

## The Sumerians The History And Legacy Of The Ancient Mesopotamian Empire That Established Civilization

The new edition of the popular survey of Near Eastern civilization from the Bronze Age to the era of Alexander the Great A Companion to the Ancient Near East explores the history of the region from 4400 BCE to the Macedonian conquest of the Persian Empire in 330 BCE. Original and revised essays from a team of distinguished scholars from across disciplines address subjects including the politics, economics, architecture, and heritage of ancient Mesopotamia and Egypt. Part of the Blackwell Companions to the Ancient World series, this acclaimed single-volume reference combines lively writing with engaging and relatable topics to immerse readers in this fascinating period of Near East history. The new second edition has been thoroughly revised and updated to include new developments in relevant fields, particularly archaeology, and expand on themes of interest to contemporary students. Clear, accessible chapters offer fresh discussions on the history of the family and gender roles, the literature, languages, and religions of the region, pastoralism, medicine and philosophy, and borders, states, and warfare. New essays highlight recent discoveries in cuneiform texts, investigate how modern Egyptians came to understand their ancient history, and examine the place of archaeology among the historical disciplines. This volume: Provides substantial new and revised content covering topics such as social conflict, kingship, cosmology, work, trade, and law Covers the civilizations of the Sumerians, Hittites, Babylonians, Assyrians, Egyptians, Israelites, and Persians, emphasizing social and cultural history Examines the legacy of the Ancient Near East in the medieval and modern worlds Offers a uniquely broad geographical, chronological, and topical range Includes a comprehensive bibliographical guide to Ancient Near East studies as well as new and updated references and reading suggestions Suitable for use as both a primary reference or as a supplement to a chronologically arranged textbook, A Companion to the Ancient Near East, 2nd Edition is a valuable resource for advanced undergraduates, beginning graduate students, instructors in the field, and scholars from other disciplines.

An authoritative sketch of the great myths of the Sumerians, their myths of origins, of creation, the nether world, and the deluge.

The Sumerians, the pragmatic and gifted people who preceded the Semites in the land first known as Sumer and later as Babylonia, created what was probably the first high civilization in the history of man, spanning the fifth to the second millenniums B.C. This book is a compendium of what is known about them. The author outlines the history of the Sumerian civilization and describes their cities, religion, literature, education, scientific achievements, social structure, and psychology. Finally, he considers the legacy of Sumer to the ancient and modern world.

Traces the stories of one hundred human innovations to explain their pivotal role in shaping civilization, from weapons and the domestication of cows to currency and music. Living in 2300 BCE, Sumerian high priestess Enheduanna became the first author of historical record by signing her name to a collection of hymns written for forty-two temples throughout the southern half of ancient Mesopotamia, the civilization now known as Sumer. Each of her hymns confirmed to the worshipers in each city the patron deity's unique character and significance. The collected hymns became part of the literary canon of the remarkable Sumerian culture and were copied by scribes in the temples for hundreds of years after Enheduanna's death. Betty De Shong Meador offers here the first collection of original translations of all forty-two hymns along with a lengthy examination of the relevant deity and city, as well as an analysis of the verses themselves. She introduces the volume with discussions of Sumerian history and mythology, as well as with what is known about Enheduanna, thought to be the first high priestess to the moon god Nanna, and daughter of Sargon, founder of one of the first empires in human history.

