



Ancient Summer

Location and Era

LO: Location and Era

Success Criteria

- I can **locate** where Ancient Sumer was on a world map.
- I can **label** a map of Ancient Sumer.
- I can **place** some events from the Ancient Sumerian era on a timeline.

Make your own notes. You do not need to write everything down – just key facts.
This will help you to remember the most important information.

Who were the Ancient Sumerians and where did they live?



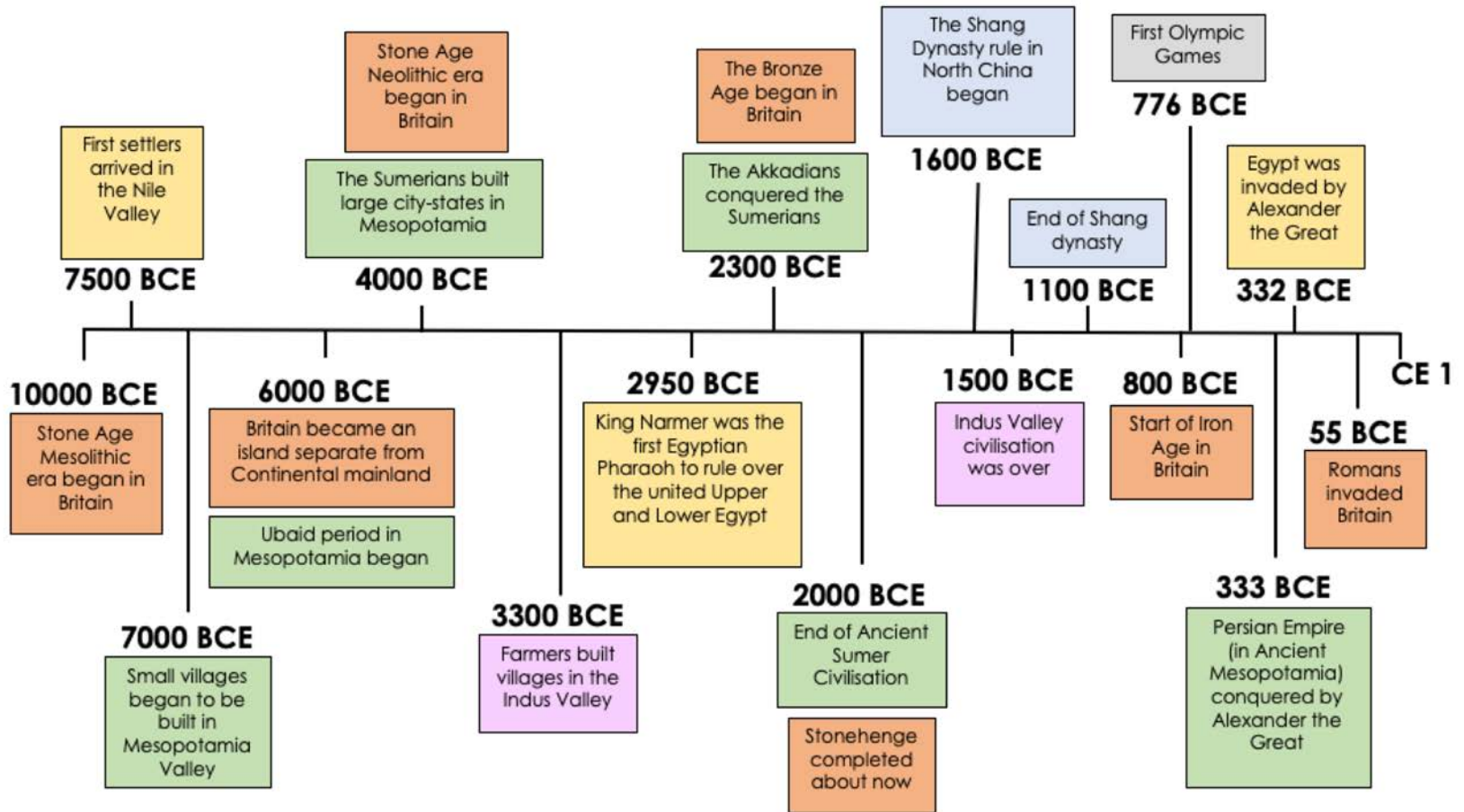
In this topic, we will study the Ancient Sumerian civilisation, but it is important to understand how this fits in with what was happening both in Britain and in other parts of the world.

Ancient Sumerian civilisation existed between 4000 and 30 BCE.

BCE (Before the Common Era) is also **BC** (Before Christ).

CE (Common Era) is also **AD** ('Anno Domini' or the year of the Lord).

Earliest Civilisations Timeline



Who were the Ancient Sumerians and where did they live?

The Ancient Sumerians were one of the earliest ancient civilisations.

- The word **civilisation** comes from the Latin word **civis** (someone who lives in a town).
- A **civilization** is an advanced stage of human social development; i.e. a high level of culture, science, industry and/or government.
- An **ancient civilisation** refers specifically to the **first settled and stable communities** that became the basis for later states, nations, and empires.

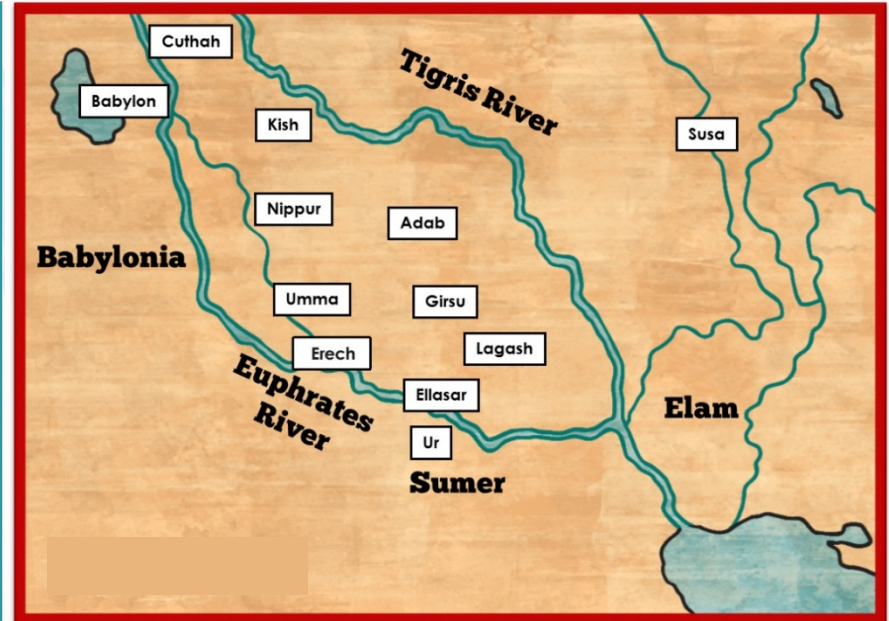


Who were the Ancient Sumerians and where did they live?

