

Learning Mesopotamian  
civilization terms through  
English children mythology  
تعلم مصطلحات حضارة بلاد ما  
بين النهرين عن طريق الاساطير  
الانكليزية للاطفال



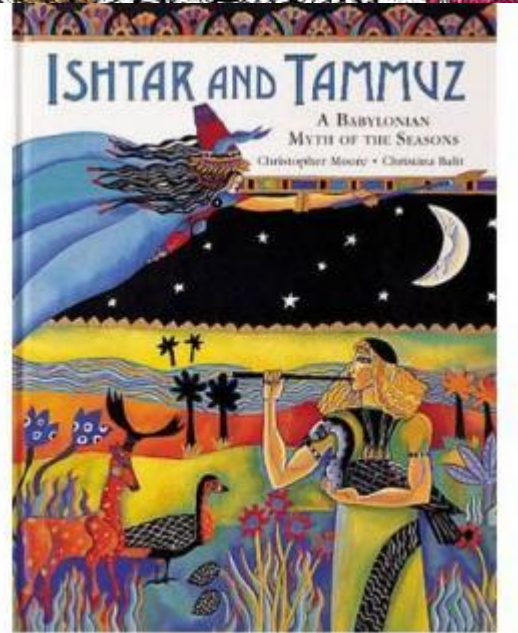