\*Includes pictures\*Includes ancient passages and accounts about Ur written by Babylonian kings and others\*Includes online resources and a bibliography for further readingWhen American archaeologists discovered a collection of cuneiform tablets in Iraq in the late 19th century, they were confronted with a language and a people who were at the time only scarcely known to even the most knowledgeable scholars of ancient Mesopotamia: the Sumerians. The exploits and achievements of other Mesopotamian peoples, such as the Assyrians and Babylonians, were already known to a large segment of the population through the Old Testament and the nascent field of Near Eastern studies had unraveled the enigma of the Akkadian language that was widely used throughout the region in ancient times, but the discovery of the Sumerian tablets brought to light the existence of the Sumerian culture, which was the oldest of all the Mesopotamian cultures. Long before Alexandria was a city and even before Memphis and Babylon had attained greatness, the ancient Mesopotamian city of Ur stood foremost among ancient Near Eastern cities. Today, the greatness and cultural influence of Ur has been largely forgotten by most people, partially because its monuments have not stood the test of time the way other ancient culture's monuments have. For instance, the monuments of Egypt were made of stone while those of Ur and most other Mesopotamian cities were made of mud brick and as will be discussed in this report, mud brick may be an easier material to work with than stone but it also decays much quicker. The same is true to a certain extent for the written documents that were produced at Ur. The people of Mesopotamia, which Ur was part of, employed the cuneiform system of writing; since cuneiform was almost always written on clay tablets, modern scholars have been forced with the unfortunate problem that many of those tablets have been broken and made unreadable throughout the centuries. Despite the ephemeral nature of its monuments and to some extent its written texts, Ur proved to be an inspiration to the Sumerians who built the city and also to later cultures and dynasties that inhabited Mesopotamia. An examination of primary sources relating to Ur, as well as archaeological excavations done in the ancient city reveal that the city was a cultural beacon for thousands of years. Ur began as a Sumerian city of secondary importance but quickly grew to be the most important Sumerian city. At its height Ur was the center of a great dynasty that controlled most of Mesopotamia directly through a well maintained army and bureaucracy and the areas that were not under its direct control were influenced by Ur's diplomats and religious

ideas. This study will also reveal that Ur was a truly resilient city because it survived the downfall of the Sumerians, outright destruction at the hands of the Elamites, and later occupations by numerous other peoples, which included Saddam Hussein more recently. Ur inspired the imaginations of ancient peoples, but it has also enraptured the minds of moderns, who have worked for over 150 years to unlock the city's mysteries. Truly, when it comes to important ancient cities, Ur should be counted among the greatest. Ur: The History and Legacy of the Ancient Sumerian Capital traces the history and legacy of one of the most influential cities of antiquity. Along with pictures of important people, places, and events, you will learn about the history of Ur like never before, in no time at all.

This work reviews the social and technological developments in Mesopotamia from 3800 to 2000 BC.

Explore the Captivating History of the Sumerians What humans call "civilization" didn't always exist. We didn't always live in big cities, have roads to get places easier, or grow food on farms. For a long time, humans were hunter-gatherers. Hunter-gatherers wandered from place to place looking for food. They didn't build homes or stay in one place. The Sumerians, as far as we know, were the first people to start a civilization. These stories that describe how the Sumerians thought the world worked are now what we call myths. Even though myths aren't true, they can tell us about what the world was like in ancient civilizations Sumerians carved words on stone tablets, and some of those tablets are still around today. A few of these carvings are stories that tell us what the Sumerians believed in. They lived in a world where nature was everywhere, and they were at the mercy of it. Let Dinobibi guide you through a discovery of this fascinating culture and learn about early writing, the first civilization, and Sumerian's important gods and goddesses. You will see many parallels between their world and ours, even though they lived thousands of years ago!

Why does a 5th grader have to learn about the Sumerian Writing System and Literature? Surely you don't use Sumerian writing these days. However, it is important to learn these things to acquire a better understanding of the origin of cultures, traditions and learning. There could be links from then to now, and these could be presented in writing systems and literature. Study this book today!

A legendary civilization vanished under the Fertile Crescent and escaped a fate worse than death until Sumerologists questioned widely accepted truths. The Sumerians reemerged onto the extraordinary timeline of human history. Their tales of kings and gods, including the Epic of Gilgamesh, and their fearless trade in distant lands, during the remarkable Bronze Age, centered in the world's first city-states that chronicled ancient rivalries and their enduring impact. Inside you will read about... ? How We Know What We Know About Sumerians ? The Bronze Age – Sumer And Its Contemporaries ? How Did The Sumerians Become Civilized? ? How Long Were They Around ? Primer Of Impact Of Sumerian Ancient Civilization On Our World ? What Did They Look Like? ? What Shaped Their Worldview? And much more! Our journey relies on excavated and historical evidence to explore their productive fascinations with order and man's place in the universe. Their application of impressive knowledge helps us unfold their mysterious civilization.

