

SUMERIAN EXERCISES

A - exercises

1. Look at a map of the world. Where was Sumeria?
2. Where did the first Sumerians come from? Find this on the map.
3. Make a drawing of this area of the world as it might have looked around the beginning of the third millennium (make sure you draw the walled cities and the villages – you can also add names if you would like to).
3. What is a city-state? What was the relationship between the city-states during their history? What was the role of the Akkadian Dynasty?
4. What was the name of the collection of laws in Mesopotamia (use an encyclopedia or the internet)?
5. Who had the most power in the Sumerian city-states – a local god, a ruler, or a high priest? Explain your answer.
6. What were some important Sumerian inventions?
7. In most creation myths there is nothing at the beginning. What did this “nothing” look like according to the Sumerian creation myth?
8. To what extent did the Sumerian gods have human qualities? What are typical “god-like” qualities?
9. Why did the Gods decide to destroy humanity with a flood? What were the consequences of the flood?
10. Select a few Gods from the pantheon and find more information about them (you can find information on the internet)
11. What similarities do you see between the Sumerian creation myth and the creation myths of other cultures?

B- exercises

Look at a few websites that deal with this culture and choose one or two that have images, sounds or text that you think are useful for preparing your presentation. Before your presentation write a summary or make a sketch of the Sumerian creation myth.

Choose one of the following exercises:

1. There were schools in ancient Sumeria. Make a drawing of what you think these schools looked like. Who attended these schools? What age were they? What did they learn and how did they learn? What kinds of learning materials did they have? Perform a short play in which you show how a lesson took place about the creation myth.

or

2. Perform a play about a meeting of the gods in which they decide to create a flood (decide who gets to play which god).

C- exercises

Create a “family tree” of the gods who were involved in the creation. For all of these gods write down what kind of god they were.

