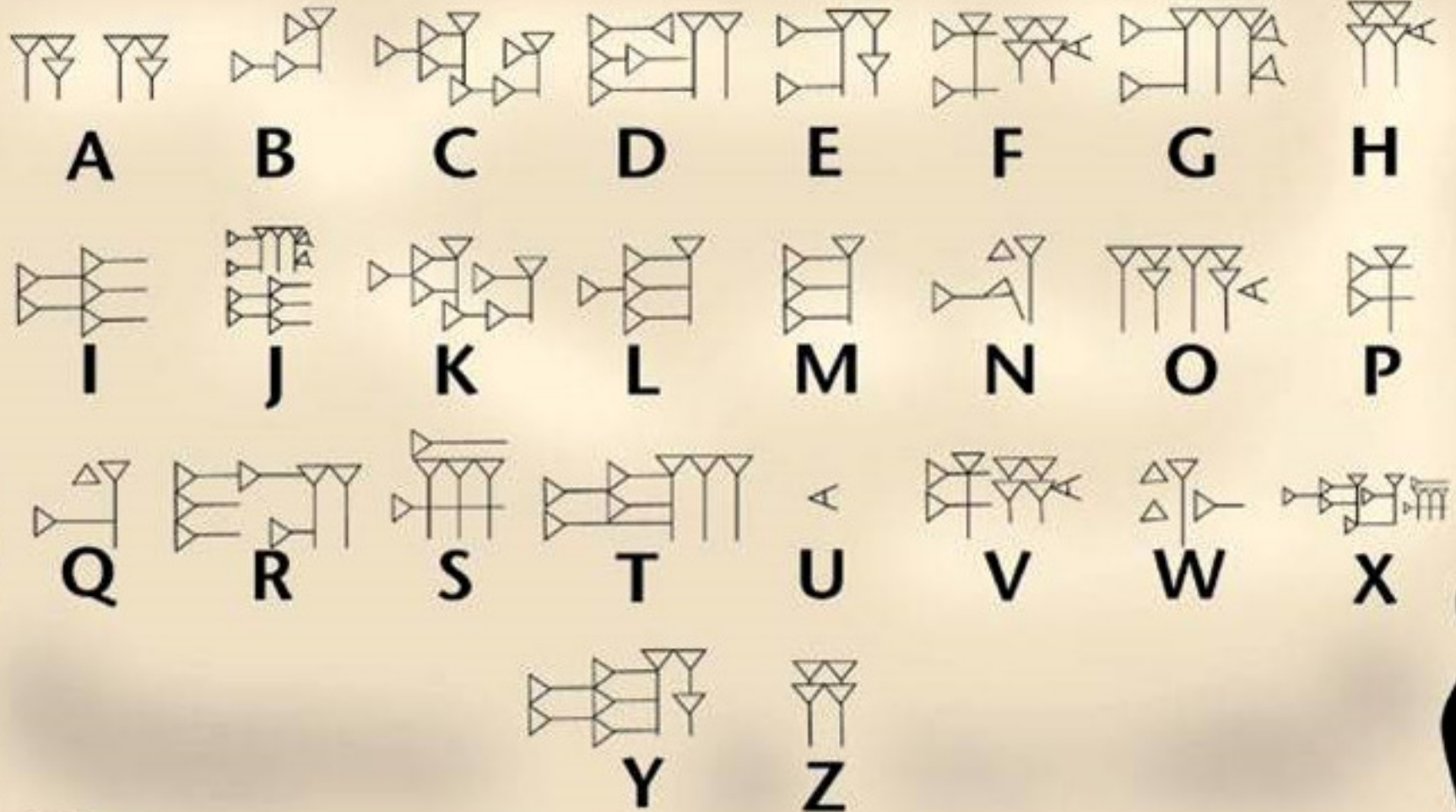
1. The tablets were then baked to harden them.

C. Developed to keep accounts of business deals.













D. Laws were written by scribes in cuneiform.



Deciphering Cuneiform



A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T
U	V	W	X	Y	Z				

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
									
K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T
									
U	V	W	X	Y	Z				

Extended Activity #2- Carve a Cuneiform Cylinder Seal

Extended Activity:

Carve a Cuneiform Cylinder Seal

[See Direction on Next Slide]



Extended Activity #2- Carve a Cuneiform Cylinder Seal

Extended Activity: Carve a Cuneiform Cylinder Seal

What You Need:

- Bar of Soap
- Small dish of water for re-moistening soap as needed
- Sharp tool to incise the clay with (even an unfolded paper clip will work)

What You Do:

1. Get a chunk of clay from your teacher.
2. Roll the clay into a cylinder about the same thickness size as a roll of quarters, making it as smooth as possible.
3. If the clay gets too dry, have him re-moisten it with a few drops of water.
4. Using a sharp tool (like an unfolded paper clip) incise a design into the clay around the entire circumference of the cylinder.
5. Allow the clay to dry. This may take a day or two.
6. Once dry, dip the cylinder seal in acrylic paint or ink it on a stamp pad and roll it onto a sheet of paper to reveal the design.
7. Now you have your own personal cylinder seal for verifying important documents!

