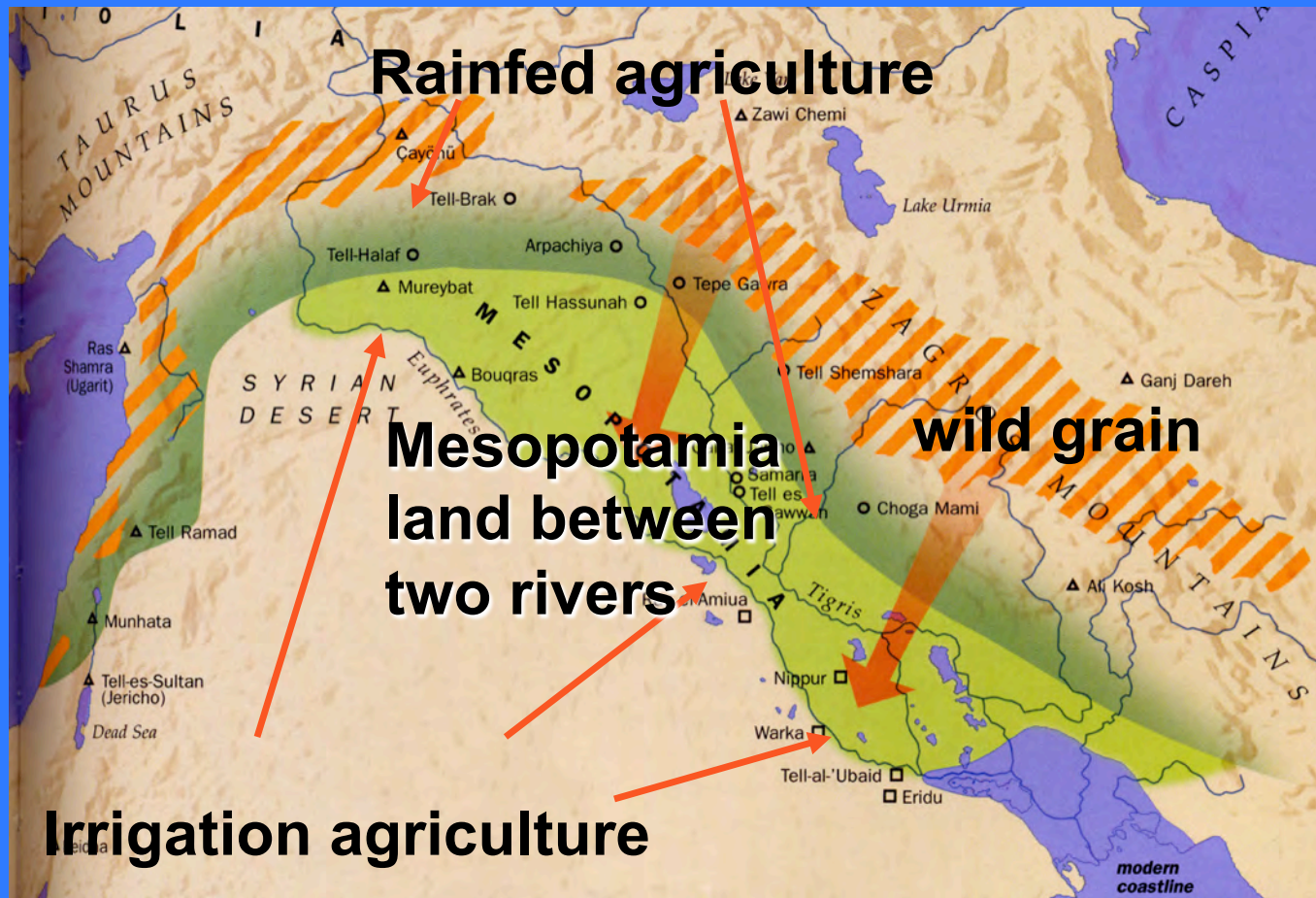


Mesopotamia Regionalization Era - roughly 6500 - 3500 B.C. - Samarra, Halaf, Ubaid periods when four preconditions are met -



(modern Iraq, Syria, Kuwait with links to Lebanon, Israel, Palestine, Jordan, Kuwait, Iran)

Zagros mountains and rain fed agriculture

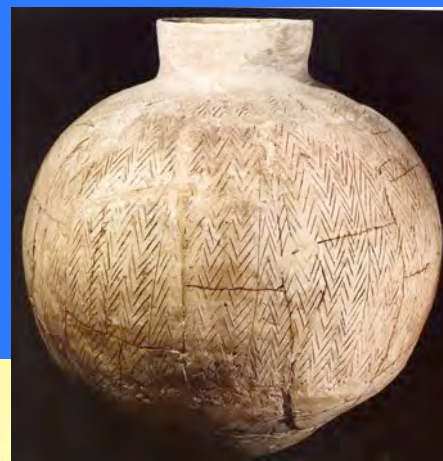
Four Major Preconditions for the development of state level society and urbanism

1. Diversity of the
Subsistence Base and
Resource Variability
Which Have the Potential
for Production of Surplus

Flood waters of the
Euphrates R.
Dates and vegetables
cultivated along canals

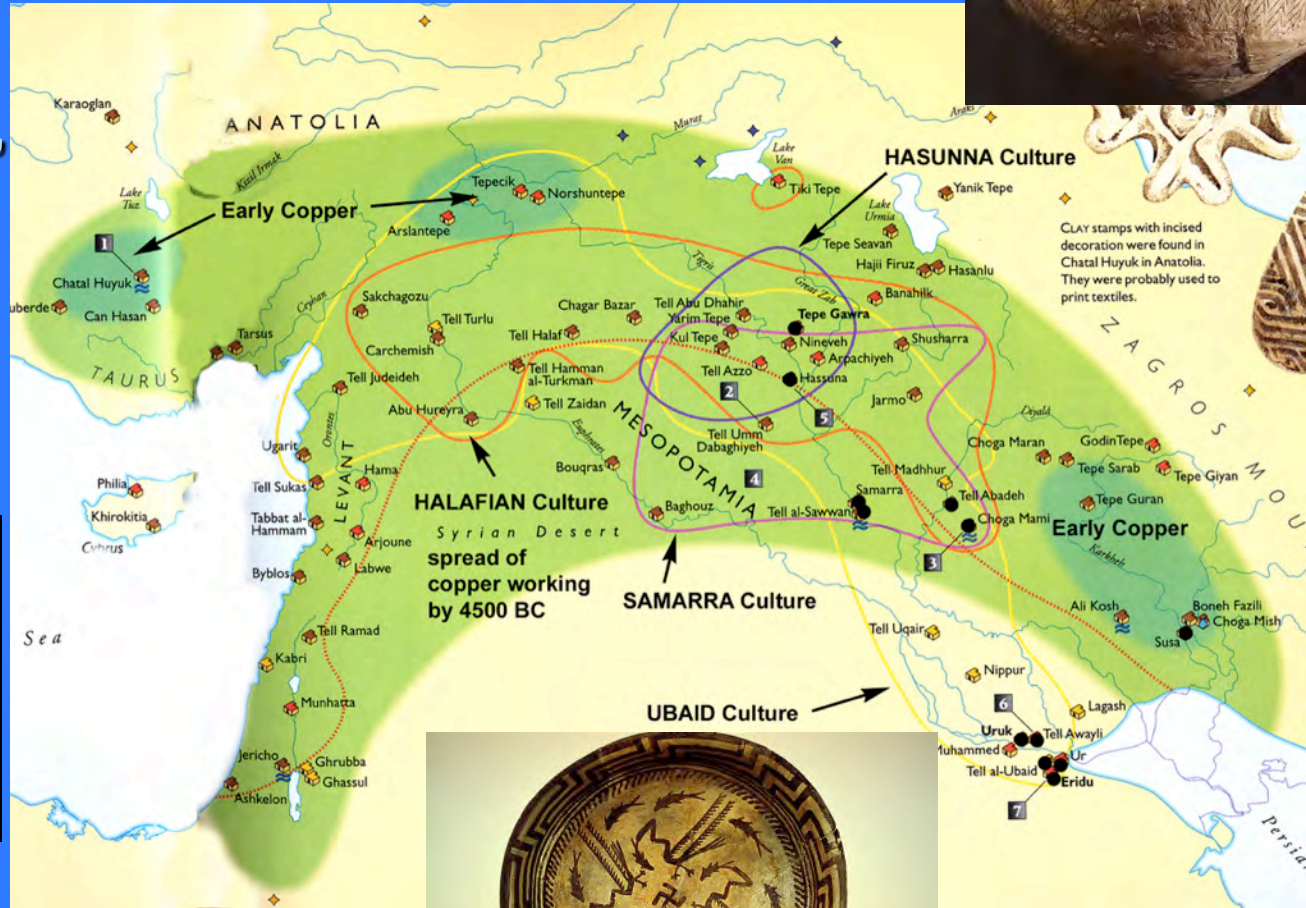


Hassuna Pot,
6000 BC



2. The Development of Social and Economic Interaction Networks between Major Ecosystems and Resource Areas.

Trade networks,
political alliances,
marriage
alliances, etc.
Reflected in
pottery styles

