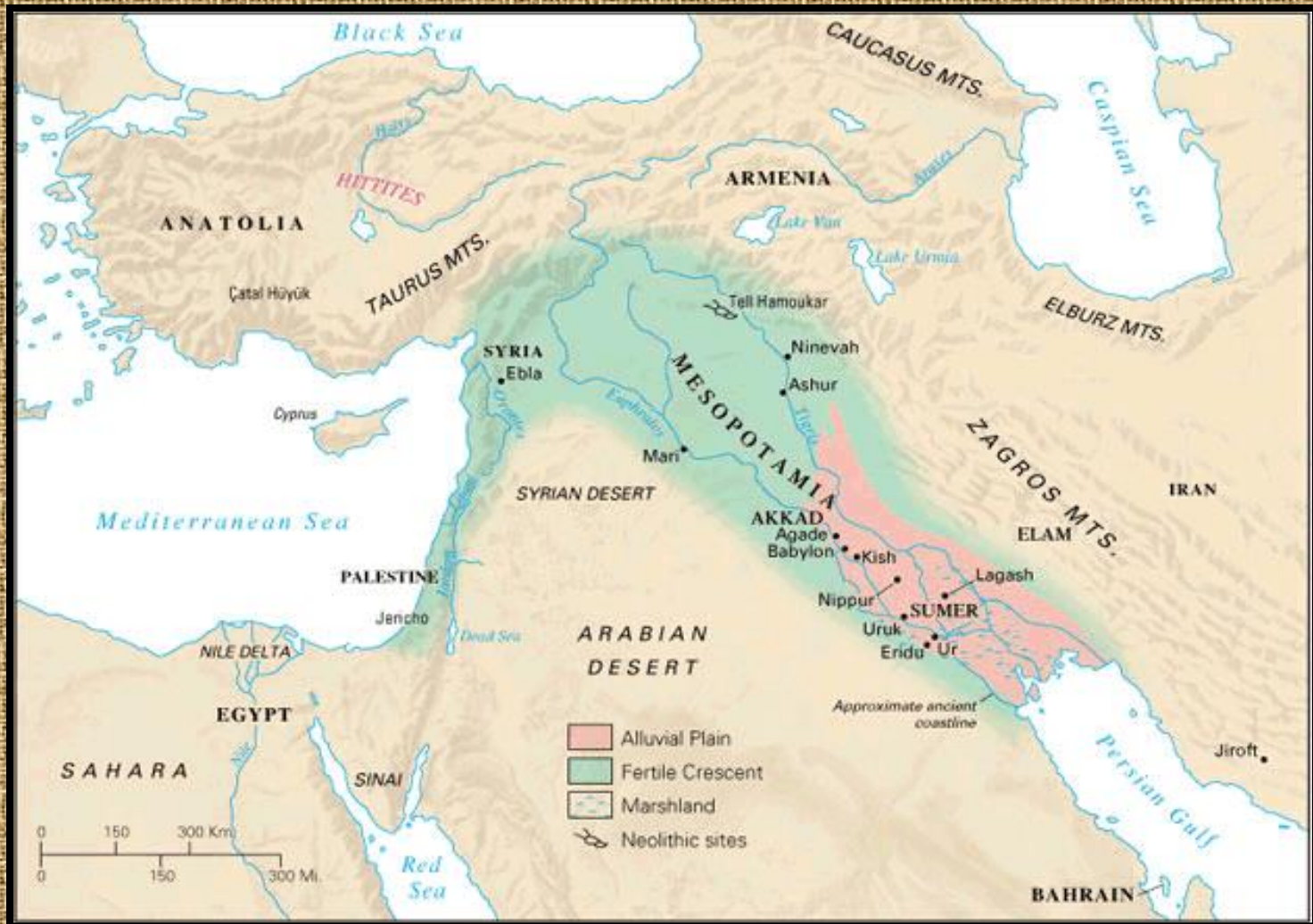


INDEPENDENT SUMERIAN CITY STATES



ESSENTIAL QUESTION

What was Mesopotamian culture like?



What was a city-state?

IN SOUTHERN MESOPOTAMIA, SEVERAL CITIES SUCH AS UR, KISH, ERIDU AND URUK PROVED TO BE VERY SUCCESSFUL.