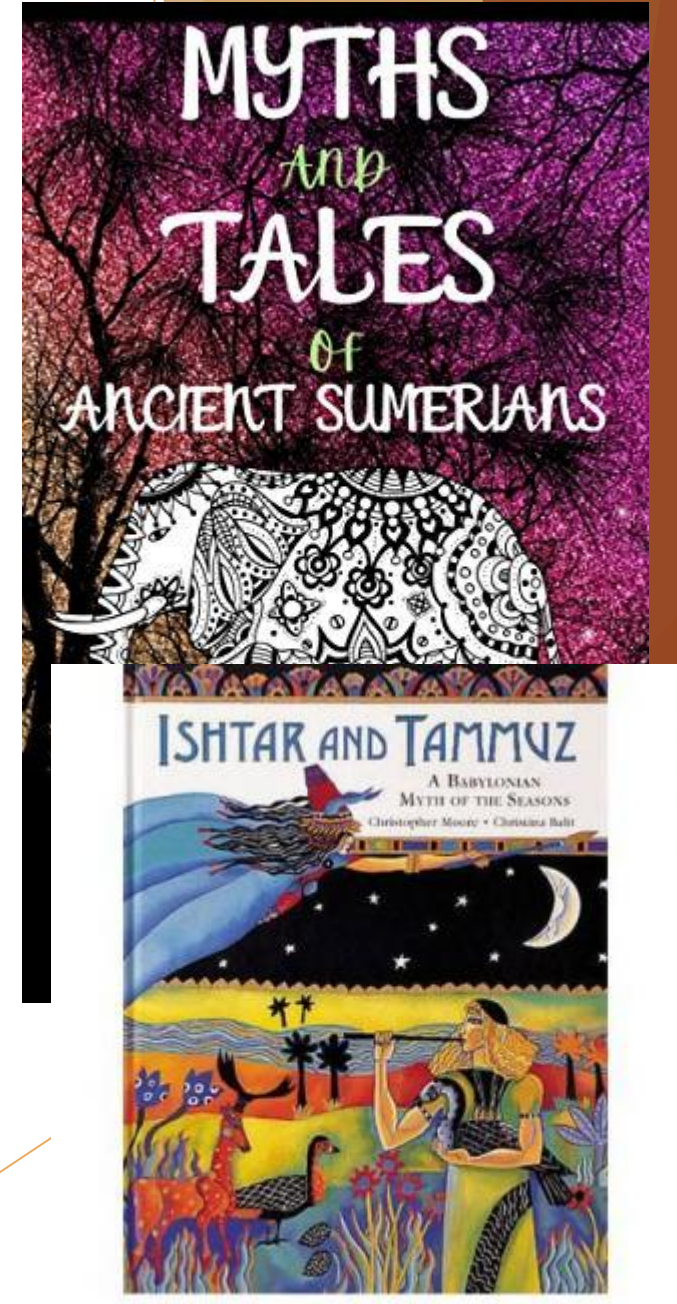
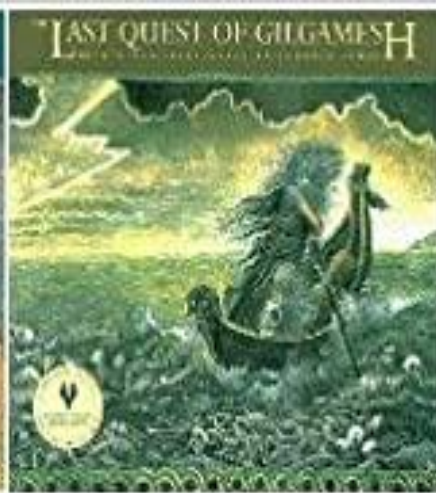
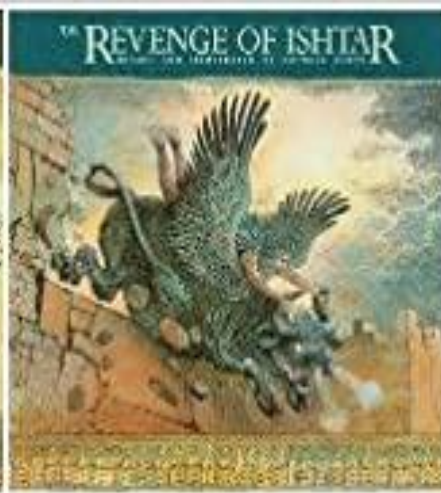
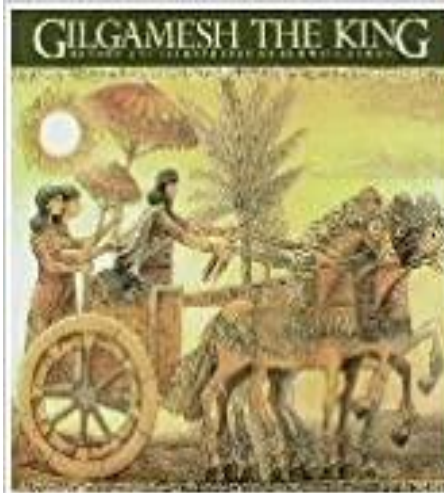
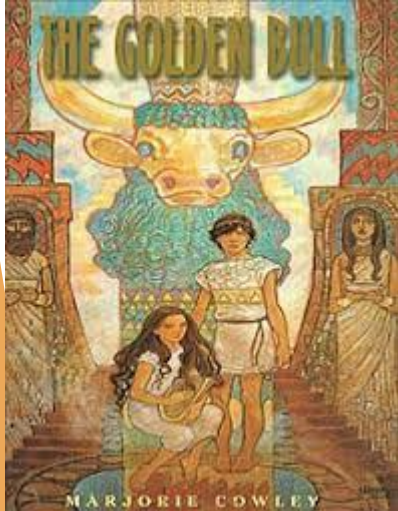
Prof. Ansam Yaroub Khyoon

