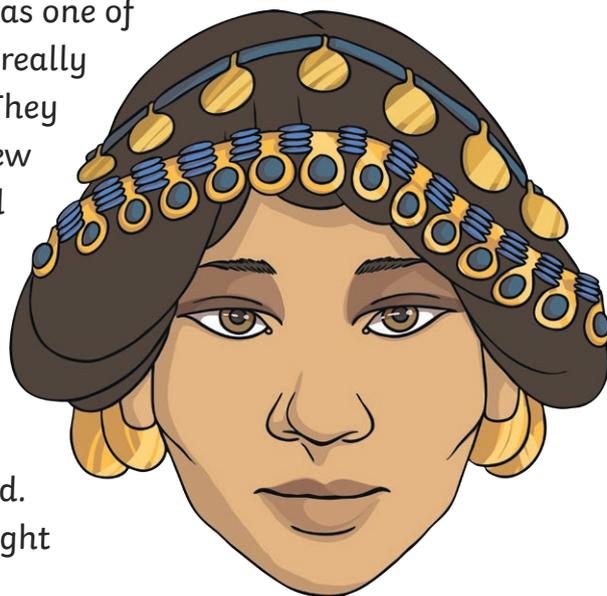


Incredible Inventions of Ancient Sumer

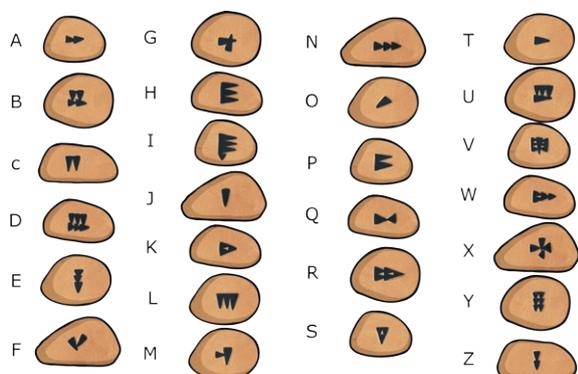
The ancient Sumerian people are known as one of the most amazing people because they really understood the world around them. They studied maths and science; invented new farming; invented a way to write and built big cities. Ancient Sumer is known as the start of civilisation because it invented things we use and enjoy in the world today. The incredible inventions of the ancient Sumerians have made a huge impact on the world. Without their ideas, the world today might have been a very different place.



Writing

The people of ancient Sumer were some of the first in the world to invent a writing system that used symbols (shapes). Their earliest writing used hieroglyphs (pictures), similar to those from ancient Egypt.

Over time, the ancient Sumerians developed a type of writing known as cuneiform, which means 'wedge shaped'. Lots of different examples of writing have been discovered, including letters, prayers and lists.



Farming

The ancient Sumerians developed important farming techniques so that they could use their land very well. The ancient Sumerians also invented tools to help them with farming and allow them to grow and collect crops better. They were also some of the first people to train animals and use their strength to help with farming tools.

One of the farming tools invented by the Sumerians was called a 'seeder plough', which was pulled by oxen (similar to a cow).

Ancient Sumerian farmers also invented:

- The rake
- The shovel
- The sickle

Maths and Science

The ancient Sumerians were good at maths and science. They used their skills to follow the movements of stars and planets, make sense of time and help with building.

Their counting system was based on groups of 6 and 10 and they used maths to work out the area of different shapes. They worked out addition, subtraction, multiplication, division and fraction problems.

The ancient Sumerians also tracked the movement of the sun, moon and the five planets you can see without a telescope. They also worked out that a day was 24 hours long, including letters, prayers and lists.



Industry

The ancient Sumerians were good at pottery. Lots of clay was available and they used it to make many objects such as statues, bowls, vases and jars.

Weaving was also successful in ancient Sumer thanks to the invention of the loom. Wool was the most common fabric and it was used to make all types of clothing from cloaks to shoes. Linen was more expensive so only richer people used it.

