

Year 3

Remote Learning

Wider Curriculum Week 15

History - Sumer Civilisation

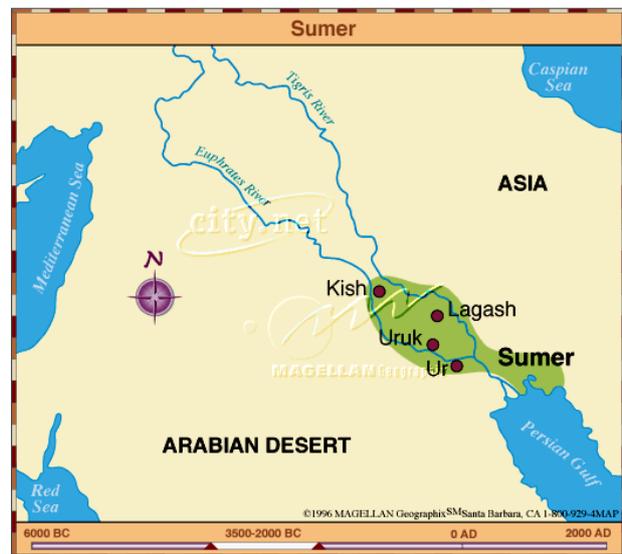
Read the following information on the Sumer civilisation. Attached are also 2 videos describing the history of the Ancient Sumerian civilisation. If you are working independently, without adult support you may find it easier to watch one of the following videos to extract the information or you might want to watch the videos for additional information:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ygCqBZ_n9MM

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MHpmLrWBjnM>

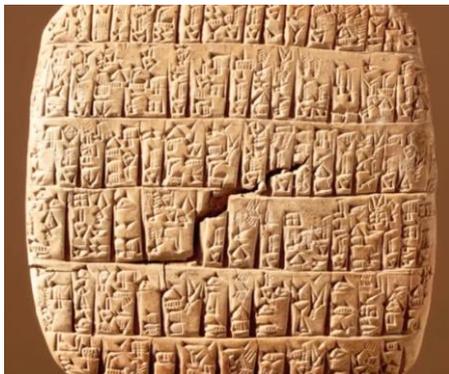
What is Sumer?

Sumer was an ancient civilization founded in the Mesopotamia region of the Fertile Crescent situated between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers. Known for their innovations in language, governance, architecture and more, Sumerians are considered the creators of civilization as modern humans understand it. Their control of the region lasted for short of 2,000 years before the Babylonians took charge in 2004 B.C.



Population

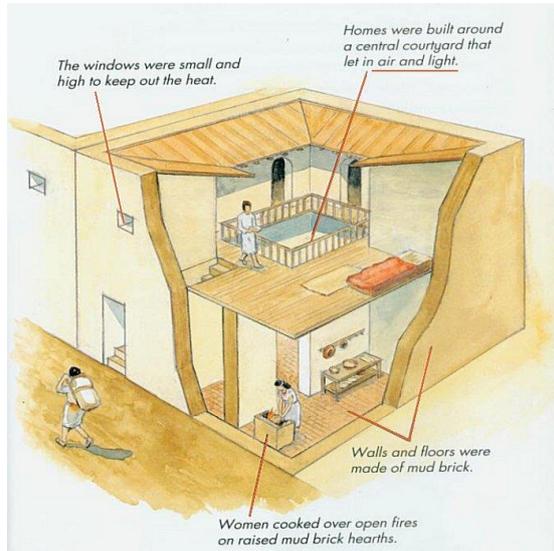
At its peak around 2800 BC, the city had a population between 40,000 and 80,000 people living between its six miles of defensive walls, making it a contender for the largest city in the world.



Language

The Sumerian language (Cuneiform) is the oldest linguistic record, its first archaeological records were around 3100 B.C. The term cuneiform comes from cuneus, Latin for "wedge". This means that it is the oldest recorded written language, even older than the Ancient Egyptians hieroglyphics. Writing remains one of the most important cultural achievements of the Sumerians, allowing for meticulous record keeping from rulers down to farmers and ranchers. The oldest written laws date

back to 2400 B.C. in the city of Ebla, where the Code of Ur-Nammu was written on tablets.



Architecture

Big buildings and structure are generally credited to have begun under the Sumerians, with religious structures dating back to 3400 B.C. Homes were made from mud bricks or bundled marsh reeds. The buildings are noted for their arched doorways and flat roofs. The Sumerians are known for creating one of the first ever cities, called Urak.

Music

The Sumerians were very musical and a Sumerian hymn, "Hurrian Hymn No. 6," is considered the world's oldest musically notated song.