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# محاو؁ الندوة

- ▶ تسلط الضوء على عمق اهتمام الغرب بحضارة بلاد ما بين النهرين والحرص على نقلها الى اطفالهم عن طريق القصص والتي تدرس ايضا في مدارسهم ضمن تاريخ الاختراعات والحضارات.
- ▶ عرض مبسط ومختصر لجزء من ملحمة كلكامش المخصصة لاطفال المدارس الاجانب.
- ▶ عرض منوع لمصطلحات الحضارة التي وردت في الملحمة مع تصنيفها وتعريف كل مصطلح.
- ▶ مسابقة عن المصطلحات التي تم عرضها في الندوة.



# Mesopotamian symbols

- ▶ Ludmila Zeman's *Gilgamesh The King* trilogy is selected to analyze Mesopotamian symbolism and terminology showing the original symbols as preserved in museums around the world.

Mesopotamian symbols included :

- ▶ Famous names أسماء مشهورة

Enkidu انكيدو / Gilgamesh كلكامش

- ▶ Deities الهة

Utu شمش / Ishtar عشتار

- ▶ Sumerian inventions الاختراعات السومرية

cuneiform المسمارية , wheel العجلة , chariot العربة , musical instruments الآلات الموسيقية

- ▶ Famous creatures المخلوقات المشهورة

the human - winged bull الثور المجنح , the Mesopotamian dragon التنين ,

- ▶ Buildings الابنية

ziggurat الزقورة

# Kings & Deities



# Gilgamesh

Gilgamesh is one of the well known ancient Mesopotamian characters ever. The historical records of Gilgamesh have two approaches; according to official history, Gilgamesh was most likely an ancient Sumerian king. On the other hand, he appears as an epic hero throughout literature, mythology, and Mesopotamian folklore and ancient tradition of the country. (Pryke, 2019,p.73 ). Gilgamesh was credited for rebuilding Uruk city, especially the great walls of Uruk (Captivating History, 2019, p.112 ).



Gilgamesh had long thick curly hair and a beard .

Gilgamesh is always portrayed with a lion as we see in the clay tablet on the right



# Ishtar



Innana Ishtar was one of the major Goddesses of Mesopotamian Pantheon and the most significant Female goddess in all ancient Mesopotamian's time. Scholars have described the powerful and popular goddess Ishtar. She is portrayed as a longhaired lady wearing a long robe, a horned helmet, and carrying weapons on her back in many situations. The weapons are seen as symbols of her role as the deity of war ([Sugimoto, 2014, p,15](#)). In other representations, Ishtar is typically shown seated on a throne, or standing proudly, or marching out like a warrior. She has wings at times and is linked with birds, such as the owl. She wears a big deity's high horned crown.



# Sun God

- ▶ The Sun God in Akkadian language Shamash, and in Sumerian Utu. Some myths has it that Shamash is the daughter of Ishtar and Sin, the god of moon together forming astral triad of deities. ( de Lafayette, 2014) In other sources Ishtar is his sister. ( Murray, 2022) He is described as “The supreme judge of heaven and earth” and “the Lord of all living creatures” the word shams in Arabic which means sun is derived from Shamash ( de Lafayette, 2014). According to the legend, the Babylonian king Hammurabi received his codes of Laws from Shamash because he is the judge of both men and gods (Kuiper, 2011) The god of justice who punishes the unjust. His symbol is the solar disc. He was worshiped in Eridu and Larsa in Sumer and have a temple called “the Shining House” (Bertman , 2005) At night he becomes the judge of the underworld. He is pictured seated on his throne holding the symbols of righteousness and justice in his hand a ring and a staff. A notched dagger. He moved across heavens and skies on boat, chariot, or horseback. He is the only heroic god pictured in mythology (Kuiper, 2011). The sun god played an essential role in the child's narrative, She presented him in the whole story by drawing either the sun or its rays.

