

# UNIT 3

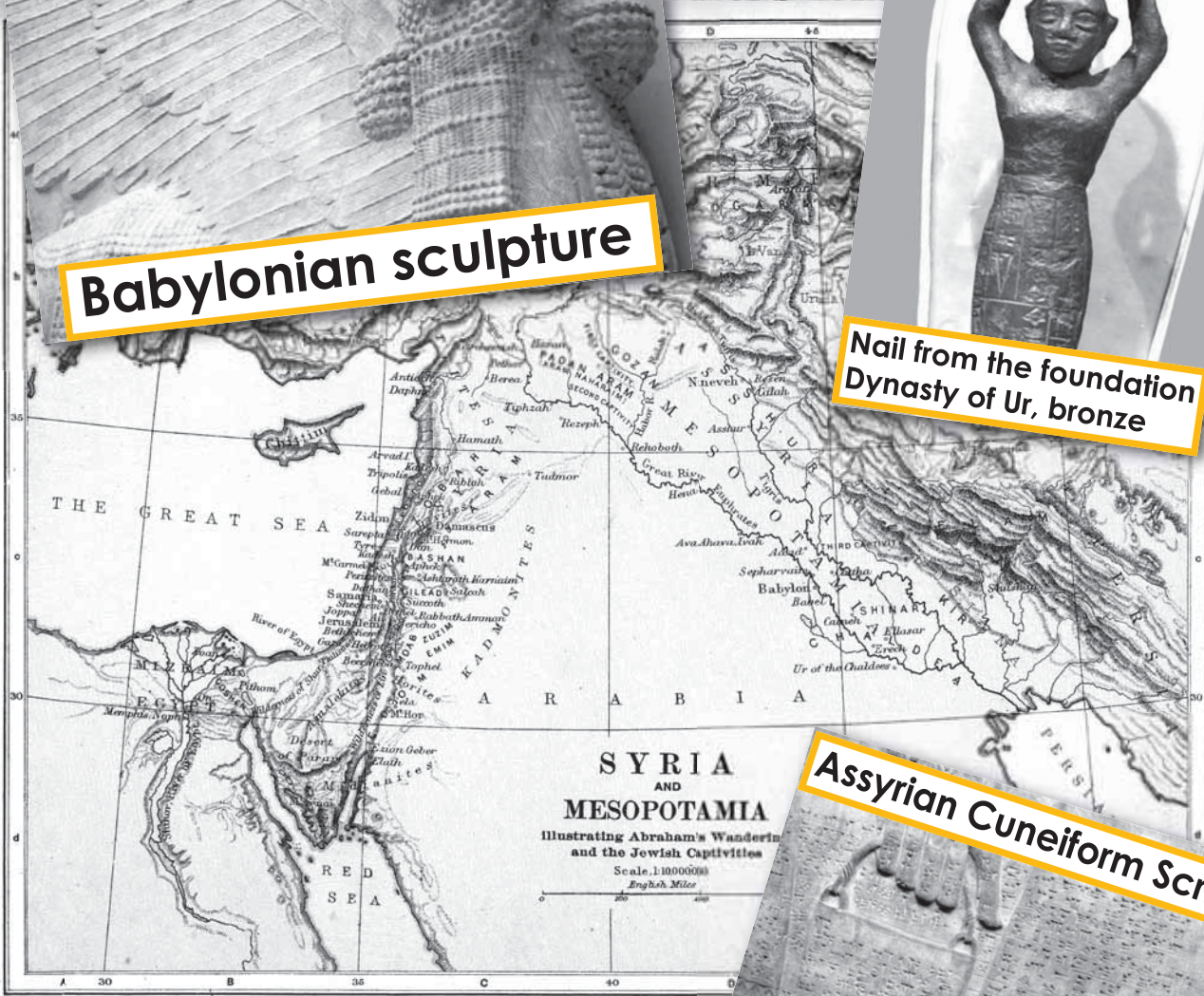
EXPLORE Early Civilizations



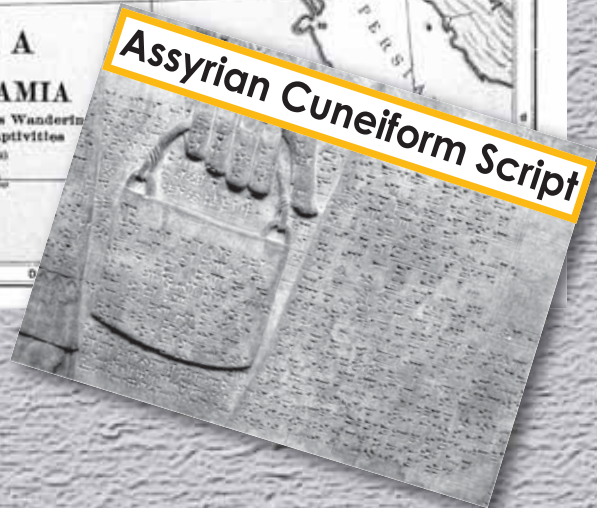
**Babylonian sculpture**



**Nail from the foundation Dynasty of Ur, bronze**



**Syria and Mesopotamia retro map**



**Assyrian Cuneiform Script**



**Power Words** - provided, abundant, abundance, erratic, continuous, conversely, flooded, destroyed, irrigation, supply, storage, basins, innovations, ingenious, feast, famine, surplus

## EXPLORE Agriculture in Mesopotamia

The early inhabitants of Mesopotamia lived on land that was between two rivers. These rivers should have provided enough water to create abundant crops. Farming should have been easy, but this was not always the case. The water supplied to the crops from the river was erratic. There were continuous changes in the water levels of the rivers. When there was no rain, the water levels in the rivers became low. This meant that there was not enough water for the crops. Conversely, when there was too much rain, the water levels became high. This resulted in flooding and destruction of the crops.



The Mesopotamians were an ingenious people. They were tired of the rivers' water levels determining whether there would be a feast or a famine. The farmers decided that they needed a way to supply water to their farmlands during the dry years. So, they created an irrigation system by digging out large storage basins for water. The water in the basins was transported to the fields through canals. These human-made waterways brought water to the crops.

The Mesopotamians solved the problem of flooding by building up the banks of the rivers to keep the rivers within their channels. The built-up banks contained the rivers when the water levels became too high. This prevented the rivers from flooding the crops.

As a consequence of the farming innovations designed by the Mesopotamians, there was a surplus of food. This meant that the people had more food than they could eat. There was an abundance of wheat, barley and dates.

