



<p>Step 1 → HOMEWORK</p>	<p>Nothing!</p>	
<p>Step 2 → Notes heading</p> <p><i>Write down title & date.</i></p>	<p><u>Intro to <i>Gilgamesh</i></u></p>	<p>A Day: 10/6/15</p> <p>B Day: 10/7/15</p>
<p>Step 3 → Start the Welcome Work</p>	<p>Journal: HONESTLY, consider this. What is the purpose of life? I want at least ½ page.</p>	

Song of the day: “Moanin” by Charles Mingus
 Javi’s pick. Let’s get jazzy.

Hand back old work! File everything neatly!

Post-it Note

Your name

			
1.		1.	
2.		2.	

Pleathe...mora!



PLETHORA

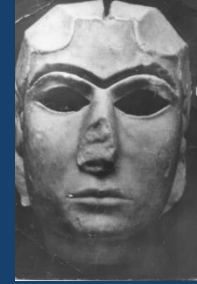
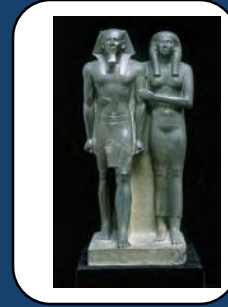
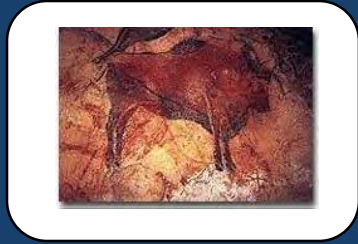
- Def → Overabundance or excess of anything
- P.O.S. → NOUN
- Clue → Pleathe mora!
- “Pleathe... mora!” I would yell, in order to have my baby tray filled with

Snaily scent



SALIENT

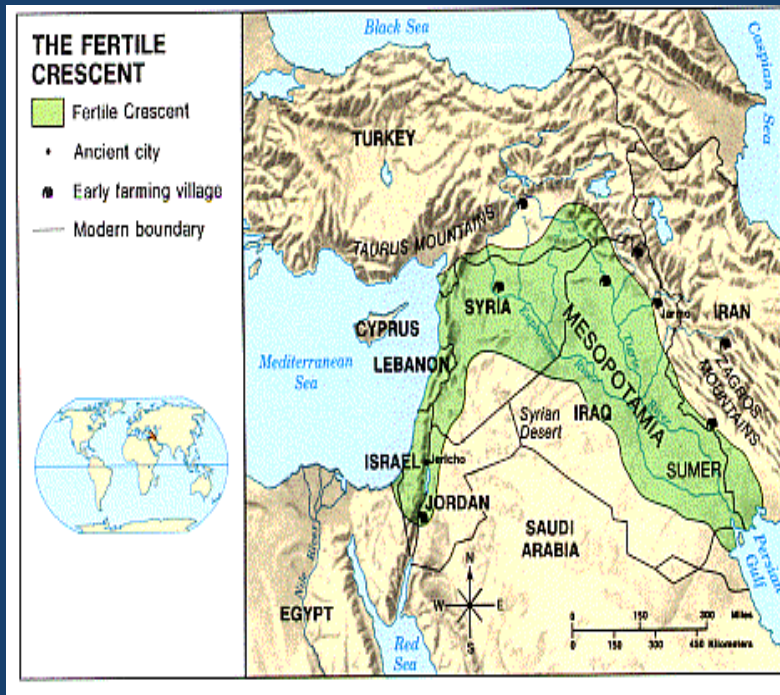
- Def → Outstanding; noticeable
- P.O.S. → ADJ.
- Clue → Snaily scent
- When I worked at the pet store, I always noticed the salient snaily scent.



The Epic of Gilgamesh and Ancient Mesopotamia

The history and culture behind the world's oldest recorded story – *Epic of Gilgamesh*


Mesopotamia– Geography (circa 4000 BC)

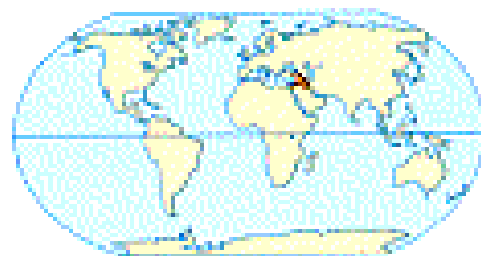


- Mesopotamia means “the land between the rivers.”
- It is located in an agriculturally rich region between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers (also known as the “Fertile Crescent” or “cradle of civilizations”).
- It was located in the region known today as Iraq as well as parts of Iran.