- The Sumerians built large cities.
- They were good farmers and skilled sailors.
- They invented the wheel (although not for transport at first) and one of the first forms of writing.
- They had a significant effect on the world as it is today.



Ancient Sumer and Mesopotamia



The Ancient Sumerians controlled an area similar to southern Iraq today, with their civilisation based along two rivers: the Euphrates and Tigris.

The whole area between the rivers was later called 'Mesopotamia' by the Ancient Greeks (meaning 'the land between the rivers'). Historians still use this name today.

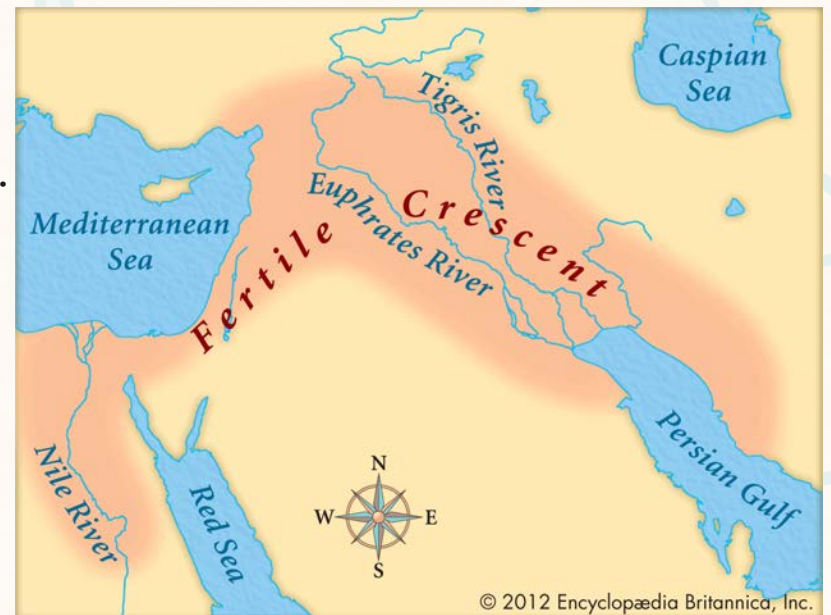
The northern part of Iraq was ruled by the **Akkadians**. The first settlements in the area, from about 7000 BCE, were of small villages, and the people were hunter-gatherers.

Between 6000 and 5000 BCE, a culture called the **Ubaid Period** appeared in southern Mesopotamia.

This was named after the village of al-Ubaid, where archaeologists first discovered **Ubaidian painted pottery**.

Ancient Sumer was part of the 'Fertile Crescent', which also includes the area where the **Ancient Egypt** civilisation was located.

Why do you think the earliest civilisations grew near rivers?



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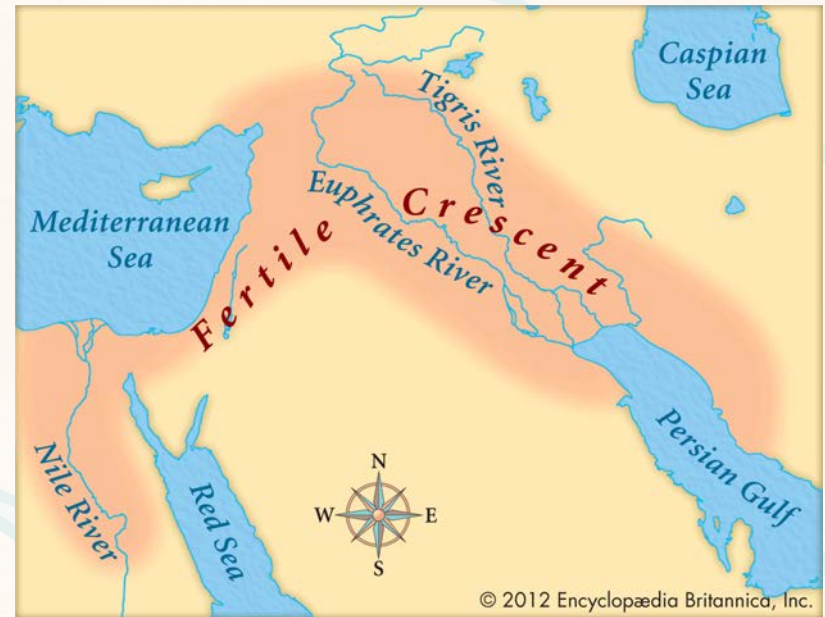
The earliest civilisations grew near rivers because...

The land further from rivers was very dry.

It was hot and did not rain very often in Mesopotamia.

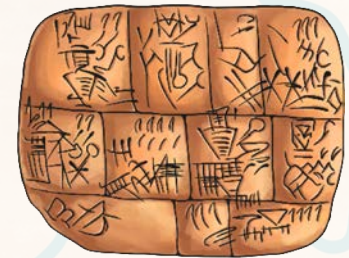
Sometimes, the rivers flooded after heavy rain and left rich sediments that made the land very fertile. However, this did not happen often and could not be predicted.

