

# ANCIENT MESOPOTAMIA

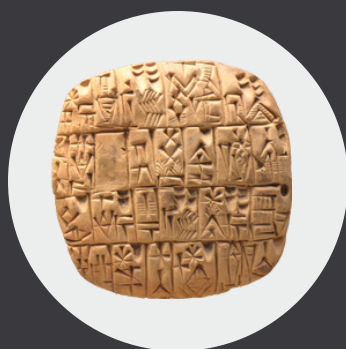


## Sumerians, Babylonians, Assyrians



### GOVERNMENT SYSTEMS

- Three main Civilizations: Sumerians, Babylonians, Assyrians
- Monarchy until Persians installed a bureaucracy
- Massive trade network
- Public Infrastructure was made
- **Problems:**
- Inequality
- Wealth Disparities
- Classism
- Corrupt leaders
- **Fun Fact:**
- The king was believed to be the chief servant of the gods
- Assyrians believed their king was the God Ashur



### WRITING AND HISTORY

- Invented around 3300 BC
- Used it liberally around 3000 BC
- Mostly pictures or symbols
- **Problems:**
- Only men knew how to write
- Constantly changed over time
- Separated classes of people even more
- **Fun Facts**
- Cuneiform, koo-nay-uh-form means wedge-shaped
- Over 700 different symbols



### LEGAL SYSTEMS

- Punishment dependent on crime
- Assyrians penalties were generally more brutal than Sumerian and Babylonian penalties.
- **Problems:**
- Laws not always fair
- Ex. If a person died due to poor construction the house builder could possibly be put to death.
- **Fun Fact:**
- Hammurabi the King of Babylon had 300 laws carved into a stone pillar for all to see



### URBAN CULTURE

- Population of Cities was dependent on Social Class
- Upper class Boys: Directed to field based on status
- Lower class Boys: Followed in their father's foot steps
- Lots of pretty rivers and architecture
- Advanced farming and irrigation
- **Problems:**
- Flooding and hot weather
- Not many natural resources
- **Fun facts:**
- Prostitutes were considered upper class!
- Women were respected



### ECONOMIC SYSTEMS

- World's first to keep track of economic transactions and be part of a massive trade network
- Developed metalworking, glass making, textile weaving, food control, and water storage and irrigation
- **Problems:**
- Lots of fraud and cheating (especially using cheaper metals etc)
- Lots of debt
- **Fun Facts**
- Mesopotamia was the first place where there was so much crop surplus that enough labor was freed that could go into developing public infrastructure



### RELIGIOUS BELIEFS

- The first Mesopotamian civilization, the Sumerians (400-3500 BCE)
- Every city watched over by a 'patron deity'
- Most important to Babylonians was Marduk, and for the Assyrians it was Ashur
- Believed in good and evil demons created by their gods
- **Problems:**
- Ancient Mesopotamians blamed disasters of all kinds on their gods
- **Fun Fact:**
- The Great City of Uruk was one of the oldest and most important cities in Sumer