

CIVILIZATIONS OF THE
ANCIENT WORLD

Meeting 3 **Mesopotamia**

- The City State
- Mesopotamia
- Sumer
- Gilgamesh

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The story so far

Website & syllabus markbwilson.com

Themes of the course

- The dynamics between
 - Individual and community
 - Mortal and divine
 - Male and female
 - City and empire

Geography

- The ancient world is connected by water
- A community's identity is focused on its center

Evidence

- Evidence can be documents, oral history, or artifacts
- Primary sources come from the time and place
- Evidence is always skewed by bias, point of view, survival, and translation

Periodization

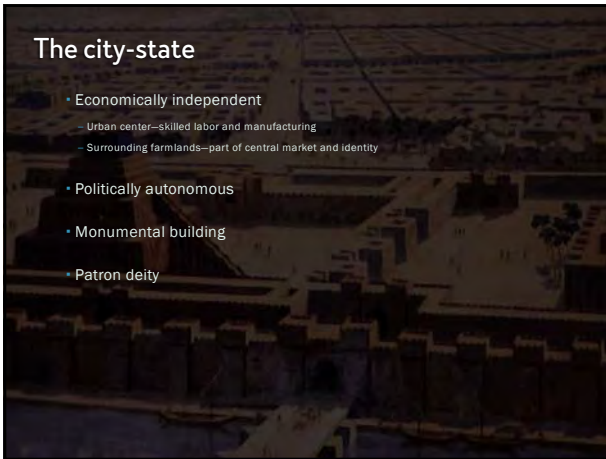
- Eras of history: "Prehistory", ancient, (medieval, modern)
- Ages of technology: stone age, bronze age, iron age
- The ancient era is the time of experimentation with civilization and empire

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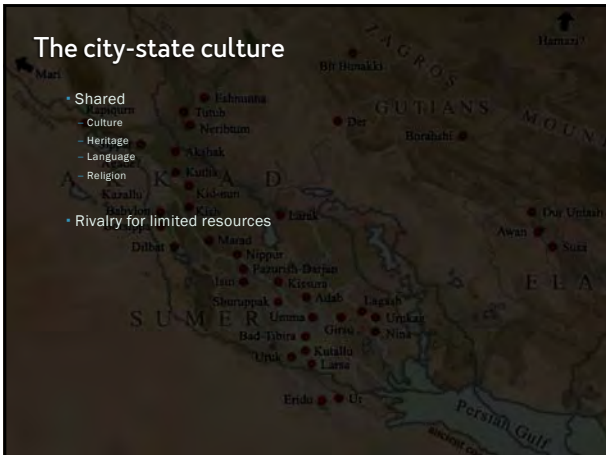
Neolithic sites

Çatal Höyük, 7500-5700 BCE

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Civilization as social revolution

- Complex social structures
 - Division of labor
 - Class
 - Forms of government
 - Citizen and noncitizen
- The responsibilities of the citizen
 - The individual is subordinated to the community
- The responsibilities of gender