THE FERTILE CRESCENT

 Fertile Crescent

- Ancient city
-  Early farming village
- Modern boundary



Mesopotamia was a wide plain open for invasion

- Some believe that Sumer is the **very first civilization.**

There are TWO things need to be considered a civilization. What do you think they are?

Mesopotamia's Ruling Societies from 5000 BCE – 600 BCE

- ◇ Sumeria was the first civilization in the region.
- ◇ Later, the Akkadians, Babylonians, Hittites, Assyrians, and Chaldeans take over their cities and adopt their culture.
- ◇ They all adapt their own version of the *Epic of Gilgamesh*.

Sumerians (5000-2100 BC)

Government and Society

- ◆ Sumerians lived in city-states. These cities were walled (fortified) for protection and surrounded by vast, open land.
- ◆ The largest city-states were Ur, Uruk, and Lagash. The Sumerians never developed a central, unifying government between the three, leaving them vulnerable to attack.
- ◆ Uruk is the city-state described in *Gilgamesh*.
- ◆ Sumerian society developed a three-level class system (nobles, middle class, peasants).

Sumerian City States



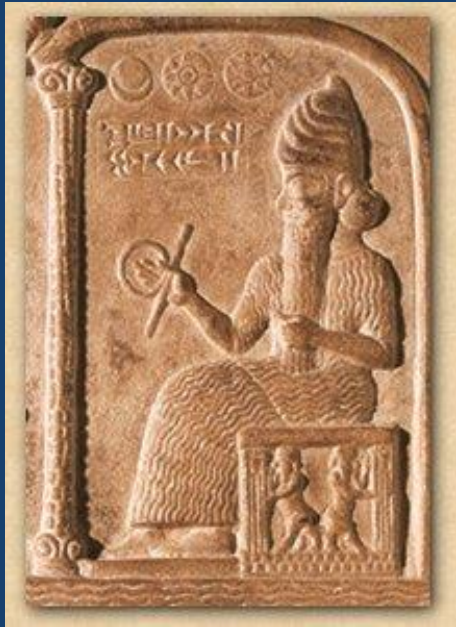
City of Uruk
setting for
Gilgamesh

Sumerians (5000-2100 BC)

Religious Beliefs

- The Sumerians (and later the Babylonian people) worshipped a pantheon of gods and goddesses.
- *****Regardless of one's actions in life, they did not believe in life after death. They believed that after one dies there is only emptiness.**
- **What does this remind you of?**

Anu – father of gods and god of the sky (similar to Zeus)



Enlil – god of the air

**Utu – sun god;
lord of truth and justice**



Sumerians (5000-2100 BC)

- ◆ World's first writing system – cuneiform. Formed by reed markings on wet clay tablets.
- ◆ *The Epic of Gilgamesh*, the first work of fiction ever recorded, was etched on stone tablets in cuneiform.





History of *Epic of Gilgamesh*

- ◇ While there is no evidence that the events in the epic actually happened, there was a Gilgamesh who ruled the Sumerian dynasty of Uruk in 2,700 BCE.
 - ◇ -**Based on real king**
 - ◇ -Reigned the Mesopotamian city of Uruk in 2750 B.C.
 - ◇ -The story of the fictional Gilgamesh is thought to have occurred after his death
- ◇ *The Epic of Gilgamesh*, the first work of fiction ever recorded, was etched on over 40,000 clay tablets in cuneiform in 2,000 BCE.

- *Gilgamesh* is considered the first masterpiece of World Literature
- It is the oldest written chronicle in the world!



History of *Epic of Gilgamesh*

The legend itself was adapted by a number of different cultures following the decline of the Sumerian empire.

It was a popular story then.