By about 3000 BC, about twelve cities in SUMER had developed into the world's first CITY-STATES.



A City-State included a walled city and the land surrounding it. Each had its own government, covered several square miles and had populations sometimes as large as 5000 people.

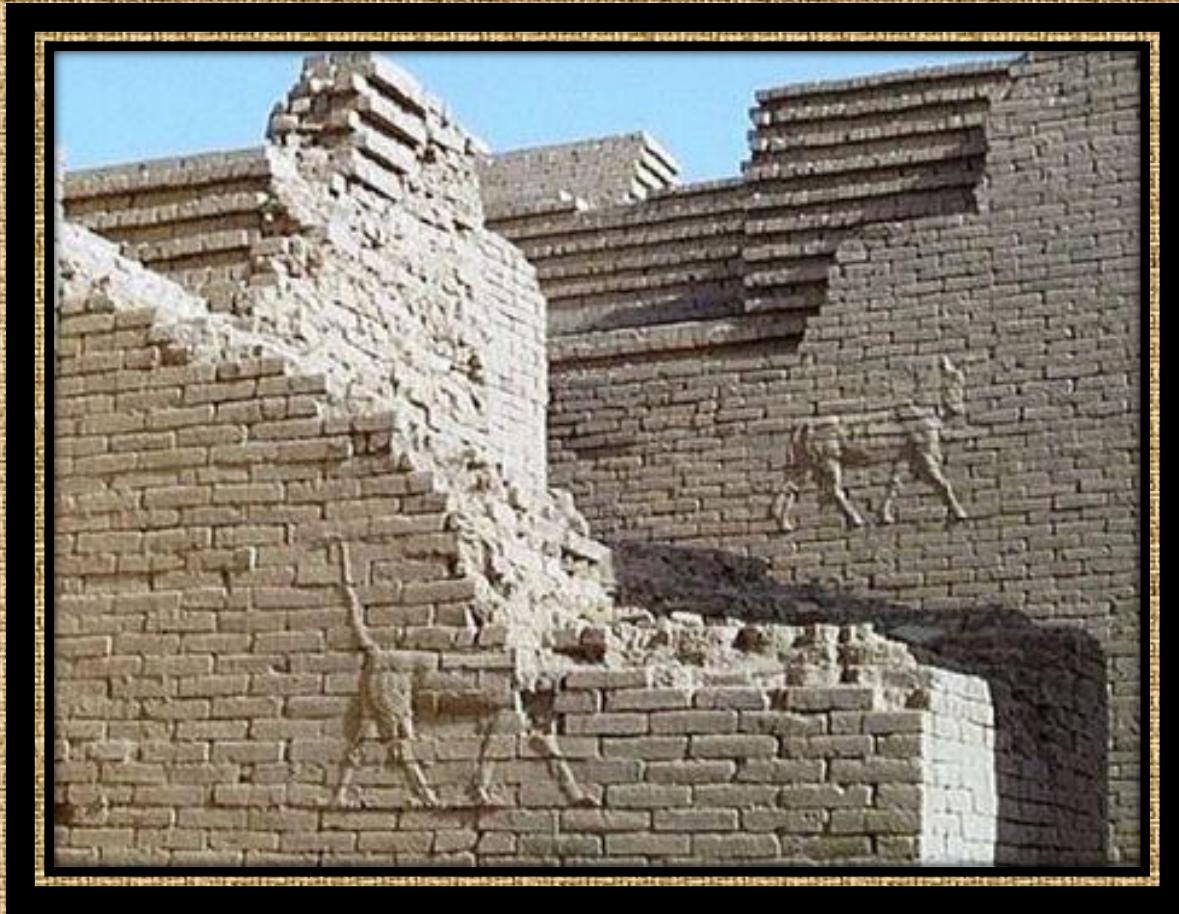
**WHAT WAS A CITY-
STATE?**

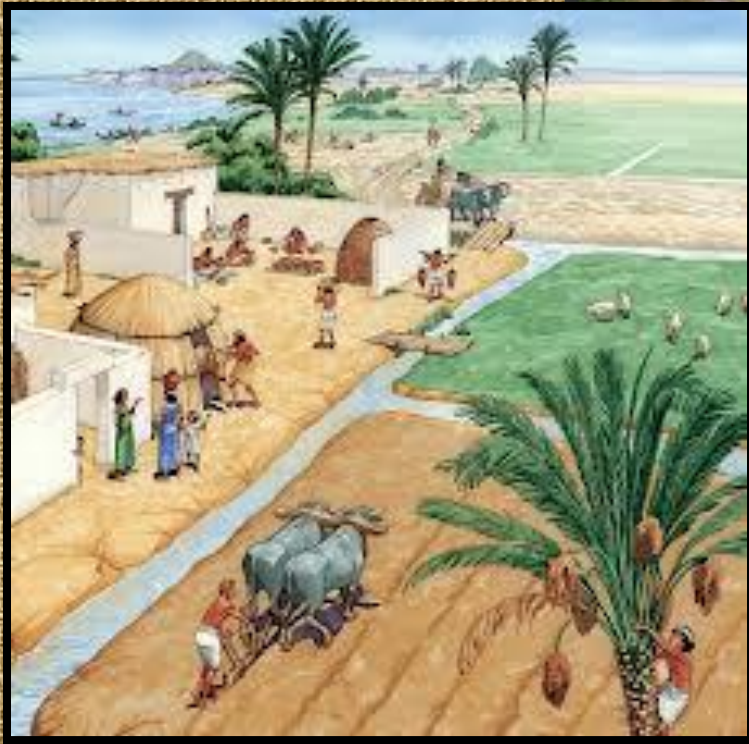
HOW DID IRRIGATION LEAD TO THE SPREAD OF CULTURE?



Over time, some of the city-states grew to have more than 60,000 people and covered more than 1,500 square miles.

ALTHOUGH EACH OF THE CITY-STATES WAS INDEPENDENT OF EACH OTHER, THEY ALL SHARED A COMMON CULTURE; SHARING THE SUMERIAN LANGUAGE AND WRITING SYSTEM. THEY ALSO SHARED COMMON ARTS AND CRAFTS.





Advances in technology, such as IRRIGATION, led to surpluses of food and allowed the Sumerians to spread their culture

**How did irrigation
lead to the spread of
culture?**

What is a monarchy?

The first governments in these city-states consisted of a small group of leaders chosen by the community, with one man acting as the **CHIEF LEADER**. City-States with one leader (King or Queen) were known as **MONARCHIES**.



**What does
monarchy mean?**

How did surpluses lead to the development of writing?



THE DOMINANT RELIGION OF THE CITY-STATES WAS POLYTHEISM, OR THE BELIEF IN MANY GODS. THE SUMERIANS BELIEVED THAT THERE WAS A DIFFERENT GOD FOR EACH NATURAL EVENT. MANY TEMPLES WERE BUILT TO WORSHIP THEIR GODS IN.

Portrayal of the Gods on an ancient Assyrian artifact



MANY TEMPLES WERE BUILT TO WORSHIP THEIR GODS IN



**With SURPLUSES of food and supplies,
new jobs were able to be created,
including craft workers, metalworkers
and BUILDERS.**