These people, the Sumerians, influenced not only all the other civilizations which arose in Mesopotamia but virtually every other human society which followed. Without the Sumerians, the world today would be a very different place. However, although we know a great deal about these people, there are fundamental mysteries about the Sumerians which have still not been solved by historians or archaeologists. For example, the Sumerians seemed to appear in Mesopotamia with a complex and developed society and skills and technologies which no other culture possessed, yet there is no agreement where they came from. They created a complex language, but no-one knows what it sounded like. There are striking examples of similarities between the art of the civilization of Sumer and the art of other ancient civilizations, yet we know that these cultures had no contact with each other. The Sumerians were able to observe and record astronomical and celestial phenomena in very advanced ways which are still not understood. In this book you will about: \* Sumerian Culture \* Sumerian Inventions \* How long were they around \* What they looked like \* Fascinating insight into their everyday life

This anthology of Sumerian literature constitutes the most comprehensive collection ever published, and includes examples of most of the different types of composition written in the language, from narrative myths and lyrical hymns to proverbs and love poetry. The translations have benefited both from the work of many scholars and from our ever-increasing understanding of Sumerian. In addition to reflecting the advances made by modern scholarship, the translations are written in clear, accessible English. An extensive introduction discusses the literary qualities of the works, the people who created and copied them in ancient Iraq, and how the study of Sumerian literature has evolved over the last 150 years.

The Sumerian World explores the archaeology, history and art of southern Mesopotamia and its relationships with its neighbours from c.3,000 - 2,000BC. Including material hitherto unpublished from recent excavations, the articles are organised thematically using evidence from archaeology, texts and the natural sciences. This broad treatment will also make the volume of interest to students looking for comparative data in allied subjects such as ancient literature and early religions. Providing an authoritative, comprehensive and up to date overview of the Sumerian period written by some of the best qualified scholars in the field, The Sumerian World will satisfy students, researchers, academics, and the knowledgeable layperson wishing to understand the world of southern Mesopotamia in the third millennium.

Describes the civilization of the Sumerians, who inhabited the land which today is Iraq, in the beginning of the fourth millennium B.C.

History Begins at Sumer is the classic account of the achievements of the Sumerians, who lived in what is now southern Iraq during the third millennium B.C. They were the developers of the cuneiform system of writing, perhaps their greatest contribution to civilization, which allowed laws and literature to be recorded for the first time.

\*Includes pictures \*Includes links to online sources like the Epic of Gilgamesh and more \*Includes primary sources written by the ancient Sumerians \*Includes a bibliography for further reading \*Includes a table of contents When American archaeologists discovered a collection of cuneiform tablets in Iraq in the late 19th century, they were confronted with a language and a people who were at the time only scarcely known to even the most knowledgeable scholars of ancient Mesopotamia: the Sumerians. The exploits and achievements of other Mesopotamian peoples, such as the Assyrians and Babylonians, were already known to a large segment of the population through the Old Testament and the nascent field of Near Eastern studies had unraveled the enigma of the Akkadian language that was widely used throughout the region in ancient times, but the discovery of the Sumerian tablets brought to light the existence of the Sumerian culture, which was the oldest of all the Mesopotamian cultures. Although the Sumerians continue to get second or even third billing compared to the Babylonians and Assyrians, perhaps because they never built an empire as great as the Assyrians or established a city as enduring and great as Babylon, they were the people who provided the template of civilization that all later Mesopotamians built upon. The Sumerians are credited with being the first people to invent writing, libraries, cities, and schools in Mesopotamia (Ziskind 1972, 34), and many would argue that they were the first people to create and do those things anywhere in world. For a people so great it is unfortunate that their accomplishments and contributions, not only to Mesopotamian civilization but to civilization in general, largely go unnoticed by the majority of the public. Perhaps the Sumerians were victims of their own