Science

Sumerians invented or improved a wide range of technology, including the wheel, cuneiform script, arithmetic, geometry, irrigation, saws and other tools, sandals, chariots, harpoons, and beer.

One of the Sumerians greatest advances was in the area of hydraulic engineering (the use of liquids to perform mechanical tasks). Early in their history they created a system of ditches to control flooding, and were also the inventors of irrigation, harnessing the power of the Tigris and Euphrates river for farming. Canals were consistently maintained from dynasty to dynasty (a dynasty is a succession of rulers).

Also the structure of modern time keeping, with sixty seconds in a minute and sixty minutes in an hour, is credited to the Sumerians.



Education

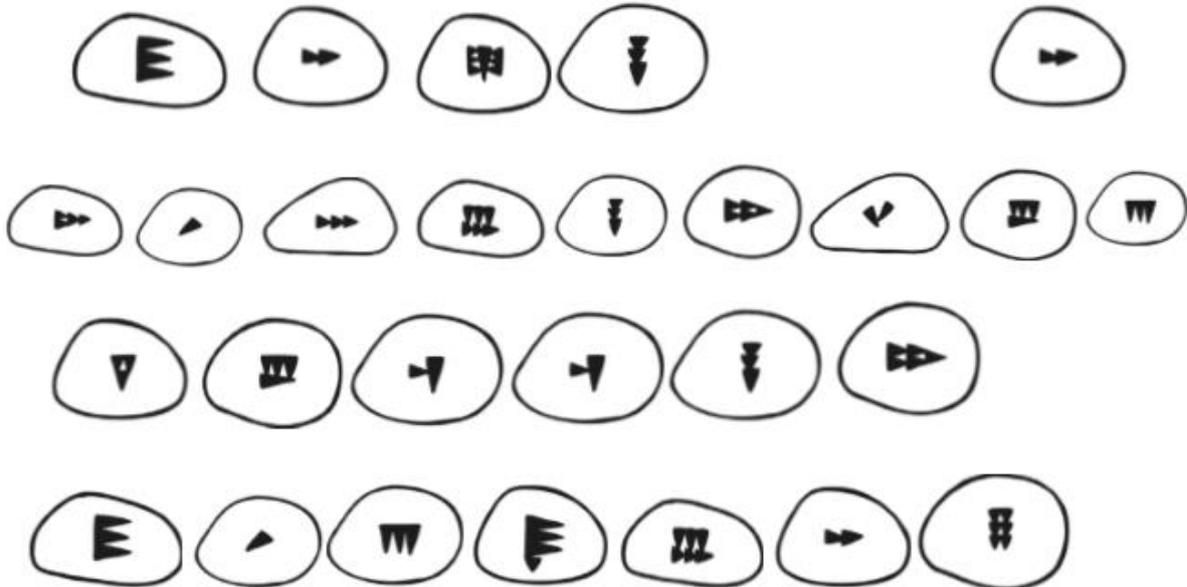
The Sumerians invented the first ever schools, marking the world's first mass effort to pass along knowledge in order to keep a society running and building on itself.

Religion/ Beliefs

Sumerians believed in anthropomorphic polytheism (meaning many gods in human form), which were specific to each city-state. The core pantheon consisted of An (heaven), Enki (a healer and friend to humans), Enlil (gave spells spirits must obey), Inanna (love and war), Utu (sun-god), and Sin (moon-god).

Activity 1

Have a go at breaking the Cuneiform message hidden below. Use the Sumer writing script translation to help you (attached separately).



Why not try creating your own secret message, using the Sumer script. Once you have done it, send it to a friend or your teacher and see if they can crack the code. year3@coleridgeprimary.net

Activity 2

The Sumerians period has a cross over with the Ancient Egyptians period that we have previously learnt about this year. However, the Sumerian period started almost 400 years before the Ancient Egyptians, but ended over 2000 years before the Ancient Egyptian period came to an end.

Make a poster comparing the Sumer Civilization to the Ancient Egyptians. Use your prior knowledge on what we have learnt about the Ancient Egyptians so far, as well as using the following video to support you:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tqY-wAH4Wg>

When watching the videos take notes on a piece of scrap paper of facts and details that you believe are important, and could be used in your posters.

Remember when you make notes, only write down key words or phrases to jog your memory. Then you can rewrite the statement into your own words.

Research and compare the following things for both civilisations:

Geographical features -locations/ rivers/ environment

Population - What was the largest one population at any given time?

Language - Cuneiform and hieroglyphics

Years - When was the first and last recorded evidence of both their appearances and disappearances?

Education/ Work/ Leisure - Schools/ jobs/ slavery/ games/ music
Clothing - What did they wear? Did rich and poor people wear the same clothing?
Food/ Agriculture -farming/ crops/ livestock
Religions/ Beliefs/ Culture -Gods and Goddesses/ Kings and Queens/ afterlife
Architecture - Buildings/ houses/ pyramids
Government - Who had power? Were there any rulers?

