

# Ancient Mesopotamia

# Terms

- City-state
- Ancient Mesopotamia
- Polytheism
- Ziggurats
- Cuneiform
- Code of Hammurabi
- Epic of Gilgamesh
- River Tigris
- River Euphrates

# Recap

## **Paleolithic – 200,000 – 10,000 BCE**

- Migration out of Africa
- Hunter/gatherer
- Nomadic
- Development of stone tools
- Less hierarchical
- Development of religions
- More matriarchical
- Development of material culture

## **Neolithic – 10,000 – 8,000 BCE**

- Neolithic revolution
  - Domestication of plants through agriculture
  - Settling in permanent housing
  - Fuels husbandry
- More hierarchical
- More patriarchal
- Structure in religion

# Fertile Crescent Ancient Mesopotamia



# Civilization

- A state of society that is more advanced than before, based on the relationships and interactions between human groups, and development of culture and government
- Historically linked to permanence, but permanent society is not a requirement of the modern definition of civilization

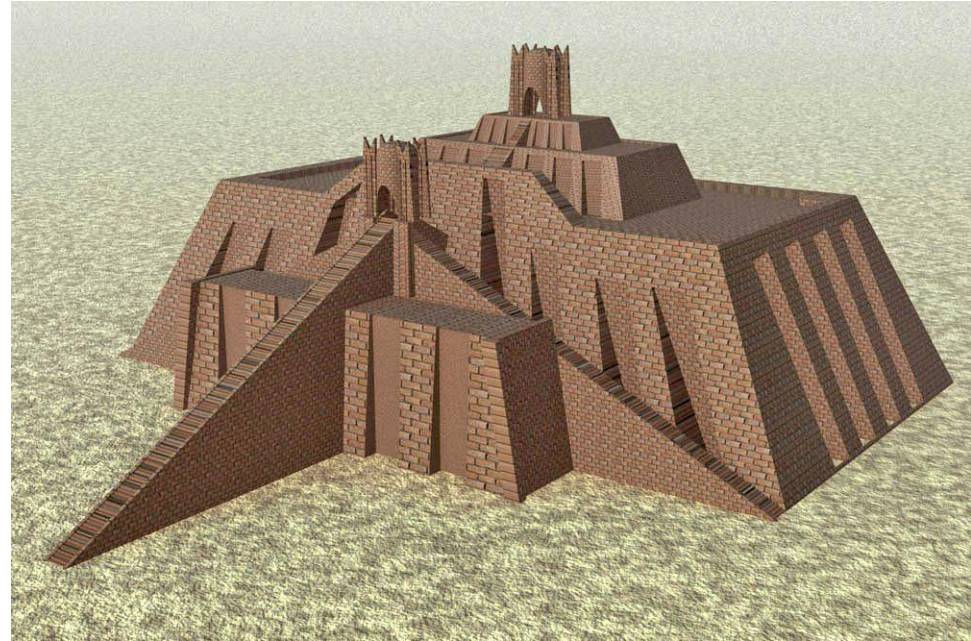
# Ancient Mesopotamia

- City-State – a political arrangement where an urban center exercises control of the nearby countryside but is independent of any other government.
- Fertile Crescent = Ancient Mesopotamia
- Sumer – Uruk, Ur
- Akkad – Babylon
- Assyria
- Phoenicia