Religion in Sumer

I. Sumerians did not worship their leaders as gods, instead they worshipped nature.

A. The farmers believed that the success of their crops depended upon the blessings of the gods, and the priests acted as go-betweens with the gods.

1. Enlil, the god of storms and air, was among the most powerful gods.

B. **Polytheism** (PAHL•ee•thee•IHZ•uhm)- Worship of many gods.

1. Humans were nothing but their servants.

C. Sumerians described their gods as doing the same things humans do; falling in love, having children, quarreling, and so on.

D. Believed in Life after Death, but saw afterlife as a grim place (darkness, etc.)



Mesopotamian Gods



ANU GOD OF THE HEAVENS



ENLIL GOD OF THE AIR



ENKI GOD OF FRESH-WATER



ENBILULU GOD OF RIVERS



NERGAL GOD OF DEATH



NANNA GOD OF THE MOON



NINURTA GOD OF WAR



UTU GOD OF THE SUN



GERRA GOD OF FIRE



TAMMUZ GOD OF VEGETATION



MARDUK GOD OF STORMS



NABU GOD OF SCRIBES

Ziggurats

I. Ziggurats

A. Most important buildings in the city-states.

1. Constructed to be the tallest structure in the city (usually 6 or 7 stories).

a. Great height brought the city closer to the gods.

b. Village people believed the chief god lived at the top of a ziggurat.

1b. Ziggurats were believed to be the stairway to the gods.

2. To honor the gods and goddesses, priests acted as go-betweens and offered rich sacrifices of animals, food, and wine.



Mesopotamian Rulers

I. Sumer's earliest governments were controlled by the temple priests.

A. In times of war, the priests did not lead the city.

1. Instead, the men of the city chose a tough fighter to command the army.
2. Gradually, Sumerian priests and people gave commanders permanent control as a ruler.

B. The king's authority was limited by an assembly of the elders.

1. The king had to consult the elders on any decision that was important to the entire region.
2. King led army in war and enforced laws.

Let Me Get This Straight... I wasn't good enough to rule before... But Now we're being invaded and you're my best friends?



