



Mesopotamian Achievements

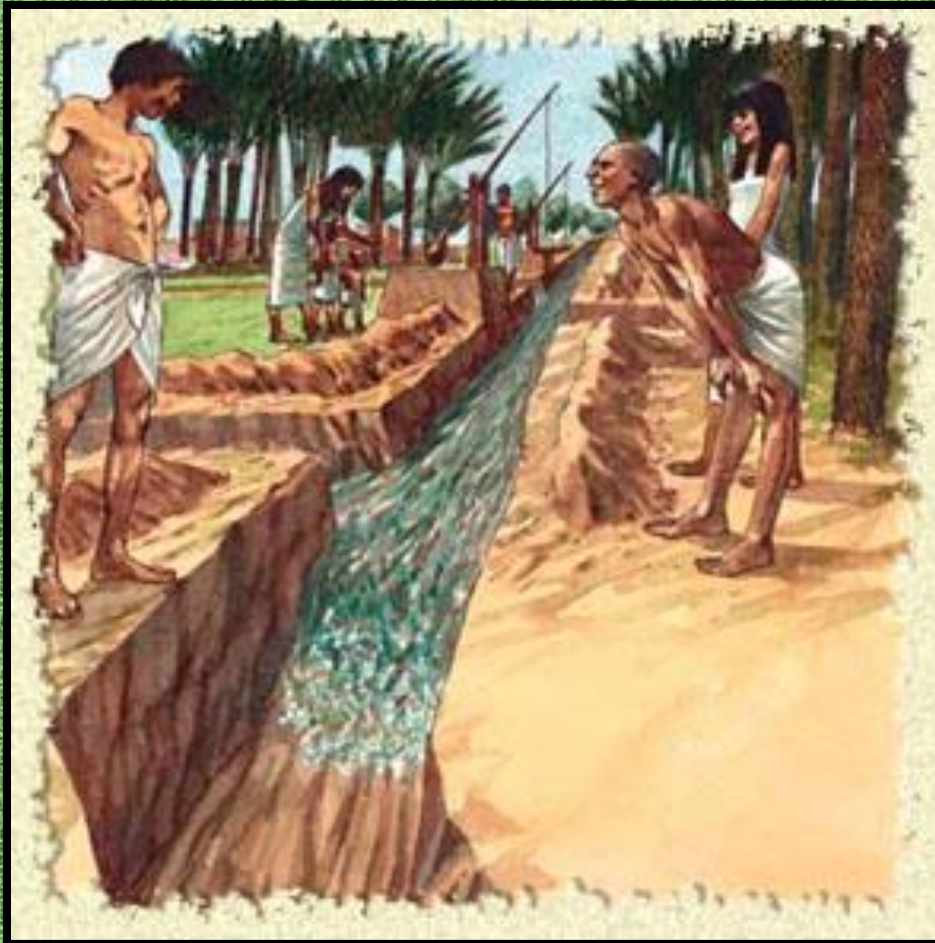
Essential Question:

What were some of the achievements of ancient Mesopotamia?



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How did irrigation lead to the development of writing?



The people of Mesopotamia had many new innovations, or discoveries, one of their greatest achievements was IRRIGATION





Early tools were made of CLAY and copper.

Eventually they learned to mix copper with TIN to produce a stronger metal known as BRONZE.

Bronze was a stronger metal and led to stronger tools





Sumerians
recorded their
harvest on clay
tablets

With stronger tools,
the farmers could
now produce more
crops, which led to
a SURPLUS of food
Sumerians recorded
their HARVESTS
on clay tablets,
ancient
ALMANACS have
even been found.



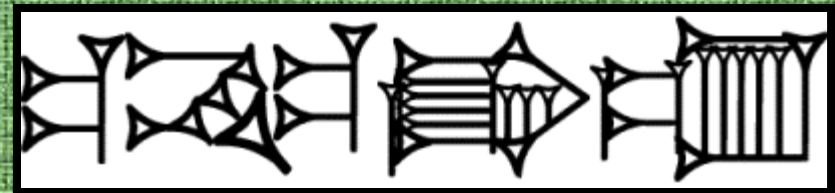
The earliest known WRITING was found on a clay tablet in KISH. It dates back to 3500 BC. Sumerian writing is called CUNEIFORM, and is made by using a special pointed stick called a STYLUS



