

英·汉·对·照

外教社中学生世界历史与文化读本 之一
World Cultures Through Time

美索不达米亚 MESOPOTAMIA

Christine Mayfield and
Kristine M. Quinn
翻译 钱明丹

 上海外语教育出版社
外教社 SHANGHAI FOREIGN LANGUAGE EDUCATION PRESS
www.sflep.com



英·汉·对·照

外教社中学生世界历史与文化读本 之一
World Cultures Through Time

美索不达米亚

MESOPOTAMIA

Christine Mayfield and
Kristine M. Quinn
翻译 钱明丹



图书在版编目(CIP)数据

美索不达米亚(英汉对照)/钱明丹译.

—上海:上海外语教育出版社,2009

(外教社中学生世界历史与文化读本)

ISBN 978-7-5446-1201-2

I. 美… II. 钱… III. 英语—阅读教学—中学—课外读物

IV. G634.413

中国版本图书馆CIP数据核字(2009)第000822号

Published by arrangement with Teacher Created Materials, Inc.

Licensed for distribution and sale in China only.

本书由TCM出版社授权上海外语教育出版社出版。

仅供在中华人民共和国境内销售。

图字:09-2008-444

出版发行:上海外语教育出版社

(上海外国语大学内) 邮编:200083

电 话:021-65425300(总机)

电子邮箱:bookinfo@sflep.com.cn

网 址:<http://www.sflep.com.cn> <http://www.sflep.com>

责任编辑:刘 璟

印 刷:上海景条印刷有限公司

经 销:新华书店上海发行所

开 本:787×965 1/16 印张4.25 字数88千字

版 次:2009年7月第1版 2009年7月第1次印刷

印 数:3500册

书 号:ISBN 978-7-5446-1201-2 / K·0038

定 价:18.00元

本版图书如有印装质量问题,可向本社调换

IMAGE CREDITS

cover The Library of Congress; p.1 The Library of Congress; p.4 The Granger Collection, New York; p.5 B. Speckart/Shutterstock, Inc.; p.6 Teacher Created Materials; p.7 (top) Ahmad Al-Rubaye/AFP/Getty Images; p.7 (bottom) W. Robert Moore/Getty Images; pp.8–9 Alexei Novikov/Shutterstock, Inc.; p.9 (left) Images & Stories/Alamy; p.9 (right) Sascha Burkard/Shutterstock, Inc.; p.10 North Wind Picture Archives/Alamy; pp.10–11 B. Speckart/Shutterstock, Inc.; p.11 Abid Katib/Getty Images; pp.12–13 Visual Arts Library (London)/Alamy; p.13 (top) Age Fotostock/Superstock, Inc.; p.13 (bottom) The Library of Congress; p.14 Visual Arts Library (London) Alamy; p.15 (left) Mary Evans Picture Library/Alamy; p.15 (right) Jeff Cadge/Getty Images; p.16 Mary Evans Picture Library/Alamy; p.17 Hannah Gleghorn/Shutterstock, Inc.; p.18 Jane Sweeney/Getty Images; p.19 (top) The Library of Congress; p.19 (bottom) Visual Arts Library (London)/Alamy; p.20 (top) Mary Evans Picture Library/Alamy; p.20 (bottom) Kurt Scholz/SuperStock, Inc.; p.21 The Granger Collection, New York; p.22 The Library of Congress; pp.22–23 Courtesy of Steven Hirsch; p.23 Teacher Created Materials; p.24 The Granger Collection, New York; p.25 (top) The Library of Congress; p.25 (bottom) The Library of Congress; p.26 Teacher Created Materials; p.27 (top) Teacher Created Materials; p.27 (bottom) North Wind Picture Archives/Alamy; pp.28–29 (top) The Granger Collection, New York; pp.28–29 (bottom) age fotostock/SuperStock; p.29 The Library of Congress; back cover Taolmor/Shutterstock, Inc.