Something Like That

← City Elders

Dynasty

I. Dynasty

A. When rulers usually passed their power on to their sons, who eventually passed it on to their own heirs.

1. Such a series of rulers from a single family is called a dynasty.



Mesopotamian Society

I. Social classes (The higher up on the pyramid chart the better)

A. Kings

B. Priests

1. Closest to the Gods

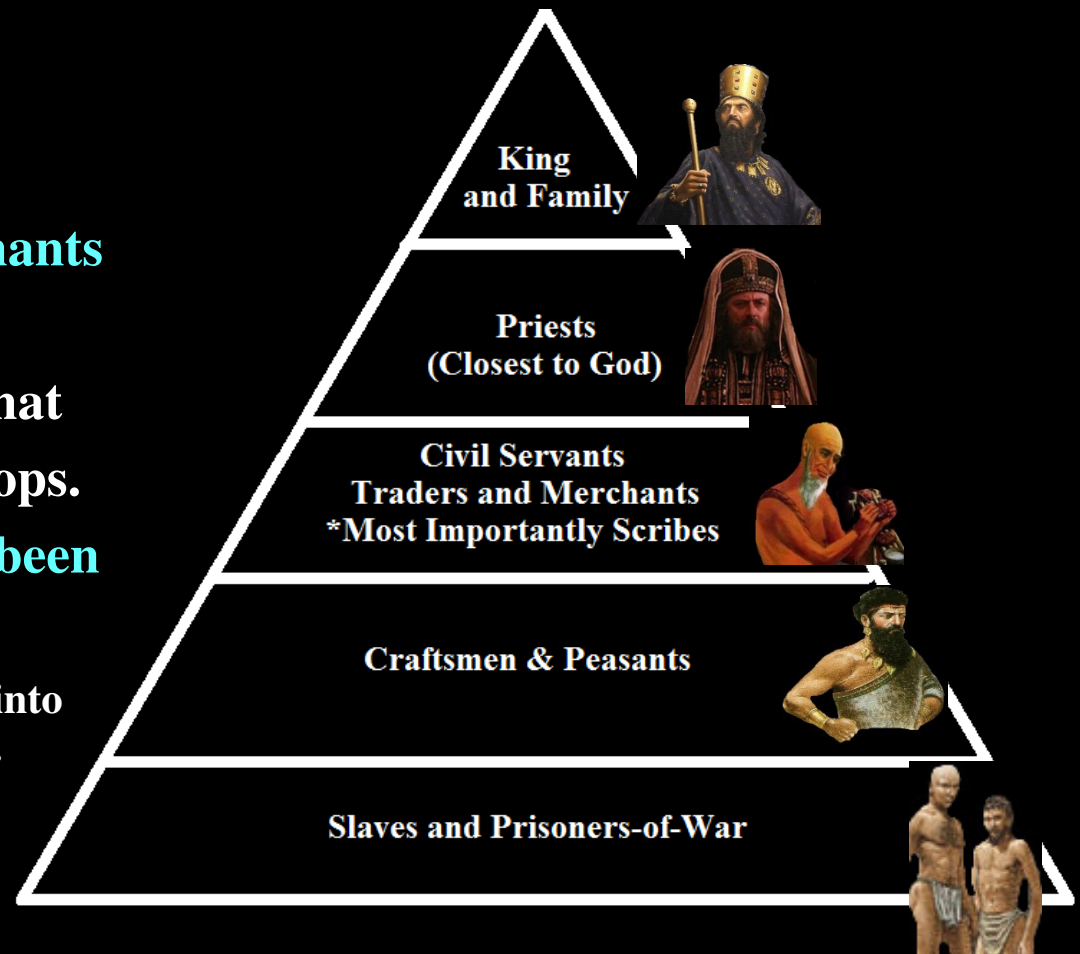
C. Landholders & Wealthy Merchants

D. Craftsmen & Peasants

1. Ordinary Sumerian people that worked in fields and workshops.

E. Slaves and foreigners who had been captured in war

*Others were Sumerians who had been sold into slavery as children to pay the debts of their poor parents.



Mesopotamian Empires

- I. With no natural barriers for protection, a Sumerian village was nearly defenseless.**
- II. Around 2,000 B.C., the Sumerian city-states were conquered and united by a succession of rulers and empire builders.**

The Akkadians: 2340-2125 B.C.

The Amorites: 1800-1530 B.C.

The Hittites: 1600-717 B.C.

The Assyrians: 1170-612 B.C.

The Chaldeans: (Neo Babylon) 612-539

Sargon and the Akkadians: 2340-2125 B.C.

I. Sargon of Akkad (2350 B.C)

A. Sargon I was a military leader from a powerful city-state in northern Mesopotamia known as Akkad who led his army and conquered Sumer.

B. Sargon created the first empire in the world by uniting all the Sumerian city-states under the control of one ruler.

C. After the death of Sargon, the Akkadian Empire fell into decline.

1. Sargon's dynasty lasted only about 100 years.



Hammurabi and the Amorites: 1800-1530 B.C.

- I. **Hammurabi** (hahm uh RAH bee) and the Babylonian (BAB uh lahn ian) Empire
 - A. Nomadic warriors known as Amorites invaded Mesopotamia about 2000 B.C. and adopted her ways.
 - B. Hammurabi established his kingdom which was centered in Babylon that expanded almost to the Mediterranean Sea.
 1. Babylon became a leading commercial and cultural center in Mesopotamia.
 - C. Hammurabi's most enduring legacy is the code of laws he established describing the various violations and what the appropriate punishments would be.



Code of Hammurabi

I. Code of Hammurabi

A. These laws were written down, establishing the first account of a written system of justice.

1. Known as the "Eye for an Eye" laws

2. It contained about 300 laws covering many areas of government.

a. Hammurabi had the code engraved in stone, and copies were placed all over his empire.

3. These laws were very strict and covered almost everything in daily life.

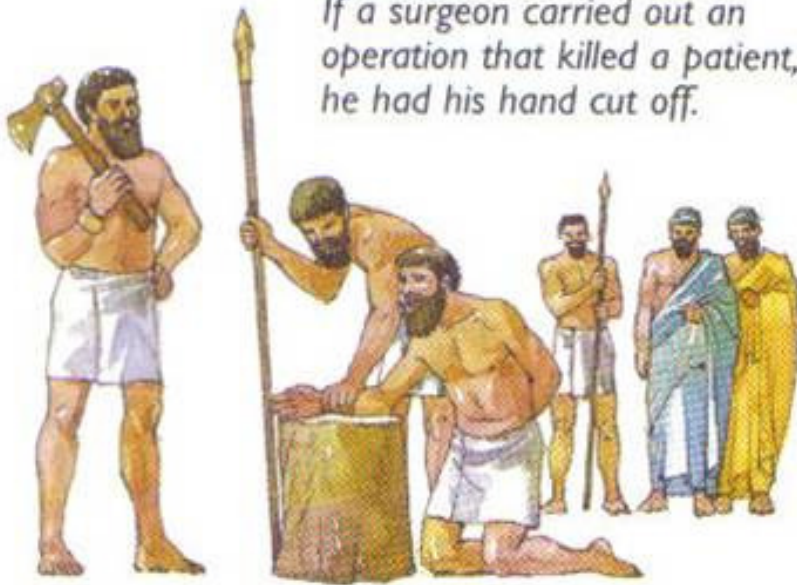


The image at the left shows the top of a pillar that had Hammurabi's Code engraved on it. Hammurabi's law code prescribed punishments ranging from fines to death. Often the punishments were based on the social class of the victim.