Sumerian writing is known as **cuneiform**

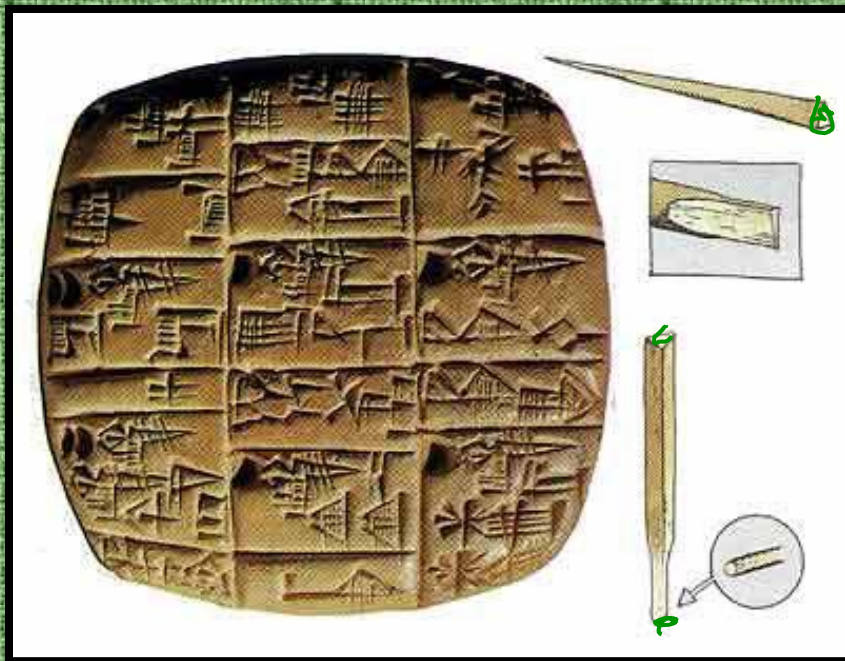
DONKEY				
OX				
SUN				
GRAIN				
ORCHARD				
PLOUGH				
BOOMERANG				
FOOT				

10



Only certain people in each city-state were taught how to write, these men were called SCRIBES, and were very important

The scribes recorded everything from wars, to lists of kings; they also kept records of TRADE and food supplies. Later, they would record ancient stories.

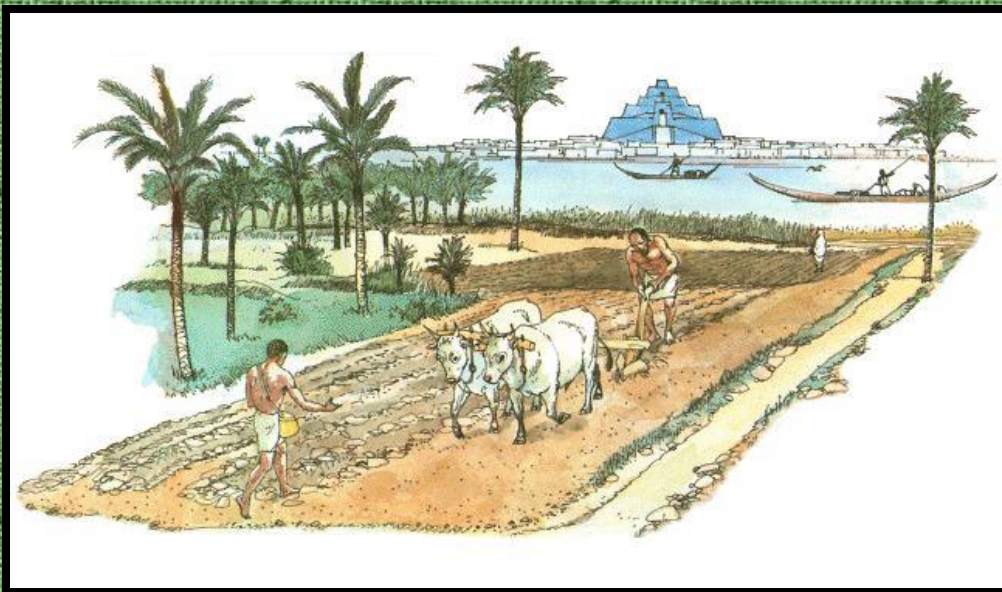




**How did irrigation
lead to the
development of
writing?**

Why was additional farmland needed?

Because of the better tools, more FARMLAND was needed, so the city-states expanded, and land became more important than ever.



More farmland was needed

Sumerians developed one of the first systems of MEASUREMENT, our word ACRE came from their word for an area of land, called an *ikum*.



They also had standard units of measurement for weight and volume, including the QUART. One of the first CALENDARS was developed by the Sumerians; it was based on a 360 day year, similar to ours.