cover Time Life Pictures/Mansell/Time Life Pictures/Getty Images; cover Teacher Created Materials; p.33 Time Life Pictures/Mansell/Time Life Pictures/Getty Images; p.36 Teacher Created Materials; p.37 (left) The Granger Collection, New York; p.37 (bottom) Paul Cowan/Shutterstock, Inc.; p.38 The Library of Congress; pp.38–39 Kean Collection/Getty Images; p.39 Ben Goode/Shutterstock, Inc.; p.40 Jiri Rezac/Alamy; pp.40–41 The Library of Congress; p.41 Wade H. Massie/Shutterstock, Inc.; p.42 Visual Arts Library (London)/Alamy; p.43 (top) Mary Evans Picture Library/Alamy; p.43 (bottom) The Bridgeman Library/Getty Images; p.44 The Granger Collection, New York; p.45 Yare Marketing/Shutterstock, Inc.; p.46 B. Speckart/Shutterstock, Inc.; pp.46–47 SuperStock, Inc.; p.47 Miguel Angel Salinas/Shutterstock, Inc.; p.48 (left) The Granger Collection, New York; p.48 (right) ullstein bild/The Granger Collection, New York; p.49 Bonnie Watton/Shutterstock, Inc.; p.50 Visual Arts Library (London)/Alamy; p.51 (top) The Library of Congress; p.51 (bottom) Time Life Pictures/Mansell/Time Life Pictures/Getty Images; pp.52–53 (top) Mary Evans Picture Library/Alamy; pp.52–53 (bottom) Arcaid/Alamy; pp.54 Patrick Baz/AFP/Getty Images; p.55 (top) World Religions Photo Library/Alamy; p.55 (bottom) Graca Victoria/Shutterstock, Inc.; p.56 North Wind Picture Archives/Alamy; p.57 (top) The Granger Collection, New York; p.57 (bottom) Joel P. Shawn/Shutterstock, Inc.; p.58 North Wind Picture Archives/Alamy; p.59 (top) Pavel Bernshtam/Shutterstock, Inc.; p.59 (bottom) Sergio Pitamitz/Alamy; p.60 Popperfoto/Alamy; pp.60–61 The Granger Collection, New York; p.61 The Historical Atlas by William R. Shepherd, 1923; back cover The Library of Congress



MESOPOTAMIA

**Christine Mayfield, M.S.
and Kristine M. Quinn, M.S.**

需要全本请在线购买：www.ertongbook.com

TABLE OF CONTENTS

目 录

Ancient Meso-WHAT? 古代美索不达米亚留下了什么?	4-5
It's a Small World 世界真是小.....	6-7
The Fertile Crescent, Or Is It? 新月沃土, 是真的吗?	8-9
Sumer: Rocking the Cradle 苏美尔: 发源地	10-11
Leveled Society 等级森严的社会	12-13
Babylonia: The Center of Culture 巴比伦王国: 文化中心	14-15
Babylonian Religion 巴比伦王国的宗教信仰.....	16-17
Assyria: Brutal Fighters 亚述: 野蛮的斗士	18-19
Persia: Cultural Tolerance 波斯: 文化宽容	20-21
The Hebrews 希伯来人	22-23
The Gift of the Arameans 阿拉姆人的天赋	24-25
Talented Phoenicians 天才的腓尼基人	26-27
Why Do I Need to Know This? 我为什么需要知道这些?	28-29
Glossary 词汇表	30-31

ANCIENT MESO-WHAT?

古代美索不达米亚留下了什么？

People today are really lucky the ancient Mesopotamians lived so many years ago. These people invented items that we still use today. They created the wheel and glass. They were the first to use coins and mathematics. They used an alphabet and calendars. They farmed and used irrigation to water their crops.

古代美索不达米亚人在那么多年以前生活过，这对现代人来讲真是非常幸运。他们发明了很多我们今天仍然在使用的东西。他们发明了车轮和玻璃。他们第一个使用硬币和数学。他们使用字母表和日历。他们种田，并使用灌溉系统来给庄稼浇水。



◀ Creating interesting figures was common during this time. 创造有趣的形象在当时十分普遍。



◀ This tablet shows ancient writing.