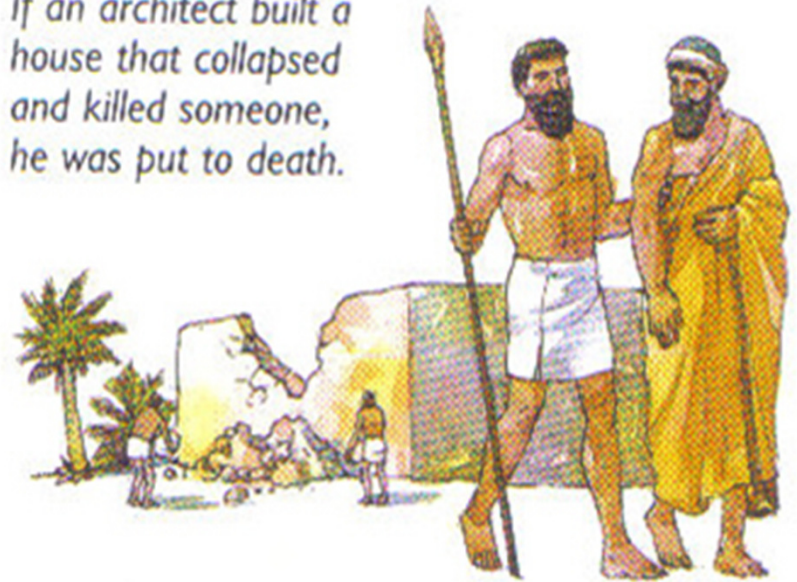


Code of Hammurabi

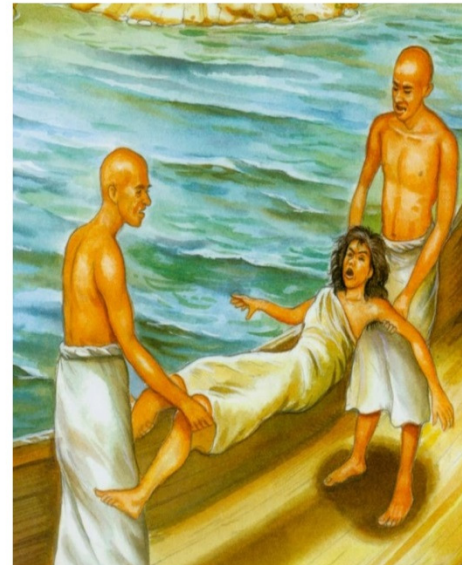
If a surgeon carried out an operation that killed a patient, he had his hand cut off.



If an architect built a house that collapsed and killed someone, he was put to death.



A man who owed money to someone could lend him his wife as a slave.



If the woman has not been careful but has gadded about, neglecting her house and belittling her husband, they shall throw that woman into the water.

Extended Activity #2- Hammurabi's Classroom

Extended Activity:

Create a set of ten laws, and their punishments for the classroom.



The Hittite Empire [1600-717 B.C.]

- I. **Hittites**- A group of fearsome war-like people that swept into the Middle East around 2000 B.C.
- A. In the 1590s B.C., the Hittites had conquered the powerful city of Babylon, and had stretched their empire outward into on a plateau known as Anatolia [modern-day Turkey.]
- B. The Hittites used advanced iron weaponry and chariots that allowed them to easily defeat and conquer any enemies who stood in their way.
- C. By 1650 B.C., the Hittites had established a number of city-states and developed an advanced and sophisticated culture.



The Hittites used advanced iron weaponry and chariots

The Assyrians: 1170-612 B.C.

I. **The Assyrians** (uh SIHR ee uhnz) was a group of resilient nomads who used iron weapons to conquer the entire Fertile Crescent and part of Egypt.

A. The Assyrians were cruel people who tortured and murdered most of the people they conquered.

B. They built their capital at Nineveh (NIHN uh vuh).

1. Because of the cruelty and unfair treatment the Assyrian Empire was invaded by the Medes and Chaldeans (kal DEE uhnz) around 612 BC.

a. As a result of this military action, the Assyrian empire was divided between the two groups.



