## **Ancient Sumer**

## The Rise of Sumer

	e earliest-known civilization arose in what is now southern, on a flat plain bounded
	the Tigris River and the Euphrates River.
• La	er, the called this area Mesopotamia.
Mes	opotamia - which means "the land between the rivers."
• Lo	cated in the eastern part of the Fertile Crescent.
• In	the spring, the rivers often flooded, leaving behind rich soil for
• Ho	t, dry climate.
• Kr	own as "cradle of civilization" because of the Sumerians ideas and inventions.
• By	3000 BCE, many cities had formed in southern Mesopotamia in a region known as
(S	OO•muhr).
Sum	er
1.	Sumerian were isolated from each other by geography
2.	Each Sumerian city and the land around it became a separate city-state.
3.	Sumerian city-states often went to war with one another.
4.	Each city-state surrounded itself with a for protection.
	Believed in many(Polytheism). Each was thought to have power over a natural force or a
	numan activity—flooding, for example, or basket weaving
6.	Each city-state built a grand temple called a <b>ziggurat</b> (ZIH • guh • RAT) to its god.
7.	The priests and priestesses were powerful and controlled much of the land. They may even have
	ruled at one time. Later, kings ran the government.
8.	n ancient Mesopotamia, only boys from wealthy and high-ranking families went to the <b>edubba</b> (the
	Sumerian term for "scribal" or "tablet house.")
	Ordinary people lived in smallbrick houses.
10.	Most people in Sumer farmed. Some, however, were artisans. Other people in Sumer worked as
	merchants or traders. They traveled to other cities and towns and traded tools, wheat, and barley
	or copper, tin, and timber—things that Sumer did not have.
11.	People in Sumer were divided into three social classes. The upper class included kings, priests,
	varriors, and government officials. In the middle class were artisans, merchants, farmers, and
	ishers. These people made up the largest group. The lower class were enslaved people (prisoners
	of war, criminals, Still others were enslaved because they had to pay off their debts) who worked on
	arms or in the temples. Generally, a person had to stay in the social class into which he or she was
12.	Men were the head of the household. Women could buy and sale property and run businesses.
	Sumerians invented writing-their greatest invention. Developed writing to keep track of business
	deals and other events. The Sumerians was called <b>cuneiform</b> .
14.	Invented the wagon
	Invented the <b>plow</b> , which made farming easier.
16.	nvented the <b>sailboat</b> , which replaced muscle power with power.

17.	The world's oldest knowncomes from Sumer.		
۷	ipic of Gilgamesh (GIHL guh •MEHSH). The hero Gilgamesh is a king who travels around the world with a friend and performs great deeds. When his friend dies, Gilgamesh searches for a way to live orever. He learns that this is possible only for the gods.  Primary Source Document: <a href="http://www.ancienttexts.org/library/mesopotamian/gilgamesh/">http://www.ancienttexts.org/library/mesopotamian/gilgamesh/</a>		
Г	Timary Source Document. <u>http://www.ancienttexts.org/hbrary/mesopotamian/gligamesh/</u>		
18.	Sumerians developed many mathematical ideas. They used geometry to measure fields and put up buildings. They also created a number system based on 60. We have them to thank for our 60-minute hour, 60-second minute, and 360-degree circle. In addition, Sumerian people watched the skies to learn the best times to plant crops and to hold religious festivals. They recorded the positions of the planets and stars and developed a 12-month calendar based on the cycles of the moon.		
19.	Over time, conflicts weakened Sumer's city-states. They became vulnerable to attacks by outside groups such as the Akkadians (uh•KAY• dee • uhnz) of northern Mesopotamia. The king of the Akkadians was named Sargon (SAHR • GAHN). In about 2340 B.C., Sargon conquered all of Mesopotamia creating the world's first empire. An empire (EHM•PYR) is a group of many different lands under one ruler. Sargon's empire lasted for more than 200 years before falling to invaders.		
The area which formed Sumer started at the Persian Gulf and reached north to the 'neck' of Mesopotamia where the two rivers, the Tigris and the Euphrates meander much closer to each other. To the east loomed the Mountains, where scattered city states thrived on trade and learning from Sumer, and to the west was the vast expanse of the Arabian Desert.			
The rivers have changed course considerably in the last four thousand years, moving well away from some of the cities and causing the complex network of canals to dry up, but at the time, the two rivers had separate entrances into the foreshortened Gulf.			
Some of the earliest cities, such as Sippar, Borsippa and Kish in the north, and Ur, Uruk and Eridu in the south formed the endpoints of what became that complex network of cities and canals. Girsu and Nippur were highly important religious centres, but other cities, such as Larsa, Eshnunna, Babylon and			
	i didn't really emerge as such until after the of Sumerian civilization in Circa 2000 BC.		
Ma	e Eight Features of Ancient Sumer:  jor Cities – Ur, Babylon and ganized Government - Ruled by kings MONARCHY		
	Specialization – Farmers, Merchants,, Artisans and Scribes		
	cial Class:		
ι	Jpper Class – Kings and		
	Aiddle Class – Farmers and artisans		
L	ower Class – Enslaved people		
Art	and Architecture – Ziggurats, Statues, Palaces, Homes, Poems, Pottery		
Complex Religion - Believed in many gods Polytheistic			
<b>Public Works</b> – Ziggurats, Roads, Irrigation systems and Schools for wealthy boys			
Wr	Writing – Cuneiform, Epic of Gilgamesh – first epic poem and		