They developed one of the first number system. Their number system was based on the number **60**, not ten, like ours

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𐎱𐎱 2	𐎠𐎱𐎱 12	𐎠𐎠𐎱𐎱 22	𐎠𐎠𐎠𐎱𐎱 32	𐎠𐎠𐎠𐎠𐎱𐎱 42	𐎠𐎠𐎠𐎠𐎠𐎱𐎱 52
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**Why did the
Mesopotamians
need additional
farmland?**

Persian
Gulf

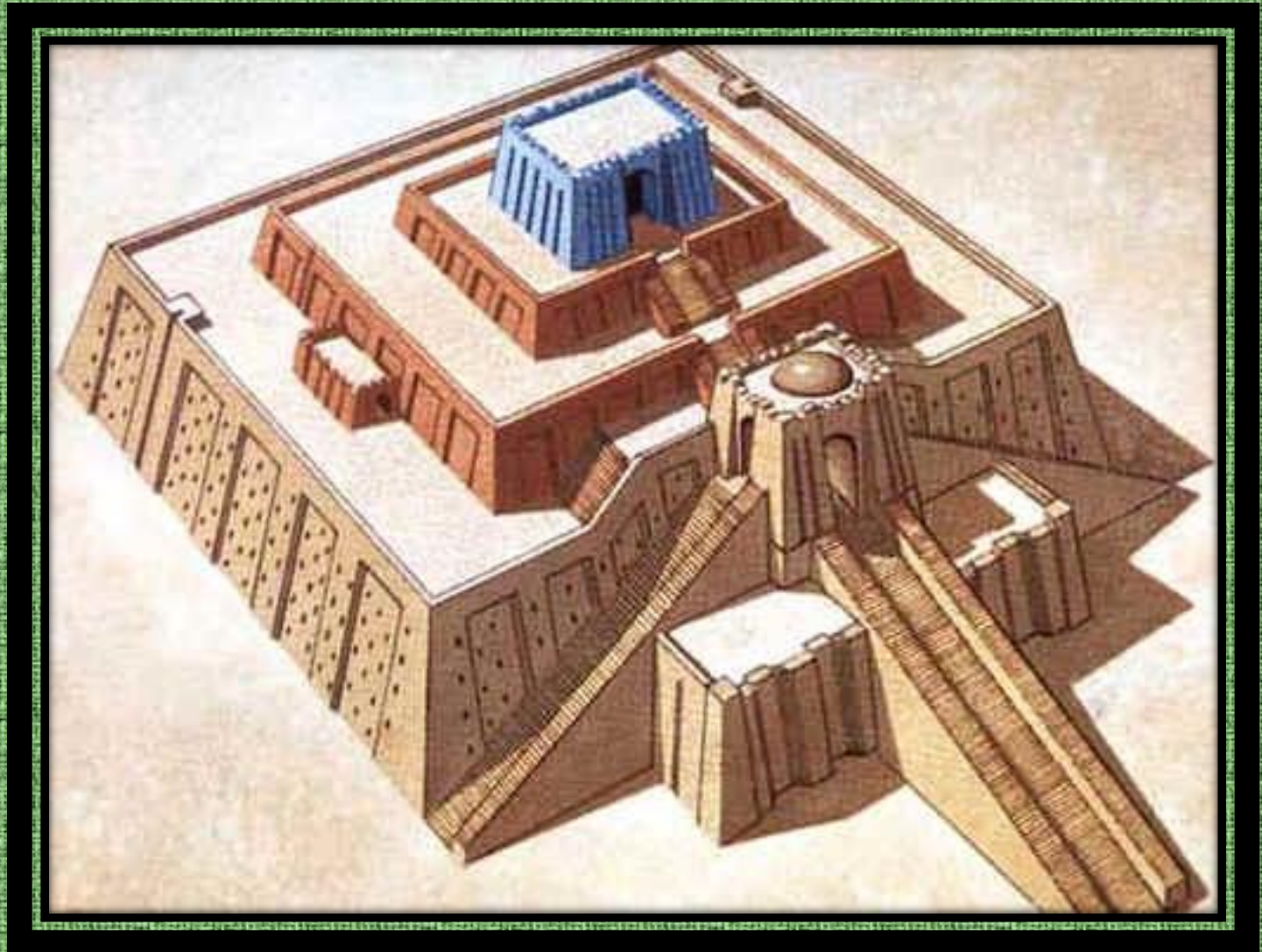
How were ziggurats built and what was their purpose?

