



MESOPOTAMIA EXHIBIT

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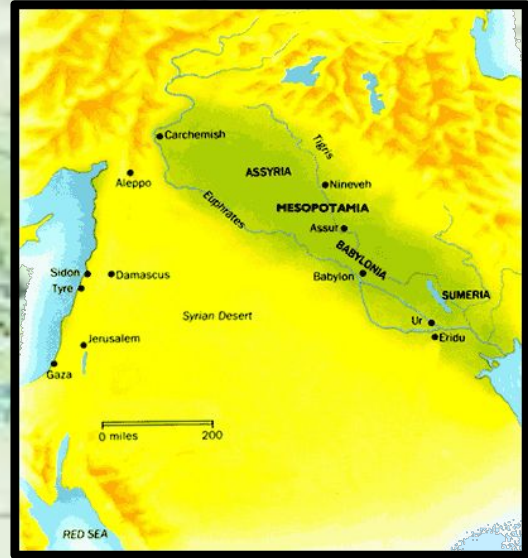
GEOGRAPHIC INFLUENCE OF SUMER

Sumer is located in the fertile crescent. There were few natural boundaries so it was not well protected. On the flip side the Tigris and Euphrates flooded and made the land very fertile. Sumer was in the southern part of the fertile crescent and there was very rarely rain.



GEOGRAPHIC INFLUENCE OF

Babylon is flat and its two main rivers are the Tigris and Euphrates. There are mountains on the north and east to protect the land. The Syrian and Arabian deserts surround the remaining land.



POLITICS

In ancient Mesopotamia they lacked a centralized government and leader. Instead they had smaller regions with their own government. Because of this, there was often in fighting between the kings.

(same/similiar in all city states)



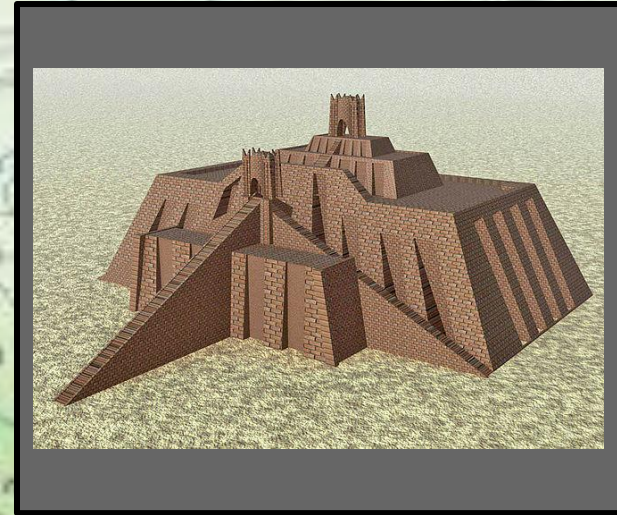
ECONOMY & TRADE

- The ancient Mesopotamians' trade economy imposed fees and tariffs
- Merchants, for example, were expected to pay fees to obtain permits to sail through certain areas of land for trade
- They traded amongst themselves but still had the ability to sail around the Middle East and Mediterranean in order to buy and sell products
- They traded with East Africans, Egyptians, Indians, nations in Afghanistan, Iran, and the Arabian Peninsula



RELIGION OF SUMER AND BABYLON

- Sumerians and Babylonians were polytheistic.
- Polytheistic - is a belief in more than one god.
- They believed that the divine affected every aspect of human life.
- In Sumer and Babylon they had temples called Ziggurats. The Ziggurats were at the center of the city and they were created to be the home of the patron god and goddesses.
- Sumerians believed their souls went between the earth's crust and the ancient sea.
- Babylonian religion was greatly influenced by Sumerian religion. It was written on clay tablets in cuneiform, derived from Sumerian cuneiform.



RELIGION OF PERSIA

- Persians, unlike other Mesopotamian civilizations, were monotheistic.
- Monotheistic - believed in only one god.
- Persians followed the religion Zoroastrianism.
- They believed the world is a battleground of good and evil. In Zoroastrianism, everyone is responsible for keeping the earth pure and to maintain order.
- They also believed that after someone dies, the spirit continues to exist, but not the body.



Approximate extent of
the Persian Gulf
around 550 B.C.