If you are struggling to design your poster, why don't you split your page in 2, labelling one side **Ancient Egyptians** and the other side **Sumerians**. You will have a lot of information to put on this poster so you may need to stick 2 pieces of paper together to make your poster longer.

Summer Holiday Extra Activities

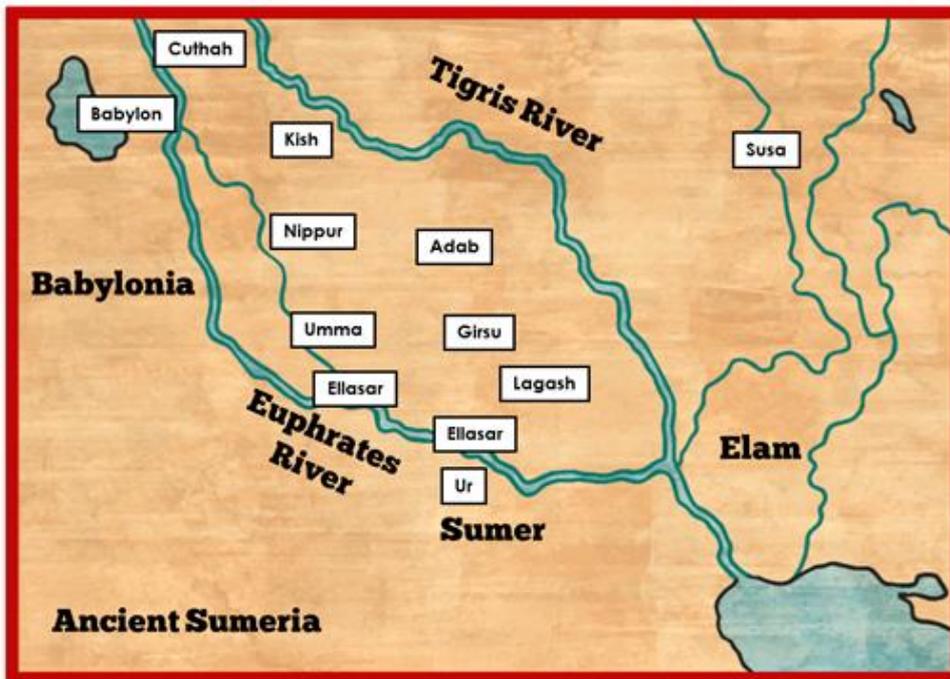
Activity 1

Here is a map of Ancient Sumeria. The Greeks later called this area 'Mesopotamia' meaning 'The land between two rivers'. Sumer was in Southern Mesopotamia.

Can you read some of the city names?

What are the 2 rivers the land is between?