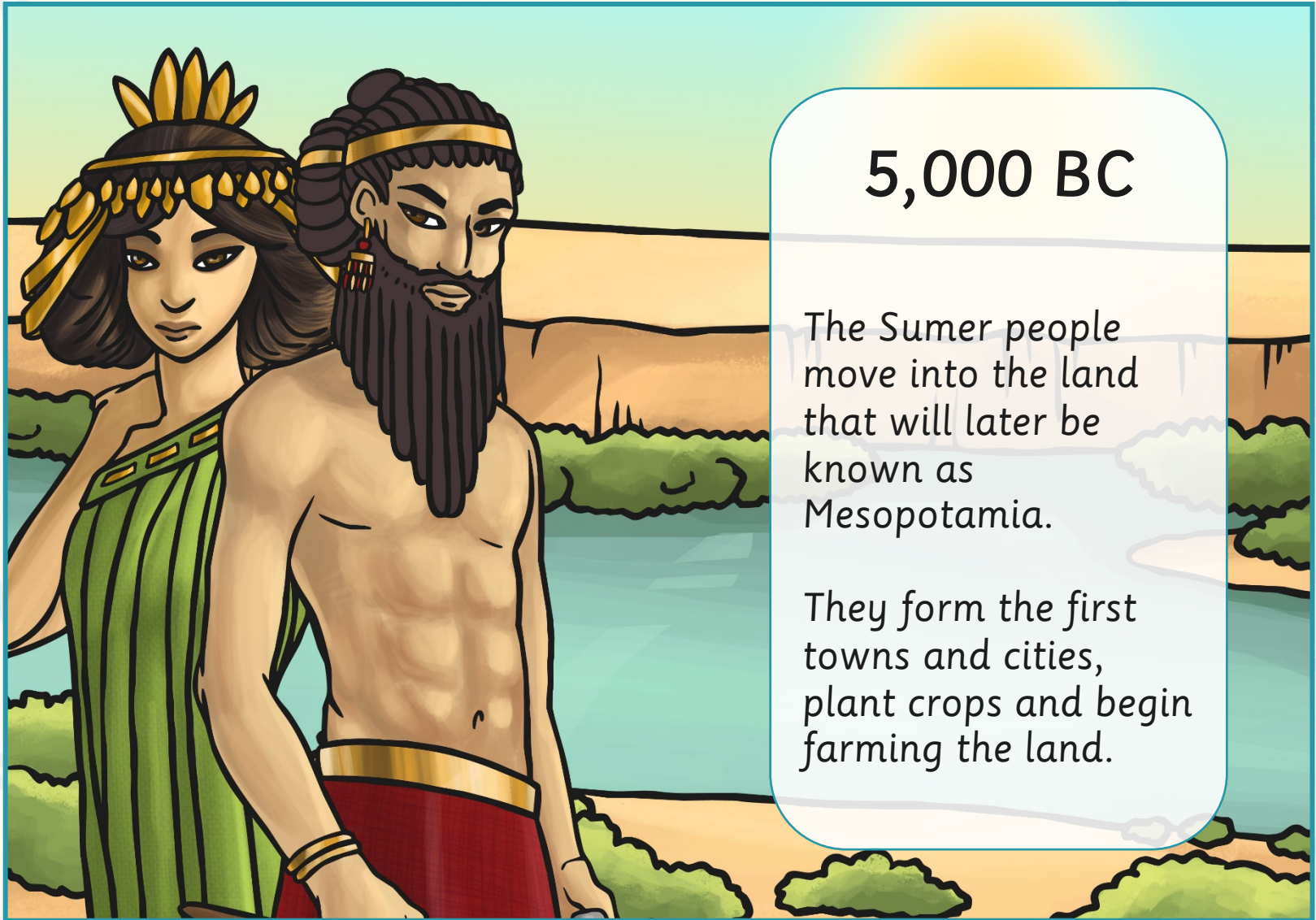
This region is also sometimes called '**the cradle of civilisation**' because some of the earliest civilisations developed there.



Amazing achievements were made here, such as writing, glass, the wheel and irrigation techniques – although this was not the only place where these were discovered.

Now let's look at some key events from Ancient Sumer.

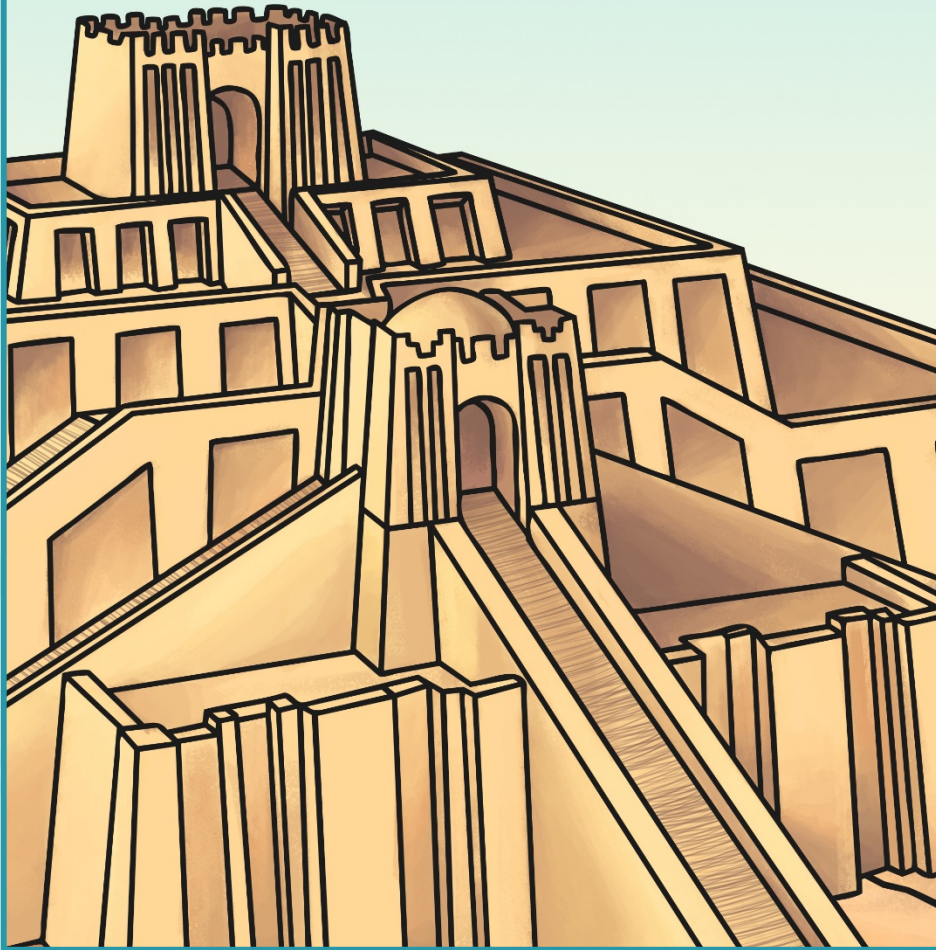




5,000 BC

The Sumer people move into the land that will later be known as Mesopotamia.