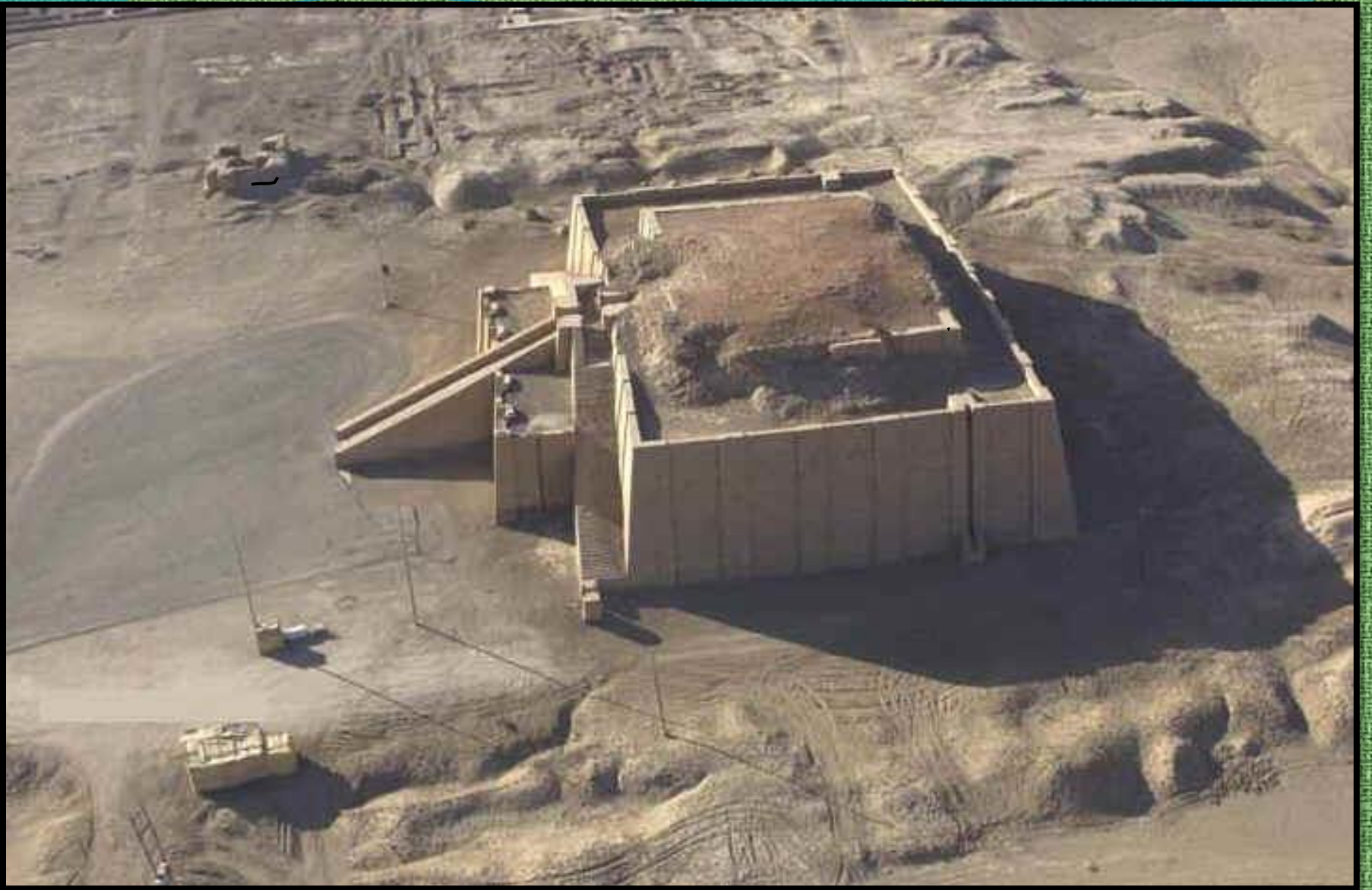


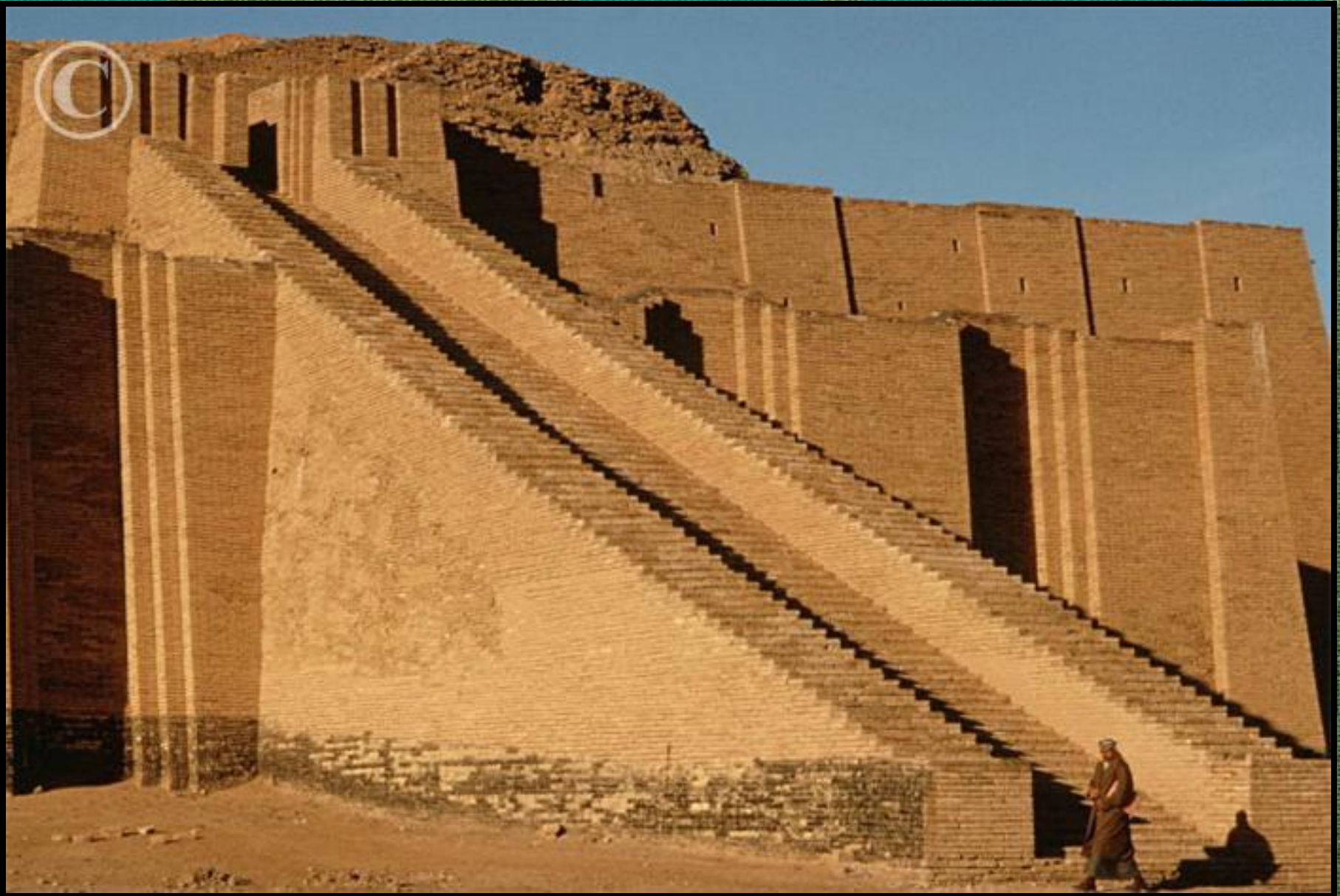
The Sumerians formed **BRICKS** out of mud and used them to build great buildings



The largest buildings were
temples called **ZIGGURATS**







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The Ziggurats became the center of many ancient **CITY-STATES**



