

**Aim 7: What was the government like in the city-states of Ancient Mesopotamia?**

**Do Now: What is a city? What is a state?**

**HW: Bring in your text book for tomorrow's class!**



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## **City-States and Government**

**City-State - is a city that is a very small country. It controls all the countryside around it.**

### **3 Challenges for City-States:**

- 1. Hostile invaders**
- 2. Lack of water**
- 3. Had to trade for necessary materials-stones, metals and timber in order to build.**

## Government:

- Each city-state built a temple to a specific god that guarded their city.
- Temple priests became the first governors of city-states.
- Later arguments over water and land so leaders were elected and they became kings.
- City-states were ruled by 2 groups:
  1. ***Priests*** - ruled religion and economy
  2. ***Kings*** - ruled politics and military

(Kings fought each other and conquered cities; some made empires out of the lands they conquered. An empire is a group of countries under one ruler's control.)



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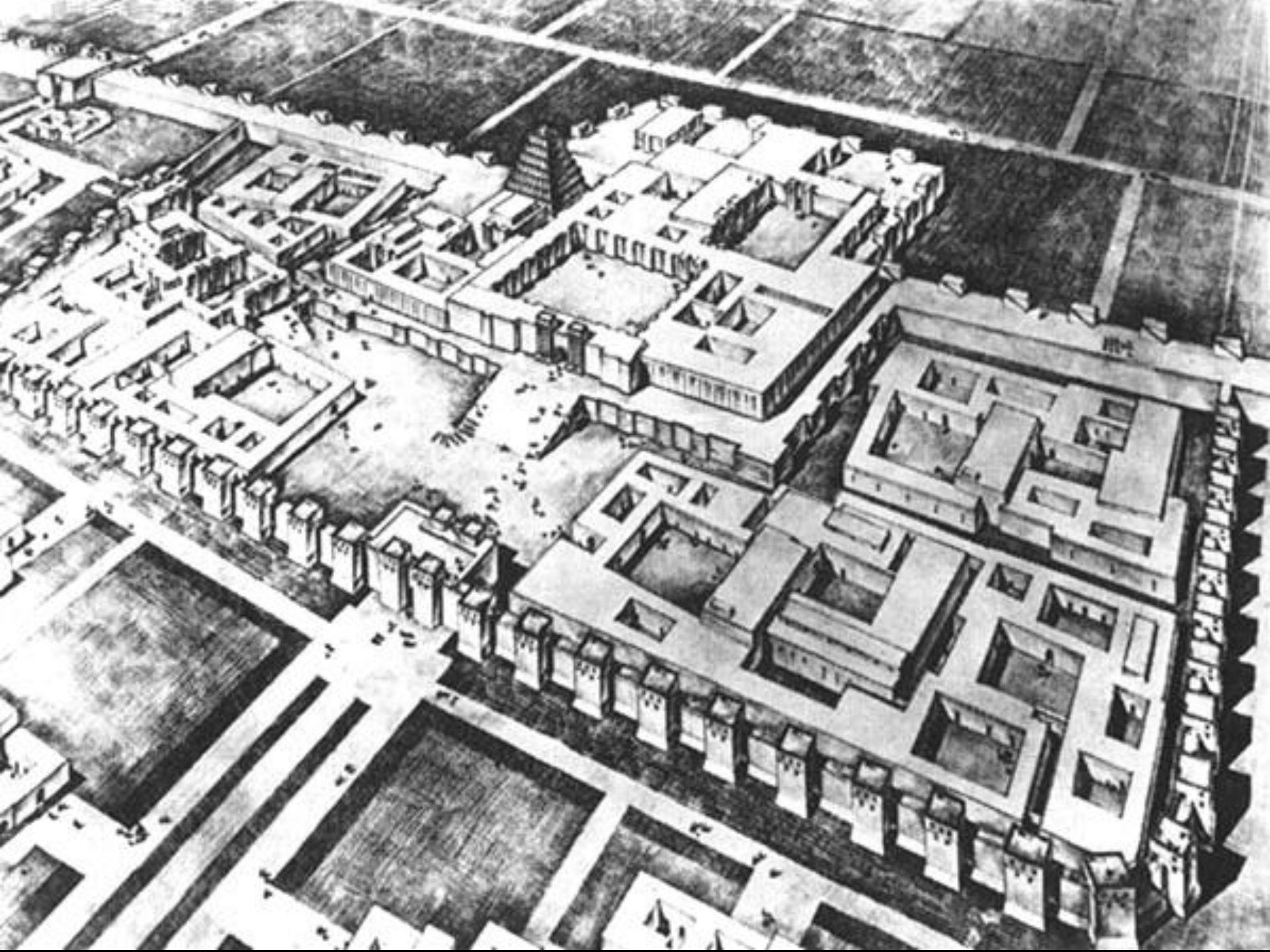
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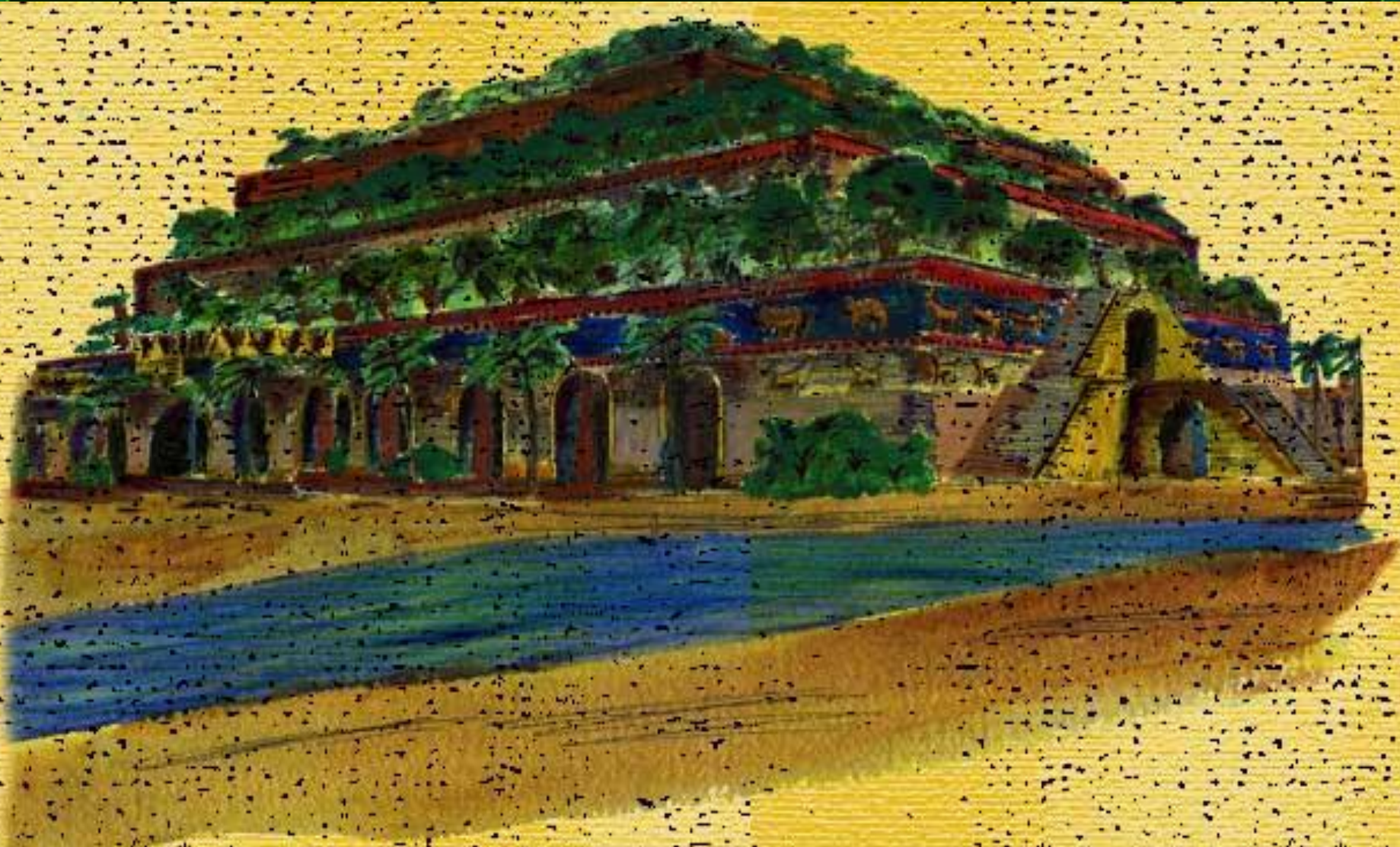