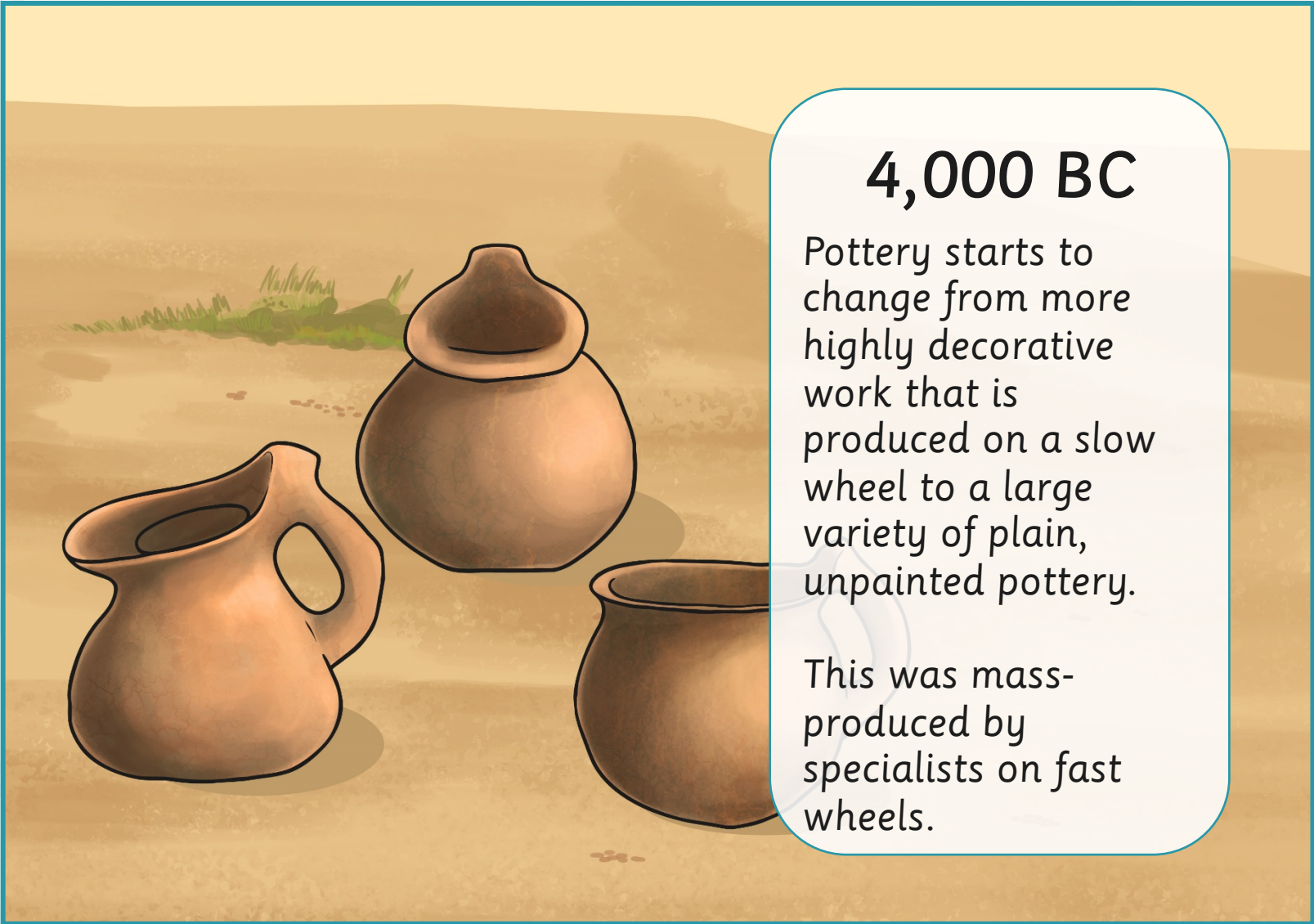
They form the first towns and cities, plant crops and begin farming the land.



4,000 BC

The Sumer people build temples for their gods.

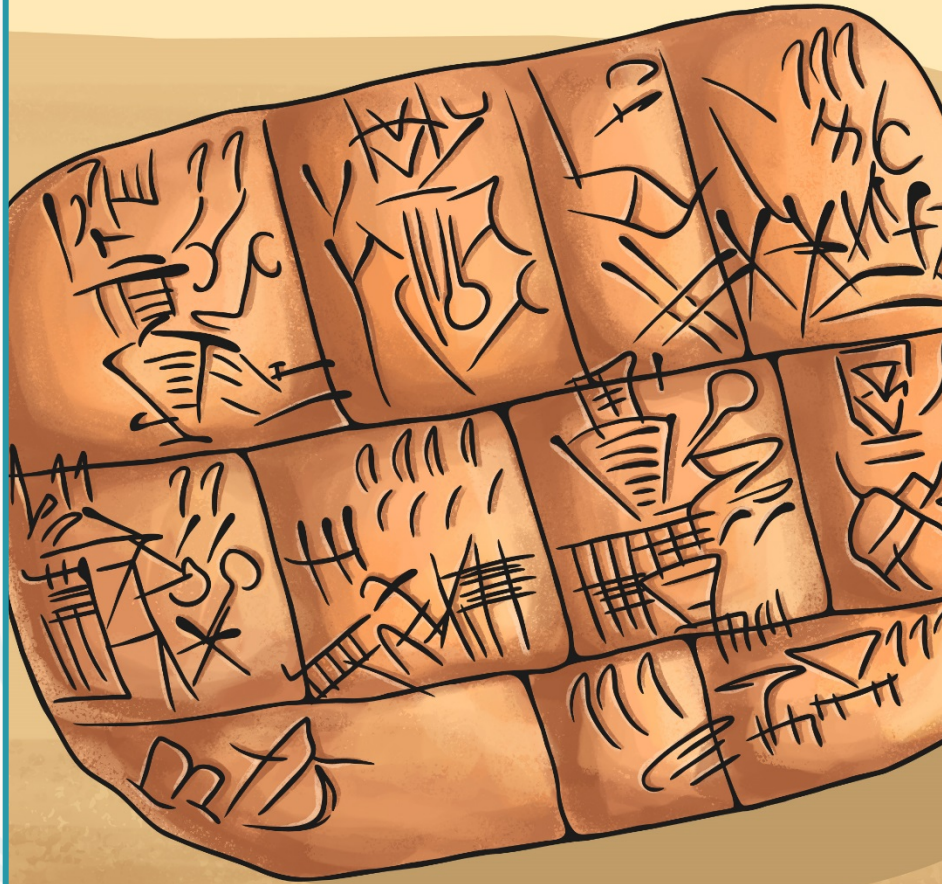
These temples are called **Ziggurats** and can be found scattered around what is today called Iraq and Iran.



4,000 BC

Pottery starts to change from more highly decorative work that is produced on a slow wheel to a large variety of plain, unpainted pottery.

This was mass-produced by specialists on fast wheels.