这块石碑上显示了古代文字。

Amazing Mathematicians

令人惊奇的数学家

The Babylonians lived in ancient Mesopotamia. They invented the decimal system, something that is still used today. They recorded the first calendar in which they divided the year into weeks. They were also the first to divide the days into hours, minutes, and seconds. 巴比伦人居住在古代美索不达米亚。他们发明了十进制，直到今天它仍在被使用。他们记录了第一份把年划分为星期的日历。他们还第一个把日分为小时、分钟和秒钟。

The World Today

当今世界

How do you use the things created by the Mesopotamians in your life today? Imagine one day without these things in your life. The ancient civilizations are still very important to us. We can learn about our lives by learning about theirs. 在如今的生活中，你怎样使用美索不达米亚人创造出来的东西？想象一下如果有一天生活中没有了这些东西会怎样。古代文明对我们仍然十分重要。通过了解他们的生活，我们可以了解我们自己的生活。

The ancient Mesopotamians were very artistic people. They decorated temples and palaces with strange creatures. The artists sometimes made creatures with both human and animal qualities. These might look funny to us, but the ancient Mesopotamians thought they were beautiful. Some of the creatures were symbols of greatness and strength. These qualities were very important to leaders in ancient Mesopotamia.

古代美索不达米亚人是非常有艺术感的人。他们用奇特的生物来装饰庙宇和宫殿。艺术家们有时候创造出同时具备人类和动物特征的生物。这些在我们看来可能显得很滑稽，但是古代美索不达米亚人认为它们很美。其中有些生物是伟大和力量的象征。这些特征对古代美索不达米亚的领导者来说非常重要。

IT'S A SMALL WORLD

世界真是小

Ancient Mesopotamia was in the Middle East. Today, the countries of Turkey, Syria, Iran, and Iraq are located there. If you want to find Mesopotamia on a map, you need to look for the country of Iraq. Then, find the Tigris and Euphrates rivers. There you will find where ancient Mesopotamia was.

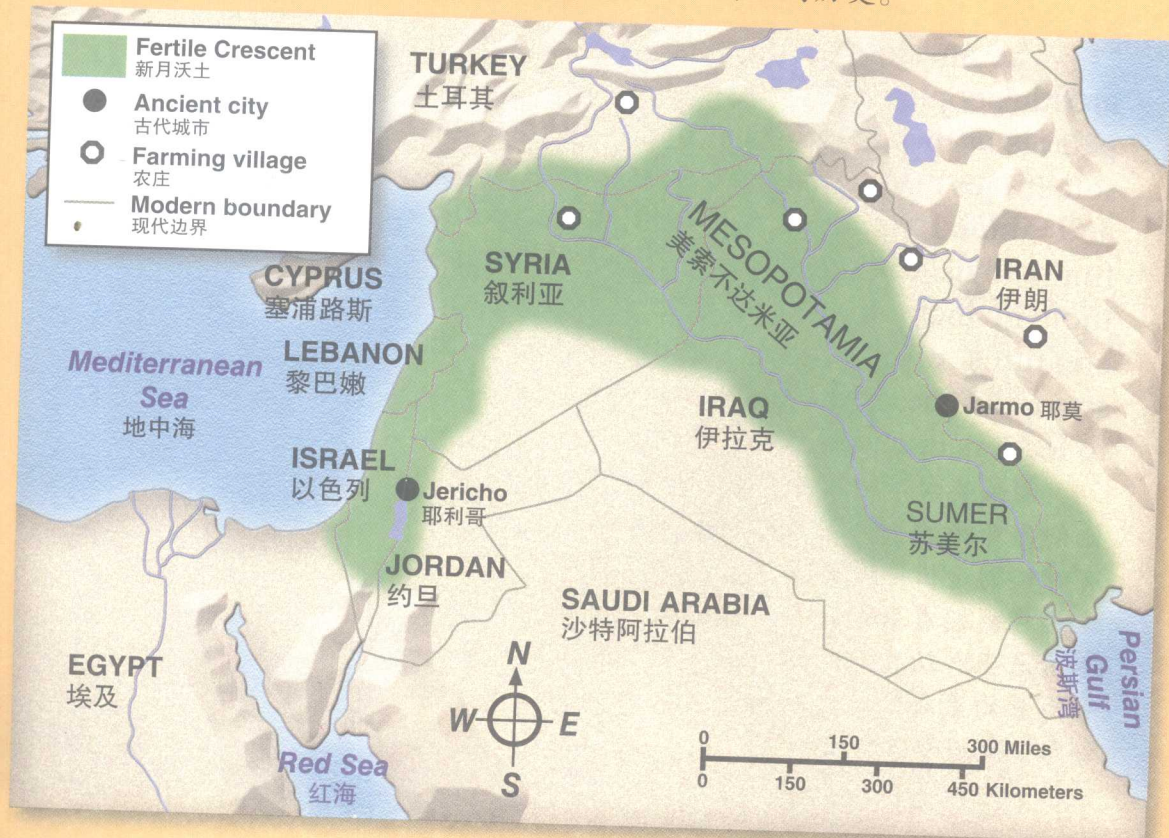
People lived in Mesopotamia as much as 7,000 years ago. One of the first cities was Sumer. Sumer was called a city-state. That means it was a city that ruled itself.