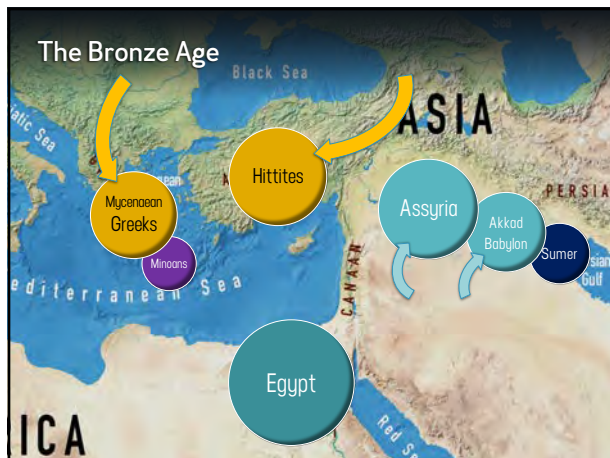
MEN	PUBLIC	PRESENT
WOMEN	PRIVATE	FUTURE

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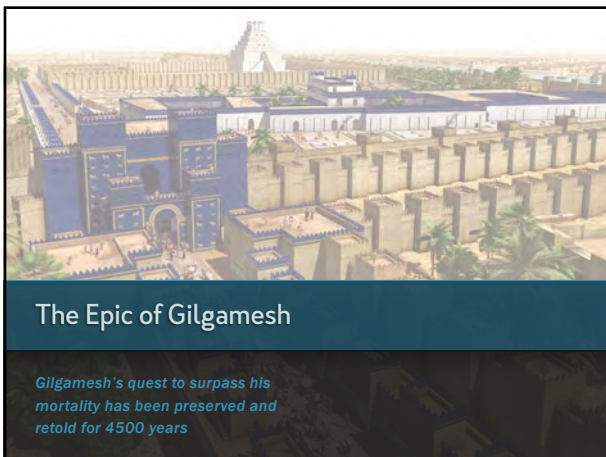
Forms of government

Democracy	δημος 'people' + κράτος 'power'
Republic	RES PUBLICA 'public matters'
Oligarchy	ὀλίγος 'few' + ἄρχων 'leader'
Autocracy	αὐτός 'self' + κράτος 'power'
• Tyranny	τύραννος 'lord and master'
• Monarchy	μόνος 'alone' + ἄρχων 'leader'
• Dynasty	δύναμαι 'to be able, to be strong enough'
Theocracy	θεός 'deity' + κράτος 'power'
Citizen	CIVITAS 'city-dwellers'
Constitution	CONSTITUO 'settled, agreed upon'
Empire	IMPERIUM 'power to command, compel'

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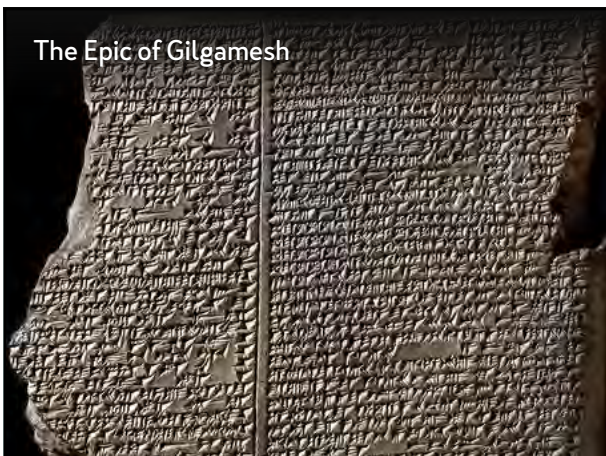
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Ways of looking at the Epic

- Gilgamesh as a priest-king
- Gilgamesh as a mortal
- Gilgamesh as a man

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Characters

Gilgámesh	king of Úruk
Nínsun	his divine mother
Enkídu	his friend
Shámhat	a prostitute in Úruk
Shámash	sun-god
Humbába	forest guardian
Íshtar	great goddess
Úta-napíshti	survivor of the Flood

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King Gilgamesh

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Enkidu

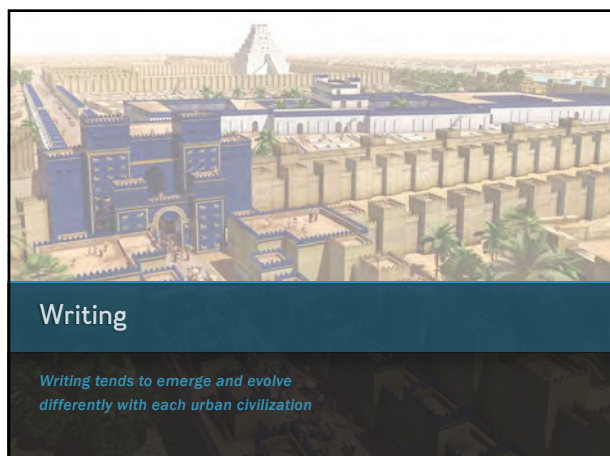
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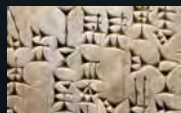
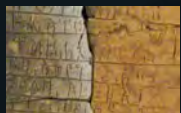
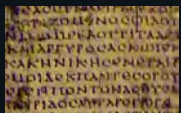
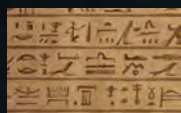
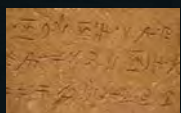
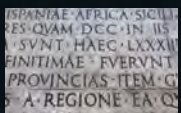


