

Babylon and Sumer

5000 B.C. Peak 626 B.C

5600 years. Abandoned at

600A.D.

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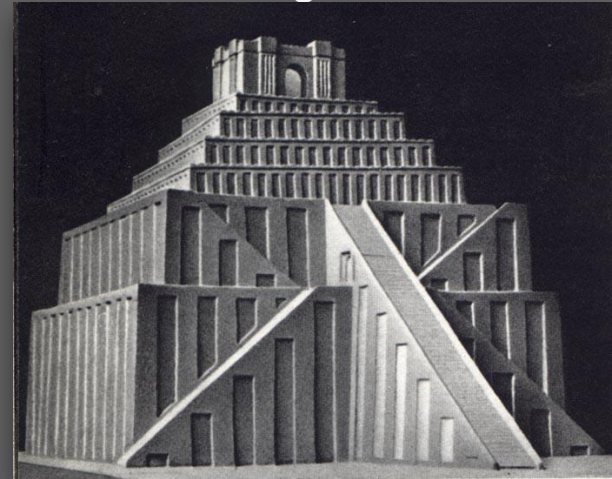
Geographic impact on society

- The Tigris and Euphrates river valleys gave birth to Ancient Mesopotamia
- Sumer and Babylon were both born to Mesopotamia
- Babylon is present day baghdad
- Babylon is surrounded by civilizations and has the persian gulf to the south



Political System and Impact On Society

- Babylon and sumer had multiple kings making it a dictatorship
- An advanced culture was well established in southern Mesopotamia
- Long before the time of the earliest surviving written records (ca. 3300 B.C.).
- Probably originally governed by citizen assemblies rather than kings.
- We do not know for sure because there are no records of government



Economic System

- Only the finest goods in Sumer were traded
- Freeman and slaves were the 2 social classes
- Value of land based on proximity of water
- Rare supplies are considered very valuable
- Examples are lumber, stone, gold, silver, and precious jewels



Beliefs and Religious impact on culture

- Each city was home to a cult dedicated to a god
- There was multiple Gods throughout Sumer
- Sumerians were monotheistic
- ENLIL was the god of plenty and harsh justice
- Enki was the God of wisdom and sea
- An was the god of the sky



Rise of civilization

Sumer is believed to be made up of people who migrated from mesopotamia, and civilizations were established along the banks of the euphrates and tigris rivers. URUK in sumer is believed to be the world's first city. These cities grew and soon by 3000 B.C. there were 30 separate city-states that remained independent for many years.



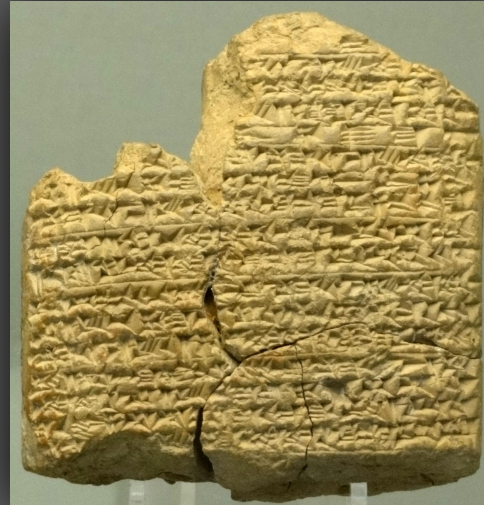
Art and architecture

The most important buildings in Sumer were the temples which were decorated with clay and had colorful designs. The main forms of art were inside ziggurats. These were the temples that were the first pyramid like structures. The only form of architecture that remains intact is the ziggurats. The most famous form of ziggurat is the hanging gardens of Babylon and is one of the seven wonders of the world. It is one of the seven wonders of the world and was built around 600 B.C. By king Nebuchadnezzar II. It is a ziggurat several feet high covered with trees and bushes irrigated with water from the Euphrates.



Writing system and written history

Sumerians created and used cuneiform, the Sumerian language. This was a type of writing consisting of wedge shaped marks. The Sumerian language wasn't used after 2000 b.c. so we know nothing about it. Cuneiform is no longer used today. Thousands of tablets have been recovered covered in cuneiform. Cuneiform was used for record keeping.



Major Technological Advances

The tower of babel was one of the greatest achievements for babylon besides the hanging gardens. The tower of babel is eight levels high, and would've been higher, but the bible says God didn't want it to reach heaven and stopped construction. It is made up of clay and covered with tar for mortar. Inside it has gold plated walls.



Golden Age

The golden age happened for Mesopotamia when Sumer was established. Also around this time iron was discovered. There isn't a designated time period when the golden age happened, but Sumer was the first real civilization in ancient Mesopotamia that became relevant today, and became an advanced society at the time.



Famous citizens and their achievements

Nebuchadnezzar 1

- King of Babylonia for 21 years
- Fought against the civilization of Elam twice
- The second time they fought the Elamites they defeated them

Nebuchadnezzar 2

- King of Babylonia for 68 years
- Assumed military leadership in all of Babylons battles
- Conquered Jerusalem in his second raid of the Hebrew city in 586 B.C.



Slavery

- Every city in Mesopotamia had at least some slaves
- Wardum was the word for slave in ancient Mesopotamia
- People were kidnapped in military raids and then turned into slaves
- Many were used as public slaves (for construction/govt. purposes)
- They did the hardest dirtiest jobs on site (digging ditches etc.)
- Intelligent slaves worked with scribes or craftsman



Fall of civilization

Sumer over the course of a few hundred years, Sumer had multiple kings. It eventually was taken over by akkadians around 2200 B.C. and evolved into babylon. But then the akkadians lost control of Babylon and for a few hundred years Babylon was held together by rulers. Fast forward to 500 A.D., Cyrus the great was the ruler of Babylon until Alexander the Great took over. The importance of Babylon was declining and eventually was abandoned in 600 A.D.



World wide Contributions

Sumer was the first civilization to have the ziggurat. The ziggurat was a pyramid type structure and was used as a temple or dwelling place for Gods. There were no internal chambers and they had ramps. At the top was the temple or chapel. These ziggurats were made of dried mud bricks.



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