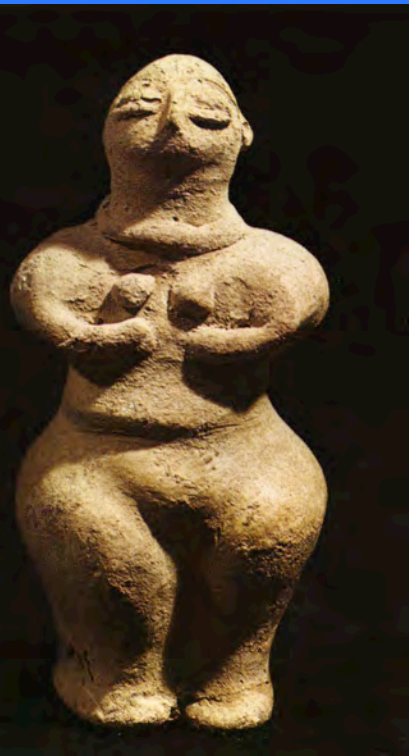


Halaf bowl,
5000 BC



Samarra bowl,
6000-5800 BC

3. Technological Capabilities to Fill
Specific Needs of Urban
and State Level Society
- Southern Alluvium
Compartmented building,
Tel Awayli, 4000 BC, near
Uruk

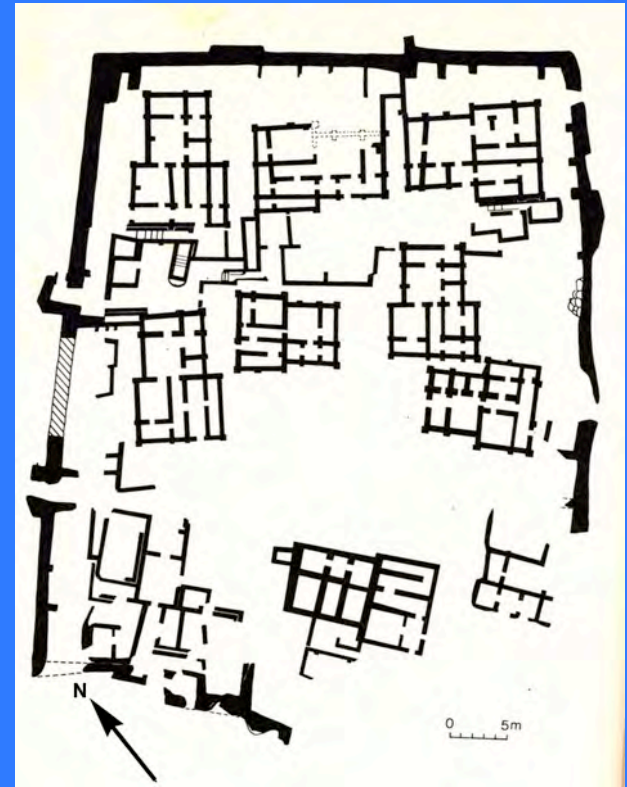


Terracotta figurines - **local**
material simple technology,

Alabaster, turquoise, &
marine shell figurines from
exotic materials
Tel es Sawwan



Tel es-Sawwan - Central Plain (Iraq) - Samarra culture as defined by ceramic styles, mold made mud brick houses, walled settlement, for protection and control



Around **4000/3500 B.C.** , at the end of the **Humid phase**, evidence for population increase in the southern alluvium due to three possible factors:

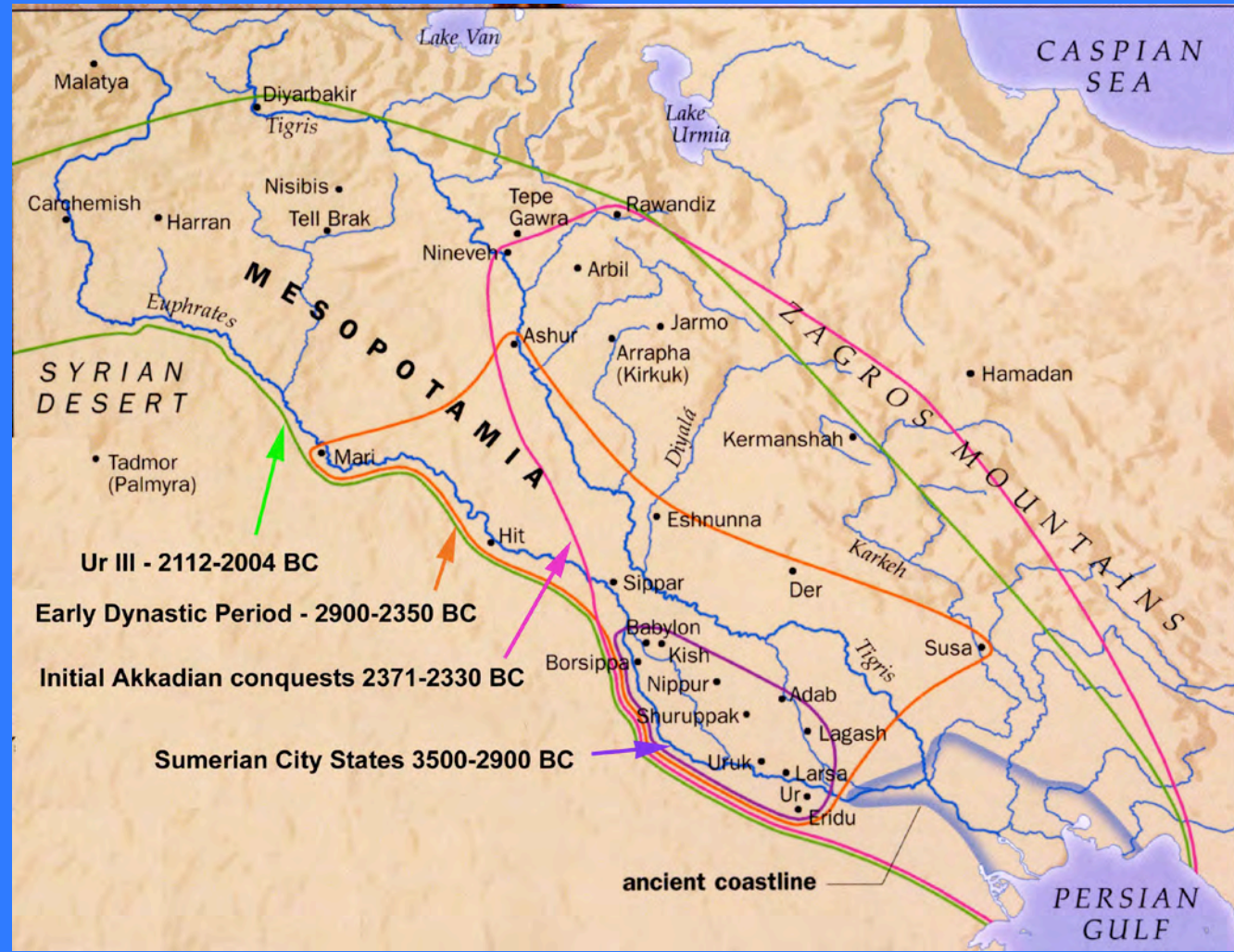
- 1) normal population growth,
- 2) migration of agriculturalists from the north,
- 3) settling down of nomads and pastoralists from the desert fringes.



Integration Era begins around c. 3500 B. C.

Uruk site -4000-3100 B.C. - Uruk period settlement, Sumerian Theocracy?, ziggurat with several temples on top

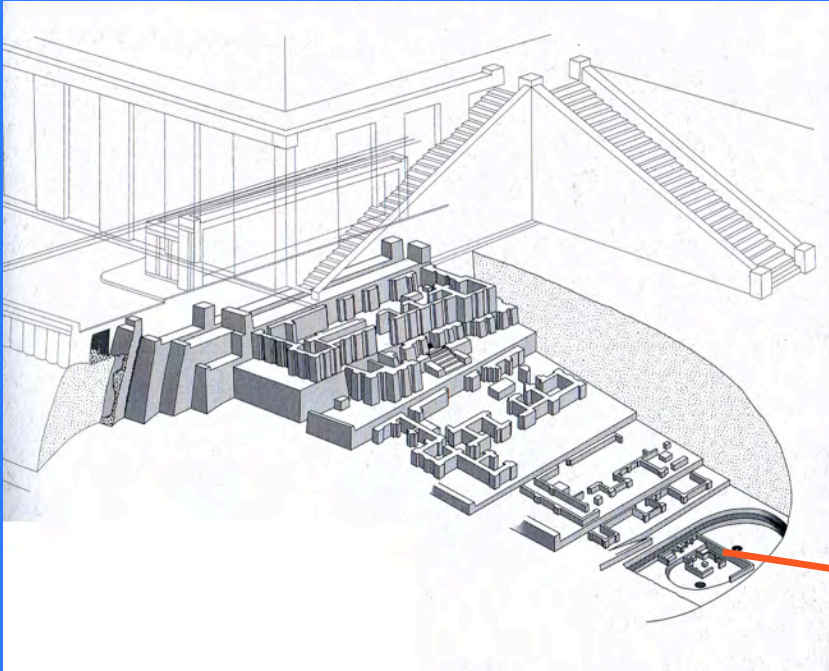
**-3100-2900 B. C.
- Jemdet Nasr
Period
Settlement,
continuation of
Sumerian
Theocracy?**