-Children would learn to read or write by writing down lines from the story, just like Greek children copied the Iliad or our great-grandparents did using the Bible

◇ -Allusion used to be common: Dig a well → Dig “Gilgamesh’s well”

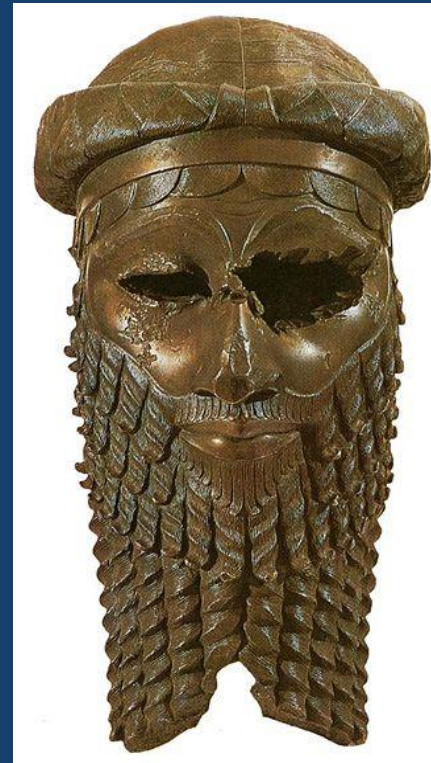
We can still learn much about Sumerian culture and values through the story of Gilgamesh – the world’s first epic hero.

Akkadians (2100 - 2000 BC)

The Akkadian people easily take over Sumerian culture – perhaps because of Sumer's lack of a unified government.

However, Sumerian culture is maintained through these shifts in power.

Under their king, Sargon, the Akkadians produce a version of *Gilgamesh*.



Babylonians (1700-700 BC)

There was also a version from the Old Babylonian empire under Hammurabi.

The Babylonians recognized the value of Sumerian culture and adopted much of it as their own.

Sumerian became a literary language (much like Latin today).



Assyrians (700-600 BC)

In first millennium – under the Assyrian empire – the *Epic of Gilgamesh* took on its final written form.

The final translation was added to the King's library at Nineveh.

After the destruction of Nineveh by the Chaldeans in 612 BCE, the epic was lost until the library was excavated in 1872 CE.

How was it found?

- ◆ Story was “missing” for 2000 years
 - ◆ Cuneiform tablets found in 1853 when library was excavated
 - ◆ 1872 → George Smith realized Noah’s story was on one of the tablets
 - ◆ It’s now in the British Museum (along with a lot of other stuff that doesn’t belong there)



Beat
that,
Hagrid.

1 Elgin Marbles

(British Museum)

Greece has long fought to reclaim the frieze stripped from the Parthenon at the behest of the 7th Earl of Elgin in 1801

2 Rosetta Stone

(British Museum) Egypt demands the return of the 2,200-year-old stone tablet that holds the key to translating ancient hieroglyphs

3 Summer Palace

bronzes (private French owner)

China claims bronze heads from a zodiac clock were stolen during the Second Opium War in 1860

4 Benin Bronzes (British Museum) Nigeria lays claim to the royal treasures of Benin, saying that they were seized by British troops in 1897

5 Queen Nefertiti (Berlin Neues Museum)

Egypt wants the 3,500-year-old bust of the wife of Pharaoh Akhenaten returned

Story of *Gilgamesh*

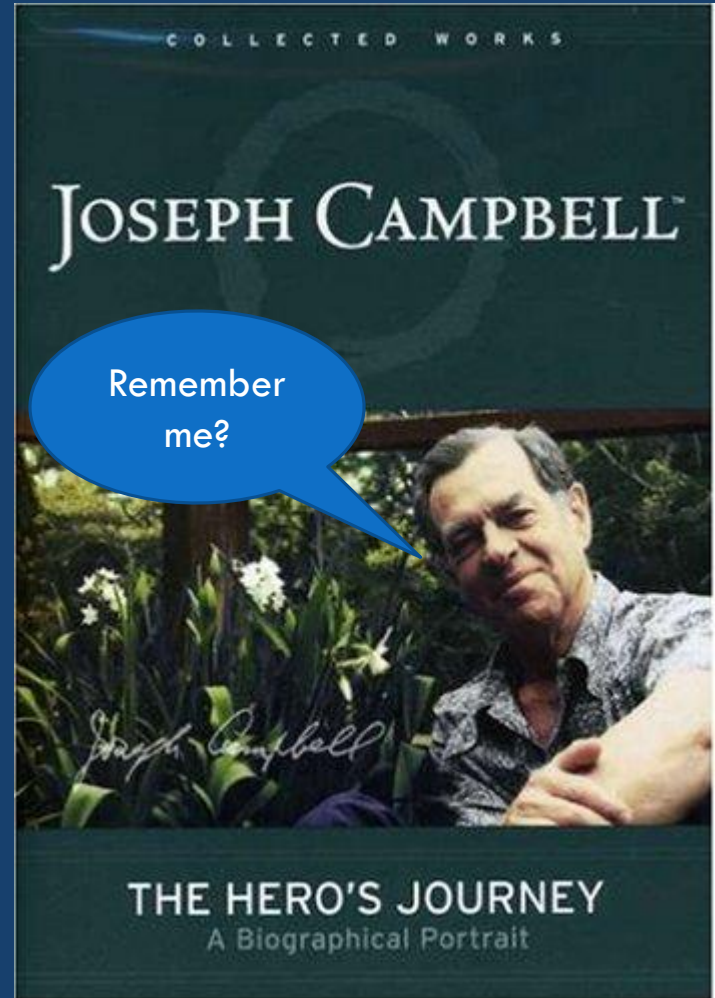
The Epic of Gilgamesh is the story of King Gilgamesh of Uruk. Gilgamesh is a ruthless and oppressive leader, and the gods punish his prideful behavior by killing his best friend (Enkidu). Horrified by Enkidu's death and the prospect of his own demise, Gilgamesh undertakes a quest for immortality which brings him to the home of Utnapishtim, a the only mortal saved from the Great Flood and granted immortality. There he finds the truth about life and death.