Unfortunately, most of these today
are only ruins

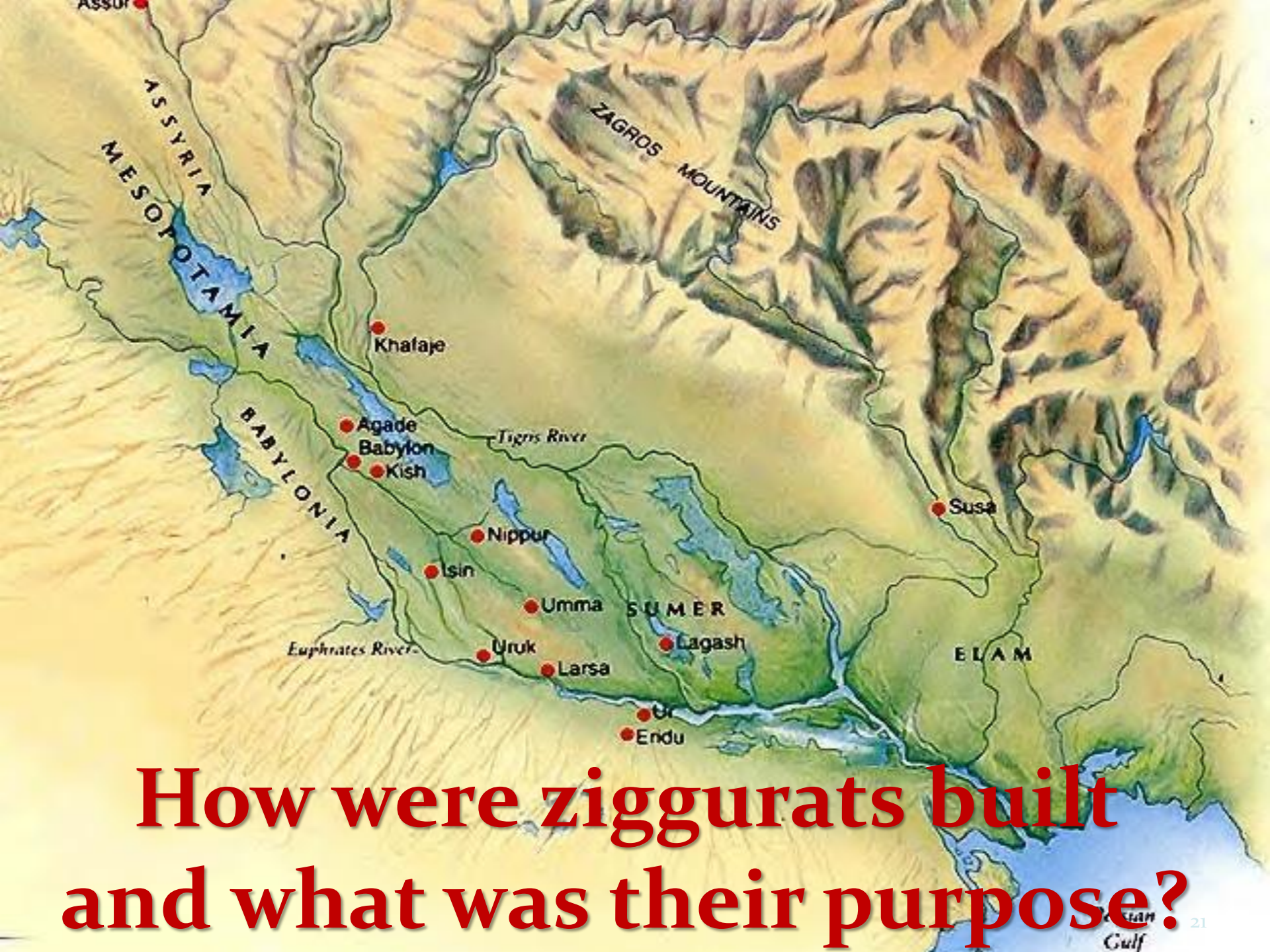




2 to 7 levels
or steps

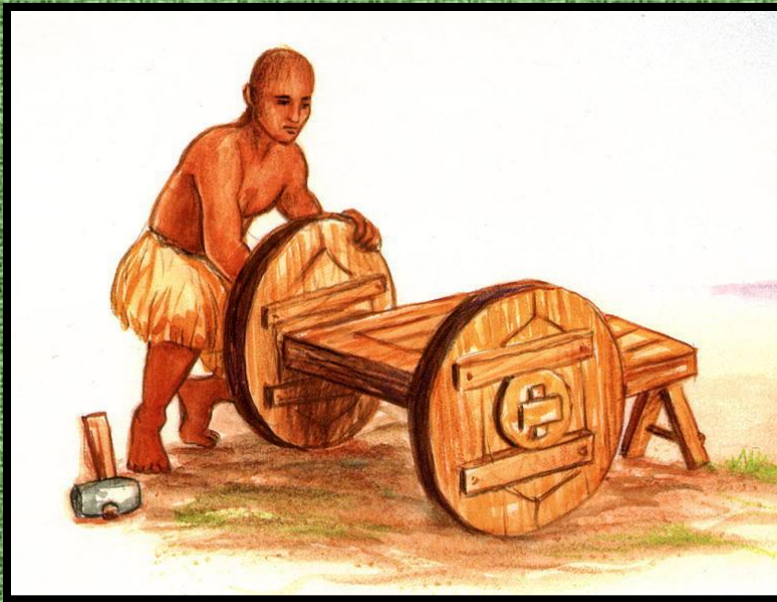
Ancient
Mesopotamia
Ziggurat

Ziggurats 4 min

