



Mesopotamia Museum Project

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Religion



- ❑ Religion was central to Mesopotamians, as they thought it affected every aspect of their life.
- ❑ Sumerians and Babylonians were polytheistic.
- ❑ Hebrews in Palestine were the 1st monotheistic faith.
- ❑ Holy book of Judaism Torah; 10 commandments which served as moral code.
- ❑ To worship the gods and goddesses they built large structures called Ziggurats



Economy & Trade



- The Ancient Mesopotamian economy was based on a system of bartering, which is trading goods and services for other goods and services
- The city-state Sumer was a huge center for trade and commerce
- Because Mesopotamia didn't exactly have a surplus of natural resources trade became a big source of wealth for the ancient civilization
- Traders started setting up outposts to stop at, over time these outposts became functioning cities. This is how the Mesopotamians developed the world's first "territorial kingdom"

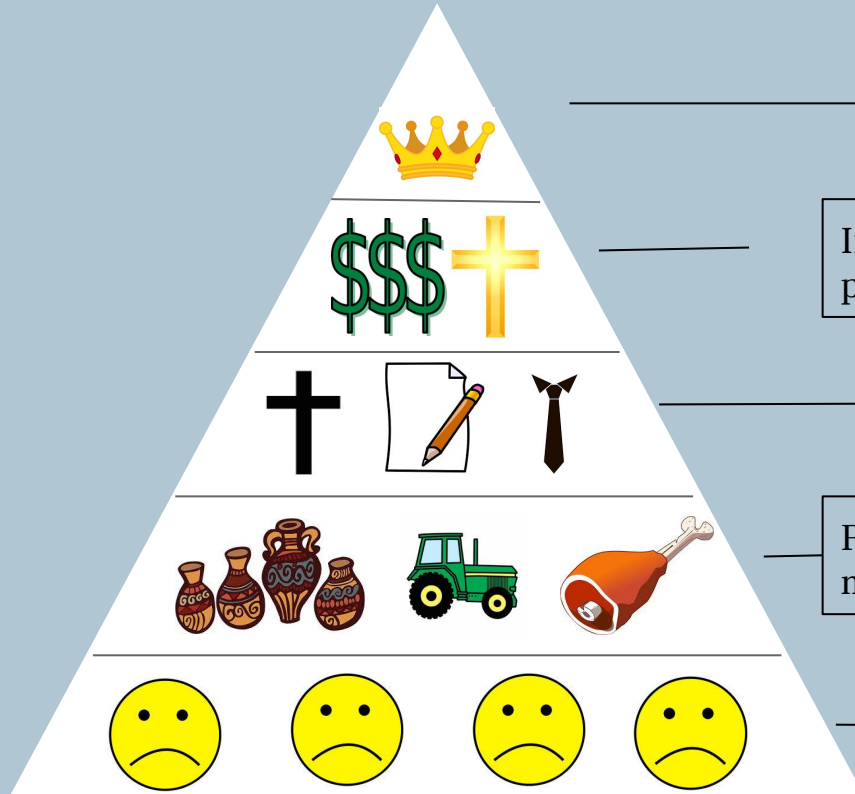
Politics



- Mesopotamia was made up of many city states and each of them had their own government, laws, army, and more.
- Mesopotamia was ruled by kings but the kings only ruled a single city state.
- They were polytheistic and they believed in many gods and goddesses.
- They had a code called Hammurabi's code which is a babylonian code of law of ancient mesopotamia.



Social Structure



At the top were kings (If the city state had one)

If there was no King, high priests and nobles were on top

Scribes, minor priests, and officials were the “upper middle class”

Farmers, craftsman, and other merchants are 2nd up from the bottom

At the bottom were slaves, I imagine they were very sad.

Intellectual Advancement

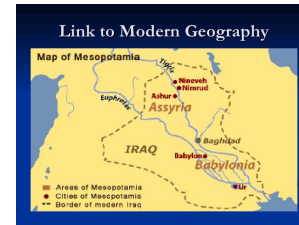


- Mathematics: counting, zero, 360 degree circle, base-60,
- Time: 12-month calendar, 60 seconds to an minute, 60 minutes to an hour etc,
- Astrology: movement of our planet, constellations, mapped the motion sun, moon, sky and stars and even forecasted eclipses (introduced the idea of astrology to the Greeks)

Geography



- Euphrates river and Tigris river led to the gulf of persia.
- These rivers allowed them to irrigate.
- Mesopotamia was also known as the “Fertile Crescent”.
- The rivers formed the “Cradle of civilization”.
- Mesopotamia is a Greek word meaning “between rivers”.
- The north side or Mesopotamia is mostly made of plains and hills.



Arts and Technology



- Sumerians' inventions include the wagon wheel, sail, plow and bronze metalwork.
- The wagon wheel was used for transportation of goods and people from place to place.
- Art was a very important part in Mesopotamia history.
- They created large human-like statues out of mud and bricks.
- The thing they did best was pottery, they even used it as a money system, trading pottery for food and other items because it was so good.



Rare Cuneiform Tablets, account of beer

Artifacts



sling bullet, made of ceramic and could have caused serious injury



Sumerian marble stamp seal

Citations



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