

History

The first cities

Book: Exploring the First Civilisations

Pages 14-19

Students: Fill in the answers and return for assessment

Everything here is based on our Curriculum Visions book Exploring the First Civilisations.

You can open this book online now by clicking on the book cover. It will open in a new window or tab.

In this segment, we are going to more about the large Mesopotamian city of Ur and some of the amazing temples and art that could be found there.

You will need to go to pages 14-15 of the book.

Part 1

Compare the size of the city of Ur to the city you live in. Which one is larger? How are the buildings in your city different from the ones in Ur?

Answer ...

Students' own answers.

What happened that allowed the first city to be built? Why was it built near to the water?

Answer ...

The farmers grew more food than they needed, so some people could do jobs other than farming in exchange for food the farmers grew.

It was built near water so water for drinking and growing crops was nearby, and so they could use the waterways for trade (e.g. use boats to transport goods and people).

Now turn to pages 16-17 of the book

Part 2

Design a ziggurat and draw a picture of it. Remember that it is a temple for the gods - what kinds of things do you think it should include? Why do you think the ziggurats were made to be very tall?

Answer ...

Students' own drawings. They should give the drawing stepped sides, rather than straight sides, and may include ramps, decorations or a coloured surface, a shrine

or temple at the top.

Students may answer the last question by saying that the ziggurat was built tall to be near the gods, or to honour the gods with a huge 'home', or so that it would stand out and show that the gods were important to them, etc.

Now turn to pages 18-19

Part 3

Take a look at the Mesopotamian artworks on pages 18 and 19. What can you tell about the Mesopotamian people from looking at the artworks?

Answer ...

Students' answers may include that Mesopotamian men all had beards and the way they styled their beards, that women did not appear often in art, that the Mesopotamians used different art forms (sculpture, mosaic, etc.), that they used bronze, that colour was an important part of their art, etc.

That is the end of this webcast, and you can now turn to another one. Also, find out if your teacher has left you any other worksheets or special instructions on your school website.

If you are interested in this topic, continue to browse the book and watch our amazing videos. They start right on the book cover.

Or you may need to see related books. If so just go to the top of the screen, select History and from the page that opens choose First Civilisations.

Remember, too, you can go to our safe search and type in any word about First Civilisations.