

# MESOPOTAMIA

**SUMER 3500  
BCE-ish**





Black Sea

Caspian Sea

Hittites

Assyrians

● Nineveh

**UHR**

Persians

Mediterranean Sea

*R. Euphrates*

*R. Tigris*

● Akkad

● Babylon

● Lagash

● Uruk

● Ur

● Eridu

Elamites

Egyptians

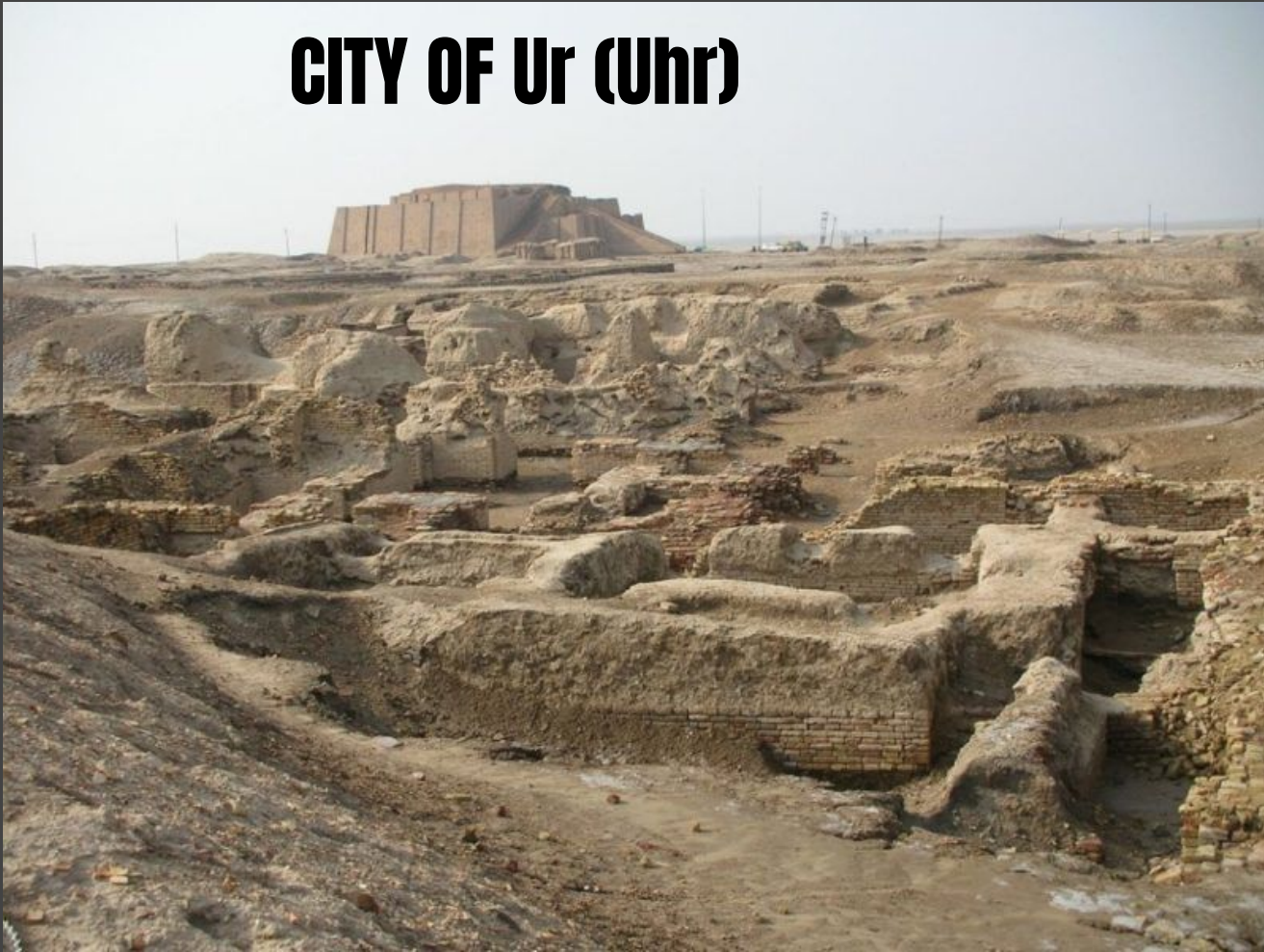
Sumerians

Persian Gulf

# CITY OF UR



# CITY OF Ur (Uhr)





Mediterranean  
Sea

EGYPT

Nile River

MESOPOTAMIA

Tigris River

Euphrates River

Persian Gulf

**THE FERTILE  
CRESCENT**

**3500 BCE**

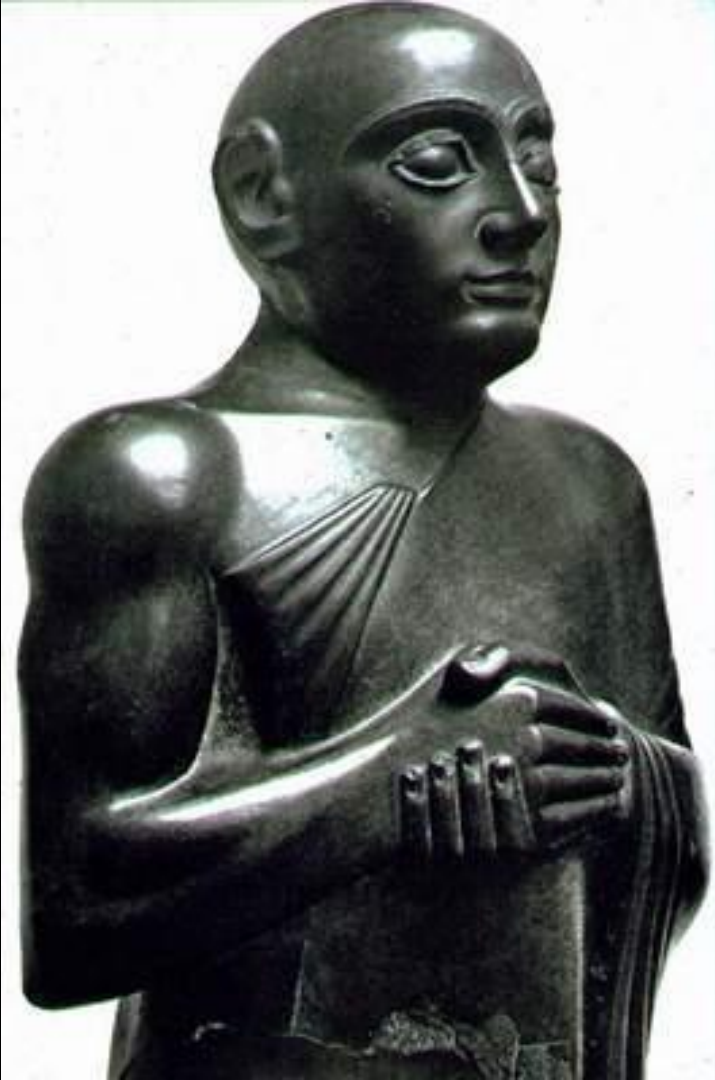
**CITY-STATES:**

Cities with their own  
**government** and **gods**.

**PRIEST-KINGS:**

Ruled over city states.

Received advice from assembly  
of free men.



