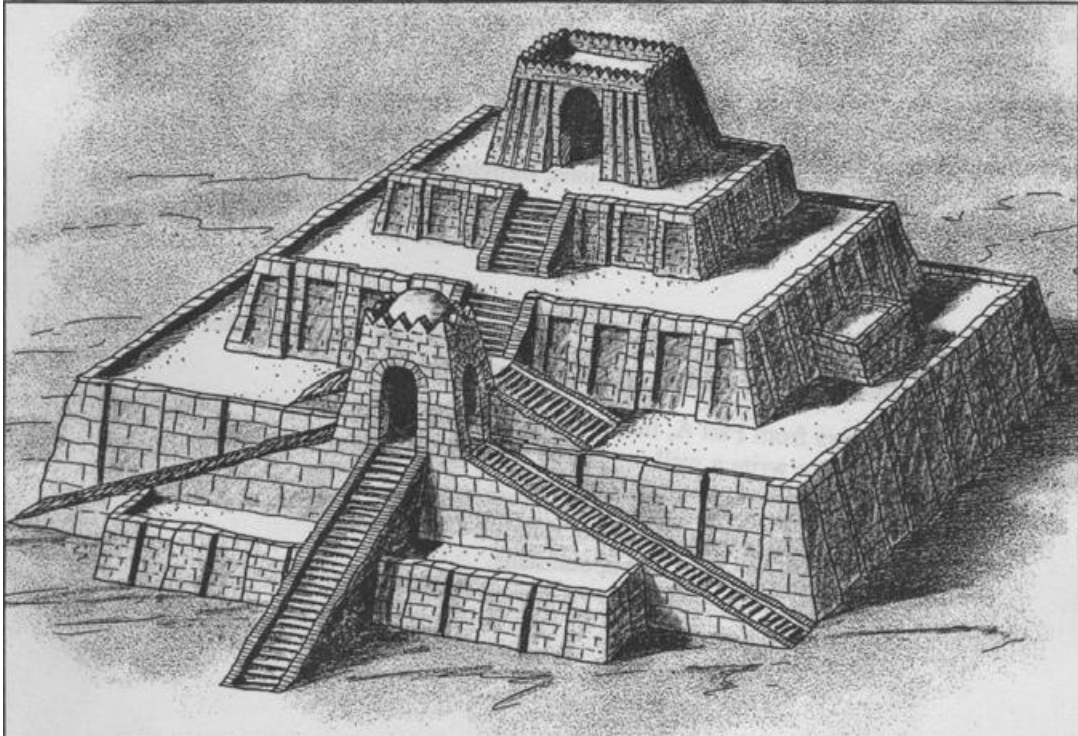


## DOCUMENT #1

Sumerians and Akkadians practiced polytheism, the worship of many gods. They believed that keeping the gods happy was key to their own happiness and prosperity. On the other hand, if the gods were angry, they might bring suffering and disaster. Sumerians built huge temples called ziggurats. They believed these temples linked Earth with the heavens and linked people with the gods.



1. Look at the illustration. Notice the number of stairs. What does the size of the temple tell you about the value the Sumerians placed on their gods?
2. From the reading passage, what did the Sumerians and Akkadians look to their gods for?