Later, there were other important empires that controlled the area. The empires of Babylonia, Assyria, and Persia all controlled ancient Mesopotamia. Each city-state or empire had an amazing history.

古代美索不达米亚位于中东地区。现在，土耳其、叙利亚、伊朗和伊拉克等国家坐落在那里。如果你想在地图上找到美索不达米亚，你需要先找到伊拉克。然后，再找到底格里斯河和幼发拉底河。在那里，你就能找到古代美索不达米亚的位置。

早在7000年前，人们已开始在美索不达米亚居住。最早兴起的城市之一是苏美尔。苏美尔被称为“城邦”，意思是它是一个“自治的城市”。

此后，又有其他重要的帝国统治了该地区。巴比伦帝国、亚述帝国和波斯帝国都统治过古代美索不达米亚。每个城邦或帝国都有着令人惊叹的历史。





- ▲ These Iraqi children live in a violent land.
这些伊拉克儿童居住在充满暴力的土地上。

- ▼ Oil refinery 炼油厂



A Land of War

战乱之地

The country of Iraq is experiencing conflict among the people who live there. Other countries have become involved in the war. Many people around the world have been affected by the fighting. 居住在伊拉克的民众之间一直纷争不断。其他国家也被卷入了这场战争。世界上许多人都受到了它的影响。

Modern Development

现代发展

Much of this land has been developed. There are major cities with large buildings and roads for traveling. Oil is a major product of the region. 该地区的大部分地方都发展了起来。这里有大型城市，市内有宏伟的建筑和通行车道。石油是该地区的主要产品。

THE FERTILE CRESCENT, OR IS IT?

新月沃土，是真的吗？

Most of the ancient Middle East had a desert climate. That means it was dry and hot. However, there was one area known as the Fertile Crescent. The Fertile Crescent included Mesopotamia. Mesopotamia was the name given to the land closest to the Tigris and Euphrates rivers.

Everyone wanted to live in the Fertile Crescent. The soil was very rich. So, crops grew well. The people liked living near the water. The rivers allowed the people to easily get water for their crops. They could also use the rivers to move and trade goods.

Each year the Tigris and Euphrates rivers flooded Mesopotamia. After each flood, the area was left with rich silt. Silt was good for farming.

Soon many people came to live in the Fertile Crescent. Then, groups began to fight over the land because they could not live together peacefully.

古代中东大部分地区都是沙漠气候。这意味着天气干燥炎热。然而，这里有一片被称为“新月沃土”的地方。“新月沃土”包括了美索不达米亚。美索不达米亚指的是最靠近底格里斯河和幼发拉底河的那块土地。

