AIM: HOW DID THE CONCEPTS OF CULTURE & CIVILIZATION DEVELOP FUTURE SOCIETIES?
JOURNAL ENTRY

What is meant by the term ‘culture’? Define American culture & how do you think it has changed in the last 20 years?
I. CULTURE

A. Way of living built upon by a group and passed on from one generation to another. “All those things not inherited biologically”; a collection of “strategies to adapt” that are passed down from one generation to another.
B. IMPORTANT ASPECTS OF EARLY HUMAN CULTURES:

1. Stone tools
2. Clothing
3. Shelter
4. Belief in the Afterlife and the Supernatural.
5. Language and Art
How can one express themselves through their culture?
What enabled early civilizations to develop?

What does it mean to be ‘civilized’?
II. CIVILIZATION
A. Advanced form of human culture in which people live in cities, have complex social institutions, use some form of writing, and are skilled in science and technology. Normally used to designate large societies with cities and powerful states.
B. The Eight Basic Features of a Civilization:
1. Cities
2. Well-organized centralized government
3. Complex religions
4. Job specializations
5. Social Classes
6. Arts and Architecture
7. Public Works
8. Writing
C. 3000 B.C.E: The first civilizations developed in **FOUR SEPARATE RIVER VALLEYS:**

1. Offered mild climate and provided a water highway (to other places).
2. River overflowed each year depositing rich fertile soil.
Natural Highways: River travel allowed early civilizations to trade goods and ideas. These people are traveling on the Euphrates River, one of the two main rivers of ancient Mesopotamia.

Gift of the River: River water was key to farming in early civilizations. This farmer is using water from the Huang He (Yellow River) in China to water her crops.

New Activities: Food surpluses allowed people to pursue other activities, like crafts, art, and writing. This tile designer lives in the Indus Valley.

From Village to City: With the development of agriculture, people settled into farming villages. Over time, some of these villages grew into large cities. These ancient ruins are near Memphis, Egypt.
Aim: Why did the earliest civilization emerge in Mesopotamia?
3. a. Why do you think this region is referred to as the “Fertile Crescent”?
1. THE SUMERIANS
A. Sumerian Civilization (in Mesopotamia) began in the **Fertile Crescent:** arable plain of the Tigris and Euphrates river valleys.
B. Rivers deposited fertile soil in a rainfall-scant region. Irrigation and technological advances produced food surpluses for population growth. Sumerians, migrating from the north (4000 B.C.E.), mixed with local groups to establish Mesopotamian civilization.
Before You Read The following words in the document below may be new to you: ramparts, bitumen, dikes, scarp. You may want to look them up in a dictionary.

Nabopolassar, king of Babylon, the father that begat me, had made but had not finished the work of [building the great ramparts of Babylon]. The moat he had dug, and the two strong walls with bitumen and burnt brick had constructed along its bank: the dikes . . . he had made and a fence of burnt brick on the other side of the Euphrates: but he had not finished the rest . . . As for me, his eldest son, the beloved of his heart, I finished these great ramparts of Babylon. Beside the scarp of its moat the two strong walls with bitumen and burnt brick I built, and with the wall which my father had constructed I joined them, and the city, for cover, I carried them round . . .

—inscription of Nebuchadnezzar, c. 604–561 BC

5. What construction projects were completed in Babylon during Nebuchadnezzar's reign?

6. What types of technology would have been necessary to complete these construction projects?
1. P.O. based on city-states such as Uruk, Kish, Lagash, Umma, and Ur; their leaders - kings and local councils - ruled agricultural hinterlands. Government defined state boundaries, regulated and enforced religious duties, and provided court systems for justice.

2. Kings responsible for defense, warfare, and, along with priests, controlled land worked by slaves. Political stability and the use of writing allowed urban growth, and agricultural, commercial, and technological development.
3. Mesopotamia had a stratified society in which kings and priests controlled the wealth. The 3 classes of Mesopotamian society were:

(1) Nobles-kings, priests, rich landowners.
(2) Scribes, farmers, merchants, and artisans.
(3) Slaves: prisoners of war.

4. Women were able to own property, control their dowry, and engage in trade. Women could also become priests, merchants, & artisans.