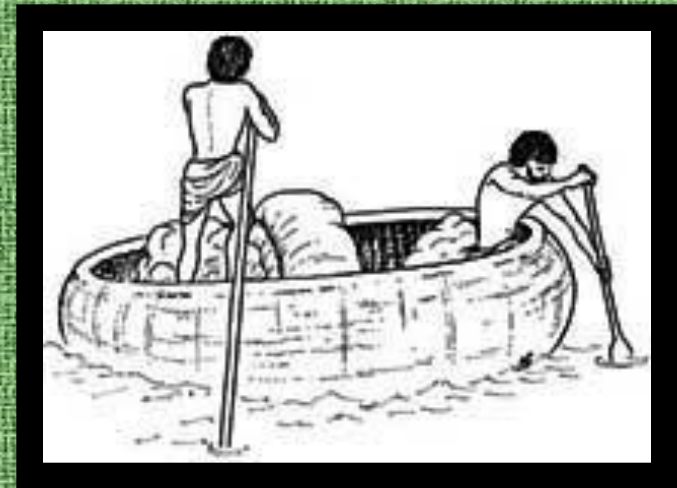


**How were ziggurats built
and what was their purpose?**

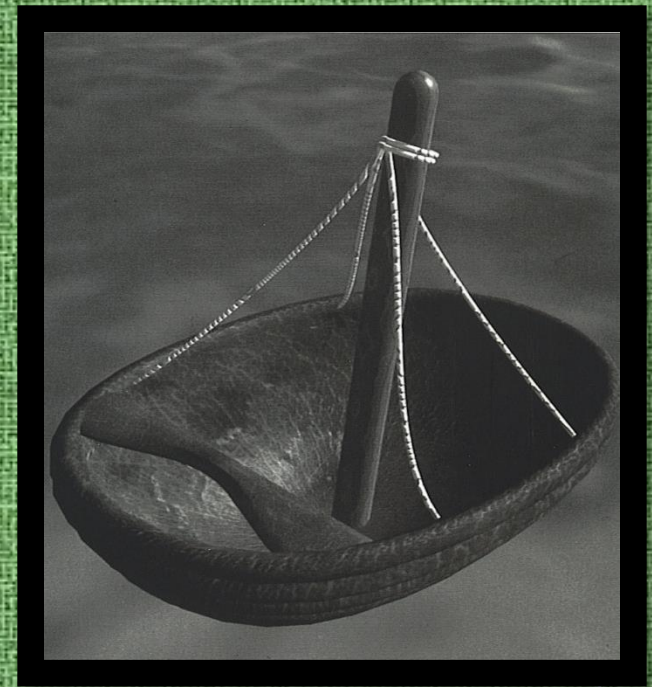
Sumerians used **WHEELS** to make chariots used for transportation