3,300 BC

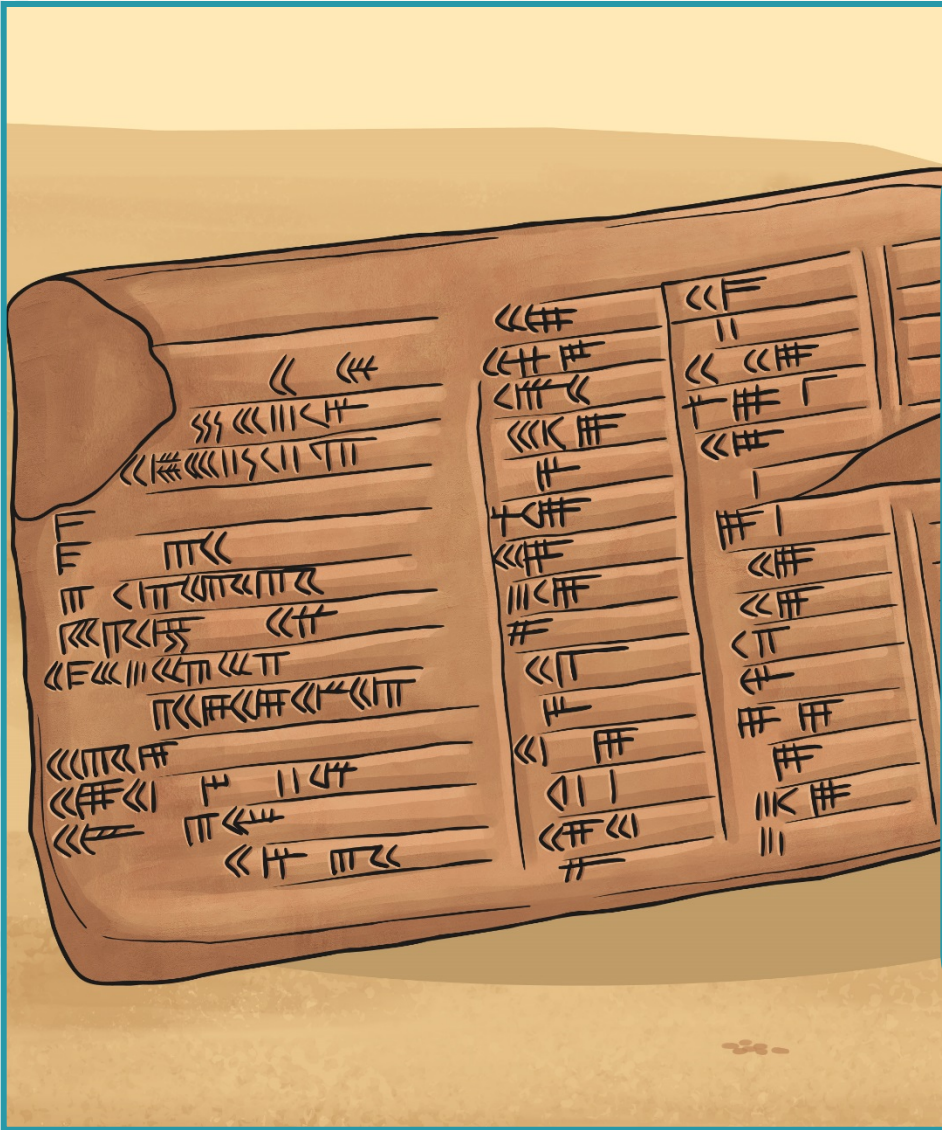
The Sumerians start to inscribe on clay tablets using pictures for words.

They put these together to form sentences and one of the first forms of writing is invented.



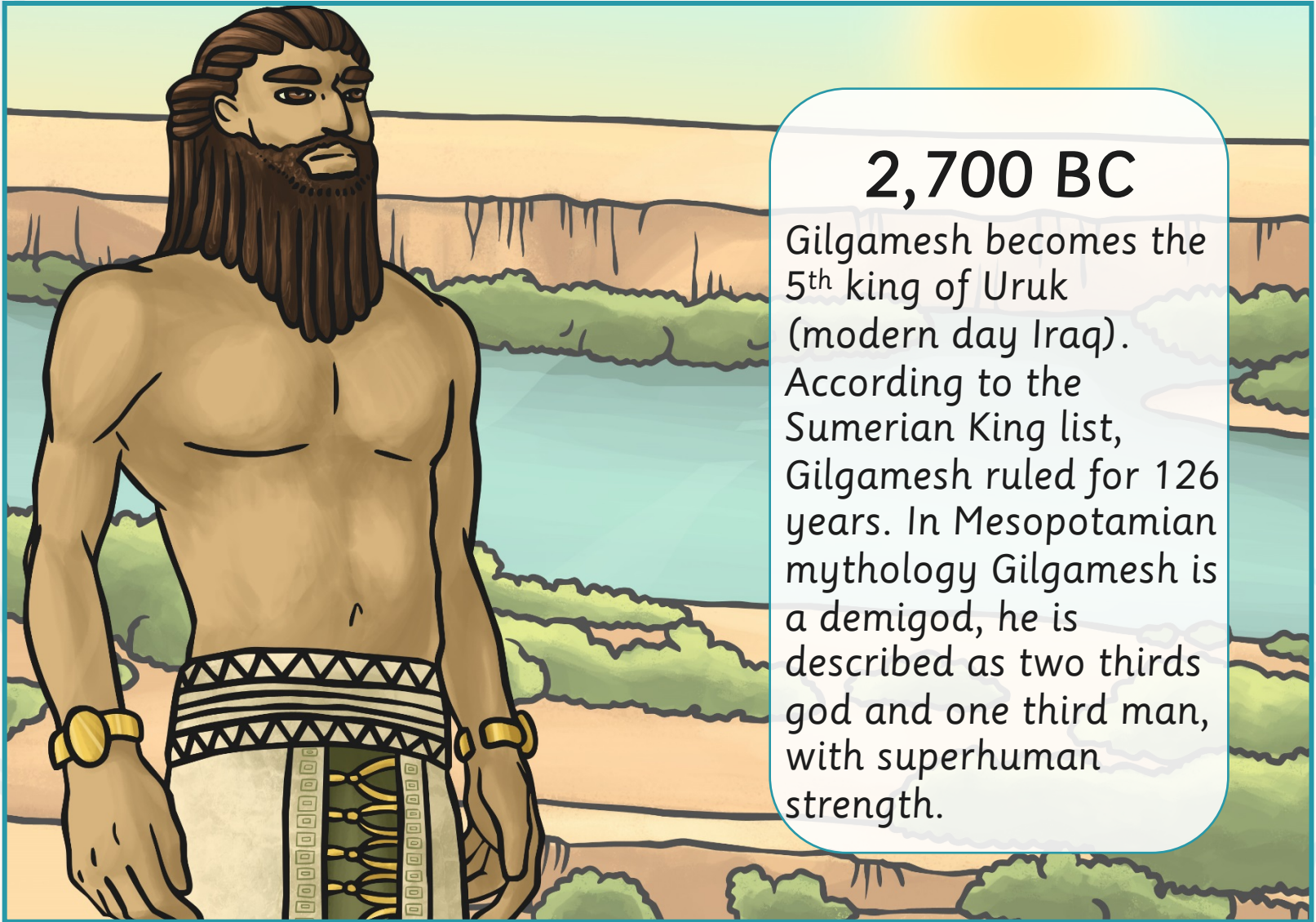
3,200 BC

The wheel is invented and is used on vehicles to cart things around.



