

# **Aim 10: What are some of the achievements of the ancient Sumerians?**

**Do Now: What is an Achievement?  
What are some of your own  
personal achievements?**

**HW: Complete the Table  
comparing Ancient Mesopotamian  
Achievements to the present day  
using p 143-147.**

# Cuneiform

- ▣ Cuneiform is the world's first system of writing.
- ▣ Sumerians did not use pens or pencils, but sharp tools called Styluses to make wedge-shaped symbols on clay tablets.





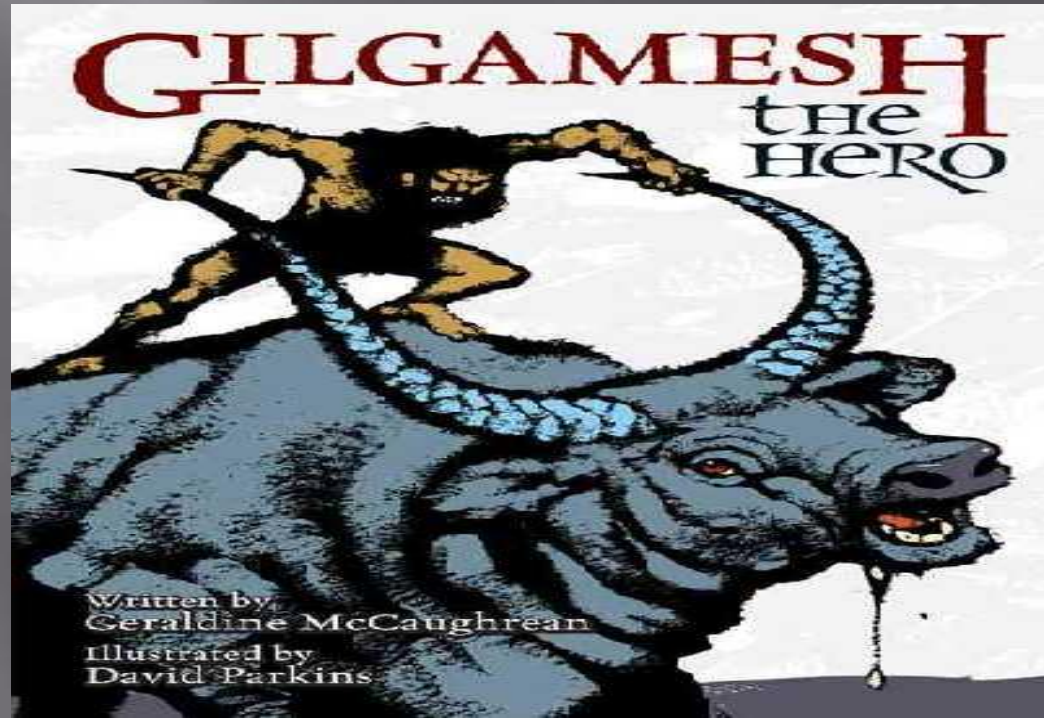
- ▣ Sumerians used Cuneiform to keep business records.
- ▣ A Scribe, or writer, was hired to keep track of the items people traded. They were also hired by temples and the government to keep records.
- ▣ This was a good career and required a lot of schooling.



# Epics

- ▣ Epics are long poems that tell the stories of heroes.
- ▣ They included stories of gods and great military victories.

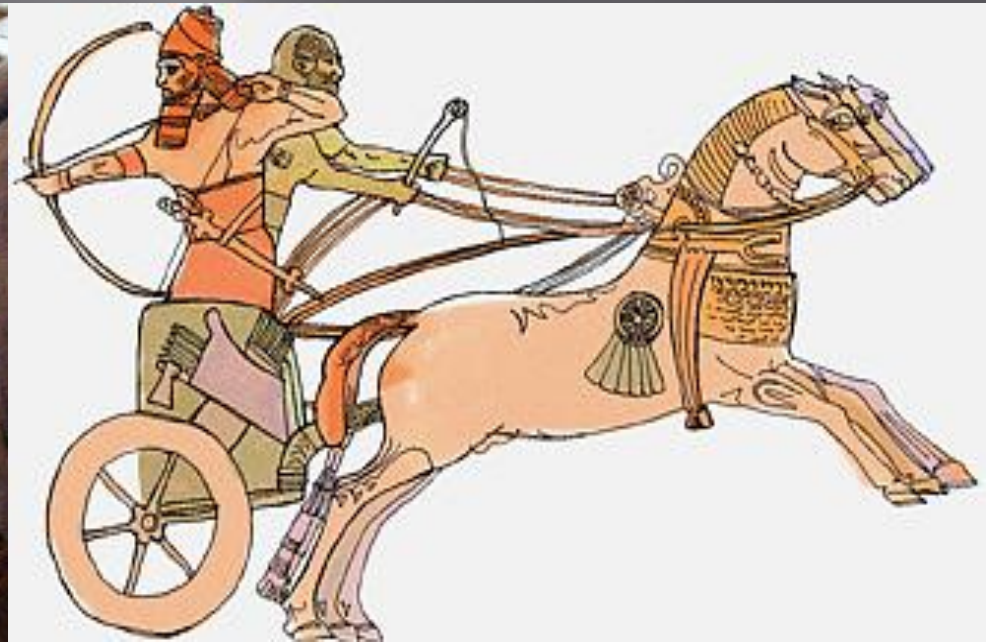
*(The Epic of Gilgamesh is an example of an Epic.)*





# The Wheel

- ▣ This was probably the Sumerians' most important development.
- ▣ Potter's wheels helped craftsman create ceramics.
- ▣ Chariots, a wheeled, horse-drawn cart used in battle, were also developed in ancient Mesopotamia.



# Independent Work:

- ▣ These are just a few of the achievements of ancient Mesopotamia. On new page in your NB, draw a table with two long columns.
- ▣ As you read through the chapter (p143), list in one column the different Sumerian achievements in writing, technology, art etc.
- ▣ Once you have finished listing them, fill in the other column explaining whether we still use that achievement today.

# Ancient

## Mesopotamia:

1. Cuneiform

2. Scribes

# Today:

1. Cuneiform is not used today.

2. Today we have people who are similar to ancient scribes, like court scribes.