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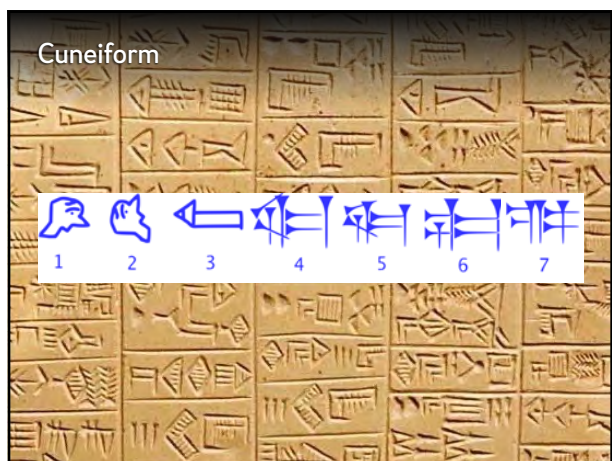


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Forms of writing

PICTOGRAPHS	SYLLABARIES	ALPHABETS
Each character represents a word or a concept	Each character represents a syllable (consonant + vowel)	Each character represents a sound
 Cuneiform	 Linear B	 Greek
 Hieroglyphs	 Arcado-Cypriot	 Arcado-Cypriot

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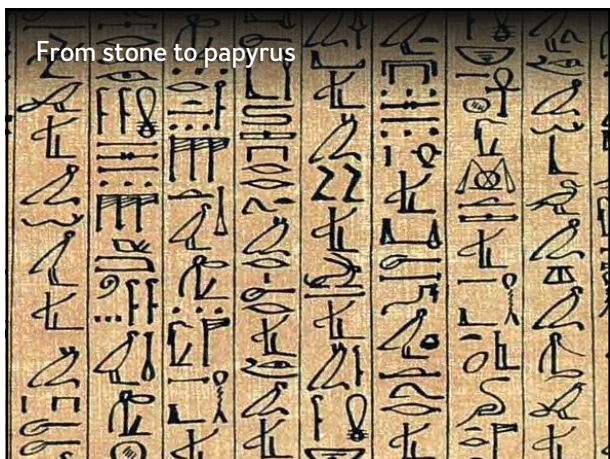
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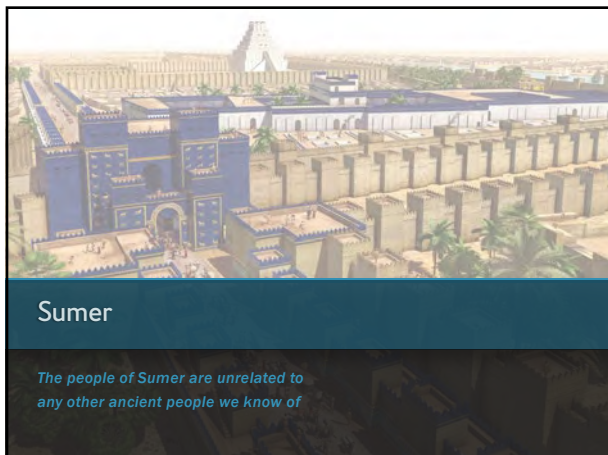
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