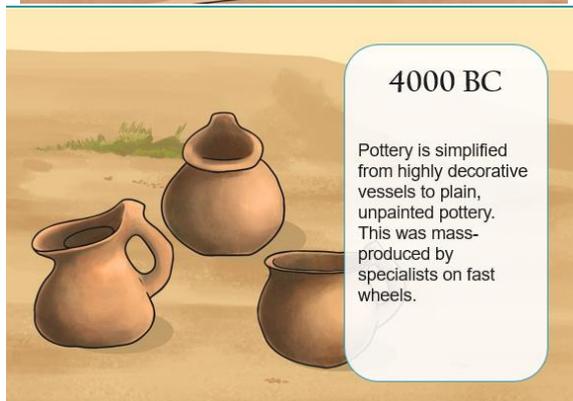
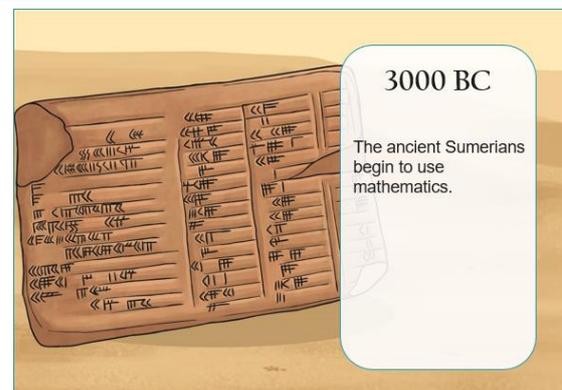
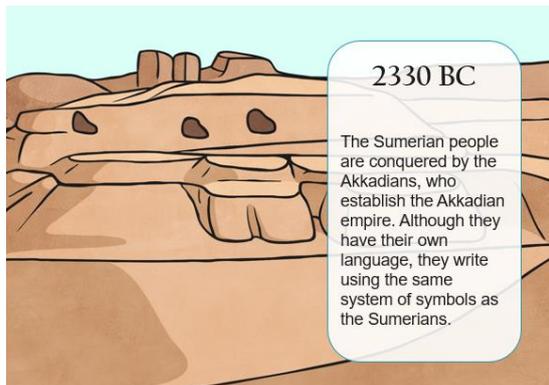
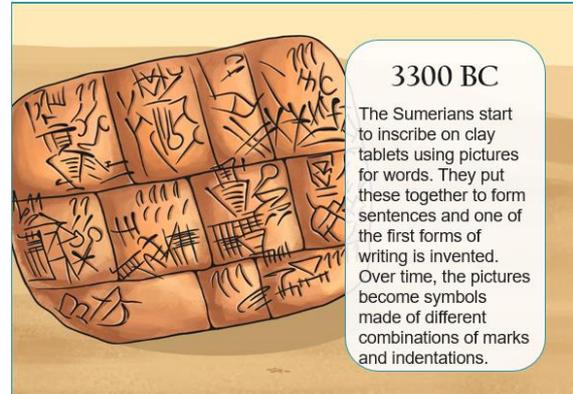
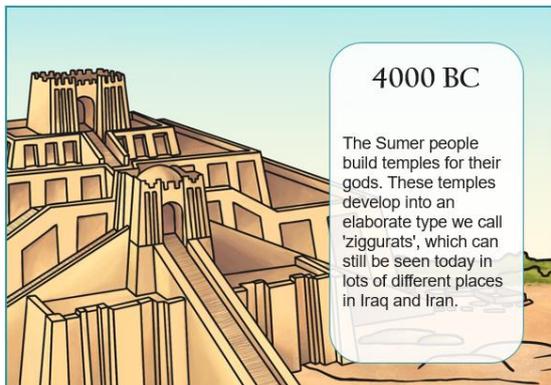
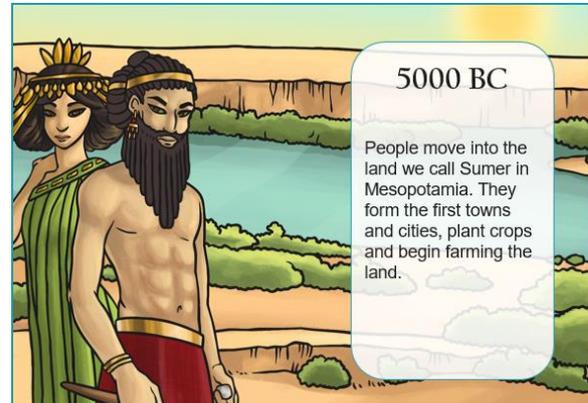
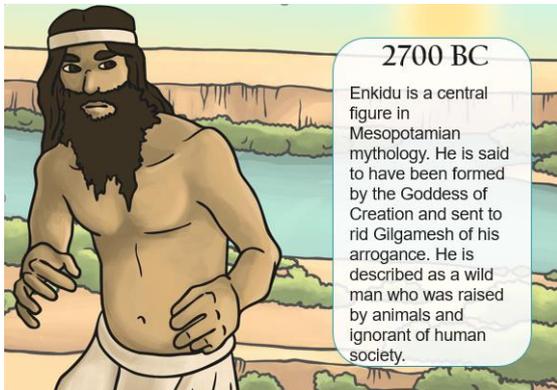
Why do you think the Sumerian people chose to build their cities and homes here?

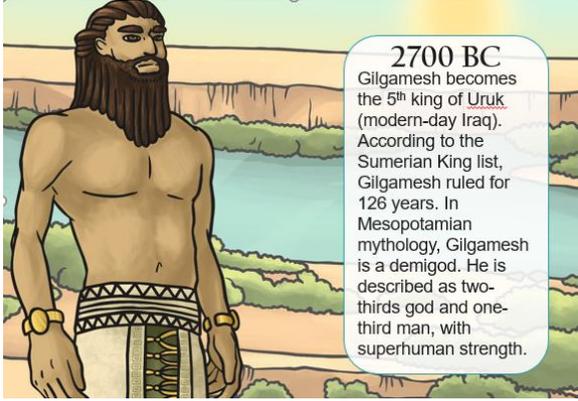


Have a go at labelling your own map (attached separately).

Activity 2

The Sumer civilisation thrived for over 2670 years. The Sumerian civilisation developed and advanced throughout their existence. Create a timeline of the Ancient Sumerian period, using the pictures and dates (attached separately). The pictures below are jumbled up, but they may be able to help you.





Remember the dates are BC, which means the larger the number the earlier in time the event took place.