The Assyrians earned a reputation of extreme cruelty to those whom they conquered, often burning their cities, and torturing their people.



The Chaldeans: (Neo Babylon) 612-539

- I. **Nebuchadnezzar** (nehb uh kuhd NEHZ uhr), the ruler of the Chaldeans defeated the Assyrians in 612 B.C. and built a powerful and wealthy nation.
- A. Babylon was rebuilt into one of the most beautiful cities in the world.
1. He ordered his palace to be decorated with blue glazed bricks.
 2. Constructed the Hanging Gardens of Babylon.
 - a. A magnificent palace with many levels of gardens and palaces.



A legend tells that Nebuchadnezzar's wife did not like the flat plains of Mesopotamia. In order to please her, he built beautiful terraced, hanging gardens at his palace. The gardens were designed to remind the queen of the mountains of her homeland.



Nebuchadnezzar

Contributions of the Sumerians

I. Sumerians made numerous contributions to the world, many of which still exist in some form today.

Historians believe that Sumerians invented the wheel, the sail, and the plow and that they were among the first to use bronze.



The Sumerians were leaders in the development of important engineering innovations in the field of architecture.



Other tablets contain some of the oldest written records of scientific investigations in the areas of astronomy, chemistry, and medicine.



Arithmetic and geometry
In order to erect city walls and buildings, plan irrigation systems, and survey flooded fields, Sumerians needed arithmetic and geometry.



Calendar
They developed a number system in base 60, from which stem the modern units for measuring time (60 seconds = 1 minute) and the 360 degrees of a circle.



Sumerians were one of the first civilizations to make use of arches, columns, ramps, and inclined walks in their building ideas.



The Phoenicians

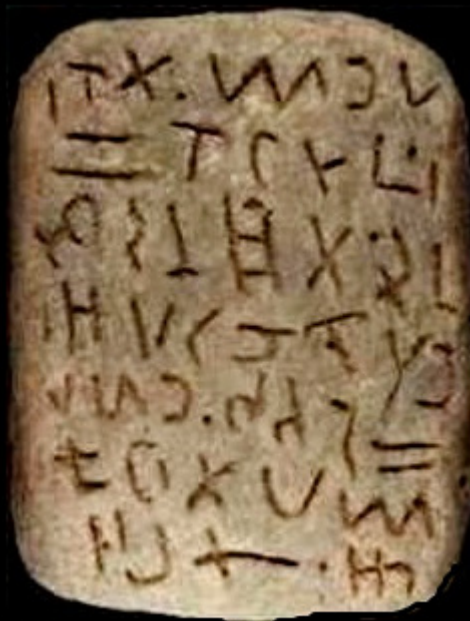
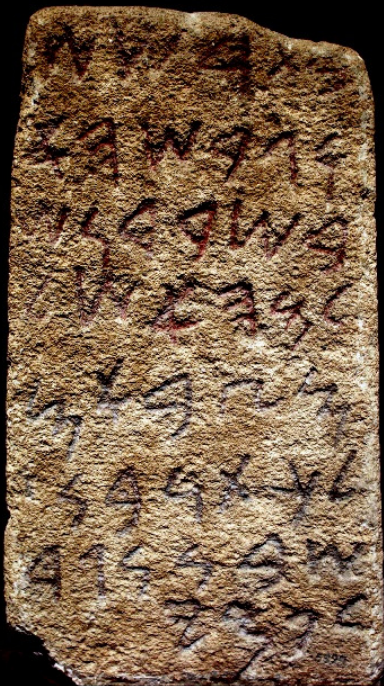
- I. The **Phoenicians** were sea traders crossing the Mediterranean Sea and around to England and Western Africa.
- A. They set up many colonies in North Africa, Sicily, and Spain.
- B. Called “Carriers of Civilization”, because they spread Middle Eastern civilization around the Mediterranean.
- C. Their economy was based on the exportation of timber (cedar) and purple dye.



Phoenician Alphabet

D. The Phoenicians created the alphabetic principle which simplified reading and writing in the ancient world. This lowered the status of the scribe and increased literacy throughout the ancient world.

1. Developed an alphabet, containing letters that represent spoken sounds, which became the basis for Greek and Hebrew alphabets, in turn influenced many others, including English.



𐤀	'aleph	[ʾ]	𐤁	lamedh	[l]
𐤂	beth	[b]	𐤃	mem	[m]
𐤄	gimmel	[g]	𐤅	nun	[n]
𐤆	daleth	[d]	𐤇	samekh	[s]
𐤈	he	[h]	𐤉	'ayin	[ʾ]
𐤊	waw	[w]	𐤋	pe	[p]
𐤌	zayin	[z]	𐤍	tsade	[ʃ]
𐤎	heth	[h]	𐤏	qoph	[q]
𐤐	teth	[t]	𐤑	reš	[r]
𐤒	yodh	[y]	𐤓	šin	[š]
𐤔	kaph	[k]	𐤕	taw	[t]

Short History of the Hebrews



The Israelites

One of the most notable civilizations to inhabit the early Middle East is that of the Israelites. Notable not because of the influence that they had in their own time, but rather because of the almost incomparable influence that they have had throughout history.