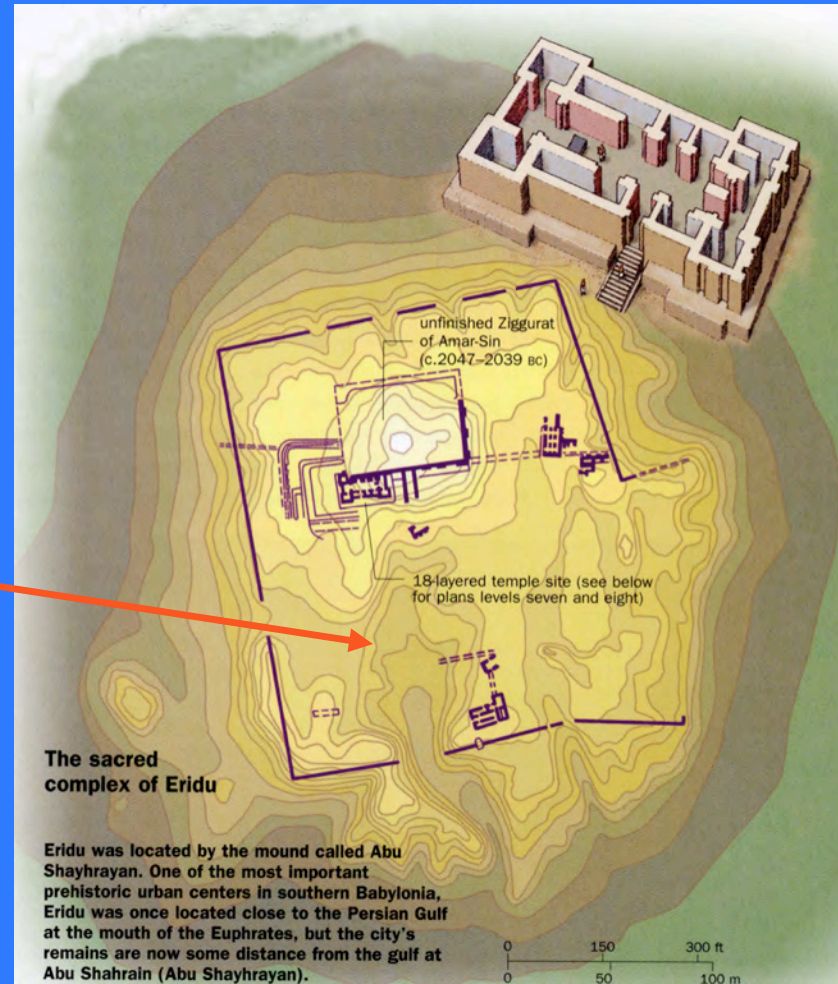
Eridu (Tel Abu Shahain),
Southern Alluvium,
earliest levels dated to
5400 B.C.



Ubaid seals found in
the temple indicate
role of temple in
authorization of
transactions

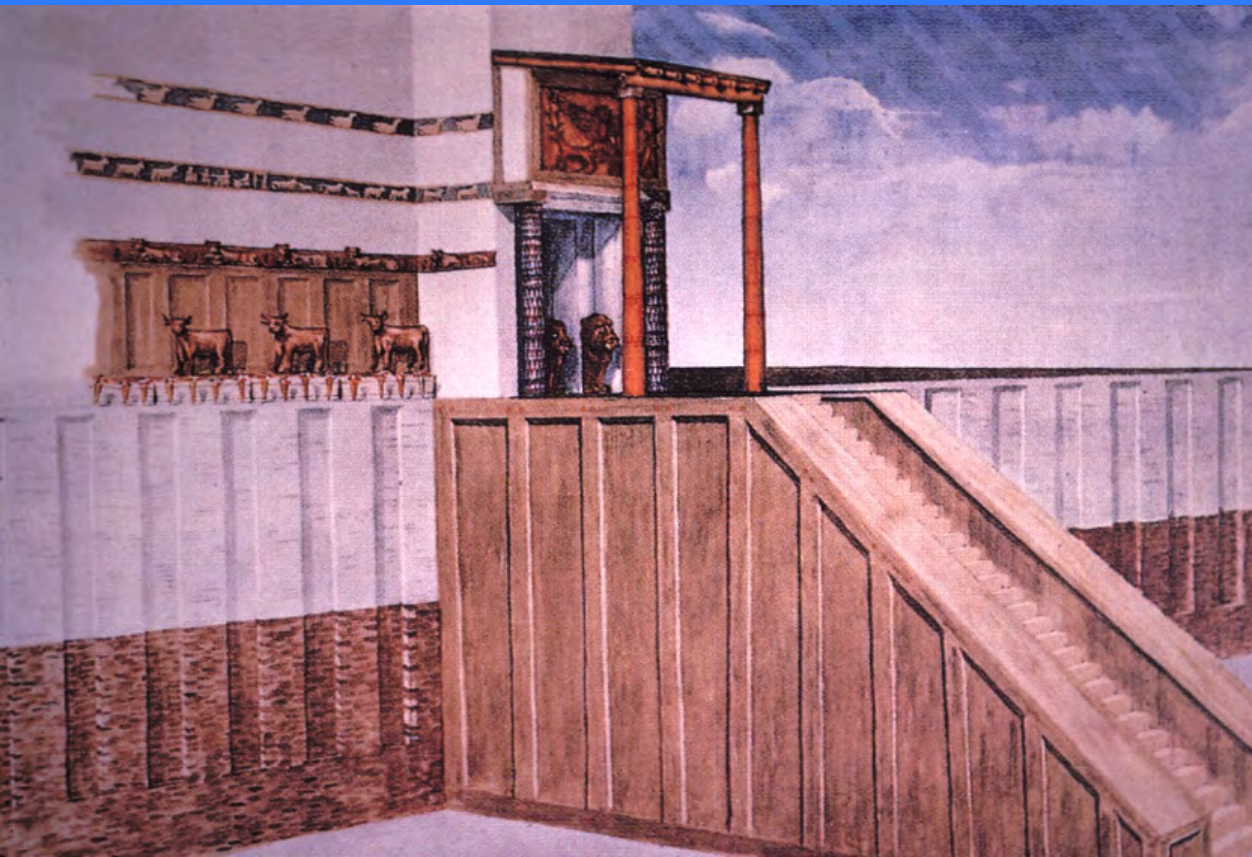


Shrine or temple
structure (3 meters
square) identified built
first on a sand dune



