

- Chapter 2
- Art of the Ancient Near East
- SABAN
- Sumer
- Akkad
- Babylon
- Assyria
- Neo-Babylonia
- The First Cities
  
- Jericho
- Walls – 20 feet high, 5 feet wide
  - Defense against neighbors
  - Diversion of flood waters
- Burials beneath the floors of houses

- Skeletons often lacked skulls, which were buried separately
- Plaster casts of human bodies & skulls have been found
  - Ancestor worship?
- Çatalhöyük, Turkey
- Neolithic village; 6500 – 5500 BCE
  - 1,000 houses with population of 5,000
- Religious images of mother goddess
- Trade with other local villages
- Specialized skilled workers – toolmakers/jewelers
  - Obsidian
- Easy defense

- No open areas; unbroken exterior walls
- Sumerian Art
- Southern Mesopotamia
- Emergence of Civilization
- Civilization – Complex culture in which large numbers of humans share a number of common elements
  - Cities
  - Government – organize & regulate human activity
  - Religion – explanation of nature & existence
  - Writing – creative expression & record keeping
  - Artistic activities
  - Economy
- Mesopotamia

- Mesopotamia – “Land between two rivers”
  - Tigris & Euphrates
  - Fertile Crescent – from the Mediterranean Sea to the Persian Gulf
    - Rich soil sustained abundant crops – silt deposits from the rivers
    - River flood yearly because of melting snow
      - Unpredictable – how much & when?
    - Rivers brought water but could also be destructive
- Fertile Crescent
- Sumerian Civilization
- Economy
  - Farm-based
  - Trade

- Inventions
  - Wheel, sundial, arch, numbers based on 60; 12 month calendar based on the moon
  - Writing – first writing system
    - Cuneiform
- Stairway to Heaven
- Sumerian Ziggurat

*He built Uruk. He built the keeping place of Anu and Ishtar. The outer wall shines in the sun like brightest copper; the inner wall is beyond the imagining of kings. Study the brickwork, study the fortification; Climb the greatest ancient staircase to the terrace; Study how it is made; from the terrace see The planted and fallow fields, the ponds and orchards. This is Uruk, the city of Gilgamesh.*

- Ziggurats
- Built out of mud brick; most do not survive
  - Did not have access to limestone
- Long staircases ascending from terrace to terrace, climbing toward heaven
  - Only priests were allowed to use the stairs & enter the temple at the top
- The Eyes Have It!
- Votive Statue – an image created as a devotional offering to a god or other deity
- Votives were created to represent Sumerian worshippers;

they were placed in front of  
statues of the gods

- Why are they bug-eyed?
  - Meant you were devout or awestruck in the presence of a god
  - couldn't take your eyes off him or her
- Iconography
- Iconography – meaning of images
- Register – horizontal bands that tell a story
  - Bottom register – scorpion man = land of demons
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> register from bottom = animals playing an instrument
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> register = a hyena (butcher?) carries meat while a lion follows with a large jar

- Top register = athletic man (the dead man)
- Akkadian Art
  
- Mesopotamian Empires
- Akkadia
  - Sargon I – 2340 BC – leader created an empire, a vast political state that controlled many people/territories
    - Used art as propaganda rather than to honor the gods
  - Empire fell due to weak leadership following his death
- Babylon
  - Hammurabi – expanded his empire through military
  - Code of Hammurabi – effort to reorganize, consolidate, and preserve previous laws

- Code based on social levels
- Compare
- Head of Akkadian Ruler
- Abu Temple Statuette
- Stele – Stone slab placed vertically and decorated with inscriptions or reliefs
  - Used as a grave marker or memorial
- Assyrian Art
  
- Assyrian Empire
- Upper Tigris River – no natural defense
- Empire included Mesopotamia; parts of Iranian plateau; sections

of Asia Minor; Syria; Palestine & Egypt to Thebes

- King with absolute power
- Iron weapons
- Army was large, well organized & disciplined
  - Foot soldiers; charioteers; cavalry; archers
- CRUEL, CRUEL, CRUEL warriors
- The Architects: Urban Planning
- Complex city centered around the temple
  - 7 story ziggurat
  - Workshops, storehouses & residential quarters
- The Palace
  - 25 acres
  - 200 rooms & courtyards
- Destroyed c. 600 B.C.E.
- Sculpture

- Bas relief (or low relief) – A sculpture that sticks out slightly from the surface it is carved from, but is not completely detached from it.
  
- Neo-Babylonian Art
  
- Neo-Babylonia
- Ancestors of Hammurabi's Babylonia

- King Nebuchadnezzar – 605 – 562 BC – rebuilt Babylon into most city of ancient world
    - Hanging Gardens of Babylon
  - Compare
  - Detail of Lion,
  - Ishtar Gate
  - Detail of Lion,
  - Assurnasirpal series
  - Persian Art
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- The Persians
    - Modern-day Iran
    - Indo-European nomads came from north of the Black Sea; settled in 2000 BC
    - Cyrus – 559 – 530 BC; created strong army
      - Immortals – best 10,000 fighters in the army
      - Captured Mesopotamia & Babylonia
        - Allowed enslaved Jews to return to Jerusalem

- Darius I – 522 – 486 BC
  - Extended Persian Empire to the Indus River; invaded Greek mainland
  - Divided Persian government in 20 provinces, called satrapies
    - Satrap (governor) collected taxes, provided justice & security, and recruited soldiers for the royal army
  - Well maintained roads

- Persian Empire under Darius

- Essential Questions

- What is the difference between prehistoric art and ancient Near Eastern art?

- What developments occur with civilization as time passes?

- How does greater civilization change the way people see themselves, each other, and their relations?