Billions and billions of people throughout the ages have believed in religions that are all based on the beliefs originally put forth by the Israelites. The Jewish, Muslim, and Christian faiths all get their heritage from them.



Israel's Beginnings

What historians know about the early history of the Israelites is based on accounts from the Bible. In many ways, the Bible is in fact a history book for this civilization.



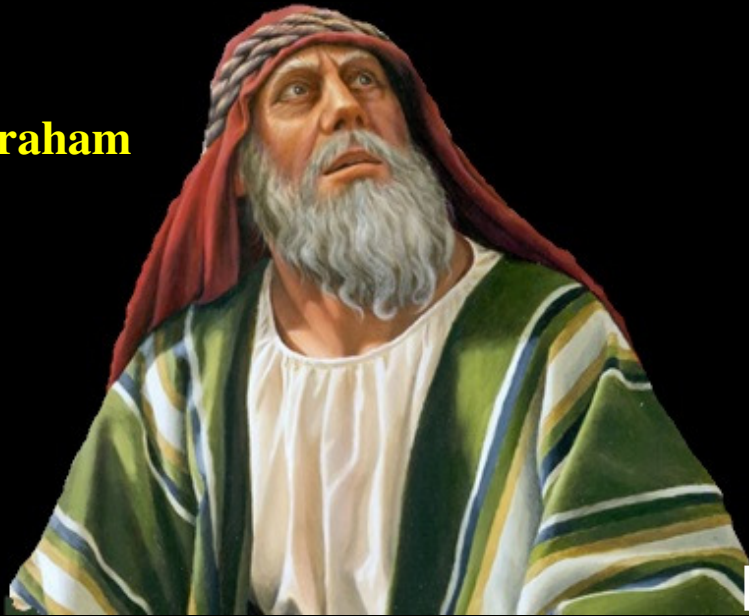
Abraham

I. **Abraham** was a leader of the Hebrews who founded Judaism.

A. Abraham lived in Mesopotamia in the city of Ur around 1900 B.C.

1. According to the Bible, God commanded Abraham and his followers to leave Ur to a new land called **Canaan**.

Abraham



Canaan is located between the Mediterranean Sea and the Jordan River. Canaan was among the most fertile lands in the region, and was coveted by farmers for the ease of growing crops. For the next two generations the Israelites lived in Canaan in relative peace.



12 Tribes of Israel

Abraham's grandson, whose name was Jacob, was the father of 12 sons. Each of these sons grew to become leaders over their own tribe. These tribes became known as the 12 tribes of Israel.

Twelve Tribes of Israel

Tribe of Judah

Tribe of Benjamin

Tribe of Zebulun

Tribe of Gad

Tribe of Judah

Tribe of Naphtali

Tribe of Levi

Tribe of Asher

Tribe of Reuben

Tribe of Simeon

Tribe of Issachar

Tribe of Joseph



Monotheism

I. The Hebrews were the first group of people to practice monotheism.

A. **Monotheism** is the belief in one God.

1. Abraham and his followers believed in just one all-powerful God whom they referred to as Yahweh.

a. These beliefs set them apart from the other religions.

- The Hebrews believed everyone should lead a moral life.
- They were taught to avoid all forms of immorality, including lying, cheating, stealing, and murder.
- They were also taught to live justly, to love their neighbors, and to obey their parents.



