

Ancient Civilization 3500-1000 BC

A. Mesopotamia

The world's first cities took shape around 3500 BC in the fertile crescent of the valleys of Tigris and Euphrates, the eastern segment of which was Mesopotamia. The reasons that supported the formation of Mesopotamian civilization were-

1. The soil was fertile and water supply was suitable.
2. The region was a crossroad that facilitated repeated contact among peoples of divergent cultures for thousands of years.

Some main features of Mesopotamian cities are-

1. The Sumerians were probably the founders of the first small city kingdoms and temple states.
2. The early cities were more alike.
 - o They had a similar technological base
 - o Wheat and barley were cereal crops.
 - o Bronze was the metal
 - o There were oxen pulled plow and wheeled vehicles.
 - o The city leader was both king and high priest.
 - o The cities were heavily fortified to resist the siege of many enemies.
 - o The cities were surrounded by the agricultural land, which supported them.

I. Ur

Ur was one of the early cities that eventually gained the leadership of Summer. Originally, Ur was a Neolithic village. The Sumerians conquered the village, took possession of its hill and its available land. They fortified the hill for their safety and erected permanent buildings of burnt bricks- temple for their Gods and houses for themselves. In the process development, Ur became the leading city of the United Kingdom of Summer and Akkad.

The city of Ur took its ultimate shape and size at around 2300 BC. The important features were-