success; they gradually entered the historical record, established a fine civilization, and then slowly submerged into the cultural patchwork of their surroundings. They also never suffered a great and sudden collapse like other peoples of the ancient Near East, such as the Hittites, Assyrians and Neo-Babylonians did. A close examination of Sumerian culture and chronology reveals that the Sumerians set the cultural tone in Mesopotamia for several centuries in the realms of politics/governments, arts, literature, and religion. The Sumerians were truly a great people whose legacy continued long after they were gone. The Sumerians: The History and Legacy of the Ancient Mesopotamian Empire that Established Civilization traces the history and legacy of Sumer across several centuries. Along with pictures of important people, places, and events, you will learn about the history of the Sumerians like never before, in no time at all.

"This book offers a revolutionary new synthesis of ancient history and religion by bridging the gap between the archaeology of Mesopotamia (now the country of Iraq) and the biblical account of Genesis, Professor Alan Dickin shows how the Sumerians, the ancient inhabitants of Mesopotamia, established the world's first organized religion, which was a direct forerunner of the Judeo-Christian faith. He places the biblical accounts of the Creation, Fall, Flood, and Tower of Babel in their historical context in ancient Mesopotamia, and identifies the origins of the biblical Trinity in the Sumerian pantheon. Finally, he explores the manner of God's first revelations to mankind and the meaning of the lost secrets of the Garden of Eden. Over seventy line drawings of ancient artifacts, in addition to maps and historical tables, bring the civilization and religion of ancient Mesopotamia to life for a modern audience."--BOOK JACKET.

"EDEN IN SUMER ON THE NIGER" provides archeological, linguistic, genetic, and inscribed evidence of the West African origin of mankind, language, religion and civilization. It provides multidisciplinary evidence of the actual geographical location in West Africa of the Garden of Eden, Atlantis and the original homeland of the Sumerian people before their migration to the "Middle East". By translating hitherto unknown pre-cuneiform inscriptions of the Sumerians, Catherine Acholonu and Sidney Davis have uncovered thousands of years of Africa's lost pre-history and evidences of the West African origins of the earliest Pharaohs and Kings of Egypt and Sumer such as Menes and Sargon the Great. This book provides answers to all lingering questions about the African Cavemen (Igbos/Esh/Adamas/Adites) original guardians of the human races, Who gave their genes for the creation of Homo Sapiens (Adam) and were the teachers in the First Age of the world.

The name of Gilgamesh is one that resounds all over the world and has been well-known for thousands of years. Of all the most illustrious figures of history and human heritage, Gilgamesh also happens to be one of the most mysterious. This is because, in a way, there are two sides to Gilgamesh and two ways in which we approach his story. As far as official history is concerned, Gilgamesh was most likely an ancient Sumerian king who ruled the city-state of Uruk at some point between 2800 and 2500 BCE. In literature, folklore, and ancient traditions of Mesopotamia, Gilgamesh has become the subject of many legends and one of the most important heroes in Mesopotamian mythology.

Gilgamesh's legendary life was a story of great triumphs, falls, loss, soul-searching, and a quest for meaning. It is a story that involves a great character arc since Gilgamesh's physical journey is matched only by the distance he had traveled toward growing as a ruler and as a man.

The Sumerians The Sumerians settled in the area known as Mesopotamia, between the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers, around five thousand years ago. They produced many fundamental changes to the way in which human societies developed

In this ancient history book for kids, you're going to learn about the Sumerians and the Akkadians. Who were these people and why are they in history books? If you know and understand historical facts, it might become easy for you to find connections in daily living. This book comes with pictures that make learning a much more fulfilling process. Grab a copy today!