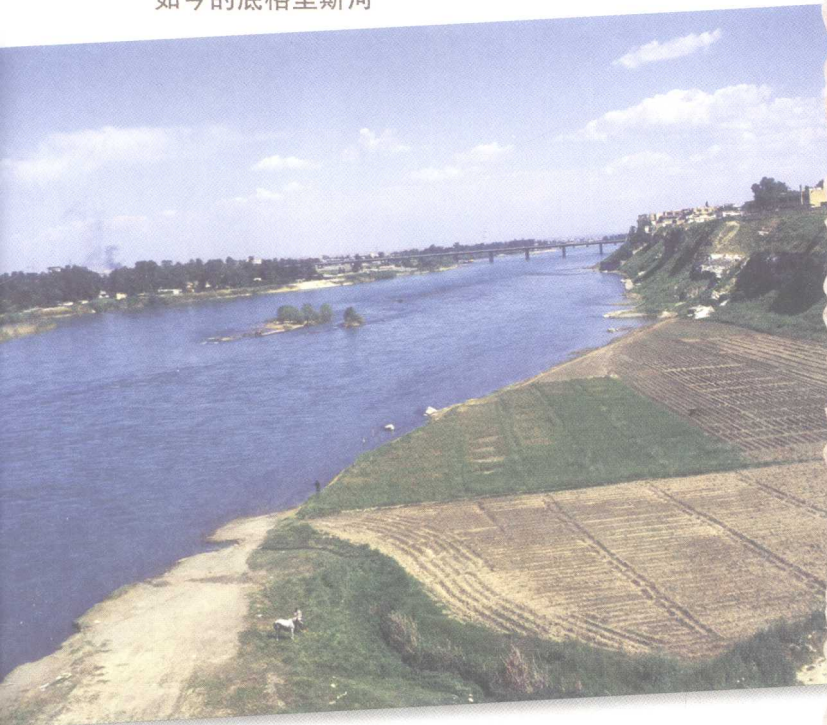
每个人都想居住在新月沃土。那里的土壤肥沃。因此，庄稼生长得很好。人们喜欢生活在水边。河流使人们能够很容易得到水来灌溉庄稼。他们也可以利用河流去其他地方进行货物交易。

每年，底格里斯河和幼发拉底河都会泛滥并淹没美索不达米亚。每次洪水过后，该地区总会留下肥沃的淤泥。淤泥对农耕非常有好处。

很快，许多人来到新月沃土居住。然后，不同的群体之间开始互相争夺土地，因为他们无法和平共处。



▼ The Tigris River today
如今的底格里斯河



▼ Wheat grew in the Fertile Crescent.
小麦在新月沃土生长。



Controlling Nature

控制自然

The Tigris and Euphrates flooded every year. By building levees and irrigation canals, the people controlled the rivers. These systems are still used all over the world today. They help move water from one place to another. You probably have irrigation systems near your home. 底格里斯河和幼发拉底河每年都要泛滥。通过建造防洪堤和灌溉渠，人们控制了这两条河流。这两种系统今天仍在世界各地使用。它们使水从一个地方流动到另一个地方。很可能你家附近就有灌溉系统。



Not So Fertile Anymore

不复往日肥沃

Scientists now know that much of this area is drying up because of the way people controlled the rivers. This is not good for the area. When people try to control nature, it can have a negative effect in the end. 科学家们现在了解到，该地区大部分地方之所以在逐渐干涸，是由于人们控制河流的方法所造成的。这对该地区没有好处。当人们试图控制自然时，其行为可能最终会产生负面的影响。

SUMER: ROCKING THE CRADLE

苏美尔：发源地



▲ Scribes were important in many different ancient civilizations.

在众多不同的古代文明中，抄写员非常重要。

古代美索不达米亚由好几个城邦组成。苏美尔是历史上第一个被记载的城邦。它是人类文明最初的发源地之一。该地区以“文明的摇篮”称号闻名于世。最早的书面文字记录可以追溯到大约公元前3300年。

苏美尔人也是最早把自己的语言变成书写符号的人之一。他们用书写符号来记录重要的事件。一开始他们使用简单的图画。很快，书写符号发展成楔形文字的形式。楔形文字由楔形的符号组成，用铁笔在湿的泥板上刻成。历史学家通过认读楔形文字来了解美索不达米亚的日常生活。

Ancient Mesopotamia consisted of several city-states. Sumer was the first one to be recorded in history. It is here that one of the first civilizations started. This area is known as the “cradle of civilization.” The earliest written records date back to around 3300 B.C.

The Sumerians were among the first to put their language into writing. They used their writing to keep important records. They first wrote in simple pictures. Soon the writing developed into a style called cuneiform. Cuneiform was made with wedge-shaped symbols. They were made on wet clay tablets with a stylus. Historians read the cuneiform to learn about daily life in Mesopotamia.



Back then, only some men could write. They were called scribes. Scribes were important and respected. Some boys attended special schools for 12 years to become scribes.

