

# Ancient Mesopotamia

First name.....Last name ..... Form .....  
 Mark.....

## Source 1: A schoolboy in Sumer (~2500 BCE)

I recited my tablet, ate my lunch, prepared my new tablet, wrote it, finished it. Then they assigned me my oral work, and in the afternoon they assigned me my written work. When school was dismissed, I went home, entered the house, and found my father sitting there. I told my father of my written work, then recited my tablet to him, and my father was delighted (...) When I awoke early in the morning, I faced my mother and said to her: 'Give me my lunch, I want to go to school.' My mother gave me two rolls and I set out... In school, the monitor in charge of punctuality said to me, 'Why are you late?' Afraid and with pounding heart, I entered before my teacher and made a respectful courtesy.

Quoted in Samuel Noah Kramer, *History Begins at Sumer*, Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1956, p. 10.

## Source 2: The Epic of Gilgamesh: The Flood Story (3rd Millenium BCE)

The gods (...) decided (to) make a flood [but one of the Gods told Ut-Napisthim about it].  
*«Man of Shuruppak, son of Ubara-Tutu (...) build a boat. Leave possessions (...) Save lives! Put aboard the seed of all living things, into the boat. [they built the boat] The reed-worker brought his stone,...Children carried the bitumen...*

Translated by Stephanie Dalley

## Source 3: The Legend of Sargon of Akkadé, (~ 2300 BCE)

Sargon,... king of Akkadé am I,  
 My mother was lowly; my father I did not know;  
 My city is Azupiranu, which is situated on the bank of the Euphrates,  
 My lowly mother conceived me, in secret...  
 She placed me in a basket of reeds, she closed my entrance with bitumen,  
 She cast me upon the rivers which did not overflow me...  
 The goddess Ishtar loved me  
 And for four years I ruled the kingdom.

From: George A. Barton, *Archaeology and The Bible*, 3rd Ed., Philadelphia: American Sunday-School Union, 1920, p. 310

Subjects	Source 1	Source 2	Source 3
How did children live?			
The Mesopotamian religion			
Objects they used			
Political system (regime)			
Fathers and mothers in the Mesopotamian societies.			Question to help you: what did women do when they were too poor to bring up their children?
List three jobs which could exist in ancient Mesopotamia			