# Religion

- Polytheistic
- Dependent on the *goodwill* of the gods

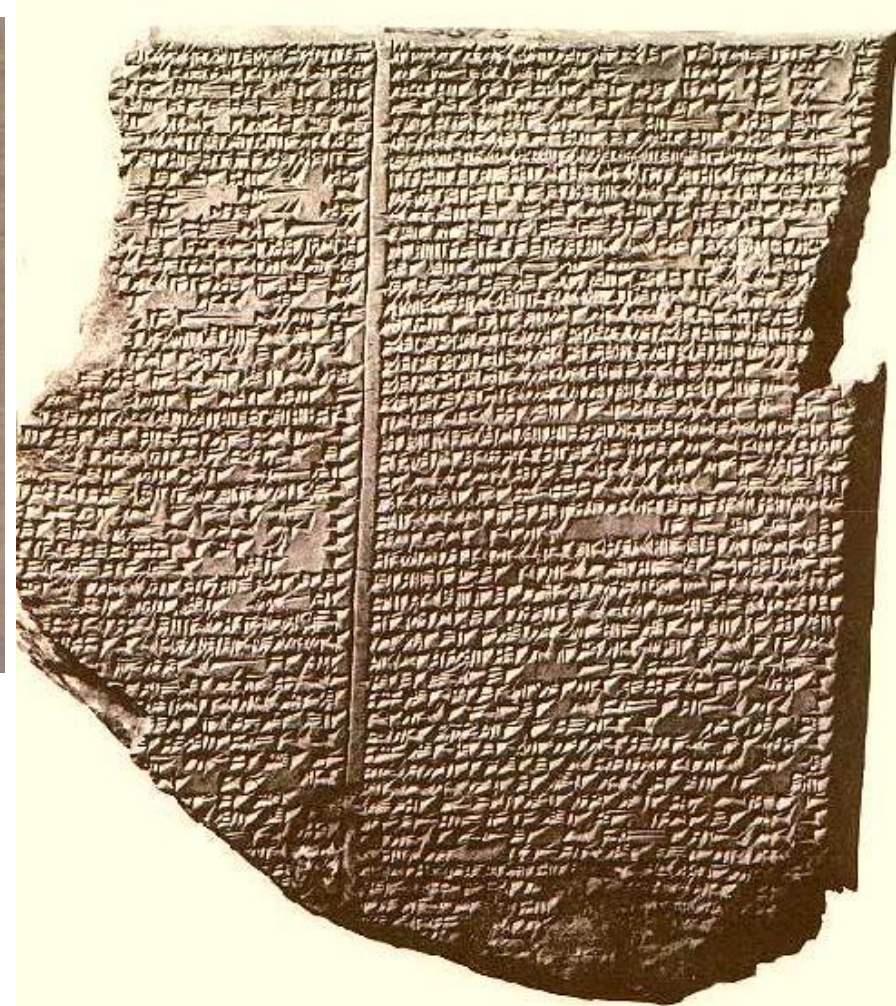


Ziggurat of Ur today - Iraq

# *Epic of Gilgamesh*



Tablet 10



Tablet 11



























# Other characteristics of Mesopotamia

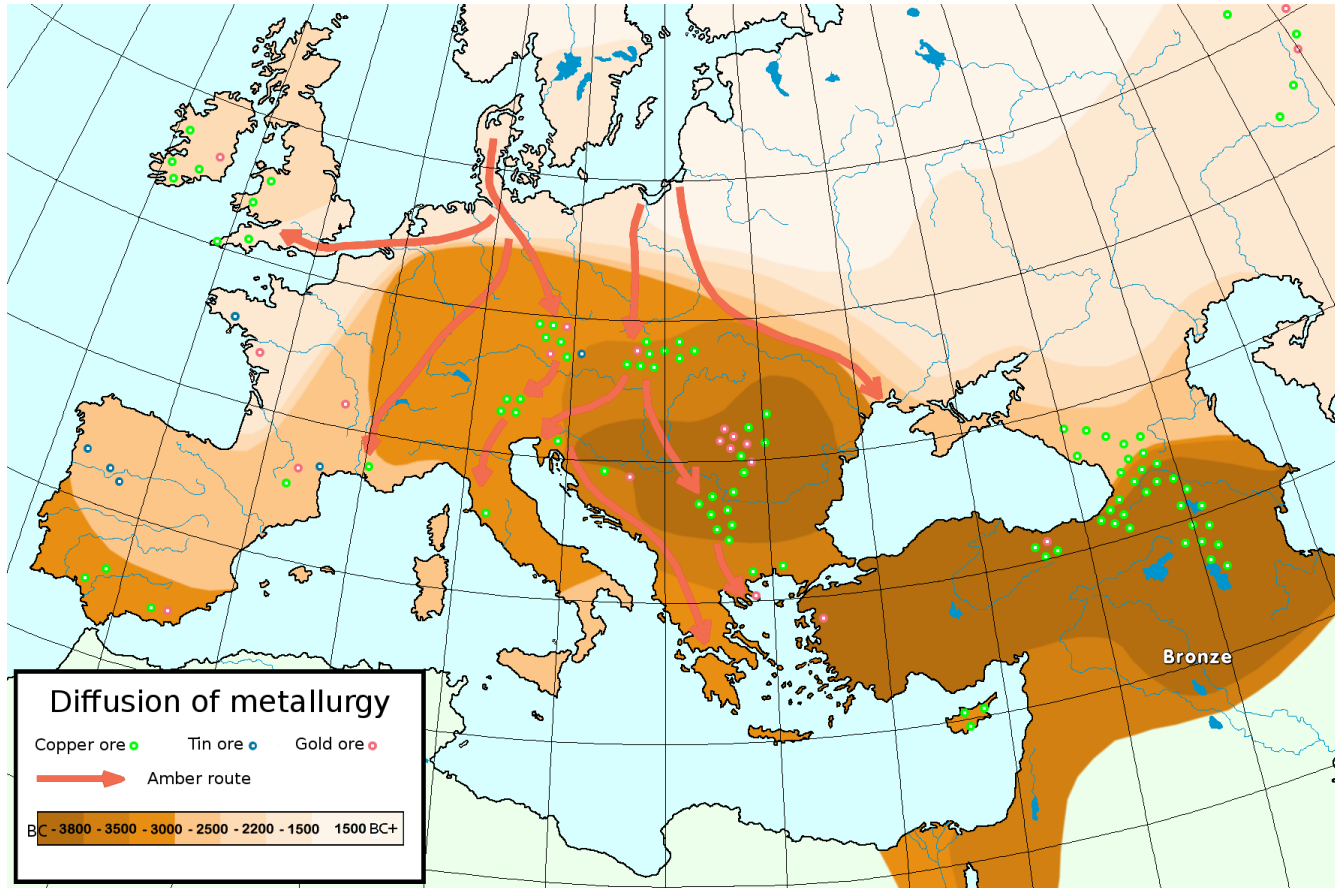
- Monarchical
- Patriarchical
- Class structure and separation
- Slavery
- Organized military

# Uruk period

- 3,800 – 3000 BCE
- Period of innovation and creativity – wheel and lunar calendar
- Writing – Cuneiform

	MEANING	OUTLINE CHARACTER, B. C. 3500	ARCHAIC CUNEIFORM, B. C. 2500	ASSYRIAN, B. C. 700	LATE BABYLONIAN, B. C. 500
1.	The sun				
2.	God, heaven				
3.	Mountain				
4.	Man				
5.	Ox				
6.	Fish				

# Bronze Age 3300 BCE – 1200 BCE



# First Empires

- Akkadians and King Sargon
  - Conquer Sumer circa 2350 BCE
  - First empire – Akkadian empire
  - Extends to the Mediterranean Sea
- Babylonian period – 1750- 1200 BCE
  - Emergence of gods associated with specific elements and are gender specific
    - Concept of ethics and morals a part of relationship with gods
  - Irrigation system and in mathematics we get the decimal system
  - Code of Hammurabi
    - eye for an eye system

# Code of Hammurabi



# Recap

- 6,000 BCE civilization in the Fertile Crescent known as Mesopotamia
- Shared characteristics in religion, government, cultural characteristics
- Uruk period
- Dynastic Period
- Akkadian Period
- Babylonian Period in the south and in the North  
the Assyrian Period