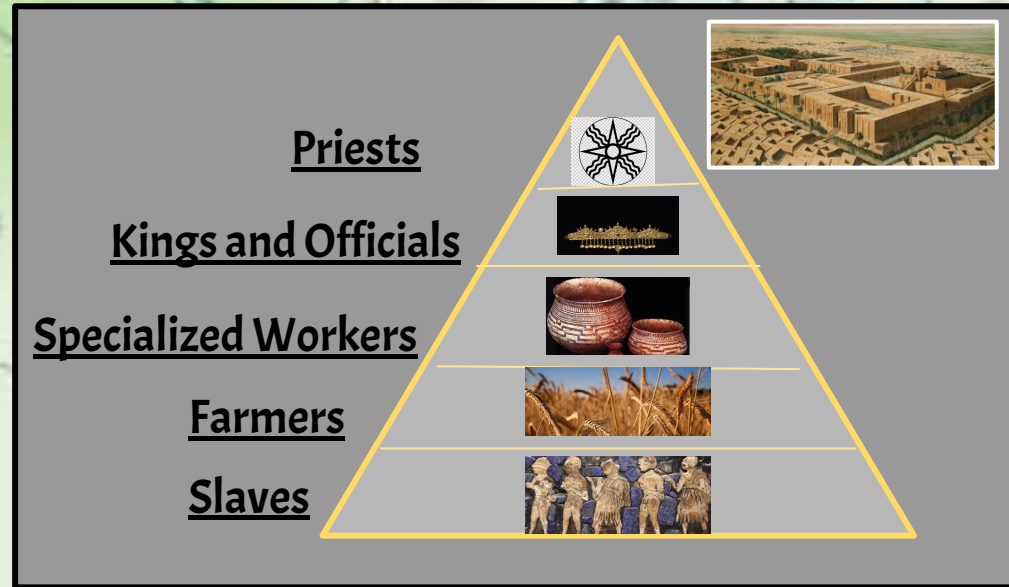
Kuwait

Persian Gulf

SOCIAL STRUCTURE

Since Mesopotamia had a surplus of food due to the agricultural revolution, there was room for specialized workers. This led to a class system that took influence to specialized workers and it also had characteristics of a theocracy. This caused the priests to have higher power over the king. Slaves were taken from enemy civilizations/territories.

The pyramid to the right only applies to Sumer. In Babylon and Persia, the kings decided to give more power to themselves. The kings being above the priests became a trend for other future civilizations.



INTELLECTUAL ADVANCEMENT

- In ancient Sumer, the world's first writing was created called cuneiform.
 - The first piece of literature was called Gilgamesh
 - The Phoenicians later simplified it to a 22 letter alphabet; alphabet influenced Greek, Latin, and English.
- In Babylon, Hammurabi's code was their philosophy.
 - They were more militaristic more than philosophical.
- In Persia, they believed in Zoroastrianism. Zoroastrianism is an ethical philosophy based on good deeds, good thoughts, and good words.



ARTS & TECHNOLOGY

- Mesopotamian people developed technologies such as metalworking, glassmaking, textile weaving, food control, water storage, irrigation, the wheel, the plow, and the sail
- They were the first Bronze Age people in the world
- They would create pottery and paint designs onto it
- Hominid figurines of stone or clay associated with religious cults were also part of their art



300km

ARTS & TECHNOLOGY OF SUMER

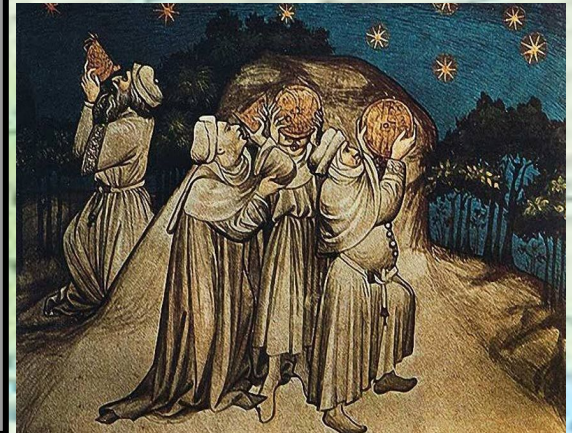
- Some of their art includes pottery, terra-cotta sculptures, cuneiform tablets, & clay cylinder seals
- Most of art was influenced by their religion
- Sumerian art was excavated b/c they would often bury their dead with their most prized objects
- The Sumerians invented many technologies such as: the two-wheeled chariot, the plow, textile mills
- The late historian Samuel Noah Kramer wrote “The people of Sumer had an unusual flair for technological invention”



300km

ARTS & TECHNOLOGY OF BABYLON

- Babylonian art showcased the piety of the King
- On some seals, the King was replaced by a goddess, Lama
- Babylonians made three dimensional and realistic free standing statues
- Vases and seal cylinders were also very artistic and were decorated with human forms or animals
- Major artistic achievement=Ishtar Gate
- Babylonians created an astronomical calculation in the base 60 system inherited by the sumerians
- Astronomical mythology was handed down to the Greeks by the Sumerians and Babylonians
- Astronomical mythology is still used today



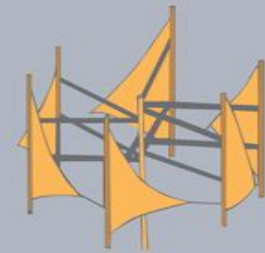
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ARTS & TECHNOLOGY OF PERSIA

