
Chapter 6 Notes

Bellwork

1. Which queen does the book mention whose tomb had never been looted by grave robbers and featured miscellaneous Mesopotamian items, including a sculpted head of a cow?
2. True or False: Women held some high positions of power in Mesopotamia between 2,600 and 2,300 BCE.
3. Leaders of Sumerian cities built _____ that surrounded each of their cities so that they would be better-protected.



Queens

Queen Puabi's corpse/tomb

Sir Leonard Woolley discovered her tomb; looters never looted its belongings

There was a gold cup in her hand

A body hidden by beads of gold and silver

She had good teeth

The bones showed she spent a lot of time squatting at her knees

Two servants buried with her, dozens of skeletons outside of tomb (this was common)

Puabi was either the wife or mother of a king; possibly a priestess called a “nin”



Puabi's Golden Tumbler



Puabi's Silver Lions Head



Puabi's Ostrich Egg

Roles of women and men

Women held high positions in Mesopotamia around 2600 – 2300 BCE

Unusual compared to other ancient civilizations

No gold or silver mines in Mesopotamia proving the importance and existence of trade

Kings begin ruling in Sumer (Southern Mesopotamia) around 2900 BCE

title “lugal” or “big man” became Sumerian word for “king”

Sumerian Kings

Sumerian King List

2100 BCE, a scribe wrote down some early Sumerian kings on a tablet

They typically had long reigns

King Alulim: ruled 28,800 years; Alagar: ruled 36,000 years

Kings ruled whole land from a capital city, yet no king really controlled more than the land around his own capital



Progression of Cities

Earliest known royal inscription: Mebaragesi, King of Kish (2600 BCE)

Many small kingdoms existed during this time period

Scribes kept track of everything including warfare and kingly organization

Kingdoms became better organized = better protected

There were walls erected

Men were “drafted” to do these tasks

Cuneiform tablets listed workers' names, days of service, amount of barley for food

Continuation

First organized governments were born out of these Sumerian city-states

Mesopotamian kings were the first to convince their people that they “needed” their gods

Sometimes Sumerian city-states joined forces to defend themselves against an outside attacker