The background of the image is a wall painting from an ancient Egyptian tomb. It features several registers of figures. At the top, there are symbols of life, power, and dominion. Below these are several figures, including a man in a kilt and a woman, and a group of figures. The bottom register shows a man and a woman, and a group of figures. The painting is set within a decorative border of blue and gold tiles.

# WAR AND CHANGE

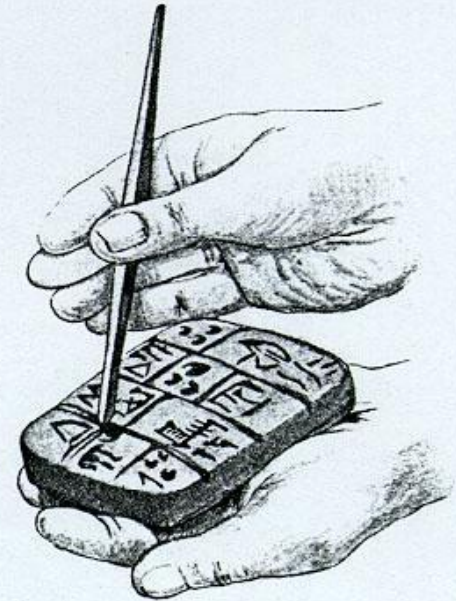
City states battled with one another.

When cities went to war, the assembly would elect a **military leader**. Over time, the military leaders would **stay in power** even after war had ended.

These were the first kings. (3000 BCE). **Kingship became hereditary**.



# CUNEIFORM



▲ Writing on a soft clay tablet with a reed pen.