**Jebel Aruda, Sumerian Outpost
on the Euphrates, 3500-3400 BC
to control movement of goods
to the south**

**Temple of Ninhursag, fertility
goddess, Tel al-Ubaid 2500 BC**



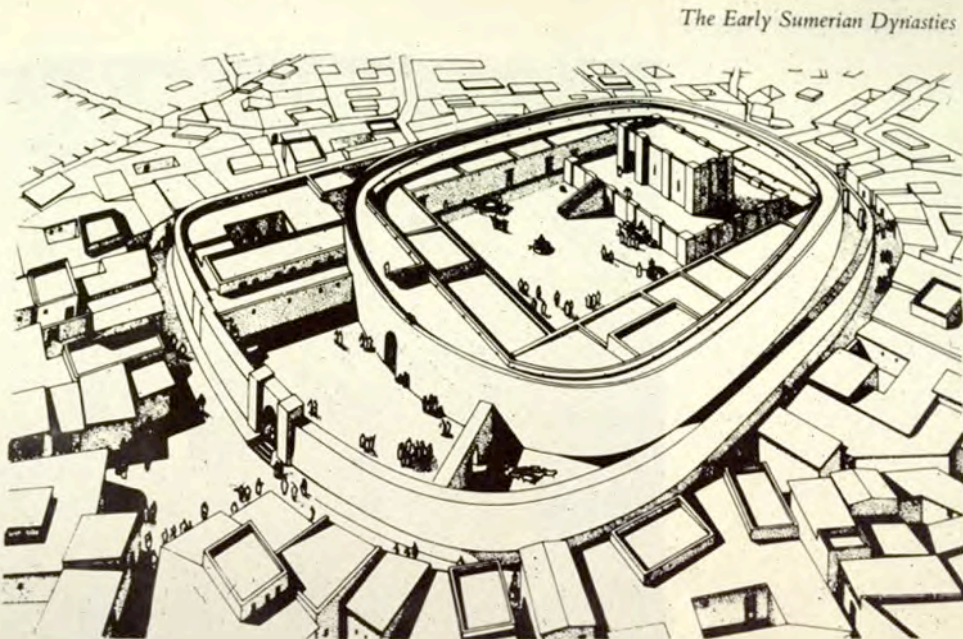
**-temple mosaic
columns**



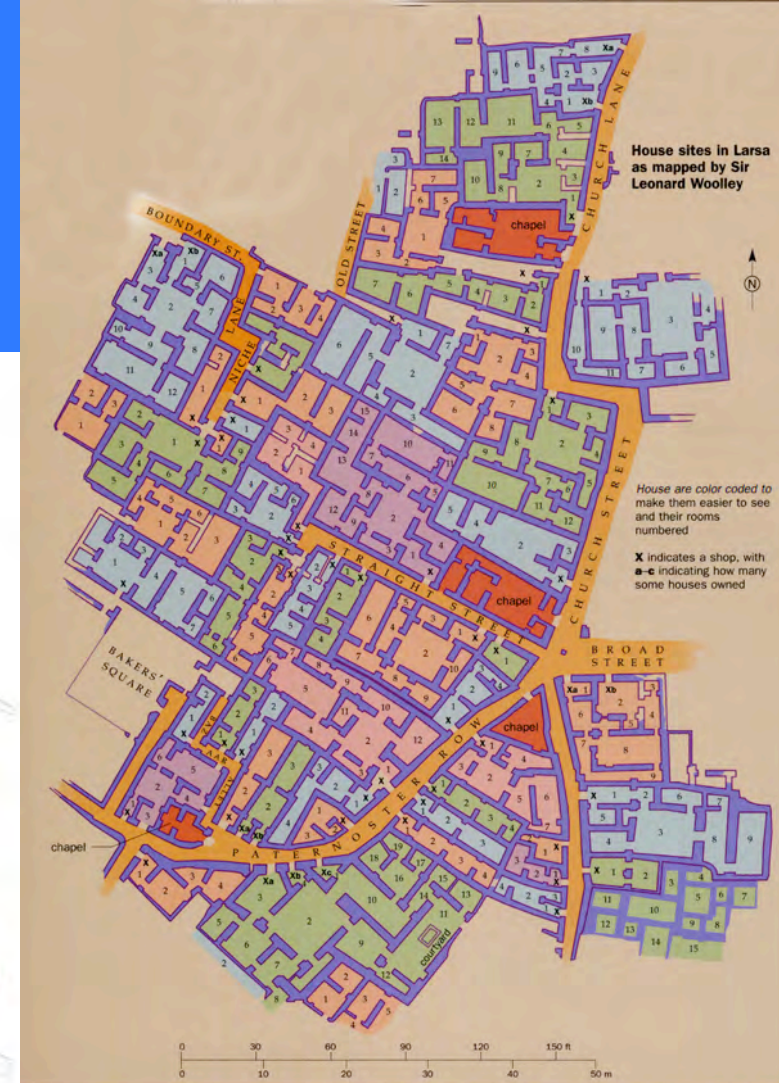
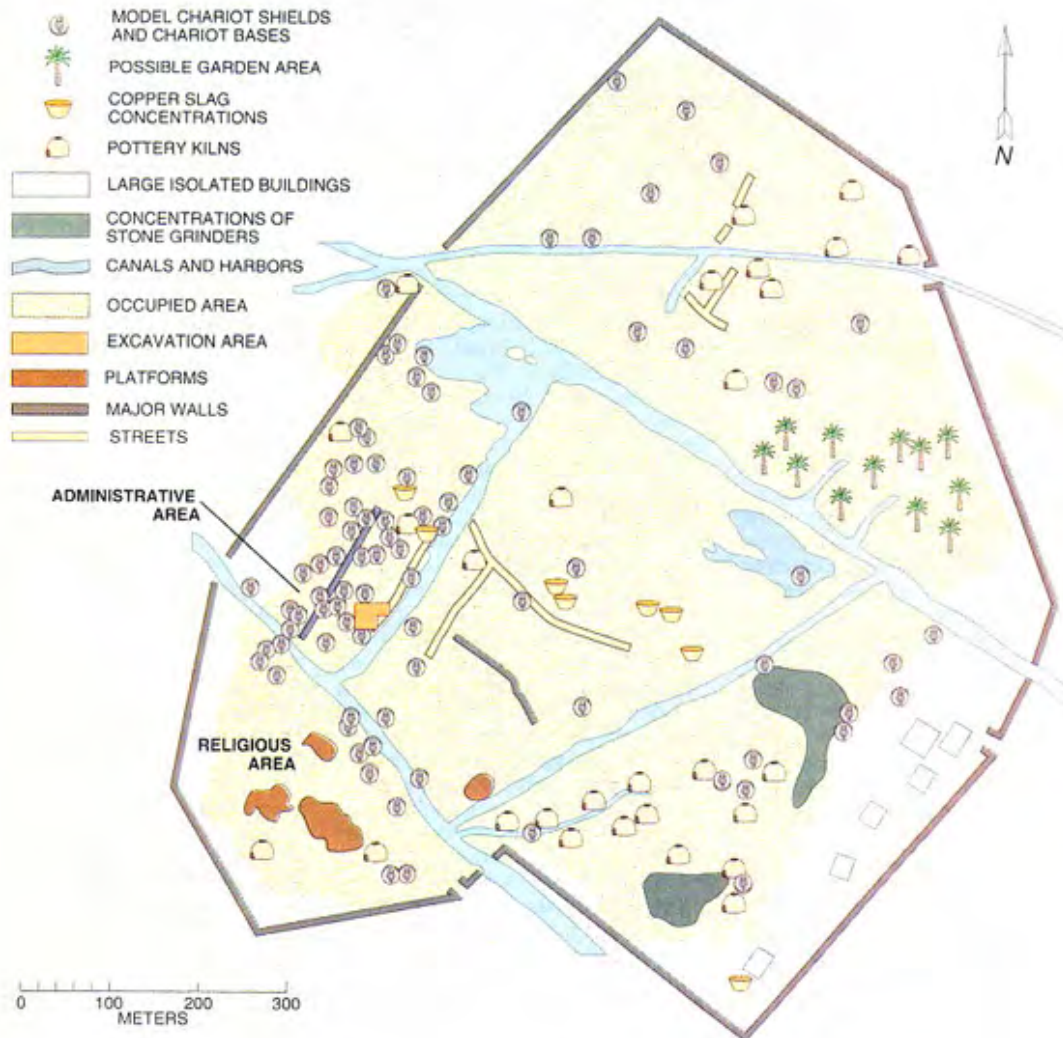
Uruk (Warka) , Iraq

Early levels – 3900, Middle to Late Levels 3500-3100 BC, site is 80 to 100 hectares(10,000 to 40,000 people) – eventually grows to 300 hectares

no systematic city planning -
Kafaje temple and city plan

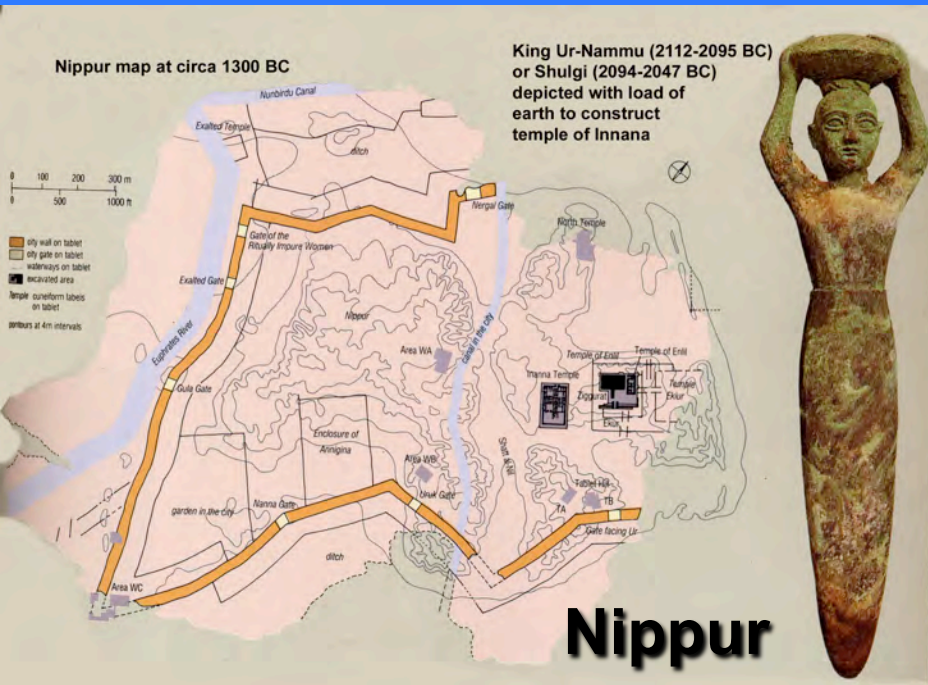
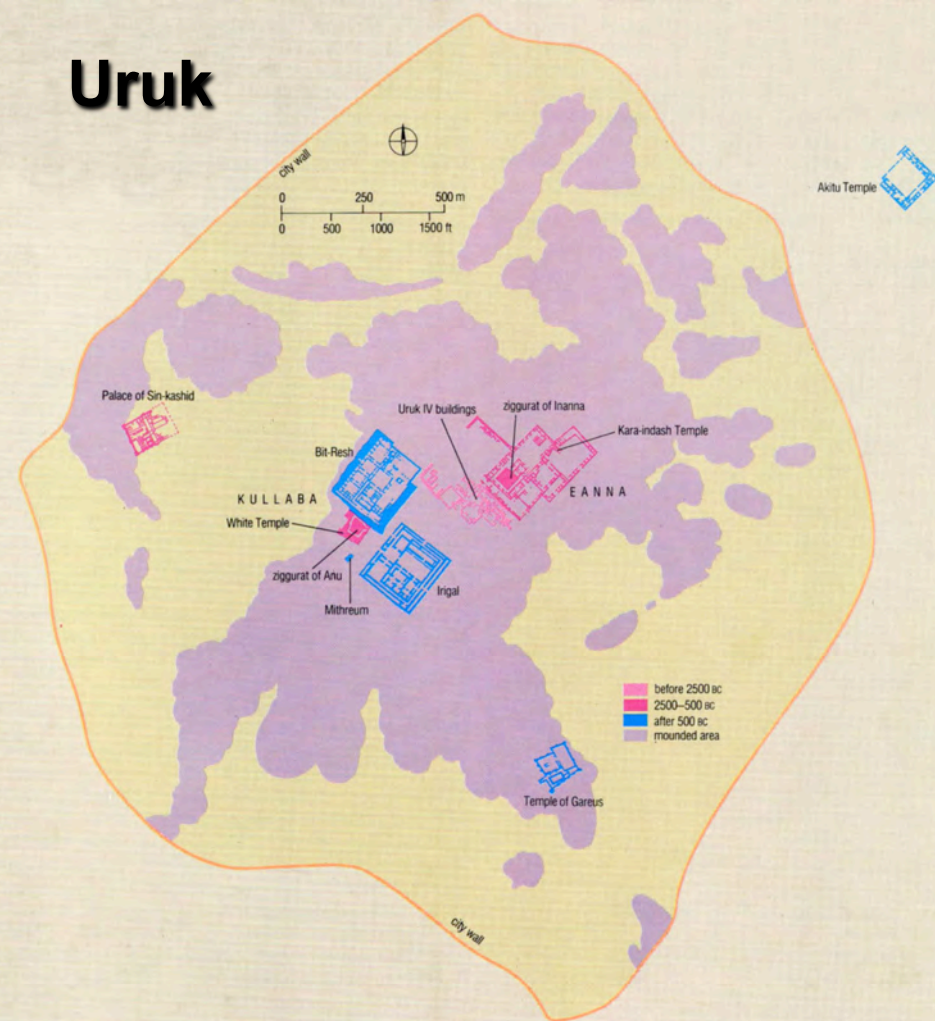