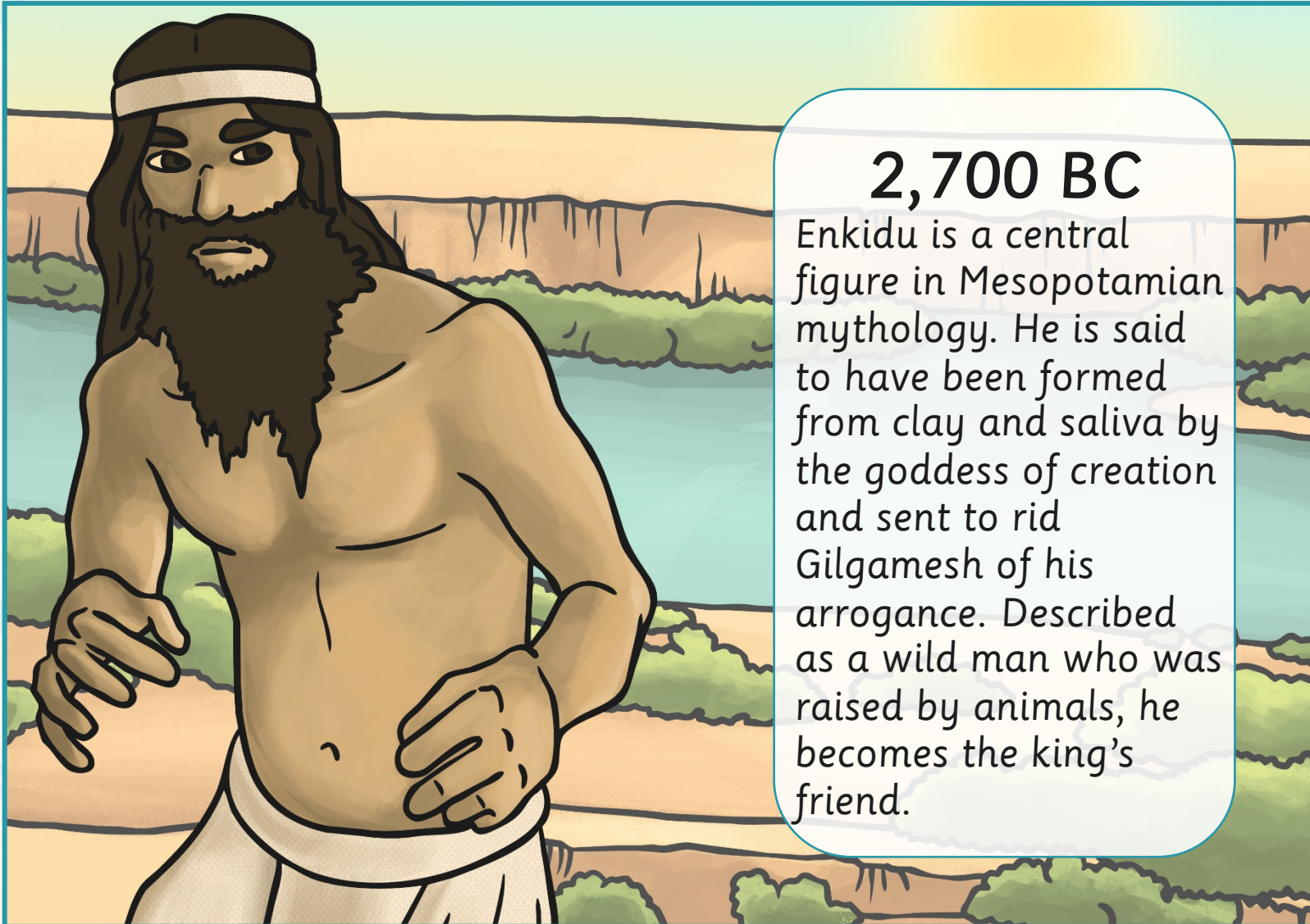
3,000 BC

The Ancient Sumerians begin to use mathematics.