**SARGON I**  
**2300 BCE**

**THE  
FIRST EMPEROR**



**UNIFICATION**

1800 BCE

HAMMURABI



**GOLDEN AGE  
OF BABYLON**

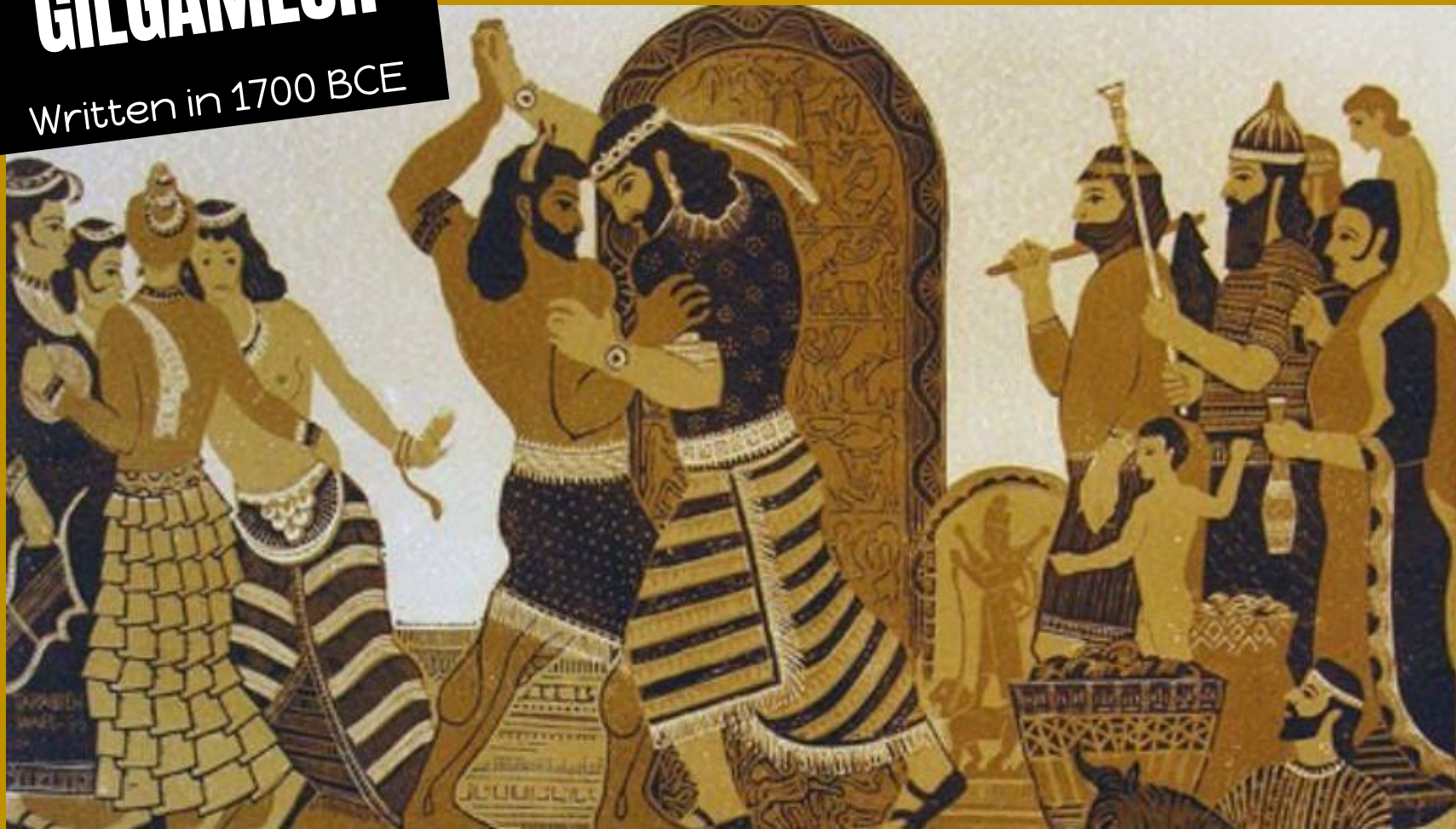
- \*LAW**
- CODE**
- \*TRADE**

# HAMMURABI'S CODE



# GILGAMESH

Written in 1700 BCE



# BIG PAPER ACTIVITY

## QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER:

1. WHAT IS YOUR OVERALL IMPRESSION OF HAMMURABI'S LAWS?
2. WHAT PEOPLE WERE SPECIFICALLY TARGETED IN THE LAWS YOU READ?
3. ARE THESE LAWS TOO HARSH? EASY TO ENFORCE?
4. DID PEOPLE LIVE IN FEAR OR HAPPILY? HOW WOULD YOU FEEL IF THESE WERE SOME OF OUR LAWS?