The Sumerians Their History, Culture, and Character University of Chicago Press

Samuel Noah Kramer is the leading authority on the interpretation and reading of civilization's oldest literature. His life and life's work are so thoroughly intertwined that his autobiography is also the story of the recovery of the language and literature of the Sumerians. From young Talmudist to the patriarch of Sumerology, Kramer recounts his long and distinguished career. Writing for the non-specialist, he paints a panoramic view of Sumerian literature and provides thumbnail sketches of the individuals with whom he collaborated.

"Civilizations of Ancient Iraq" is an elegantly engaging account of cultural and political history around the Tigris and Euphrates rivers from the first human settlements to the coming of Islam. Equally importantly the authors describe the rediscovery of Mesopotamia beginning in the mid-nineteenth century and highlight the dire state of Iraqi heritage today. They deftly interweave quotations from Babylonian and Sumerian literature with the latest archaeological and historical research to bring their narrative to life."--Eleanor Robson, author of "Mathematics in Ancient Iraq: A Social History" "With its penetrating asides about Iraq's archaeological history and the recent fate of its antiquities, this introduction to the country's ancient history will be a revelation to general readers. Iraqi history has not been covered before with this concision or with this concern for the history of archaeology and how the archaeological record has been affected by the country's current conditions. "Civilizations of Ancient Iraq" is written with flair."--Daniel C. Snell, author of "Life in the Ancient Near East" "Original and unique, this ambitious grand survey provides a refreshing history of ancient Iraq in its entirety in one brief and accessible volume. Considering the current crisis in Iraq, and especially the catastrophe facing its ancient heritage, general readers should find this book interesting. It should also inspire students and scholars to approach the history of ancient Iraq as a whole rather than a set of fragments."--Marc Van De Mierop, author of "King Hammurabi of Babylon: A Biography"

The Sumerians are widely believed to have created the world's earliest civilization on the fertile floodplains of southern Iraq from about 3500 to 2000 BCE. They have been credited with the invention of nothing less than cities, writing, and the wheel, and therefore hold an ancient mirror to our own urban, literate world. But is this picture correct? Paul Collins reveals how the idea of

a Sumerian people was assembled from the archaeological and textual evidence uncovered in Iraq and Syria over the last one hundred fifty years. Reconstructed through the biases of those who unearthed them, the Sumerians were never simply lost and found, but reinvented a number of times, both in antiquity and in the more recent past.

Discover groundbreaking revelations on the roots of modern life. How did we arrive to where we are today? How were the ancient civilizations of Sumer and Maya, physically a world apart, actually connected? An overview that covers a wide range of topics from human migrations 50,000 years ago to Gobekli-tepe, the first temple in history, the first matriarchal society with written records, Elam, and to the Sun Cult of the Hattis. Discover the answers to many unsolved mysteries all in one short book! Why did the Sumerians and Egyptians build pyramids? Who invented the wheel and where did they do it? How did Sumerians influence other ancient civilizations including Egypt, India, Greece, Rome, and our modern life including our modern languages? These are all major questions waiting to be answered, but there is one question that must be asked first: Where did the Sumerians come from? All the important ancient civilizations, including those of the Sumerians, Egyptians, and Ancient Greeks, are said to have appeared out of nowhere! Yet, there is undeniable physical evidence pointing to the roots of ancient civilizations. This book will hopefully change history books around the world. Sumerians are Turks, proven! Included is a list of publications on Sumerian-Turkish relationship since the discovery of Sumerian civilization 160 years ago. Here you will find what is memory-holed, lost in history and history books, but that's only part of it. This book is the broadest analysis of Sumerian origins ever released! Cuneiform tablets also provide info on Egyptians, Scythians, Hatti, Hittite, Turuk, Oguz, Ogur Turks, Elam, Gut, Goth, Gutians, and Hyksos civilizations.

Reviews the social and technological developments in Mesopotamia, from 3800 to 2000 BC.