The planning, building and maintaining of the irrigation system, however, required constant attention. It required a community effort. People began to work with each other to develop a division of labor in which people in the community had different jobs. While some people farmed the land, others became builders and managers of the irrigation systems. As the food supply increased, some Mesopotamians built boats and became traders.

### 1. The word **erratic** means

- changeable.
- innovative.
- abundant.
- destroyed.

### 2. Information in this passage supports the idea that

- flooding helped crops to grow.
- water could not be stored.
- food was scarce.
- innovative irrigation systems increased food supplies.



- ▶ Read the information in the passage about Mesopotamia.
- ▶ Complete the chart using sentences that give evidence from the passage.
- ▶ Explain the evidence.

Claim	Evidence	Explanation
The rivers were erratic.		
The rivers caused the Mesopotamians to experience feast or famine.		
The Mesopotamians were an ingenious people.		
The Mesopotamians created a division of labor.		
Mesopotamian villages increased in size.		



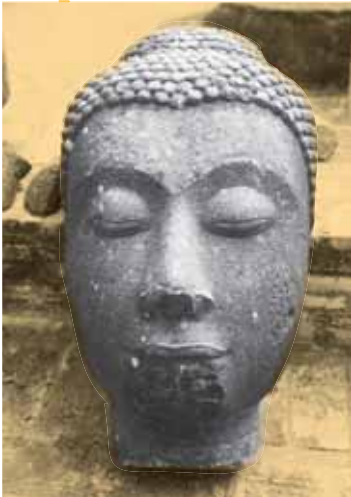


**Power Words** - enlighten, enlightenment, royal, palace, exquisite, provided, ventured, concerned, discouraged, persevered, perseverance, sympathized, purify, meditate, meditation, fast (multiple-meaning word), antidote

## EXPLORE the Origins of Buddhism

What does the word *enlightenment* mean to you? This word changed the life of a young man named Siddhartha Gautama, who was born into a royal family around 563 BCE. Siddhartha was a prince who lived in northern India. He resided within the walls of an exquisite palace. All his needs were provided for him. Any challenges he had as he grew up were taken care of by the servants. Although Siddhartha had riches and power, he was not happy. He felt that something was missing from his life.