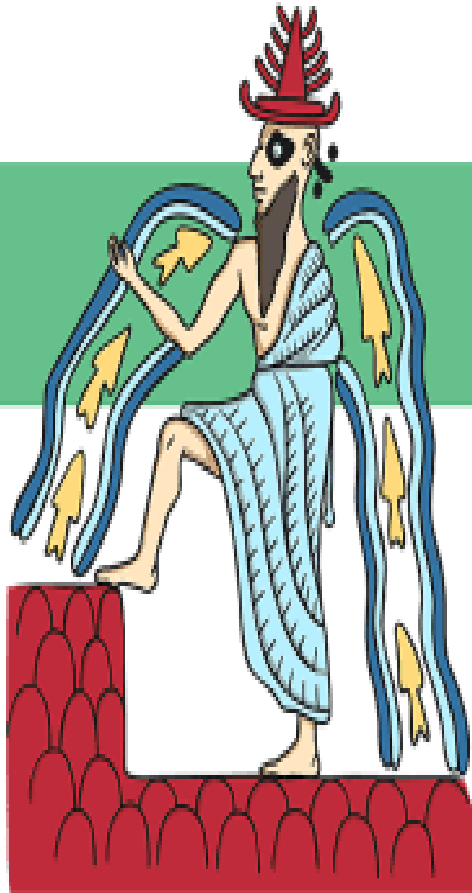






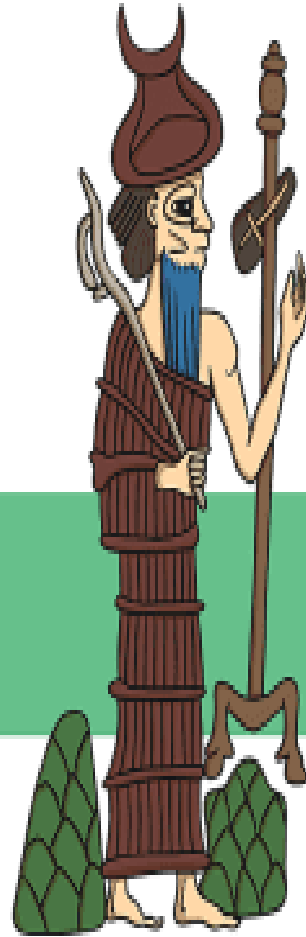
## Enlil

The god of air or lord of the ghost land.



