

A painting of a ziggurat, a stepped pyramid structure, set against a hazy, golden light. The scene is rendered in a soft, painterly style with warm tones of yellow, orange, and brown. The ziggurat is the central focus, with its steps receding into the distance. The overall atmosphere is one of ancient mystery and historical grandeur.

The Early Civilizations of Mesopotamia

Sumer, Akkad, Babylon, Hittites,
Assyria

Fertile Crescent

- Region around the Tigris and Euphrates river where many early Empires arose
 - Easy access to water



New Technology: Irrigation

- Man-made canals built to transport water to farms
- Provided steady amount of water allowing for production of more food



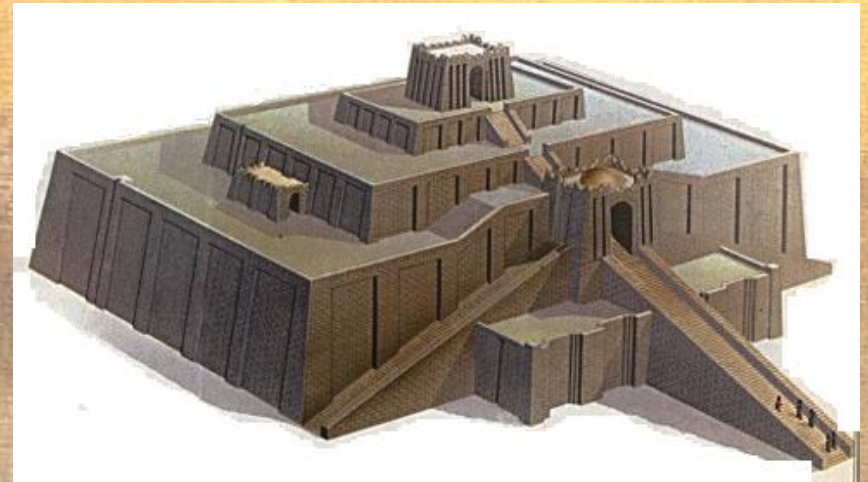
New Technology: Bronze

- Use of tools and weapons made of Bronze
 - Copper and tin combined
- Lasted from about 6500-1000 B.C.E.



First Civilization: Sumer

- c. 3500 B.C.E.
Sumerians develop writing
 - Beginning of History
- Built Ziggurats
 - Developed religion and art/architecture
- Developed City-States
 - Loose connection of autonomous cities



New Idea: Literature

- Epic of Gilgamesh widely accepted as first book ever written
- Sometime around 2000 B.C.E. by Sumerians
- Story of Gilgamesh and Enkidu's journeys and Gilgamesh's quest for immortality

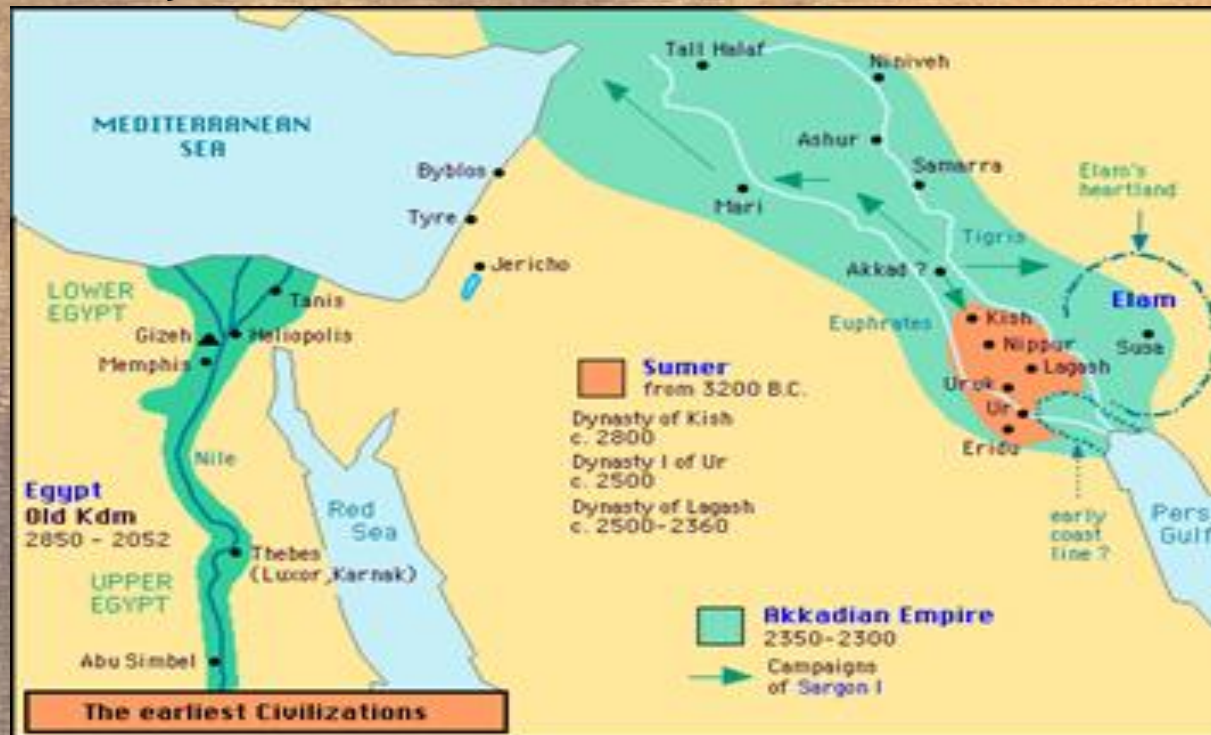
New Idea: Polytheism

- Belief in many gods
- Almost all Mesopotamian Empires had own collection of deities whom they worshiped



New Idea: Empire

- Geographically diverse group of states or people united under one Monarch or Oligarchy



Empire of Akkad

- Around 2300 B.C.E. Sargon of Akkad conquered neighboring Sumer to establish world's first empire.
 - Appointed rulers in different regions to help him



Babylon

- Most famous ruler is Hammurabi
 - 1792-1750 B.C.E.
 - Code of Hammurabi
 - Civil and Criminal Law



New Technology: Codified Laws

- Writing down a system of Laws

Critical Thinking:

- Why would this be such a big deal to have the laws written down?

New Technology: Chariots

- Horse-drawn carriages that allowed for a driver and passengers to quickly be moved around a battlefield
 - Mostly carried archers and spearmen



Assyrians

- Around from about the year 2000-625 B.C.E.
- Developed warrior society
 - Main god was Ashur
 - Ashur is god of Assyria...and War
 - Surrender or be destroyed
- First to collect books into libraries



Exit Card

- Which of the technologies mentioned today has been the most important and why?

Use the assertion, reasoning, evidence method to support your answer.