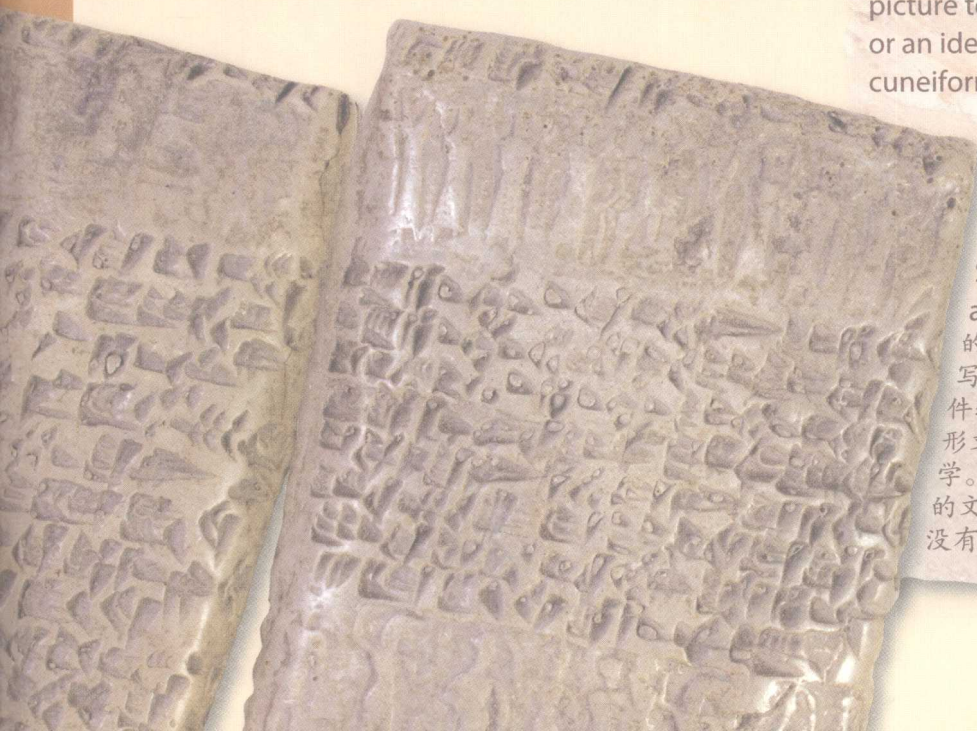
那时候，只有少数男人会写字。他们被称为抄写员。抄写员非常重要，受人尊敬。一些男孩子只有在就读特殊的学校12年后才能成为抄写员。

Time to Go to School 该上学了

In some parts of the Middle East today, both boys and girls are allowed to go to school. But, they are separated. Boys and girls have their own classrooms. They go out to recess separately and play their own sports. Imagine going to this kind of school! 在今天中东的部分地区，男孩女孩都可以上学。但是，他们要分开上课。男孩和女孩有各自的教室。他们的课间休息分开进行，并有各自的体育运动。想象一下去这样的学校该是怎样一种感觉！

Writing with Pictures 图形文字

The first writing was picture writing. The scribes used one picture to represent an object or an idea. Picture writing and cuneiform writing were difficult to learn. These are very different from our writing, which uses an alphabet. The Sumerians did not use an alphabet. 人类最初的文字是图形文字。抄写员用一幅图画来代表一件物品或是一个想法。图形文字和楔形文字都很难学。它们和我们使用字母的文字非常不同。苏美尔人没有字母表。



LEVELED SOCIETY

等级森严的社会

The Sumerian society consisted of some wealthy people. But, the majority of the people were very poor. They worked for the king.

Sumerian jobs included merchants, farmers, cattlemen, and fishermen. People were also architects, scribes, and artisans. Because so many items were created, Sumeria became a great trade center.

Men appointed by the king made sure that the trading was fair. They told the king if people were trying to cheat or steal property. Another important job was being part of the army.