They also built **BOATS** to travel in

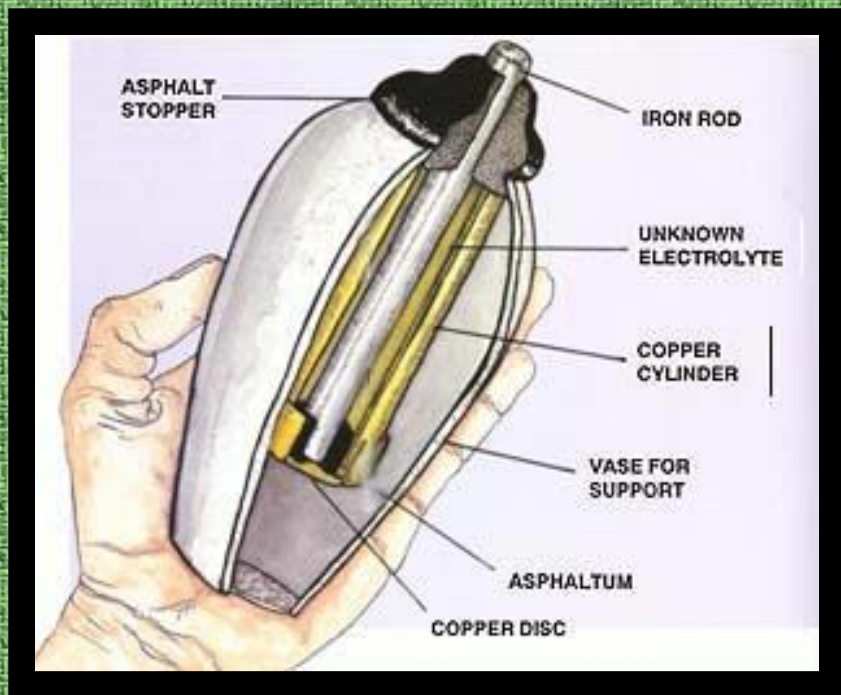


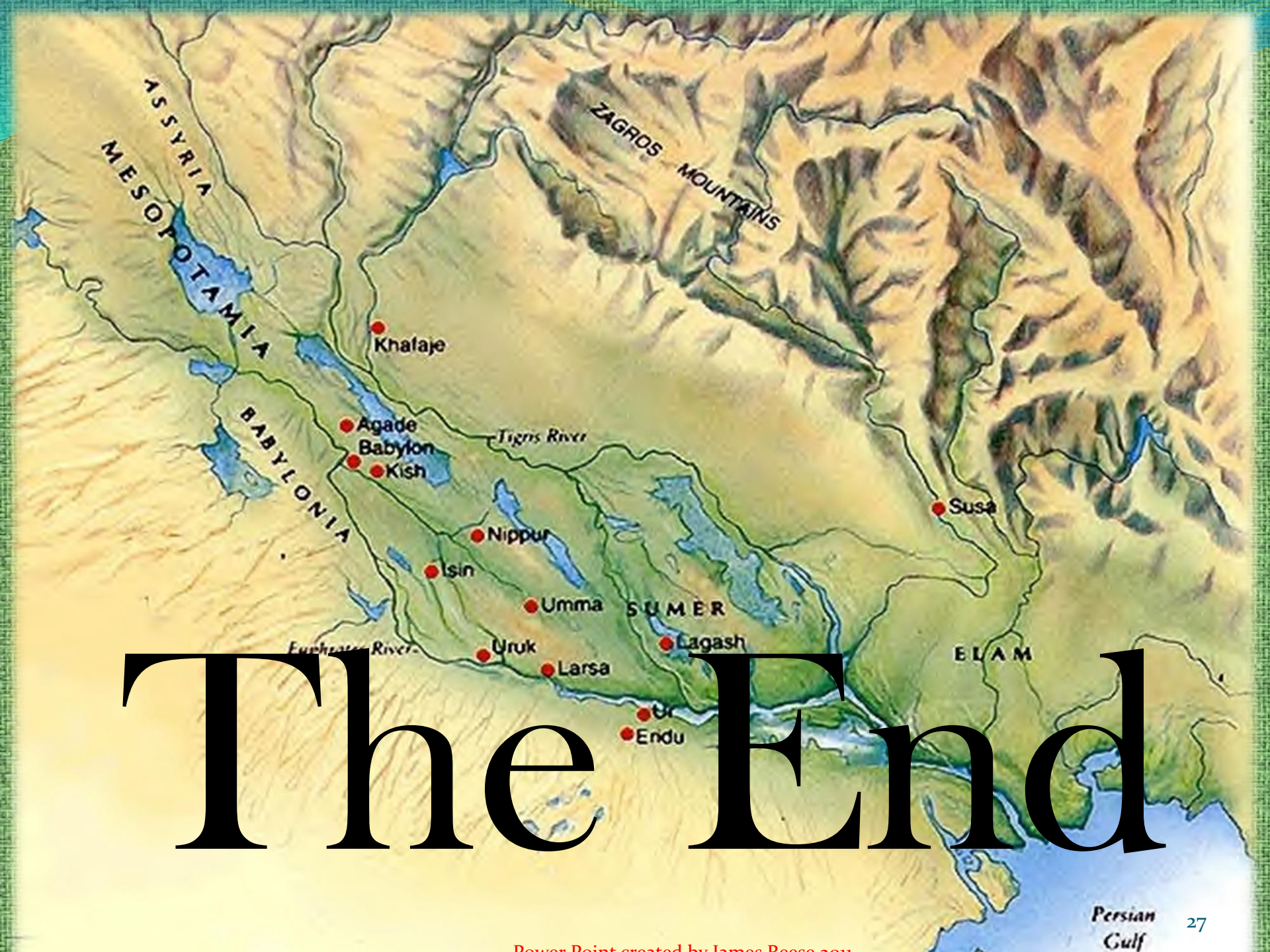
The oldest boats were made from reeds and covered in **ANIMAL SKIN**.





What were some additional achievements of the Mesopotamians?





The End