5. Rise of urban merchant class in the 2nd millennium B.C.E. depicts greater emphasis on male privilege and a decline in women’s status.
D. INNOVATION, SPECIALIZATION, AND PRODUCTIVITY

1. Potter's wheel facilitated faster and higher-quality pottery for more secure food storage, and potters, exchanged them for food from other communities.

2. Wheel allowed movement of huge stones for monumental construction. The improved tools and weapons increased food production and stimulated commerce.
The Middle East was the first region to move from the Stone Tool Age to the Bronze Age.
E. SUMERIAN CULTURE AND RELIGION

1. 3500 B.C.E.: Cuneiform Writing developed to meet the needs of recording religious, commercial, and political matters. Its complexity confined its use mostly to specialized scribes.
The piece of clay shown above bears a message written in the wedge-shaped signs of cuneiform. Also shown is a stylus, the implement used to impress the signs into the clay.

The evolution of 13 cuneiform signs is traced at the left. This system, originated nearly 6,000 years ago, was used until shortly before the beginning of the Christian Era.
Sumerians created cuneiform script over 5000 years ago. It was the world's first written language. Sumerians invented this writing system to keep track of business dealings because they traded with people who lived in lands that were hundreds and even thousands of miles away. Writing was a giant leap forward in the development of civilization. People kept records and new ideas were now able to be passed easily from generation to generation. Cuneiform was written on clay tablets, and then baked hard in a kiln.

1. What was cuneiform and who invented it? [1]

2. List three ways the Sumerians made use of cuneiform. [3]
2. Writing helped to produce a more elaborate culture. World's oldest story-
GILGAMESH EPIC, portrayed a hero constantly defeated by the
gods.
The Epic of Gilgamesh

Stands at the very beginning of our world literature, written some 5000 years ago - about 3000 B.C.

3000 BC → 2000 BC → 1000 BC → 0 → 1000 AD → 2000 AD

Time-line of great books

The Epic of Gilgamesh by ??

The Iliad by Homer

The Bible - New Testament

The Domesday Book - Great Survey of England

Electronic Books

We have the last great king of the Assyrian empire to thank for the preservation of the Epic. Assurbanipal was a blood-thirsty megalomaniac conqueror - plunderer of Egypt, king of the world etc.

But in his spare time he collected cuneiform tablets & this was one of them - copied for his famous library in Nineveh about 600 BC.

It was written in “Akkadian” which was adopted from the Sumerian cuneiform script - the original invention of writing.

Can you read this??

Cuneiform means “wedge-shaped” which is how the writing looks - made with wedges on clay.

Each pictograph sign stands for a word and these changed over time...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Uruk 3000 BC</th>
<th>Sumerian 2500 BC</th>
<th>Akkadian 600 BC</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grain</td>
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<td>Mountain</td>
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<td>Orchard</td>
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<tr>
<td>Plough</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

This table will translate the last tablet!

The Epic has been found in fragments in Nineveh in Ur, Megiddo, Bagdad, etc.

In the Hittite capital at Boghazoy pieces are missing.

This version is the best of them.

When the Babylonians destroyed Nineveh the Epic was almost lost forever.

It was excavated in 1859 AD, Gilgamesh really existed.

Comics are a type of pictograph - so you can pretend you are reading this in Akkadian, OK!

Greek Iliad is old - but Homer is a mere bane when compared to the Epic!
Six days and seven nights
Came the wind and the flood, the storm flattening the land.
When the seventh day arrived, the storm was pounding,
The windstorm and deluge left off their battle,
The flood was a war, like a woman writhing (in labor).
The sea calmed, fell still, the whirlwind (and) flood stopped up.
I looked around all day long—quiet had set in,
And all the human beings had turned into clay.
The terrain [landscape] was flat as a roof.
I opened a vent and fresh air (daylight!) fell upon the side of my nose.
I fell to my knees, and sat weeping,
Tears streaming the side of my nose.
I looked around for coastlines in the expanse of the sea,
And at twelve leagues there emerged [appeared] a region (of land).