## Enki

The god of water.



## Sin

The moon god.



## Utu

The sun god.

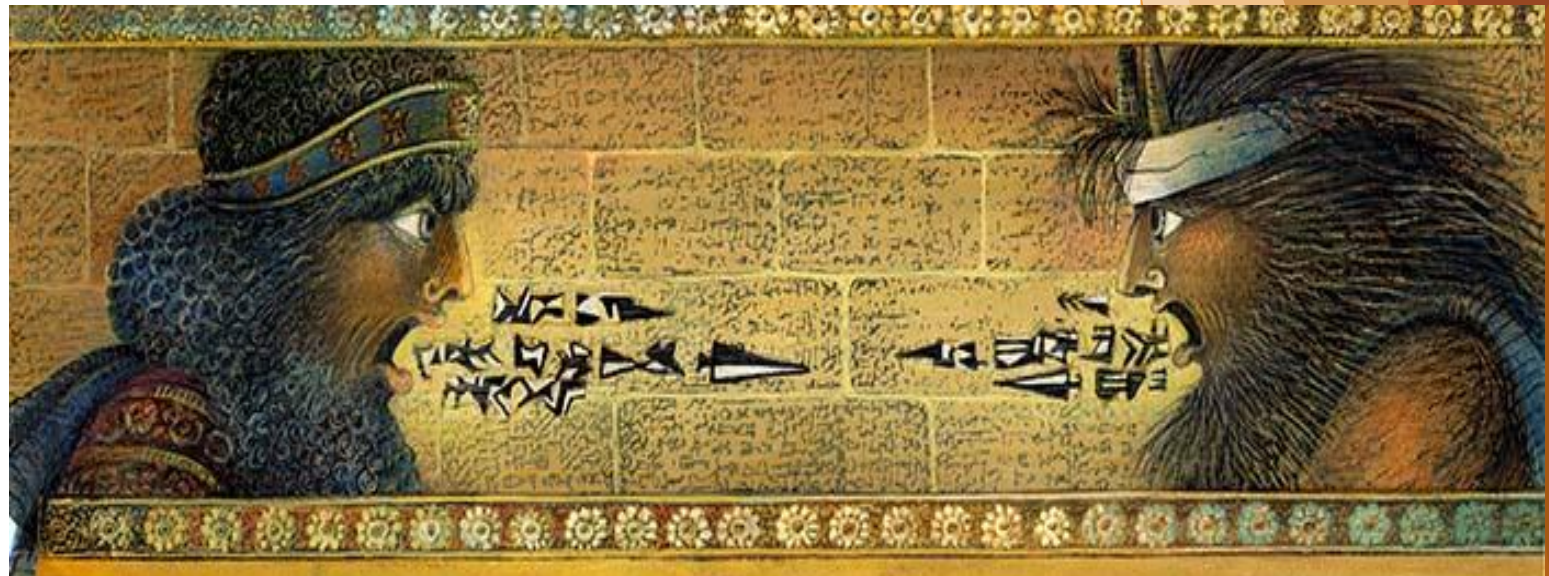
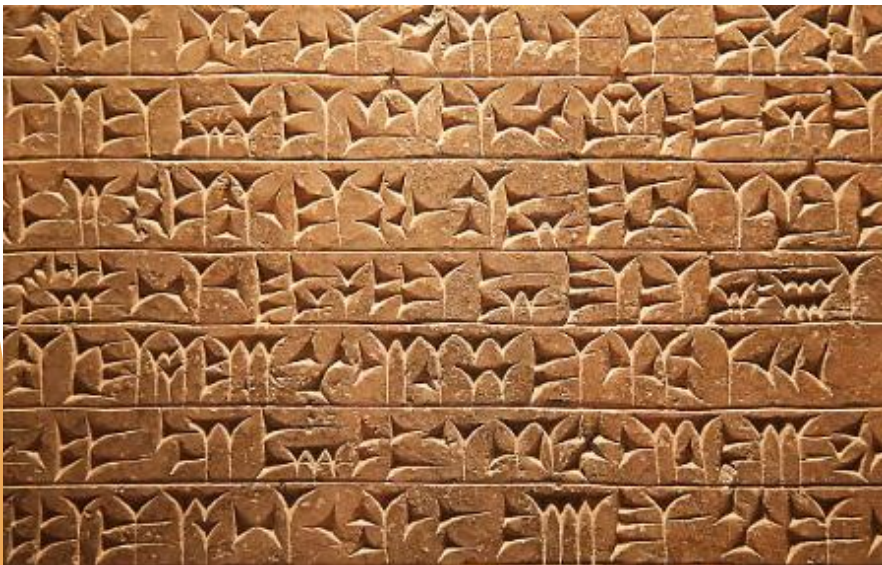