Mashkan Shapir – Sister city of Larsa - 2000-1700 BC, 80 hectares, temple, palace, craft and administrative areas



Larsa households and neighborhoods

Sumerian city states ruled by a single city-ruler – ***lugal* (king)** - cities were walled, surrounded by suburbs and agricultural land, with canals running through them

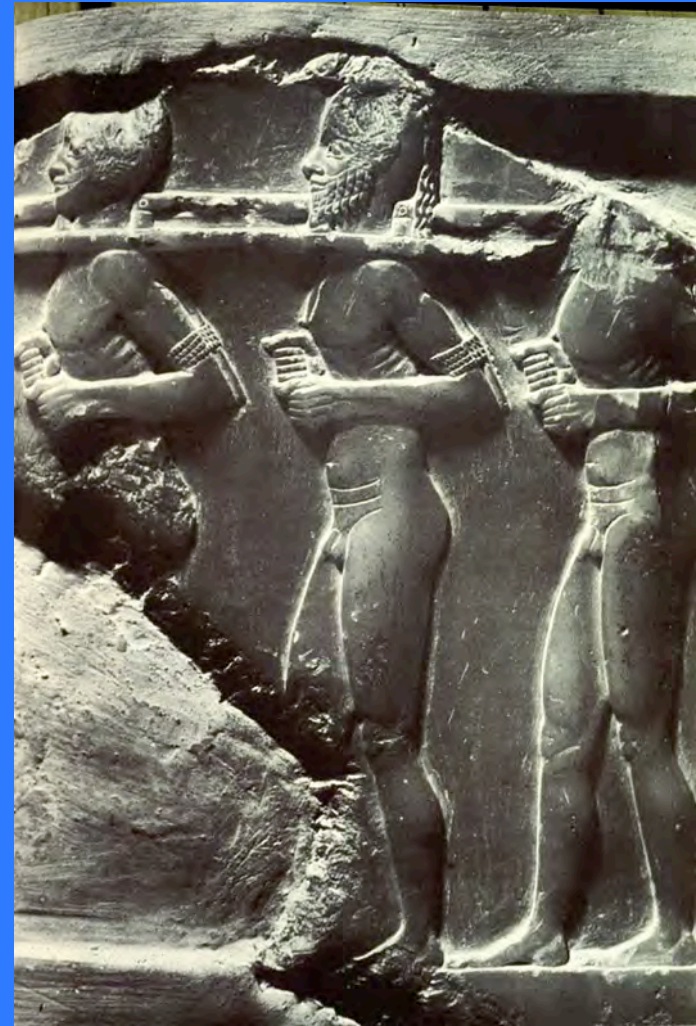


**-set in contrast with the
steppe, desert and
highlands which were
foreign, chaotic, dangerous**



Control through Warfare - Sumerian battle formation and leader depicting victory of Eannatum of Lagash

Relief depicting naked captives
Propaganda using text and image to reflect power

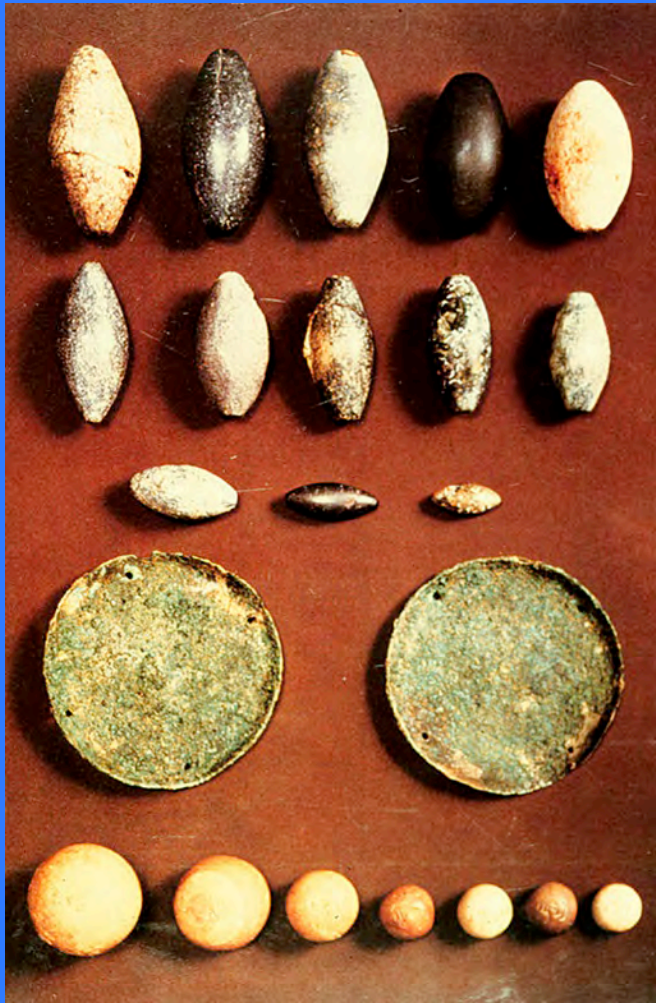


2900-2350 (2371) B.C. - Early Dynastic Period, **Sumerian Monarchies**, at least 2 dozen major cities, warring states, writing, Royal cemetery at Ur (2680-2450 B. C.)



King with
sacrificial
goat

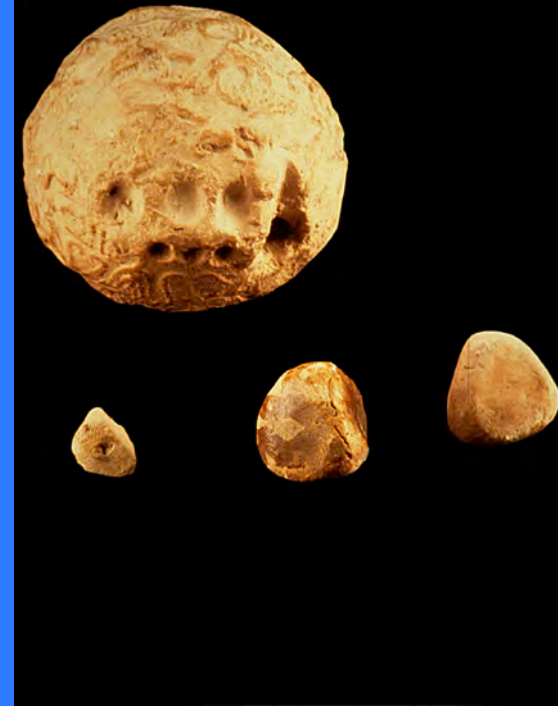
Uruk Period Bevelled rim bowls, used for rationing, barley and grain – other commodities also rationed, including wool and oil – amounts based on status and gender



Economic control- Mesopotamian weights and scale pans
weight system
was not standardized,
was also probably strongly
contextual
number systems were not abstract
but were strongly contextual - 15
different numerical systems have
been identified

Control through Economics Tokens, Seals and Sealings - indicators of control and wealth accumulation

Tokens- earliest clay tokens
9th mill. B. C., - by 3500 B. C. at Susa
enclosed inside hollow clay balls
(bullae) and sealed with cylinder seals
or stamp seals, sometimes also with
written numbers.



Seals - oldest seals found in
Syria and Turkey 7th to 6th
millennia B. C. ; by **5th
millennium B. C.** we see first
clay sealings possibly related
to **trade** or ownership

Control through Ideology: Power over and through Text

The earliest written tablets - 3500 to 3300 B. C.

