

Atlas, 3100 BCE

1. Open the ATLAS to the year 3100 BCE. Go to the Near East and click twice on Sumer. This is the time period and location in which the first writing systems developed.
2. Click on the city of Erech (also known as Uruk) and read the text. You will read a famous ancient text about a king from this city in a future class.
3. Explore the other ancient Sumerian cities -- Ur, Lagash, Nippur, Kish, Sippar, Shuruppak, and Eridu – and read the accompanying texts.
4. Consider and be prepared to discuss the following questions:

What do we know about ancient Sumerian civilization?

What do you think was important to their society?