**SUMERIANS STARTED TO EXPORT
THEIR MATERIALS WITH OTHER
NATIONS. SOME OF THEIR MAIN
EXPORTS WERE DATES AND GRAINS**

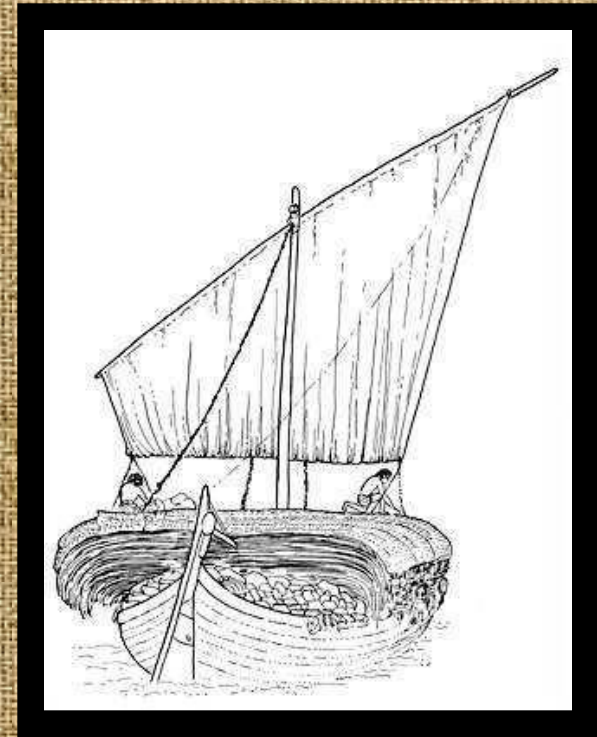


THE TRADE ROUTES ACROSS THE LAND WERE KNOWN AS CARAVANS, ALTHOUGH THEY ALSO TRAVERSED THE WATERS IN SAILBOATS



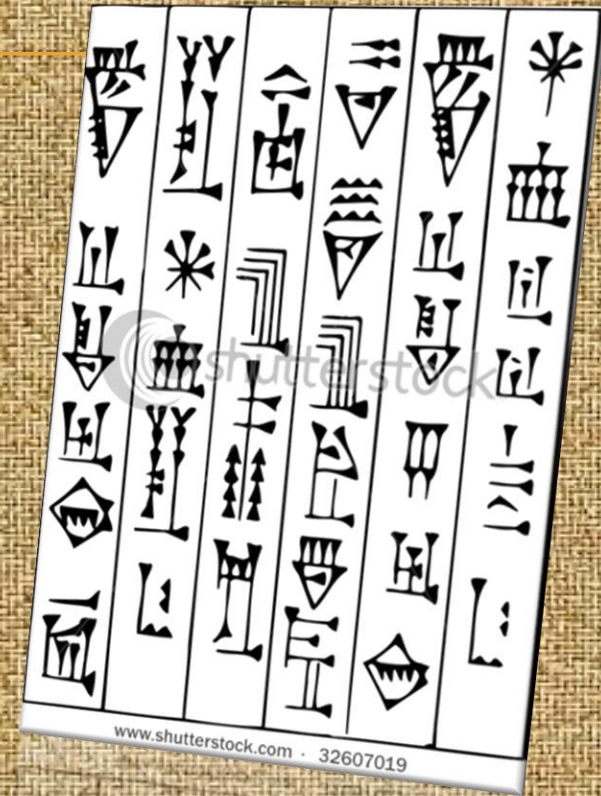
Some of their trade routes extended to EGYPT, and perhaps as far as the Indus Valley and PAKISTAN

ACROSS THE OCEANS IN SHIPS



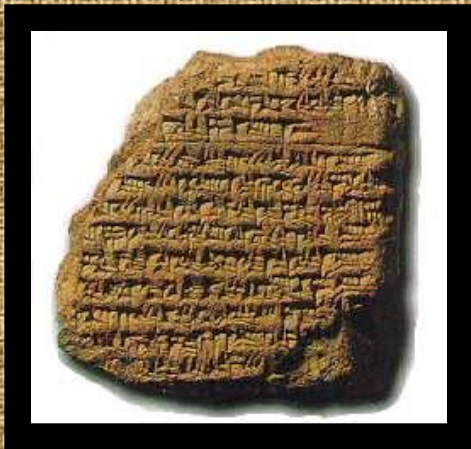
THE SUMERIANS DEVELOPED A SYSTEM OF WRITING

BIRD				
FISH				
DONKEY				
OX				
SUN				
GRAIN				
ORCHARD				
PLOUGH				
BOOMERANG				
FOOT				



As the trading increased, the Sumerians needed a way to keep track of what they traded; they started to use CLAY TABLETS to write on.