The Ancient Sumerians In a Nutshell The History of the Epic Get a sense of how Ur came to existence, how it grew, reached its zenith, fell, re-rose, and ultimately perished until it The Assyrians Arrive in Mesopotamia: The Early Assyrian Period The Land of the Babylonians Who Are the Persians? The History of Human Population in Iran

Enter Mesopotamia - The Cradle of Civilization! Are you interested in ancient cultures? Do you want to explore the famous Sumerian city-states? Would you like to know what it was like to live in those times? If so, the time is now! When you read The Sumerians: A Short, Action-Packed Book About The Sumerians, History's First Recorded Civilization: Everything You Need to Know! by Thomas Beckett, you'll learn all about the government, religion, and social structure of this fascinating culture. Take a trip into the past - Today! You'll even find out about the mysterious secret lives of the Ancient Sumerians! What motivated the Sumerians? What mattered the most to them? What forces shaped their lives and destinies? Inside The Sumerians, Thomas Beckett explains the lives of people in Sumerian times. He describes the education, literature, and value systems of this ancient people. When you read this book, you'll be swept away by the real-life stories of Sumerian rulers and heroes! Don't wait another minute to read The Sumerians: A Short, Action-Packed Book About The Sumerians, History's First Recorded Civilization: Everything You Need to Know! Get your copy of this amazing historical tale - Today! You'll be so glad you learned this engrossing tale!

Presents an overview of the ancient Sumerian culture, discussing government, recreation, trade, travel, family life, food, occupations, and entertainment.

\*Includes pictures \*Includes ancient accounts of Lagash \*Includes online resources and a bibliography for further reading In southern Iraq, a crushing silence hangs over the dunes. For nearly 5,000 years, the sands of the Iraqi desert have held the remains of the oldest known civilization: the Sumerians. When American archaeologists discovered a collection of cuneiform tablets in Iraq in the late 19th century, they were confronted with a language and a people who were at the time only scarcely known to even the most knowledgeable scholars of ancient Mesopotamia. The exploits and achievements of other Mesopotamian peoples, such as the Assyrians and Babylonians, were already known to a large segment of the population through the Old Testament and the nascent field of Near Eastern studies had unraveled the enigma of the Akkadian language that was widely used throughout the region in ancient times, but the discovery of the Sumerian tablets brought to light the existence of the Sumerian culture, which was the oldest of all the Mesopotamian cultures. For a people so great it is unfortunate that their accomplishments and contributions, not only to Mesopotamian civilization but to civilization in general, largely go unnoticed by the majority of the public. Perhaps the Sumerians were victims of their own success; they gradually entered the historical record, established a fine civilization, and then slowly submerged into the cultural patchwork of their surroundings. They also never suffered a great and sudden collapse like other peoples of the ancient Near East, such as the Hittites, Assyrians and Neo-Babylonians did. A close examination of Sumerian culture and chronology reveals that the Sumerians set the cultural tone in Mesopotamia for several centuries in the realms of politics/governments, arts, literature, and religion. The Sumerians were truly a great people whose legacy continued long after they were gone. The ruined Sumerian city of Lagash is located 15 miles east of present-day Shatra in the province of Nasiriya in southern Iraq. Also known as Tell al-Hiba, this was one of the largest urban sites in the ancient lands of southern Mesopotamia; at its height in the Early Dynastic period, the city is believed to have occupied a total area of approximately 600 hectares. Based on the presence of so many temples, Lagash clearly served as the religious capital of the state. It is from the huge corpus of documents that have been recovered from the city ruins that historians so much about the ancient gods and goddesses that were worshiped by the ancient Sumerians. The temple architecture in the city is amongst the finest found in any of the ancient settlements in Mesopotamia. Lagash experienced a Golden Age of prosperity and growth in the early 21st century BCE during the reign of Gudea, a contemporary of Urnammu, the founder of the Third Dynasty of Ur. It is no wonder that Gudea was worshipped as a god. Although Gudea was a fine ruler, after his reign ended the city quickly succumbed to invasion, and over time faded out of popular knowledge. It is only because of excavations carried out there from the 1950s onwards that the questions regarding this site's identity have been answered. Lagash: The History and Legacy of the Ancient Sumerian City looks at the remarkable site and its impact on the region. Along with pictures depicting important people, places, and events, you will learn about Lagash like never before.