From: Tablet XI in The Epic of Gilgamesh

2. a. How many times does the author refer to the land and what are those references?

b. Does the land play a role in this struggle against the storm? If so, what role?
3. RELIGION, established the foundations for Judaism, Christianity & Islam. Was based upon a pantheon of anthropomorphic gods intervening arbitrarily in human affairs. Each city had a patron god, humans were regarded as servants of the gods. Priests made astronomical calculations vital to the running of irrigation systems.
The temples were walled compounds containing religions and functional buildings.

The most visible part of the temple compound was the **ziggurat**.
F. Sumerians were also accredited with, the science of astronomy and a numeric system based on units of 12, 60, and 360, still useful to many societies.

Cuneiform Numerals

1. 𒇼 10
2. 𒇼𒇼 20
3. 𒇼𒇼𒇼 30
4. 𒇼𒇼𒇼𒇼 40
5. 𒇼𒇼𒇼𒇼𒇼 50

The Babylonians used an empty space to indicate zero until after circa 300 BC when a zero symbol was introduced. They used no sexagesimal point (i.e., “decimal point”) and the absolute size of a number had to be guessed from context.

With this set of numerals we can construct any sexagesimal place value number: e.g.,

6. 𒇼𒇼 60 = 𒇼𒇼  which is not 2 = 𒇼𒇼
(but we are being more careful than Mesopotamian scribes always were);

7. 𒇼𒇼𒇼𒇼 119 = 𒇼𒇼𒇼𒇼  ; etc.
This is a votive (prayer or offering) statue of a Babylonian king, dating to approximately 2450 B.C.E. It was discovered in southern Babylonia (present-day Iraq), and now resides in the Louvre, a museum in Paris, France. The statue is made of diorite stone, which would have been imported into Babylonia.

1. What does the source of the stone used to create this statue say about Babylonian trade circa 2450 BCE?
   a. Babylonia traded with its neighbors.
   b. Babylonians did not trade with their neighbors.
   c. Only diorite was imported into Babylonia.
   d. Only votive statues could be made from diorite stone.

2. How is the figure posed in the statue? Without knowing what the words on the statue say, how is it possible to assume that the statue is related to prayer, rather than war or power?

   ________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________

3. This statue is an artifact (a human-made object). It was uncovered by archaeologists working in Iraq in the very early 20th century. Why are artifacts important to historians?

   ________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________
Aim: How did the legal contributions of the later Mesopotamian Civilization shape history?
“Just because people are part of a great civilization does not mean they always act civilized.”

Explain this quote. Can you think of any examples in history where this has occurred?
a. 2400 B.C.E.: Non-Sumerian city of Akkad, led by Sargon I, conquered Sumeria and found the Akkadian empire.

b. Akkadians ruled for 200 years of rule, and directed a unified empire with a strong military and bureaucracy.
1792–1595 B.C.E., a new state, the Babylonian Empire, unified Mesopotamia.
e. Its ruler, Hammurabi, codified the laws of the region.

1. **Hammurabi's Code-1790 B.C.E.**:
Collection of 282 laws and standards, stipulated rules for commercial interactions and set fines and punishments to meet the requirements of justice.
Babylonian Empire: In 597 B.C., the southern kingdom of Judah was conquered by Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Babylon. Judah was placed in subjection. However, Zedekiah, king of Judah, planned a revolt along with Edom, Moab, Ammon, Tyre, and Sidon contrary to the preaching of Jeremiah (Jer. 27). Nebuchadnezzar returned and laid siege to Jerusalem and, in 587 B.C., he destroyed the Temple and carried the people away as captives (2 Kings 25:1-21; 1 Chron. 6:15). The vessels of gold and silver were taken from the Temple and placed in Nebuchadnezzar’s temple.
f. LEGAL PRINCIPLES OF HAMMURABI

- Principle of “an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth” as a method to punish lawbreakers. Punishments would also be based upon the social class of the lawbreaker. Wealthy citizens paid fines; commoners were physically punished.
Hammurabi’s Law Code

Hammurabi, as king of Babylon, united Mesopotamia under his rule from about 1800 to 1750 B.C.E. His law code, the earliest such compilation still in existence, was discovered on a stone slab in Iran in 1901 C.E. Not a systematic presentation, it was a collection of exemplary cases designed to set general standards of justice. The code provides vital insights into the nature of social relations and family structure in this ancient civilization. Examples of the Hammurabi code follow:

When Marduk commanded me to give justice to the people of the land and to let [them] have [good] governance, I forthwith took justice throughout the land [and] prospered the people.