SUMERIANS BEGAN USING CLAY TABLETS TO KEEP TRACK OF WHAT WAS BEING BOUGHT AND SOLD



ANCIENT TRADE ROUTES



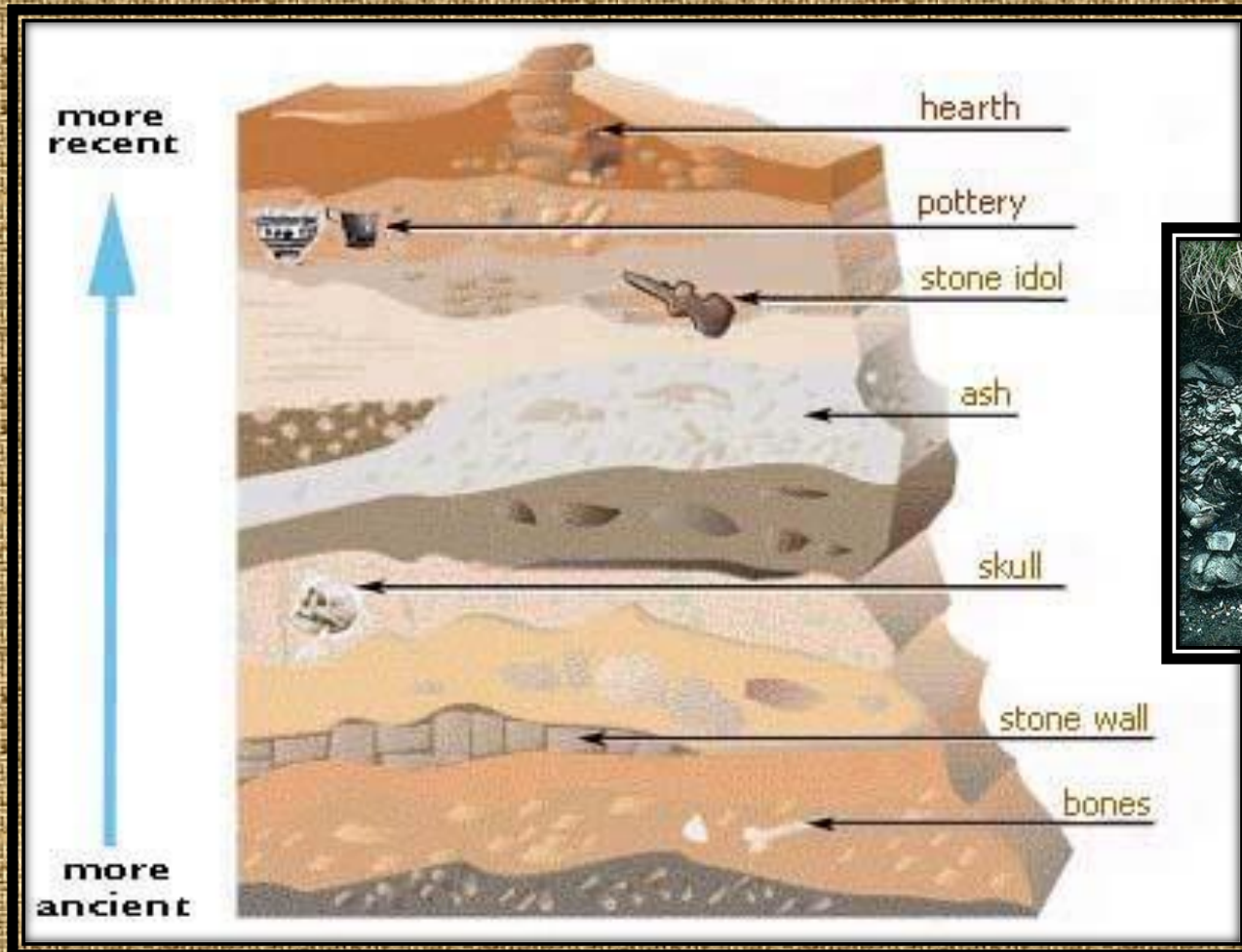
**HOW DID SURPLUSES
LEAD TO THE
DEVELOPMENT OF
WRITING?**

WHY WERE THE ANCIENT CITIES ABANDONED?



One of the oldest Sumerian Cities was UR. In the 1920's, LEONARD WOOLLEY led an expedition there, he uncovered many ancient artifacts, including the Royal cemetery of Ur, which held tombs from as early as 2500 BC.

IN THE DIFFERENT LAYERS OF SOIL, DIFFERENT ARTIFACTS WERE FOUND REPRESENTING THE DIFFERENT TIME PERIODS.



SOMETIME WHOLE NEW CITIES WERE FOUND



ROYAL CEMETERY OF UR





Other discoveries at Ur included a large TEMPLE dedicated to the moon goddess Nanna. most of the ruins, however, consisted of mud-brick houses. around 2000 BC, the Euphrates changed its COURSE, and the city of Ur was abandoned.

ANCIENT SUMERIAN ARTIFACTS FROM UR



**Why were the ancient cities
abandoned?**

ESSENTIAL QUESTION

What was Mesopotamian culture like?



THE END



[The Mesopotamians](#)