\*Includes pictures \*Includes ancient passages and accounts about Ur written by Babylonian kings and others \*Includes online resources and a bibliography for further reading When American archaeologists discovered a collection of cuneiform tablets in Iraq in the late 19th century, they were confronted with a language and a people who were at the time only scarcely known to even the most knowledgeable scholars of ancient Mesopotamia: the Sumerians. The exploits and achievements of other Mesopotamian peoples, such as the Assyrians and Babylonians, were already known to a large segment of the population through the Old Testament and the nascent field of Near Eastern studies had unraveled the enigma of the Akkadian language that was widely used throughout the region in ancient times, but the discovery of the Sumerian tablets brought to light the existence of the Sumerian culture, which was the oldest of all the

Mesopotamian cultures. Long before Alexandria was a city and even before Memphis and Babylon had attained greatness, the ancient Mesopotamian city of Ur stood foremost among ancient Near Eastern cities. Today, the greatness and cultural influence of Ur has been largely forgotten by most people, partially because its monuments have not stood the test of time the way other ancient culture's monuments have. For instance, the monuments of Egypt were made of stone while those of Ur and most other Mesopotamian cities were made of mud brick and as will be discussed in this report, mud brick may be an easier material to work with than stone but it also decays much quicker. The same is true to a certain extent for the written documents that were produced at Ur. The people of Mesopotamia, which Ur was part of, employed the cuneiform system of writing; since cuneiform was almost always written on clay tablets, modern scholars have been forced with the unfortunate problem that many of those tablets have been broken and made unreadable throughout the centuries. Despite the ephemeral nature of its monuments and to some extent its written texts, Ur proved to be an inspiration to the Sumerians who built the city and also to later cultures and dynasties that inhabited Mesopotamia. An examination of primary sources relating to Ur, as well as archaeological excavations done in the ancient city reveal that the city was a cultural beacon for thousands of years. Ur began as a Sumerian city of secondary importance but quickly grew to be the most important Sumerian city. At its height Ur was the center of a great dynasty that controlled most of Mesopotamia directly through a well maintained army and bureaucracy and the areas that were not under its direct control were influenced by Ur's diplomats and religious ideas. This study will also reveal that Ur was a truly resilient city because it survived the downfall of the Sumerians, outright destruction at the hands of the Elamites, and later occupations by numerous other peoples, which included Saddam Hussein more recently. Ur inspired the imaginations of ancient peoples, but it has also enraptured the minds of moderns, who have worked for over 150 years to unlock the city's mysteries. Truly, when it comes to important ancient cities, Ur should be counted among the greatest. Ur: The History and Legacy of the Ancient Sumerian Capital traces the history and legacy of one of the most influential cities of antiquity. Along with pictures of important people, places, and events, you will learn about the history of Ur like never before, in no time at all.