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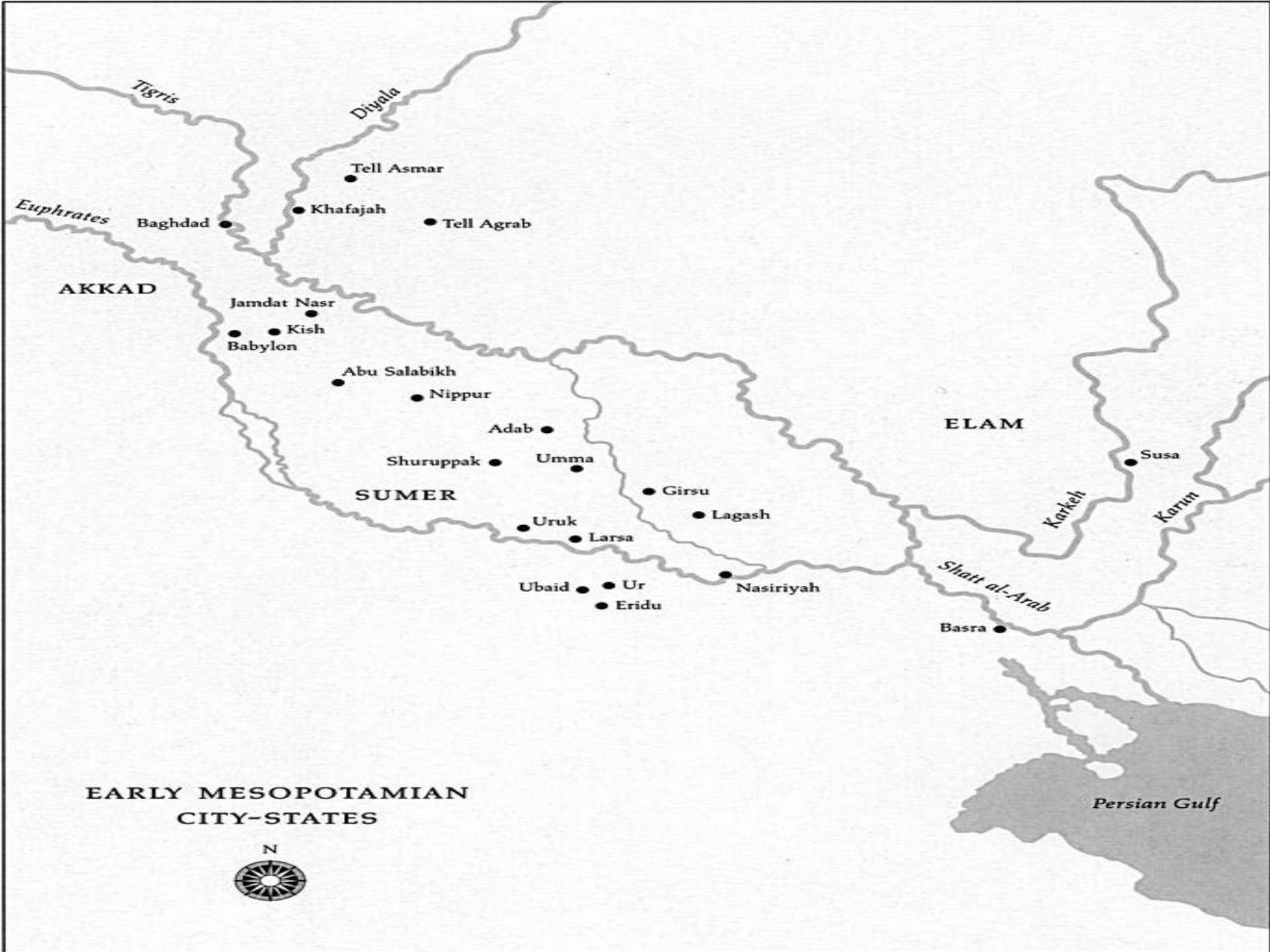
# Hanging Gardens of Babylon





# Mesopotamian Home







## History Close-up

# The City-State of Ur

Ur was one of the earliest and largest cities of ancient Mesopotamia. This great trading center and port was home to roughly 30,000 people. Located on the Euphrates River near the Persian Gulf, Ur carried on a rich trade with merchants from distant lands like India. This illustration shows what Ur may have looked like around 2000 BC.

Massive walls protected Ur from attack.

Most of the city was filled with a maze of houses and shops.

A giant temple dedicated to the moon god Nanna and his wife Ningal dominated the city.

Farmers grew crops like wheat and barley outside the city's walls.

Canals connected Ur to the nearby Euphrates River.

Inside the city's walls was another canal and a large harbor, where foreigners docked their boats while they traded with Ur's merchants.

**ANALYSIS SKILL** ANALYZING VISUALS

What can you see in this illustration that shows Ur was an advanced city?



# **Independent Work:**

**1. What three challenges did city states face?**

**2. Who ruled the city states?**

**3. If you ruled a city state what would it be named?  
How would you rule it?**



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