One day, as he ventured outside the palace walls, he became very concerned by what he saw. Siddhartha observed suffering and poverty for the first time. He sympathized with people who were sick and in pain. He noticed people in rags begging for food. It was then that Siddhartha began to ask questions about the meaning of life. He wondered why there was suffering and poverty in the world. He decided to search for answers. So, at age 30, he left the palace in the middle of the night. He rode through the palace grounds on a horse whose feet were covered with cloth so that no one would hear him leave.



After Siddhartha left the palace, he traveled to many regions of India in search of answers. He communicated with priests and rulers who were known for their wisdom. Still, he found no answers. Yet, he persevered. He was unwilling to give up. He decided to purify his body and mind. He first cleansed his body by fasting, or going without food for periods of time. He meditated and focused his mind on spiritual ideas. It was only after weeks and weeks of meditation under the Tree of Wisdom that Siddhartha became enlightened. He discovered what have been called the Four Noble Truths. It was from this point forward that Siddhartha was referred to as the Buddha or the "Enlightened One."

One of the Four Noble Truths stated that human beings suffer when they want something that they do not have or cannot have. Suffering was deemed to be the result of ignorance and greed. Although the Buddha came to the conclusion that no one can completely escape sorrow, he proposed the antidote to sorrow was inner peace or nirvana.

According to the Buddha, people could find inner peace or nirvana by following the eight steps that lead to enlightenment and wisdom. The first step was to have "Right Thought" or positive thoughts. The second step was to have "Right Intent." This meant that people should be inclined toward goodness and kindness. The third step required "Right Speech." People were discouraged from lying or talking negatively about others.

The fourth step to take involves "Right Action." This step prohibits people from harming or stealing from others. The fifth step is to seek positive employment or "Right Livelihood." The Buddha thought that people should not work at jobs that hurt others. The sixth step highlights "Right Effort." This step requires people to do positive deeds and avoid evil. Steps seven and eight state that people need to maintain "Right Mindfulness" and "Right Concentration." The Buddha believed in keeping the mind pure by having good thoughts. He also believed in clearing the mind through meditation.

**ELA Standard: Connect and clarify main ideas and details in informational materials.**

**ELD Standard: Read and orally identify main ideas by identifying their relationships to other sources and related topics.**

**CCSS Standard: Determine a central idea of a text and how it is conveyed through particular details; provide a summary of the text distinct from personal opinions or judgments.**

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The Buddha enlisted many followers who adhered to these eight steps. Some of his followers became Buddhist monks. Today, many people follow the teachings of the Buddha, which are reflected in the eight steps that lead to enlightenment and wisdom.

**1. Information in this passage supports the idea that**

- Buddha was born in poverty.
- Buddha quickly became enlightened.
- Buddha persevered in looking for answers.
- Buddha believed people could escape sorrow.

**2. Where would this passage most likely be found?**

- in a news magazine
- in a collection of Indian folktales
- in a collection of autobiographies
- in a book about world religions

**3. Read this sentence.**

suffering was deemed to be the result of ignorance and greed.

**What does the word deemed mean?**

- documented
- assumed
- doubted
- referred

**4. Which detail is intended to persuade the reader that Buddha tried to purify his body?**

- He meditated under the Tree of Wisdom.
- He spoke to rulers and priests.
- He helped the poor.
- He fasted.

► **Read each claim.**

► **Complete the chart. Use evidence from the passage to support each claim.**

► **Explain the evidence.**

Claim	Evidence	Explanation
Buddha searched throughout India for the answers to the meaning of life.		
Siddhartha was renamed after he discovered the Four Noble Truths.		

**ELA Standard: Connect and clarify main ideas and details in informational materials.**

**ELD Standard: Read and orally identify main ideas by identifying their relationships to other sources and related topics.**

**CCSS Standard: Support claims with clear reasons and relevant evidence, using credible sources demonstrating an understanding of the topic or text.**

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