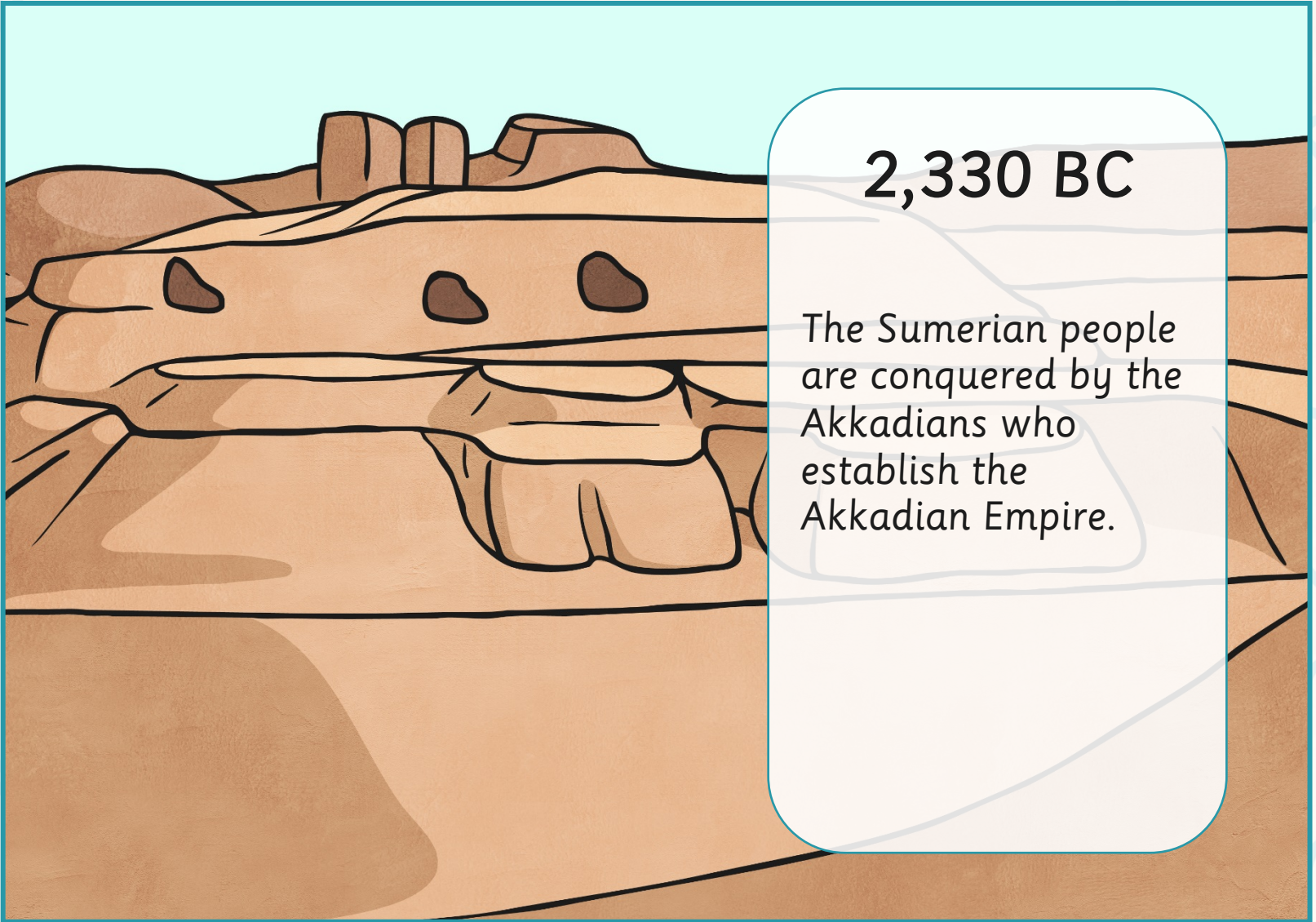
2,700 BC

Gilgamesh becomes the 5th king of Uruk (modern day Iraq). According to the Sumerian King list, Gilgamesh ruled for 126 years. In Mesopotamian mythology Gilgamesh is a demigod, he is described as two thirds god and one third man, with superhuman strength.



2,700 BC

Enkidu is a central figure in Mesopotamian mythology. He is said to have been formed from clay and saliva by the goddess of creation and sent to rid Gilgamesh of his arrogance. Described as a wild man who was raised by animals, he becomes the king's friend.



2,330 BC

The Sumerian people are conquered by the Akkadians who establish the Akkadian Empire.

Ancient Sumerian Activities

Activity 1

Look at what was happening in Ancient Britain around the same time... Google:

[A day in the life of a 10-year-old in Ancient Britain](#)
(YouTube)

Activity 2

Colour the map of Ancient Sumer. What other features can you add?

1. Shade the word 'SUMER' orange.
2. Shade the word 'Akkad' brown.
3. Underline the word 'Ur' in purple.
4. Colour the Mesopotamian waterways blue and draw a boat on one of them.
5. Colour the land within the dotted line light green.

Activity 3

Draw a timeline in your books and stick in the events on your sheet in chronological order.

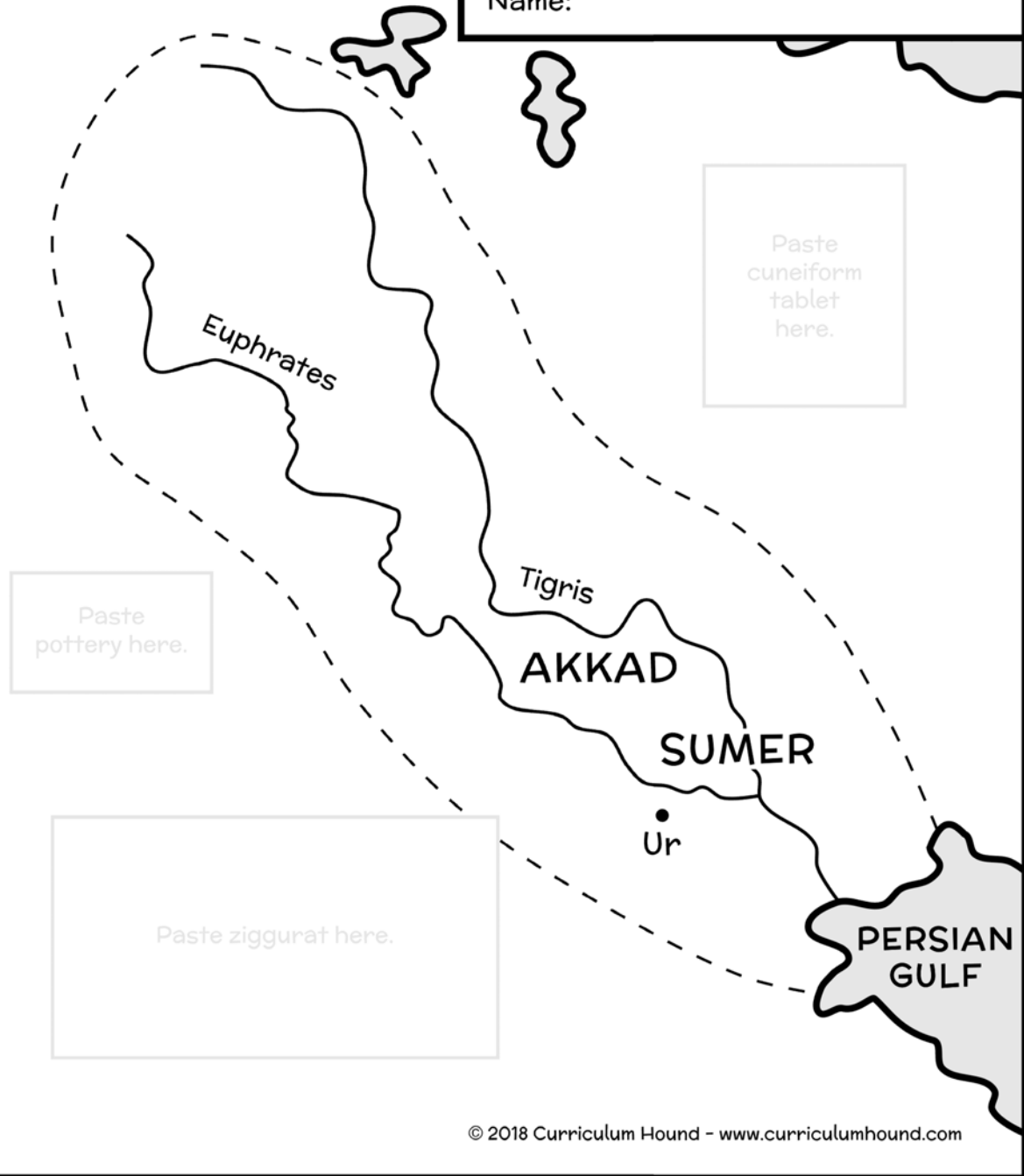
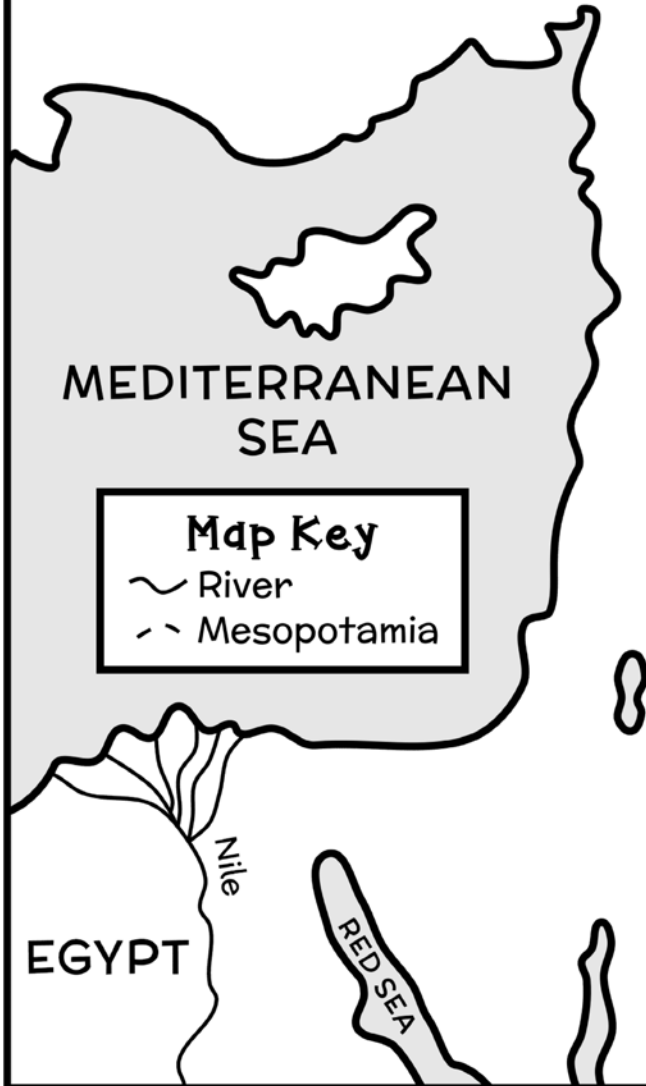
- 5000 BC
- 4000 BC
- 4000 BC
- 3300 BC
- 3200 BC
- 3000 BC
- 2700 BC
- 2700 BC