At that time:
If a man has accused a man and has charged him with manslaughter and then has not proved [it against] him, his accuser shall be put to death.

If a man has charged a man with sorcery and then has not proved [it against] him, he who is charged with the sorcery shall go into the holy river, he shall dip into the holy river and, if the holy river overwhelms him, his accuser shall take and keep his house; if the holy river proves that man clear [of the offense] and he comes back safe, he who has charged him with sorcery shall be put to death; he who leapt into the holy river shall take and keep the house of his accuser.

If a man comes forward in a case to bear witness to a felony and then has not proved the statement that he has made, if that case [is] a capital one, that man shall be put to death.

If he has come forward to bear witness to [a claim for] corn or money, he shall remain liable for the penalty for that suit.

If a judge has tried a suit, given a decision, caused a scale [to be executed], [and] thereafter varies his judgment, they shall convict that judge of varying [his] judgment and he shall pay twelvefold the claim in that suit; then they shall remove him from his place on the bench of judges in the assembly, and he shall not [again] sit in judgment with the judges.

If a free person helps a slave to escape, the free person will be put to death.

If a man has committed robbery and is caught, that man shall be put to death.

If the robber is not caught, the man who has been robbed shall formally declare whatever he has lost before a god, and the city and the mayor in whose territory or district the robbery has been committed shall replace whatever he has lost for him.

If it is [of the owner that is lost], the city or the mayor shall pay one maneh of silver to his kinsfolk.

If a person owes money and Adad [the river god] has flooded the person’s field, the person will not give any grain [tax] or pay any interest in that year.

If a person is too lazy to make the dike of his field strong and there is a break in the dike and water destroys his own farmland, that person will make good the grain [tax] that is destroyed.

If a merchant increases interest beyond that set by the king and collects it, that merchant will lose what was lent.

If a trader borrows money from a merchant and then loses his goods, that merchant in the presence of god and witnesses will prove the trader borrowed the money and the trader will pay the merchant three times the amount borrowed.

If the husband of a married lady has accused her but she is not caught lying with another man, she shall take an oath by the life of a god and return to her house.

If a man takes himself off and there is not the necessary man she is his house [or] her husband [or husband is delayed], shall keep [herself chaste; she shall not] enter [another man’s house].

If that woman has not kept herself chaste but enters another man’s house, they shall convict that woman and cast her into the water.

If a son strikes his father, they shall cut off his forehand.

If a man has put out the eye of a free man, they shall put out his eye.

If he breaks the bone of a [free] man, they shall break his bone.

If he puts out the eye of a villain or breaks the bone of a villain, he shall pay one maneh of silver.

If he puts out the eye of a [free] man’s slave or breaks the bone of a [free] man’s slave, he shall pay half his price.

If a man knocks out the tooth of a [free] man equal [in rank] to him [self], they shall knock out his tooth.

If he knocks out the tooth of a villain, he shall pay one-third maneh of silver.

If a man strikes the cheek of a [free] man who is superior [in rank] to him [self], he shall be beaten with 60 stripes with a whip of ox-hide in the assembly.

If the man strikes the cheek of a free man equal to him [self in rank], he shall pay one maneh of silver.

If a villain strikes the cheek of a villain, he shall pay ten shekels of silver.

If the slave of a [free] man strikes the cheek of a free man, they shall cut off his ear.

Questions: What can you tell from the Hammurabi code about the social and family structure of Mesopotamia? What is the relationship between law and trade? Why did agricultural civilizations such as Babylon insist on harsh punishments for crimes? What religious and magical beliefs does the document suggest? Using specific examples, show how interpreting this document for significant historical meaning differs from simply reading it.
c. 1595 B.C.E.: HITTITE king Mursilis I destroys Babylon. Sealand Dynasty kings appear to rule Babylonia after the Hittite raid.
JOURNAL REFLECTION

What role did culture play in the development of the Mesopotamian Civilization? Consider laws, writing, literature, religion, artistic & scientific achievements.

Describe & explain the factors that defined civilization in Sumerian culture?