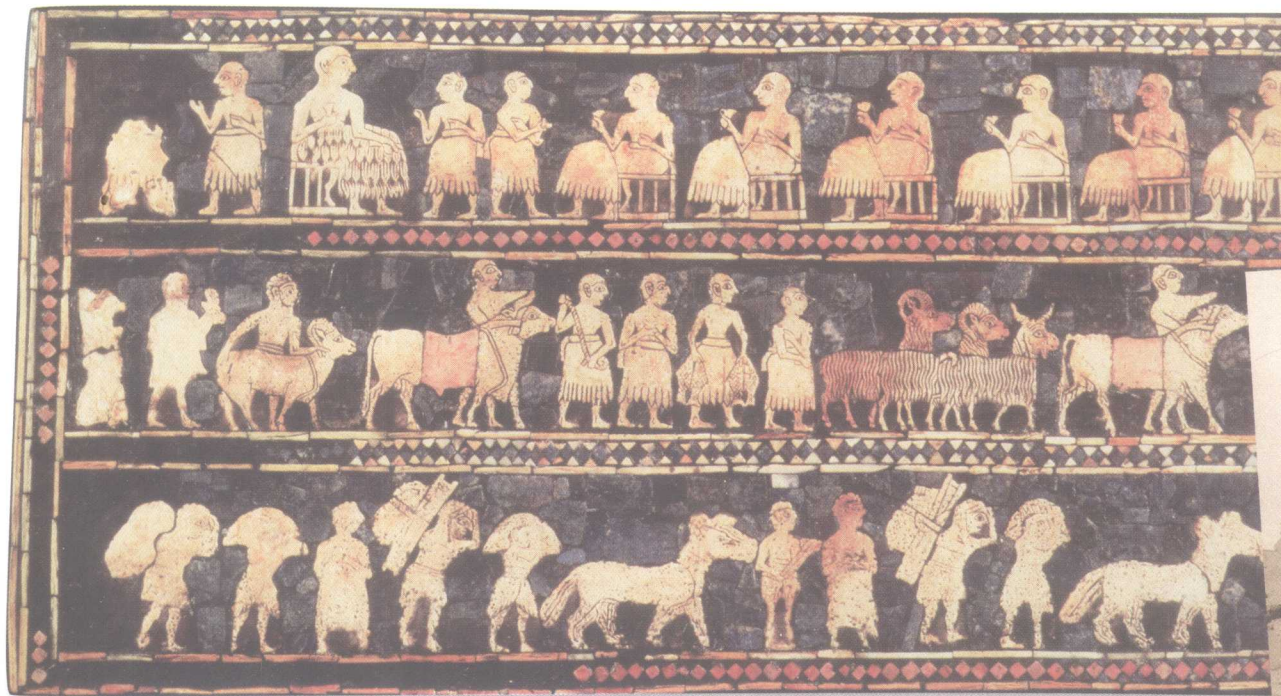
苏美尔社会包括一些富人。但是，大部分人都非常贫穷。他们为国王工作。

苏美尔人的职业包括商人、农夫、牧牛人和渔夫，也有建筑师、抄写员和工匠。因为有如此多的东西被创造了出来，苏美尔成了一个大贸易中心。

国王任命一些人来保证公平贸易。如果有人试图欺诈或者偷窃财物，他们会报告国王。另外一个重要的职业就是战士。

▼ This piece of art shows many roles in Sumerian society.

这件艺术品表现了苏美尔社会中的许多职业。





Inventions, Inventions

发明，发明

The Sumerians invented the plow and the wheel. They were busy people. These two inventions have had a major impact on the development of societies. These items allowed for improvements in farming and transportation. Both are still important to people today. 苏美尔人发明了犁和轮子。他们非常繁忙。这两项发明对社会发展有着至关重要的影响。它们促进了农耕和交通的发展。这两项发明对现代人来说仍然很重要。

Beginning Builders

最初的建造者

There were not many trees in the desert. So the Sumerians had to use what was available to make buildings. They were the first to make mud bricks. They used these bricks to build temples to their gods. The special temples were called ziggurats. 沙漠中没有多少树木。因此，苏美尔人不得不利用身边可用的东西来建造房屋。是他们首先使用了泥砖。他们用这些砖来建造神庙。这些特殊的神庙被称为神塔。



▼ Ziggurat ruins still stand today.
神塔遗迹直到今天仍然矗立着。