Importance of *Gilgamesh*

- ◆ Earliest known literary work.
- ◆ Contains an account of the Great Flood and the story of a virtuous man named Utnapishtim who survived
- ◆ Expresses values of ancient civilization – such as the belief in divine retribution for transgressions such as violence, pride, the oppression of others, and the destruction of the natural world.

Importance of *Gilgamesh*

- ◆ Gilgamesh serves as an early model of the archetypal hero.
- ◆ Studied by Joseph Campbell as a primary example of the *monomyth* (or hero's journey story).
- ◆ Large number of parallels to *The Odyssey* and other Greek epics



Why bother with this?

- It is the earliest known epic narrative we have, thought to be written between 3000-2000 B.C.

That's a lot of years. So why bother?

- We share a key characteristic with them and with readers from any era: we love a gripping story and *The Epic of Gilgamesh* is just that. Adventure, the quest for immortality, the getting of wisdom, and more than a few life or death battles. *Gilgamesh* has all of this and more, including reflections on what it means to be alive, in 2800 BCE, no less than in our own time.

Gilgamesh



Stop
at
2:37

GILGAMESH: AS YOU READ



Use a star for significant information, devices, and strategies you notice.



Use an exclamation point to indicate what you feel strongly about in the article.



Use a question mark next for parts that are confusing or next to any information that you'd like to explore further.

GILGAMESH: CLOSE READING

C

Mark when the writer directly or indirectly characterizes Gilgamesh.

F

Mark instances where Enkidu is described as a FOIL.

V

Mark where cultural values are described.

GILGAMESH: CLOSE READING

I

Topic: Immortality

P

**Topic: Pride and
Power**

FIDDS

**Devices: Fig lang,
imagery, diction,
details, syntax**

Timeline: BCE

2800 BCE

Gilgamesh is king.

2600

Early Sumerian literature appears and the real Gilgamesh is deified in the gods' list.

2100

Oldest known copy of a Sumerian poem about Gilgamesh.

1800

"Surpassing all other kings," the first epic, is written by an unknown person

1200–1100

The scribe Sin-liqe-unninni edits "Surpassing all other kings" and other materials into the Akkadian epic, "He who saw the deep." This is one example of how the work circulated around the ancient Middle East.

100

The story of Gilgamesh is lost as the Assyrian empire falls.

Timeline: CE

CE

1840s

Archeologists find tablets of the Gilgamesh epic in various sites.

1872

Amateur Assyriologist George Smith deciphers the tablets at the British Museum.

1900s–2000s

Gilgamesh is compiled, translated and published in many editions and languages.

HOMEWORK: A DAY

DUE THURSDAY, 10/8

- 2 VOCAB. NOTECARDS
- BUY *THE KITE RUNNER* → NEXT LESSON!

HOMEWORK: B DAY

DUE FRIDAY, 10/9

- 2 VOCAB. NOTECARDS
- BUY *THE KITE RUNNER* → NEXT LESSON!