Habuba Kabira, Syria, N. Mesopotamia,
Uruk in S. Mesopotamia



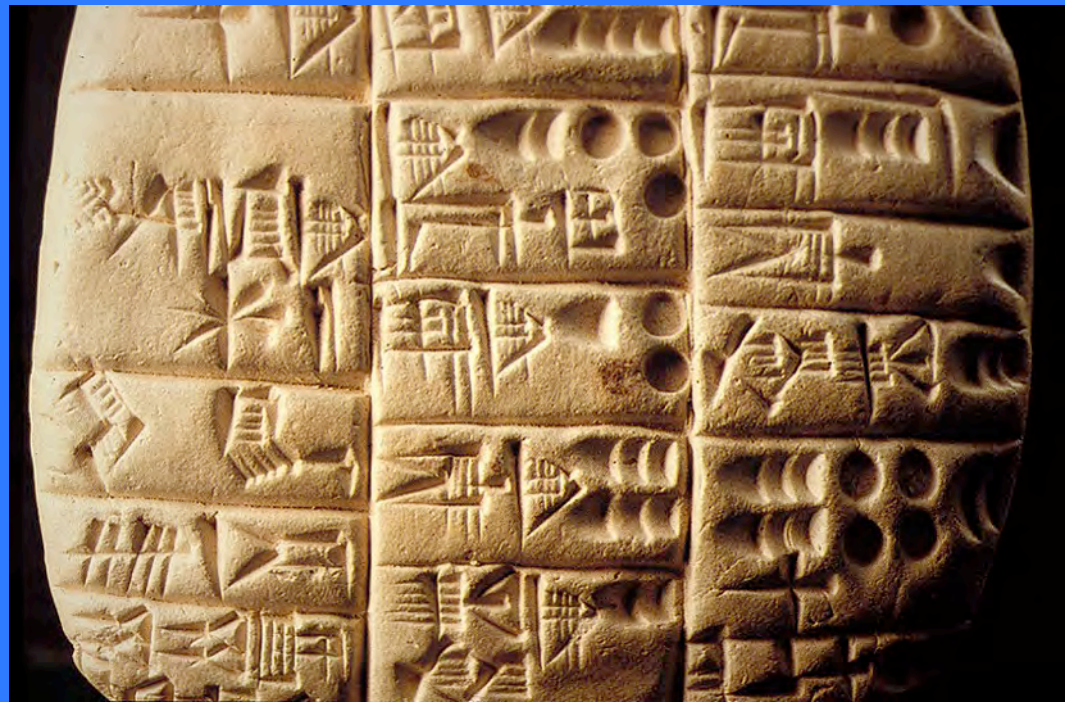
- **Writing** - first used for **accounting** and **rationing** in temples, use restricted to priests and literate elites
- By 2500 B. C. writing had become standardized - cuneiform symbols were syllabic, phonetic or ideograms (pictures that express concepts of objects).

Proto-Cuneiform-

3500-2800 B. C.

influenced proto-Elamite in Iran and was the foundation of Cuneiform writing system in Mesopotamia

Cuneiform (cuneus = wedge) - term first used in AD 1700 for writing used in Mesopotamia



Power Through use:



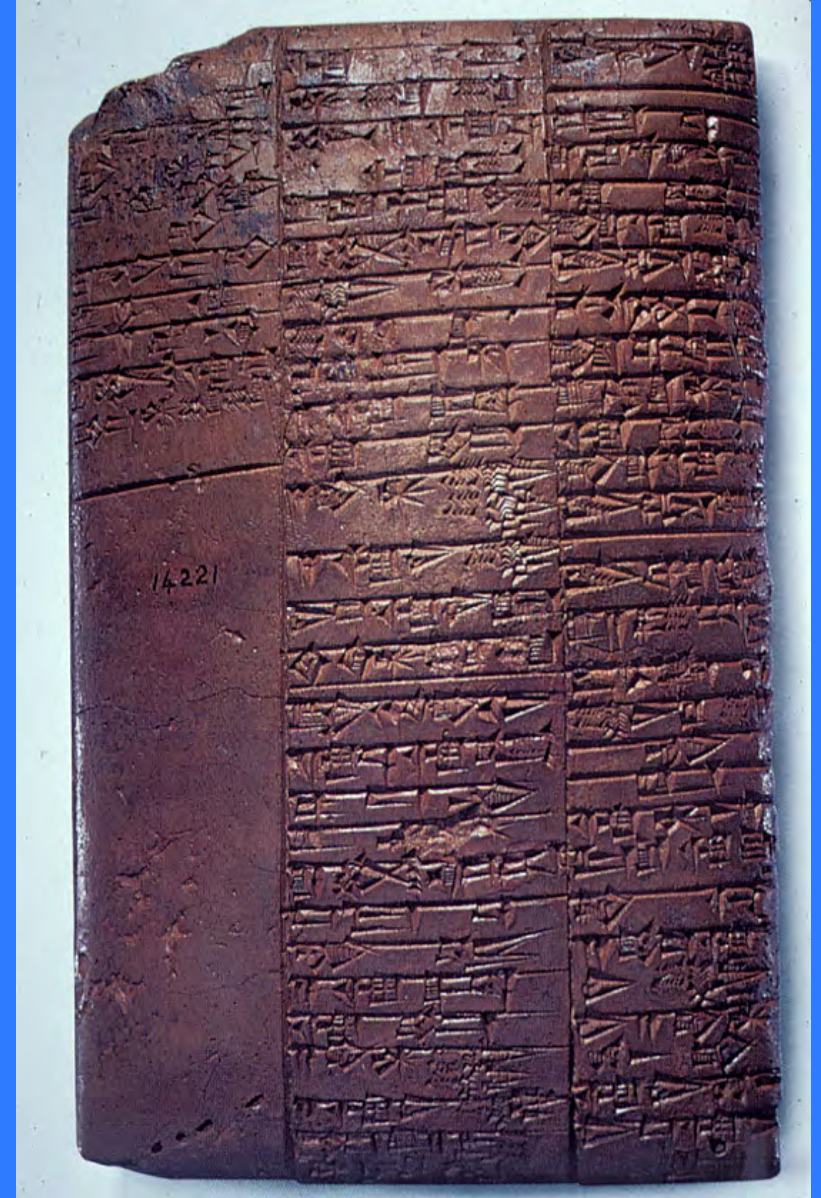
Clay tablet and
clay envelope for
official use

Divination
text -
sheep's
liver, Sippar
1700 BC



Foundation Tablet
Lipit-Ishtar, King of
Isin (1934-1924 BC)
established justice,
city wall, water
channels etc.
classic duties of
the king

Mathematical treatise Sippar 1800 BC



Medical text Nippur
late 3rd mill.

Ebla Library Archives and scriptorium

2500/2400 - 2200 BC

more than 15,000 texts,
administrative, literary,
religious, economic, political



Gender Issues in Mesopotamia

Men - Patriarchal society

Women - less powerful

Other - eunuchs, transvestites,
homosexuals, children, old
people - least powerful



Votive statues of worshippers placed in temples
- single males, bearded or clean shaven could represent priests, laymen or even eunuchs, couples reflect the ideal procreative family



