

# Sumerian Civilization Assessment

## Introduction

The Sumerian civilization, which flourished in Mesopotamia (modern-day Iraq) around 4500-1900 BCE, is considered one of the most significant and influential civilizations in human history. This assessment is designed to evaluate students' understanding of the key developments that contributed to Sumer's advancement as a civilization.

## Section 1: Multiple Choice Questions

Choose the correct answer for each question.

1. What was the main contribution of the Sumerians to the development of writing?  
☐ a) Alphabet ☐ b) Cuneiform ☐ c) Hieroglyphics ☐ d) Printing Press
2. Which of the following was a major achievement of the Sumerian civilization?  
☐ a) Building of the Great Pyramid ☐ b) Development of the wheel ☐ c) Creation of the Code of Ur-Nammu ☐ d) Construction of the Great Wall of China
3. What was the primary purpose of the ziggurats in Sumerian cities?  
☐ a) Tombs for kings ☐ b) Temples for worship ☐ c) Palaces for rulers ☐ d) Markets for trade
4. Who was the Sumerian king credited with creating the first code of laws?  
☐ a) Hammurabi ☐ b) Ur-Nammu ☐ c) Sargon ☐ d) Gilgamesh
5. What was the name of the Sumerian city-state that was known for its advanced irrigation system?  
☐ a) Ur ☐ b) Uruk ☐ c) Nippur ☐ d) Lagash
6. Which of the following was a significant factor in the decline of the Sumerian civilization?  
☐ a) Invasion by the Akkadians ☐ b) Drought and famine ☐ c) Internal conflicts and power struggles ☐ d) All of the above
7. What was the role of the Sumerian temple in the city-state?  
☐ a) Center of worship and religion ☐ b) Seat of government and administration ☐ c) Marketplace for trade and commerce ☐ d) Educational institution for learning
8. How did the Sumerians contribute to the development of governance?  
☐ a) Creation of a federal system ☐ b) Establishment of a monarchy ☐ c) Development of city-states ☐ d) Introduction of democracy
9. What was the name of the Sumerian god associated with the sky and thunder?  
☐ a) Anu ☐ b) Enlil ☐ c) Enki ☐ d) Inanna
10. Which of the following was a major aspect of Sumerian culture?  
☐ a) Architecture ☐ b) Literature ☐ c) Art ☐ d) All of the above

## Section 2: Short Answer Questions

Answer each question in complete sentences.

1. Analyze the significance of the Code of Ur-Nammu in understanding the social and economic structures of Sumerian society.
2. Describe the importance of the ziggurats in Sumerian cities and their impact on the daily life of citizens.
3. Explain how the Sumerians' use of cuneiform writing contributed to their administrative and economic systems.

### Section 3: Essay Question

Choose one of the following factors that contributed to the decline of the Sumerian civilization: invasion by the Akkadians, drought and famine, or internal conflicts and power struggles. Evaluate the impact of this factor on the civilization's progress and discuss how it affected the daily life of Sumerian citizens.

## **Additional Activities**

Complete the following activities to further demonstrate your understanding of the Sumerian civilization.

1. Create a timeline of major events in Sumerian history.
2. Draw a diagram of a Sumerian city-state, including the ziggurat and other important features.
3. Write a short story about a day in the life of a Sumerian citizen.

## Assessment Rubric

The assessment will be graded based on the following criteria:

- Multiple Choice Questions: 1-5 (1 point each), 6-10 (2 points each)
- Short Answer Questions: 1-3 (5 points each)
- Essay Question: 20 points
- Additional Activities: 10 points

## Teaching Tips

To effectively teach this assessment, consider the following strategies:

- Provide an introductory lesson on Sumerian history and culture to ensure students have a solid foundation of knowledge.
- Offer guided practice activities to help students develop their critical thinking and analytical skills.
- Use formative assessments throughout the unit to monitor students' progress and adjust instruction accordingly.
- Provide regular feedback to students on their performance and offer suggestions for improvement.

## **Evidence Collection Methods**

The following methods will be used to collect evidence of student learning:

- Student work samples from the assessment
- Observations of students during the assessment
- Self-assessment and reflection by students

## **Feedback Opportunities**

The following opportunities will be provided for feedback:

- Immediate feedback during the assessment
- Delayed feedback after the assessment, providing suggestions for improvement and areas for further study
- Peer feedback and discussion



## Extension Activity

For gifted and talented students, provide an additional essay question that requires students to evaluate the impact of Sumerian contributions on modern societies.

## **Accommodations**

The following accommodations will be made for students with special needs:

- Provide extra time for students with learning difficulties or disabilities.
- Offer the use of a word processor or other assistive technology for students with writing difficulties.
- Provide a graphic organizer to help students structure their thoughts and allocate their time effectively.
- Offer a glossary of key terms and concepts related to Sumerian history and culture for English language learners.

## Cultural and Linguistic Diversity

To promote cultural and linguistic diversity, consider the following strategies:

- Encourage students to share their own cultural perspectives on the significance of Sumerian contributions to human history.

