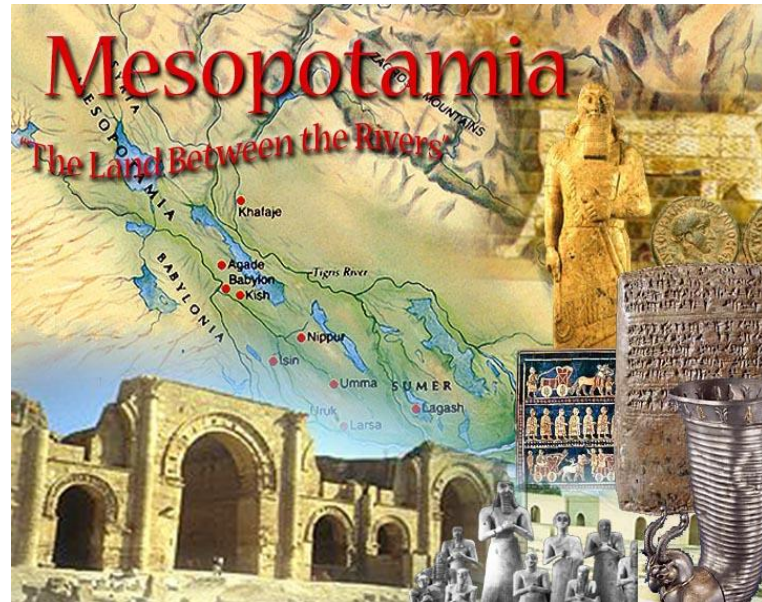


# Ancient Mesopotamia Video



## Historical Overview

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Mesopotamia, which in Greek means 'between the rivers', is known as the birthplace of civilization. Located on the fertile plain between the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers in what is today Iraq and southern Syria' Mesopotamia is where farming gave rise to the world's first cities around 3500 BC. The first archaeological expeditions to Mesopotamia were made in the 1800s, as historians searched for evidence of biblical stories. After excavations at famous biblical sites such as Babylon and Ur, archaeologists discovered the earlier civilization of Sumer, the first farmers and city dwellers. Sumerians were the inventors of writing, mathematics, and the wheel. As Sumer declined, the Assyrians from the north built a powerful empire around 1000 BC which included Mesopotamia. The Babylonians were the third great civilization to control the land of Mesopotamia, ruling until they were conquered by the Persians in 539 BC.

## Timeline

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3500 – 2000 BC	Sumerian civilization
2000 – 605 BC	Assyrian civilization
2000 – 539 BC	Babylonian civilization

## Vocabulary

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Archaeology	Lapis lazuli
Mesopotamia	Fertile
Tigris and Euphrates Rivers	Irrigation
Sumerians	Ziggurat
Assyrians	Lugal-gal
Babylonians	Cuneiform
City-state	Stylus
Lyre	Scribe