- Art includes architecture, painting, sculpture, and goldsmithing
- Ancient art in Persia was a major influence of visual art and culture of the region
- Persian culture intermingled some with Mesopotamia and was influenced and was influenced by Sumerian, Greek, and Chinese art because of the Silk Road
- Persians Contributed to algebra and chemistry
- Invented the wind-power machine
- They studied medical plants and their effect on humans



500-900 AD



**PERSIANS USE
WINDMILLS TO
CRUSH GRAINS**

300km

ARTIFACT 1:



The story of Noah's Ark derives from the ancient story from Mesopotamia. In this version, Noah's name is Ziadura and he heard from the gods and the stories are nearly identical. People adored the story as it still has been passed down today. Artisans created amulets that are assumed are for protection. On the top to bottom you see a feline, a duck, then a bull. All animals boarding the ark, these amulets date back to the first Millenium. The story was put into the Bible with some minor changes to fit the Christian beliefs.

Artifact 2

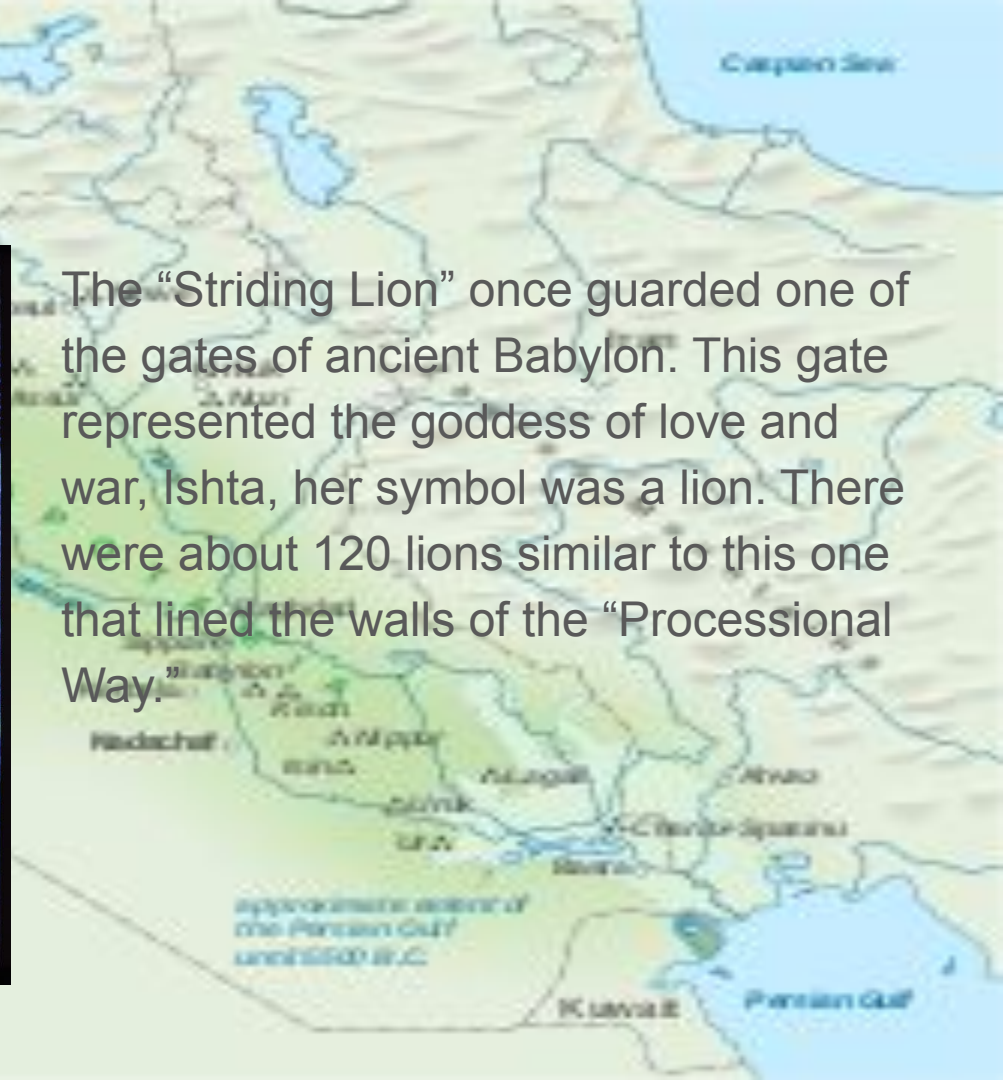
This is called Ku-Baba she was the only woman on the sumerian king list. She was the first woman ruler and ruled between 2500 BC and 2330 BC.



Artifact #3- Striding Lion



The “Striding Lion” once guarded one of the gates of ancient Babylon. This gate represented the goddess of love and war, Ishtar, her symbol was a lion. There were about 120 lions similar to this one that lined the walls of the “Processional Way.”



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