**Sumeria**

* The people who settled down and began to develop a civilization, in the land between two rivers, are known as the Sumerians.
* The Sumerian civilization was an [agricultural community](http://mesopotamia.mrdonn.org/agriculture.html). They grew crops and stored food for times of need.

**Early Inventions:**

* The ancient Sumerians were very smart. They invented, amongst other things, the wheel, the sailboat, and the first written language, frying pans, razors, cosmetic sets, shepherd’s pipes, harps, kilns to cook bricks and pottery, bronze hand tools like hammers and axes, the plow, the plow seeder, and the first superhero, [Gilgamesh](http://mesopotamia.mrdonn.org/gilgamesh.html).
* They invented a system of mathematics based on the number 60. Today, we divide an hour into 60 minutes, and a minute into 60 seconds. That comes from the ancient Mesopotamians.

**Government:**

* The ancient Mesopotamians created a government that was a combination of monarchy and democracy. Kings ruled the people.
* Elected officials who served in the Assembly also ruled the people.
* Even kings had to ask the Assembly for permission to do certain things.

**Law and Order:**

* Law held a special place in their civilization. Sumerian laws were not written down, but people knew what they were and they knew what could happen to you if you broke the law.
* The Sumerian laws clearly said how you had to behave and what your punishment would be if you did not behave correctly.
* The laws that were later written down by the ancient Babylonians were, for the most part, laws first created by the ancient Sumerians.

**Cities:**

* Ancient Sumer was a bustling place. The ancient Sumerians built many citiesalong the Tigris and the Euphrates Rivers. Each city state had its own king, its own laws, its own government, and military.
* Each city- state managed its own affairs independently. On occasion some city-states fought against one another for control for land or irrigation rights.
* At various times specific city-states attempted to gain power of the entire region, but most attempts for complete control was short lived.
* The largest city, the city of Ur, had a population of around 24,000 residents.