## Advanced Concepts

The Sumerian civilization was known for its advanced concepts in governance, architecture, and engineering. One of the most significant contributions of the Sumerians was the development of the concept of city-states, where each city was an independent state with its own government and laws. This concept allowed for the growth of trade, commerce, and culture, and paved the way for the development of modern cities.

### Case Study: The City-State of Ur

The city-state of Ur is a prime example of the advanced concepts of the Sumerians. Located in southern Mesopotamia, Ur was a major center of trade and commerce, and its government was known for its efficiency and fairness. The city was ruled by a king, who was advised by a council of elders, and its laws were codified in the Code of Ur-Nammu. The city's architecture was also notable, with the famous ziggurat of Ur being one of the most impressive examples of Sumerian engineering.

#### Example: The Code of Ur-Nammu

The Code of Ur-Nammu is one of the oldest surviving law codes in the world, and it provides valuable insights into the social and economic structures of Sumerian society. The code covers a wide range of topics, including trade, marriage, and crime, and it demonstrates the advanced concepts of justice and fairness that were prevalent in Sumerian society.

## **Sumerian Culture and Society**

Sumerian culture and society were known for their richness and diversity. The Sumerians were a polytheistic people, worshipping a wide range of gods and goddesses, each with their own powers and responsibilities. They also had a strong tradition of literature and poetry, with the Epic of Gilgamesh being one of the most famous examples of Sumerian literature.

### **Case Study: The Epic of Gilgamesh**

The Epic of Gilgamesh is one of the most famous works of Sumerian literature, and it tells the story of the king of Uruk, Gilgamesh, and his adventures. The epic explores themes of friendship, love, and the human condition, and it provides valuable insights into Sumerian culture and society. The epic was written in cuneiform script on clay tablets, and it is considered one of the greatest works of literature in the ancient world.

### **Example: Sumerian Art and Architecture**

Sumerian art and architecture were known for their beauty and sophistication. The Sumerians developed a unique style of art that was characterized by the use of clay, stone, and metal, and their architecture was notable for its use of arches, domes, and ziggurats. The Sumerians also developed a system of writing, known as cuneiform, which was used to record laws, business transactions, and literary works.

## **Sumerian Contributions to Modern Society**

The Sumerians made significant contributions to modern society, including the development of writing, the concept of city-states, and the creation of sophisticated systems of government and law. The Sumerians also made important contributions to the fields of mathematics, astronomy, and medicine, and their legacy can be seen in the modern societies of the Middle East and beyond.

### **Case Study: The Sumerian Legacy in Modern Iraq**

The Sumerian legacy can be seen in modern Iraq, where the ancient city of Ur is located. The city is a major tourist destination, and its ancient ruins provide a glimpse into the advanced concepts and sophisticated culture of the Sumerians. The Iraqi government has also recognized the importance of the Sumerian legacy, and has taken steps to preserve and protect the country's cultural heritage.

### **Example: The Sumerian Influence on Modern Law**

The Sumerian influence can be seen in modern law, where the concept of codified laws and the idea of justice and fairness are still prevalent. The Code of Ur-Nammu is considered one of the earliest surviving law codes, and its influence can be seen in the laws of modern societies around the world. The Sumerians also developed a system of courts and judges, which is still used in modern societies today.

## **Conclusion**

In conclusion, the Sumerian civilization was a significant and influential civilization that made important contributions to modern society. The Sumerians developed advanced concepts in governance, architecture, and engineering, and their legacy can be seen in the modern societies of the Middle East and beyond. The study of Sumerian history and culture provides valuable insights into the development of human civilization, and highlights the importance of preserving and protecting our cultural heritage.

## **Case Study: The Importance of Preserving Cultural Heritage**

The preservation of cultural heritage is essential for understanding the development of human civilization. The study of Sumerian history and culture provides a unique glimpse into the advanced concepts and sophisticated culture of the Sumerians, and highlights the importance of preserving and protecting our cultural heritage for future generations.

## **Example: The Sumerian Legacy in Modern Education**

The Sumerian legacy can be seen in modern education, where the study of Sumerian history and culture is an important part of the curriculum. The study of Sumerian history and culture provides valuable insights into the development of human civilization, and highlights the importance of preserving and protecting our cultural heritage. The Sumerians also developed a system of education, where students were taught reading, writing, and mathematics, which is still used in modern societies today.

# Glossary of Terms

The following glossary of terms provides definitions for key concepts and terms related to Sumerian history and culture.

- Cuneiform: a system of writing developed by the Sumerians
- City-state: a self-governing city that is independent of other cities
- Ziggurat: a stepped pyramid temple complex built by the Sumerians
- Code of Ur-Nammu: a law code developed by the Sumerians
- Epic of Gilgamesh: a famous work of Sumerian literature



## **Bibliography**

The following bibliography provides a list of sources used in the study of Sumerian history and culture.

- The Epic of Gilgamesh
- The Code of Ur-Nammu
- A History of the Sumerians
- Sumerian Culture and Society

# Index

The following index provides a list of key terms and concepts related to Sumerian history and culture.

- Sumerian civilization
- City-states
- Ziggurats
- Code of Ur-Nammu
- Epic of Gilgamesh

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