\*Includes pictures \*Includes primary sources from ancient records about their cultures and battles \*Includes bibliographies for further reading \*Includes a table of contents Although the Sumerians continue to get second or even third billing compared to the Babylonians and Assyrians, perhaps because they never built an empire as great as the Assyrians or established a city as enduring and great as Babylon, they were the people who provided the template of civilization that all later Mesopotamians built upon. The Sumerians are credited with being the first people to invent writing, libraries, cities, and schools in Mesopotamia (Ziskind 1972, 34), and many would argue that they were the first people to create and do those things anywhere in world. For a people so great it is unfortunate that their accomplishments and contributions, not only to Mesopotamian civilization but to civilization in general, largely go unnoticed by the majority of the public. Perhaps the Sumerians were victims of their own success; they gradually entered the historical record, established a fine civilization, and then slowly submerged into the cultural patchwork of their surroundings. Among the many cities of the ancient world, Rome and Athens may come to mind first, but the city of Babylon in the land of Mesopotamia was already an ancient, venerated city when the others were still inconsequential settlements. Today, Babylon has become a byword for greed, excess, and licentiousness, mostly due to its mention in the Bible, but a closer examination reveals that Babylon was so much more, and even perhaps the most important city in the ancient world. Ancient Babylon was home to great dynasties that produced some of the world's most influential leaders, most notably Hammurabi and Nebuchadnezzar, and these rulers invoked their wills on the entire ancient Near East and have been remembered as both progressive and cruel all at the same time. Babylon was also the seat of culture in ancient Mesopotamia and the place where scholars made amazing scientific advances that would not be eclipsed for several centuries. An examination of ancient Babylon demonstrates that it was truly the first great city in the ancient world. Compared to some of their contemporaries – including the Egyptians, Assyrians, and Babylonians – the Hittites were somewhat distant both culturally and geographically. The Hittites were an Indo-European speaking in an ocean of Afro-Asiatic and Semitic groups, their homeland was to the north of Mesopotamia, and it contained no major river like the Nile, Tigris, or Euphrates Rivers. The Hittite empire was also far less enduring than its neighbors, as it only existed from about 1800-1200 BCE (van de Mieroop 2007, 156), which was considerably shorter than most of the other major kingdoms of the Near East. With that said, the influence of the Hittites on the politics, economy, and overall situation of the ancient Near East cannot be understated; the Hittites were a force to be reckoned with while they existed. Although the Biblical accounts of the Assyrians are among the most interesting and are often corroborated with other historical sources, the Assyrians were much more than just the enemies of the Israelites and brutal thugs. A historical survey of ancient Assyrian culture reveals that although they were the supreme warriors of their time, they were also excellent merchants, diplomats, and highly literate people who recorded their history and religious rituals and ideology in great detail. The Assyrians, like their other neighbors in Mesopotamia, were literate and developed their own dialect of the Akkadian language that they used to write tens of thousands of documents in the cuneiform script. This book looks at all four of these highly influential empires. Along with pictures depicting important people, places, and events, you will learn about the greatest civilizations of Ancient Mesopotamia like never before. Sumerian history and mythology have been shrouded in mystery for thousands of years. These tales of the world's very first civilization is now being exposed to the light of day, fascinating men and women around the world. The stories of Enlil, Enkidu, and Gilgamesh are finding new audiences, people interested in learning about a world where the people felt and experienced very differently from how we do today. Sumerian mythology was so powerful that some of their gods found their way into different cultures, the most famous example of this being Aphrodite who began life as the Sumerian goddess Inanna. In Sumerian Mythology: Fascinating Sumerian History and Mesopotamian Empire and Myths, you will be exposed to the riveting tales of gods and heroes that formed the canon of the Sumerian religion. Sumerian civilization has become an intrinsic part of how we live today, even if most of us are unaware of it. The way that we measure time, observe the stars, and even plant and grow crops has a lot to do with the advancements made by the Sumerians more than six thousand years ago. And heroes like Gilgamesh have helped define what it means to be a hero today. They were men who became gods, earning their place in immortality in more ways than one. The Sumerians used their stories as a way to instruct others and how they lived and even to help themselves understand their world. Sumerian Mythology: Fascinating Sumerian History and Mesopotamian Empire and Myths, you will learn the formative tales of gods and heroes to help you understand who the Sumerians were and why they were important. Sumerian Mythology: Fascinating Sumerian History and Mesopotamian Empire and Myths explores the tales of gods and heroes in a concise, easy-to-read fashion. These tales of heroes and gods were deeply important to the Mesopotamian people and learning about them is the only way to understand the kind of world they lived in and how it was different from our own. It was a world of birds with the faces of lions, gods with the