Goddess as a protector or intercessor

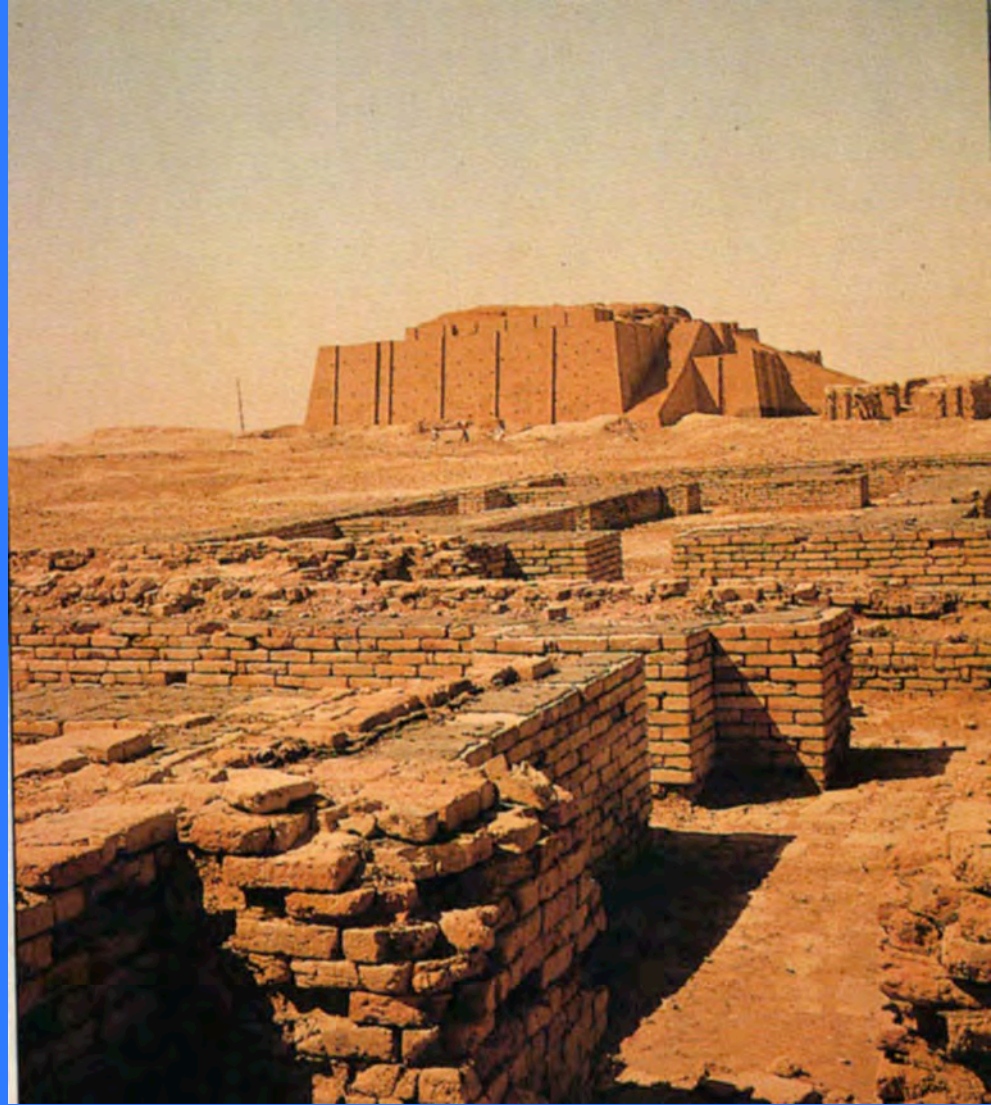
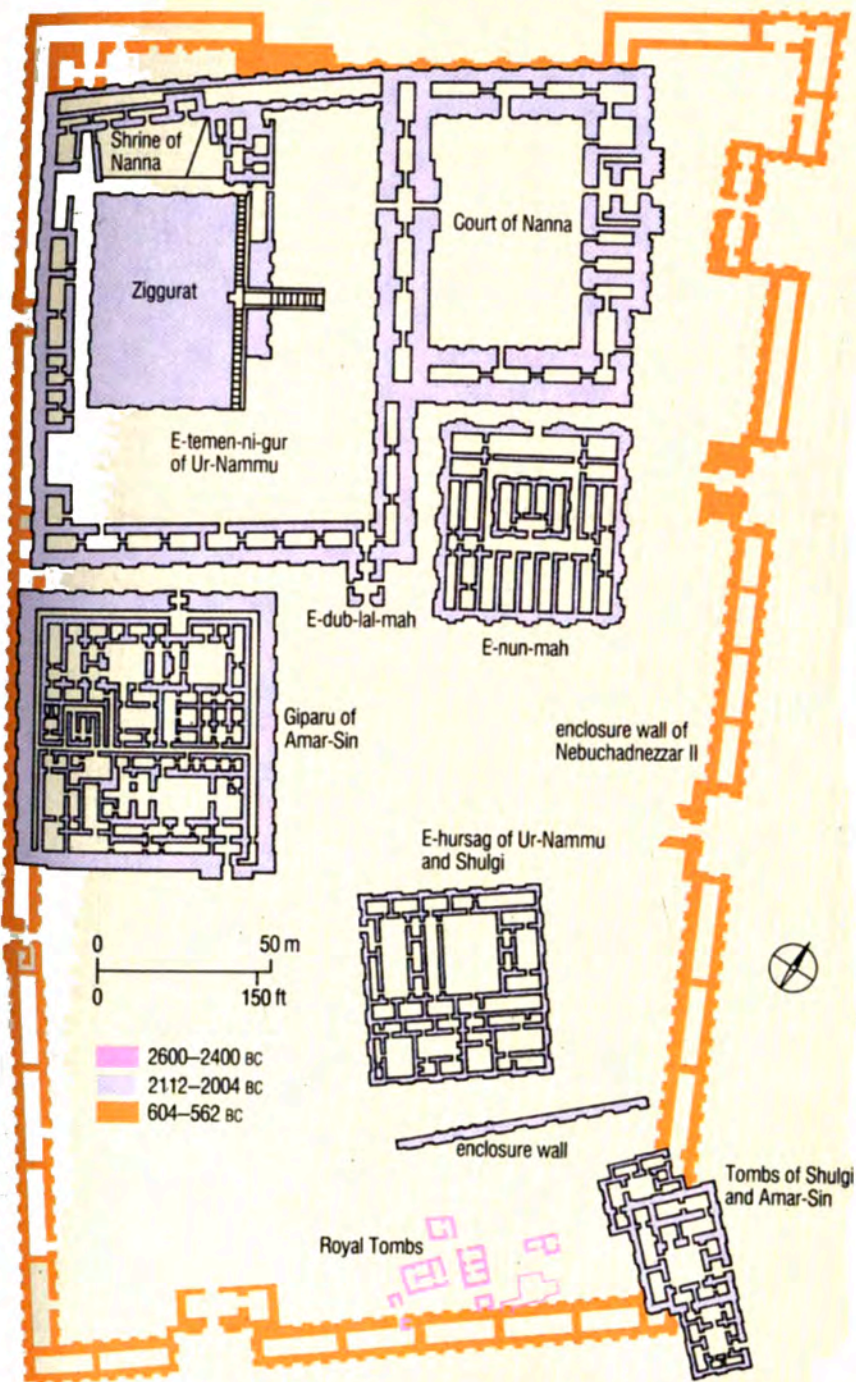
Two goddesses leading
a governor to a king



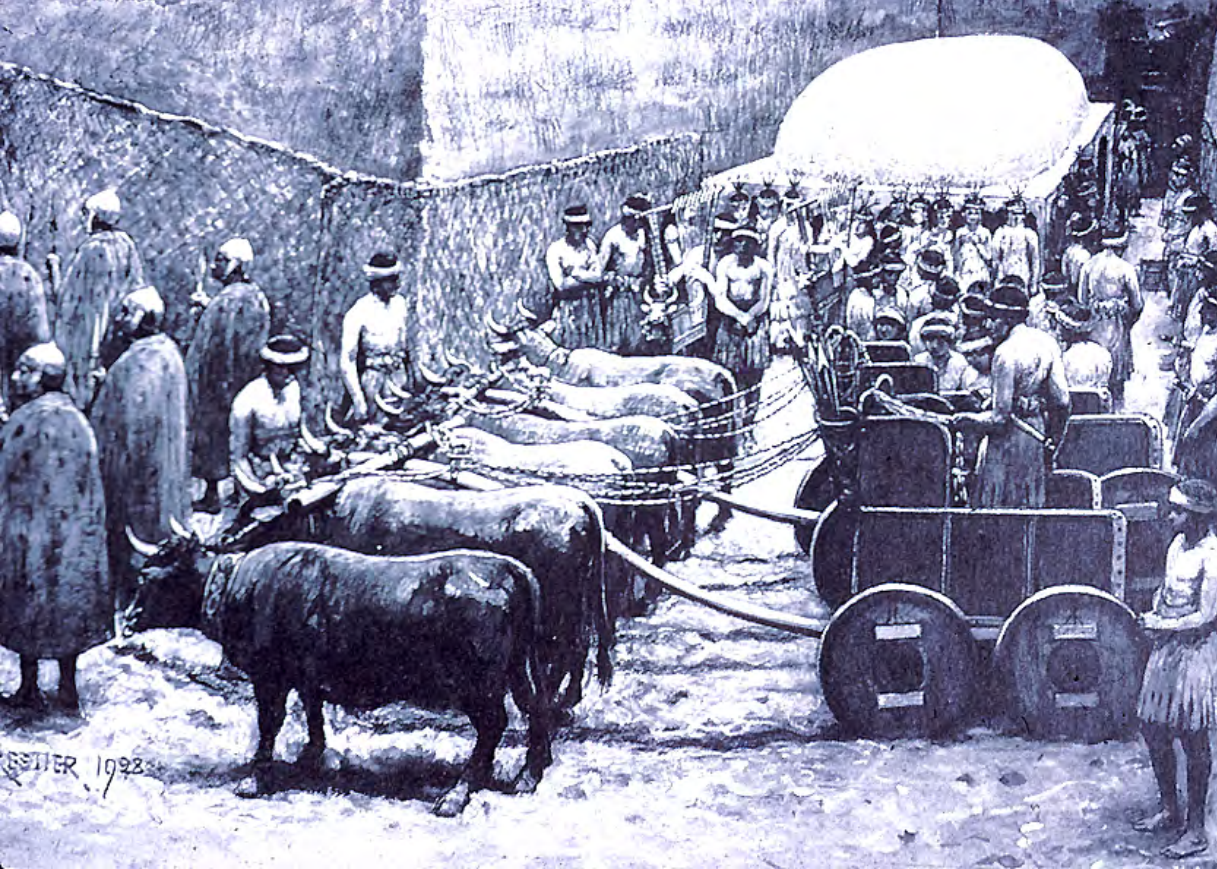
Enheduanna - daughter of Sargon, high priestess of the moon god Nanna at Ur and possibly the sky god Anu at Uruk - allowed Sargon to control the southern cities

Ur-Nanshe the singer,
masculine name, but feminine
attributes, suggests this is an
image of a temple eunuch
- clean shaven male harpist or
eunuch depicted in a terracotta
panel