# Sumerian Inventions



# Cuneiform Writing

- ▶ The essential invention of Sumerian civilization Ludmila Zeman portrayed in her illustration is the cuneiform script, one of the first writing system in the world (Captivating History 2019, 90). Samuel Noah Kramer said in his book *History begins at Sumer* (1981), the Sumerian wrote on clay as a consequence of their administrative and economic necessities. The earlier writing used pictographs or picture symbols but progressively refined and shaped their writing system to the point where it lost its pictographic character and became a highly conventionalized and entirely phonetic method of writing.



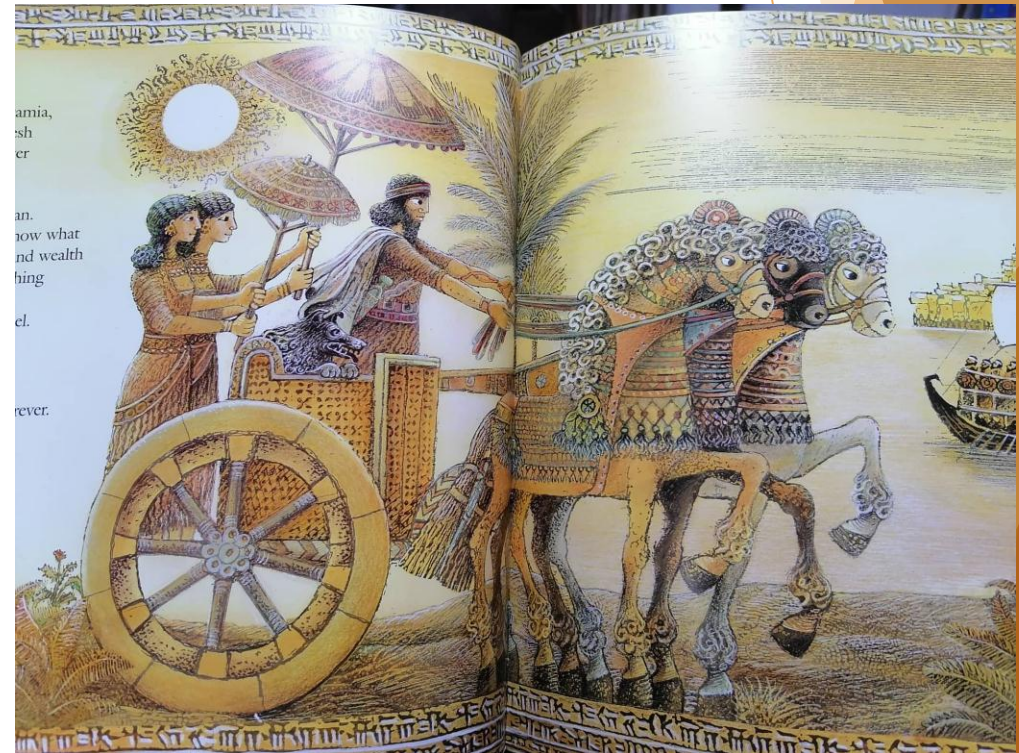
# The Wheel



- ▶ Zeman conveys the Sumerian way of living, and their inventions and achievements through her illustration drawings more than her writing of the story. One of the most frequent graphics in the adaptation story are the wheel and the sailboat. The vehicles were used for transporting people, goods and it had been used for construction process to convey the heavy rocks or blocks. Also they used the sleds to pulled large rocks by animals or by people. As in Zeman's adaptation the slaves of Uruk were pulling the winged bull by using the sleds and then again three of them in the last page( Captivating History, 2019,p. 80).

# Sumerian Chariots

- ▶ The Sumerian also had chariots with two wheels made out of wood pulled by animals, which it illustrated clearly in the first page of Zeman's story where Gilgamesh had appeared riding the chariot with his dog and two women, second page used by slaves to carry bricks, third page chariots of god, and fourth page used by the hunter for transportation, and in the final pages during celebration procession. In the *Revenge of Ishtar* the Chariots were used for starting a war on Humbaba and the famous Ishtar chariots were illustrated as well.