Ancient Mesopotamia

"The Land Between Two Rivers"

Name: _____



Draw a timeline, cut out these events and stick them in your books. If you have time, colour them in.

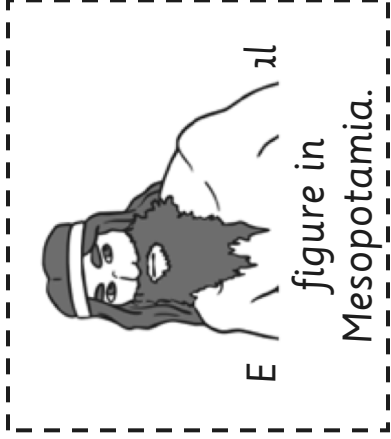
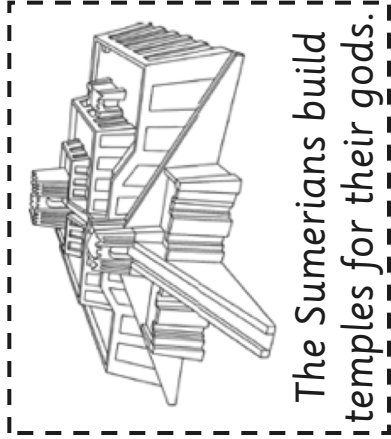


figure in Mesopotamia.



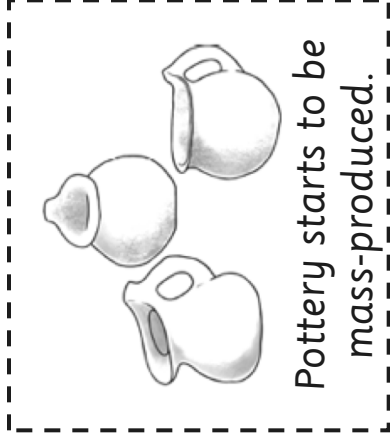
The Sumerians start to inscribe on tablets.



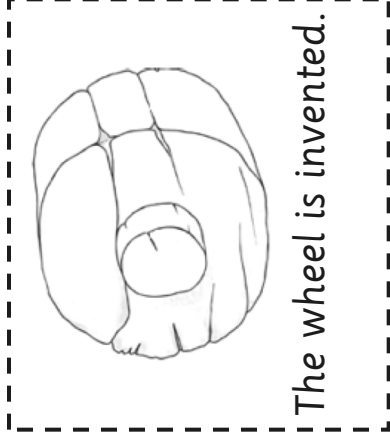
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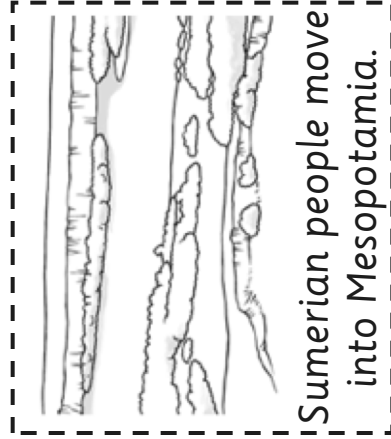
Gilgamesh becomes the 5th king of Uruk.



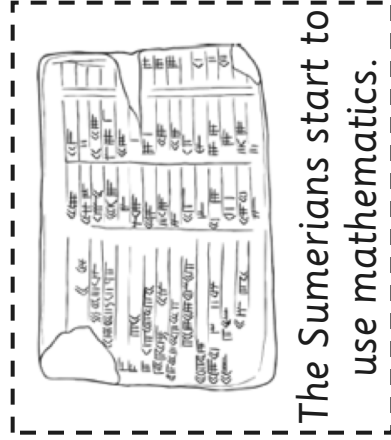
Pottery starts to be mass-produced.



The wheel is invented.



Sumerian people move into Mesopotamia.



The Sumerians start to use mathematics.