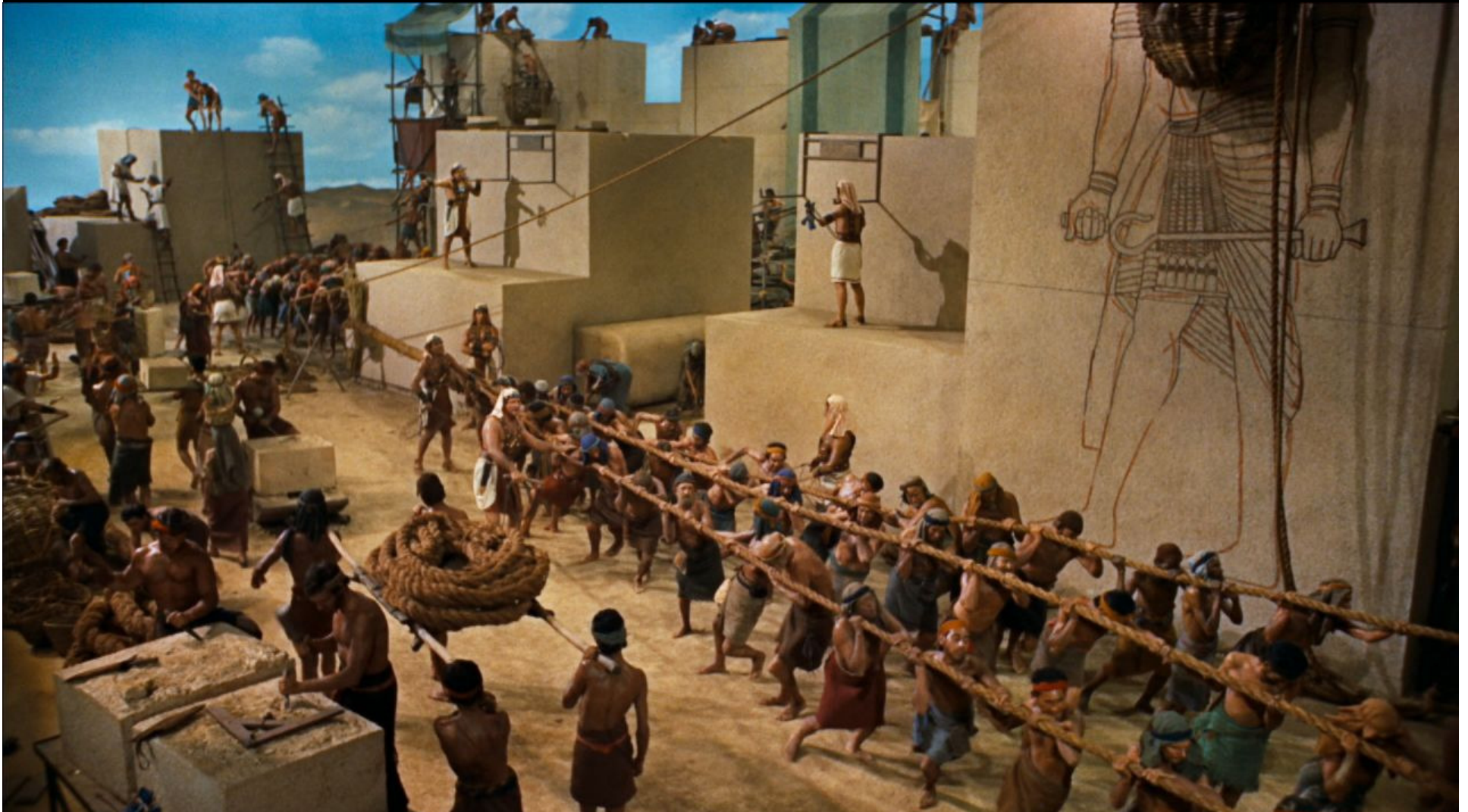
Israel Leaves Canaan

After a severe drought, the Hebrews left Canaan and traveled to Egypt. Here they lived peacefully for many years. Eventually the Egyptians began to worry about the growing strength of the Israelites.



Exodus: Israelites Forced Into Slavery in Egypt

Egypt was ruled harshly by the Pharaoh. Perceiving the Israelites as a threat, the Pharaoh forced the Israelites into slavery and forced to construct his new cities. They would remain as slaves in Egypt for the next 400 years.



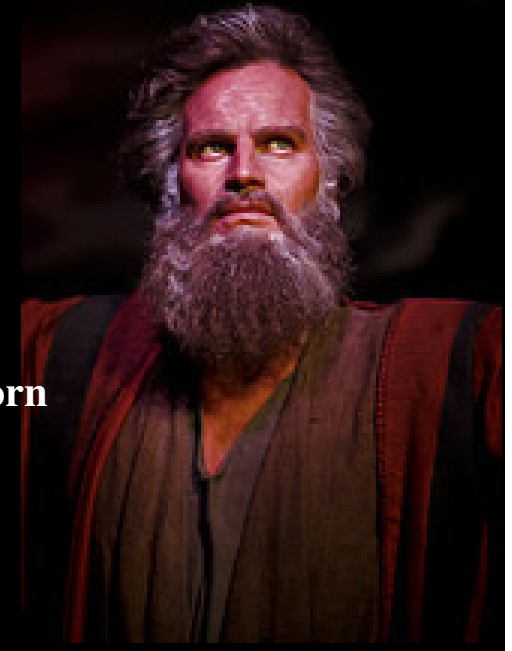
Exodus: Moses is Called to Lead the People Out of Egypt

God gave Moses the words and the power to perform miracles before Pharaoh to make him let the people go. To convince Pharaoh he was dealing with the one and only true God, he sent ten plagues on Egypt. But each time, Pharaoh's heart was hardened, and he did not obey God. Instead, he did not let the people go. The tenth plague, the most devastating plague of them all, killed the Pharaoh's son. It was the Pharaoh's last chance. It was his last warning. Pharaoh finally agreed to release the Israelites.