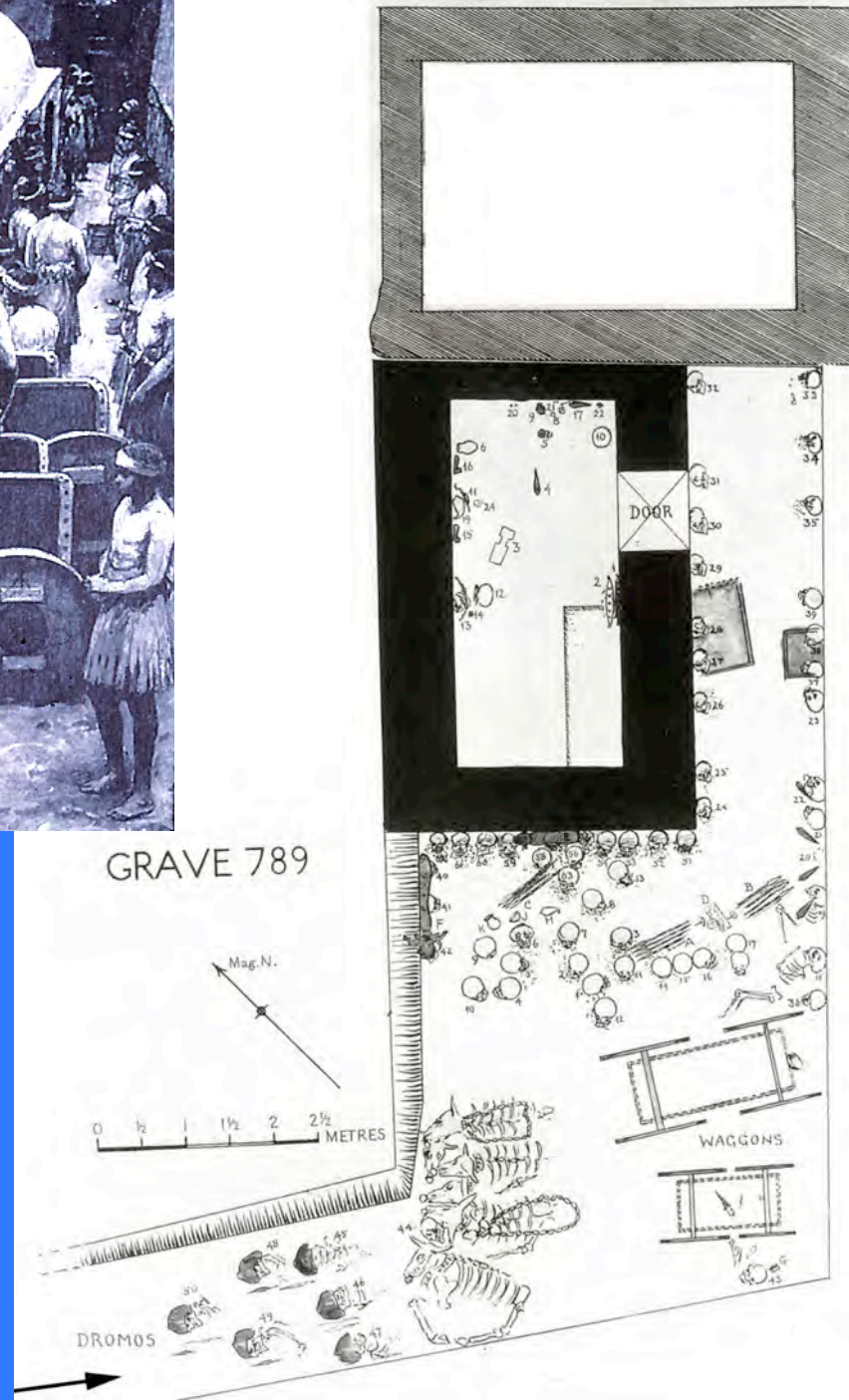


Ur, temple area and **royal tombs**, reconstructed ziggurat

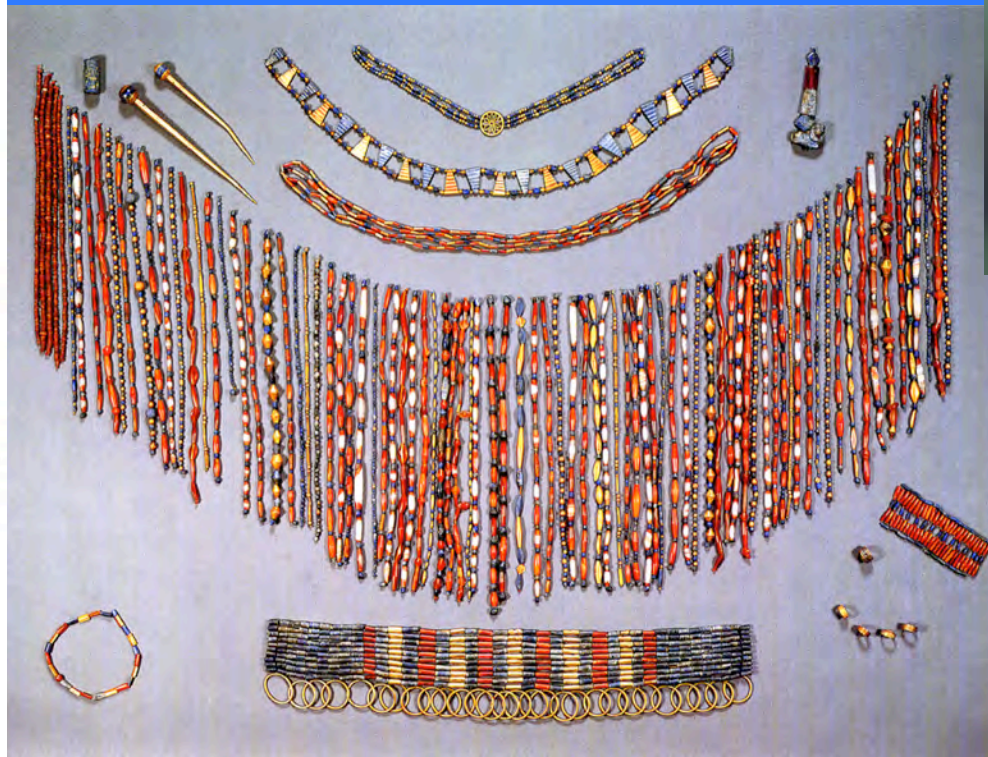


Royal Burials of Ur

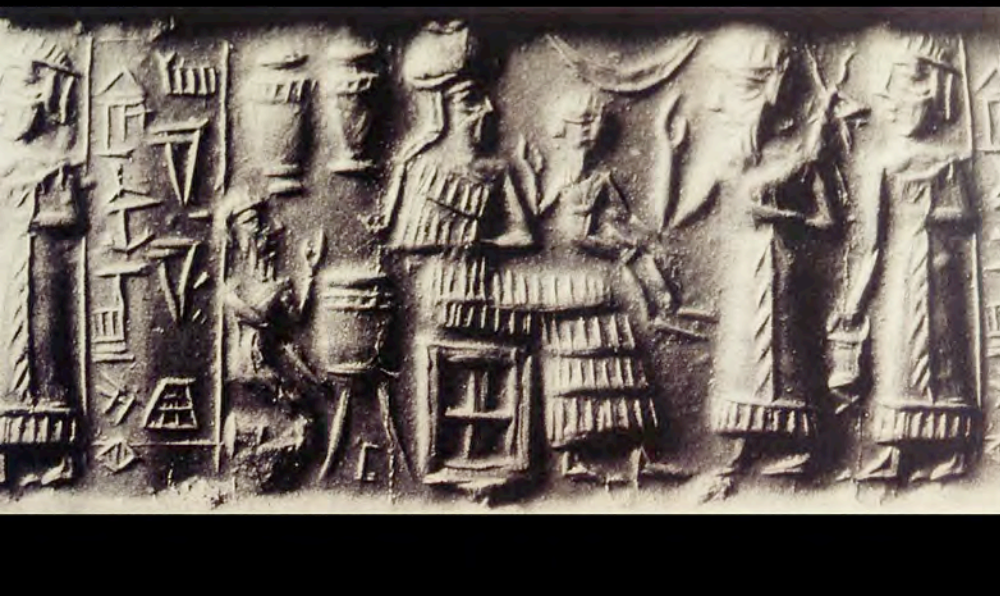
- human sacrifice, offerings
and ritual feasts
burial of King (PG 789) - 63
retainers but king's chamber
was looted



Queen Puabi's burial had 3 attendants in the burial chamber, one male (eunuch?), five soldiers on the ramp, 5 grooms, one male wardrobe attendant (eunuch?) and 10 female attendants wearing elaborate headdresses, two were carrying a harp and a lyre



Headdress
of female
attendant



Long distance Trade and movement of merchants indicated by Cylinder seal of a Meluhhan interpreter, **Meluhha = Indus Valley region of South Asia**

Indus long carnelian beads, lapis and other exotic items, such as monkeys, ivory, pearls and red hunting dogs etc. imported from the Indus from 2600-1900 BC





Water buffalo from the Indus

2350 (2371) -2200 (2150)B.C. - **FIRST EMPIRE**, Akkadian Period, **Sargon of Akkad** (Agade), son of a priestess and pastoral-nomad, north central Mesopotamia, Semitic speaking rulers

- daughter Enheduanna - high priestess of Southern temples

- end of empire under grandson **Naram Sin** - conquered by Gutian tribes, agricultural collapse, cursed by the gods

Stone monument
from southern
Mesopotamia
showing **Naram
Sin** - but found as
a step in a temple
in Susa, Iran



LOCALIZATION ERA ;
breakdown of trade and political stability

2200 - 2000 (2120) Gutu Period (2159 B. C. **Agade was
destroyed**) invasions by tribes from the Zagros, Syria, &
Iran **possible aridification around 2200 BC**

Assyrian Empire - 934-629 BC

**Assyrian
Warfare
involved
horses,
chariots
and iron
weapons**



**Assurnasirpal II
(883-859 BC),
hunting lions**