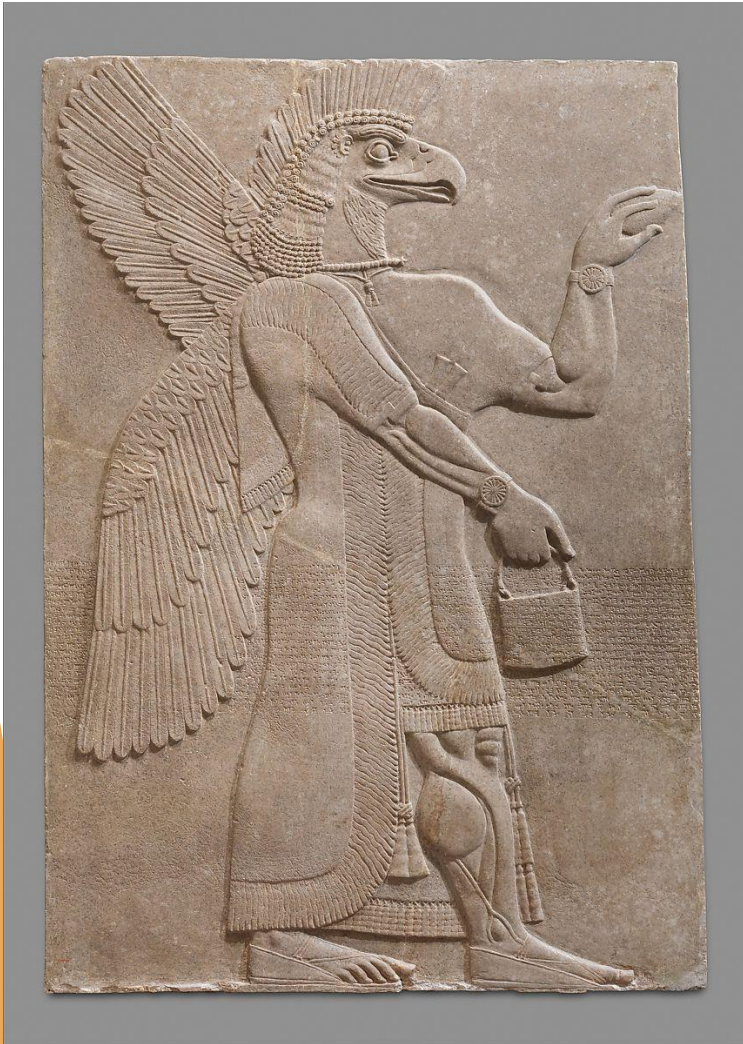


# Musical Instruments : The Golden Harp

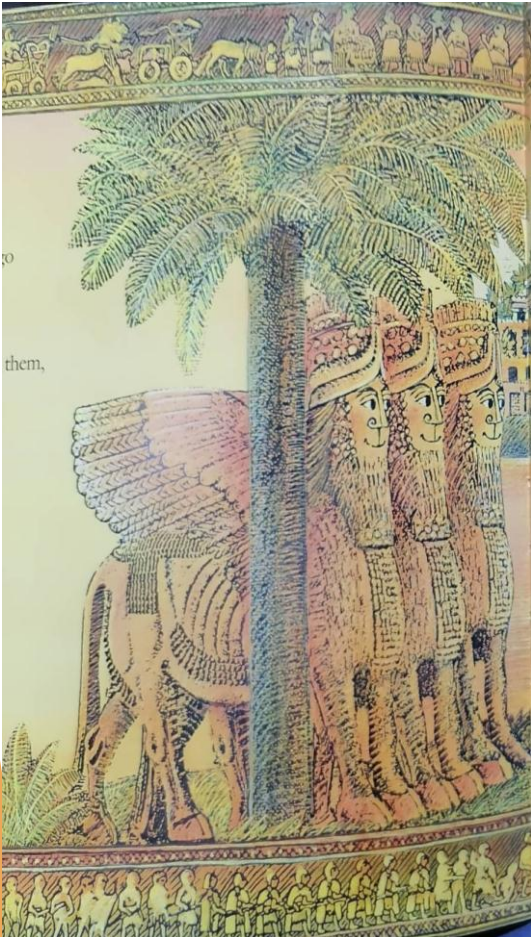
- ▶ The people in the adapted story were celebrating every occasion, which what specialised the Sumerian, they appreciated art and music which led to the invention of the golden harp that appeared frequently the adapted story. The beautiful designed harps and lyres discovered in archaeological temples, castles, and royal tombs have been almost probably served as musical instruments during feasts and ceremonies (Borbon et al., 2000, p.8).



# Mesopotamian Creatures



# The Human - Headed Winged Bull ((Lamassu))



- ▶ The Human - headed Winged Bull is called Lamassu, it is considered a protective deity. Zeman skilfully illustrates this iconic bull with its horned cap as a sign of its divinity, having a human head, body of a bull or a lion as a symbol of power, and gigantic bird's wings. She also concentrated on the bull having five legs to show the bull standing firmly when viewed from the front and striding when viewed from the side. ( Captivating History, 2019,p. 80).