10 Plagues of Egypt

1. Water to Blood
2. Frogs
3. Gnats or Lice
4. Flies
5. Livestock Diseased
6. Boils
7. Thunder and Hail
8. Locusts
9. Darkness
10. Death of the Firstborn



Moses tries to convince the pharaoh to free the Hebrews.

The Exodus

Soon, the Pharaoh realized he had lost the services of the Israelite people who were used as slaves, and his heart was hardened. Pharaoh decided to pursue the Israelites and return back to slavery.

Unleavened bread



The Israelites left Egypt so quickly, they didn't even have time to let the yeast rise for the bread they were baking. They called it unleavened bread, and it is still used today by Jewish people to celebrate God's protection from that tenth plague.



Egyptian chariots race towards the Red Sea to catch the Israelites and force them back into slavery in Egypt.

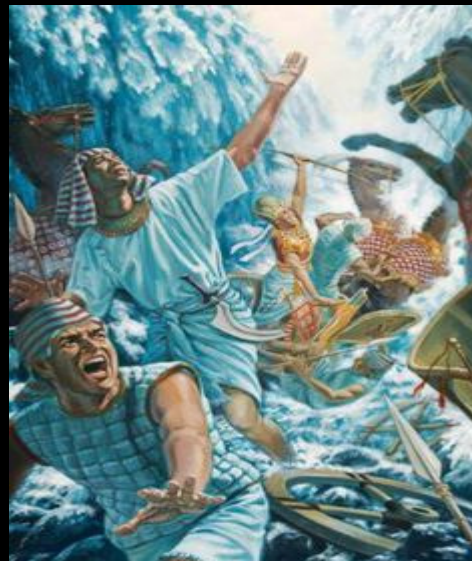
Moses Parts the Red Sea

Trapped by the Egyptian army, Moses puts his faith in God and is rewarded with an awesome miracle: the Red Sea parts, allowing the Israelites to escape.



The Pursuing Egyptian Army is Drown

Evidence or Hoax?



Ten Commandants

I. After Moses led the Hebrews out of Egypt, he received from God a set of religious and moral laws. These laws are known today as the Ten Commandments.

A. God (Jehovah) gave Moses the laws by which Hebrews would live and abide.

1. Belief in one God (Monotheism)

2. Governed religious beliefs and behavior.

a. Laws forbade lying, stealing, and murder.

GOD

- 1: Do not worship any other gods
- 2: Do not make any idols
- 3: Do not misuse the name of God
- 4: Keep the Sabbath holy

MAN

- 5: Honour your father & mother
- 6: Do not murder
- 7: Do not commit adultery
- 8: Do not steal
- 9: Do not lie
- 10: Do not covet



40 Years Spent Walking in the Desert

After Moses led the people from the harm of Pharaoh, you would think they would be happy and content. Sadly, that just wasn't the case. The people still grumbled and complained, saying they would be better off if they were still slaves in Egypt. Moses constantly prayed to the Lord not to be angry with them. He knew God wanted him to lead the Israelites to the Promised Land. But because of their constant grumbling, no one over 20 years old, except two faithful men named Joshua and Caleb, would see the Promised Land. Neither would Moses see it. Of the people alive during the time they crossed the Red Sea, only children would make it to the promised land. Everyone else would be wandering around lost in the desert for 40 years.

Many Israelites complained and blamed Moses, said they would rather go back and serve the Egyptians than die in the desert.



Israel is Settled

Moses died before the Israelites reached Canaan. His successor, a man by the name of Joshua, continued the trek and the Hebrews eventually returned to Canaan and settled in what is now Israel. Other leaders would follow.



Terms to Know:

Mesopotamia “Land between the Rivers”

Tigris River

Euphrates River

Barter

Ancient Sumer

City-State

Ur & Erech

Ziggurats

Cuneiform

Babylonians

Nomads

Hanging Gardens of Babylon

King Nebuchadnezzar II

Code of Hammurabi

Judaism

Abraham

Canaan

Hebrews

Monotheism

Moses

Ten Commandants

Concepts to Know:

- **What two rivers bordered the Mesopotamian civilization?**
- **What environmental elements did the Mesopotamian civilization have to overcome?**
- **Describe the Mesopotamian economy.**
- **Describe ancient Sumer and the development of city-states.**
- **Explain the religion of ancient Sumer.**
- **Describe ancient Sumerian writing.**
- **Who were the Babylonians?**
- **What were the codes of Hammurabi? Describe some.**
- **Describe the foundation of Judaism.**
- **Describe the religious foundation of Judaism.**