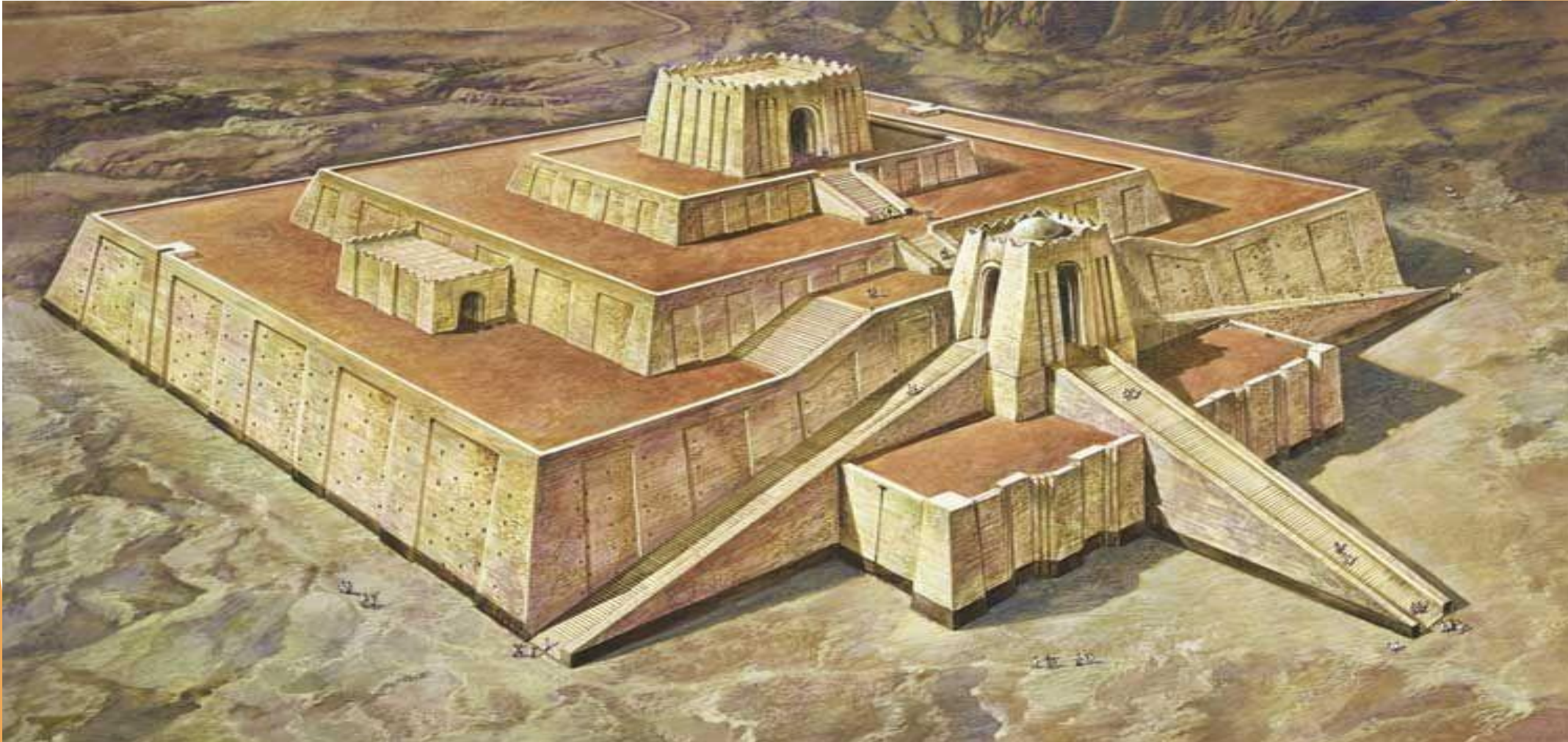


# Mesopotamian Dragon

- ▶ Mushhushshu was a heavenly creature owned by Marduk. The name means furious snake but the animal's body is made up of a snake's head and scales, a lion's legs, a scorpion's stinger and the claws of eagle. On Babylon's Ishtar Gate, this Mushhushshu was one of the protective animal statues ([Mushhushshu Dragon, Symbol of the God Marduk, n.d.](#)).



# Mesopotamian Architecture



# Ziggurat

- ▶ The Sumerian used mud in the construction process but they were not the first as *Kramer* said that the Sumerian were used brickmold in their impressive castles and temples known as ziggurats. The height of a ziggurat would normally be a god's temple, hence the purpose of that terraced and staircase construction intends bring man closer to the deities ( Captivating History, 2019, p. 88). They were concentrated within separate city-states surrounded by reinforced walls to defend them from invasion.



# External links

- ▶ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1ukayVgRyoE>
- ▶ [ملحمة كلكامش بالعربية بطريقة ممتعة](#)
- ▶ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SmYt8pz6ReQ>
- ▶ ملحمة كلكامش بالعربي والانكليزي للاطفال