CITY-STATES OF ANCIENT SUMER
Fertile Crescent

- Mesopotamia – “Land between the Rivers”
- Tigres & Euphrates rivers
  - Modern day Iraq
- Water & good soil.
- Early cities
  - Ur
  - Babylon
Sumarian Culture

• City-States
  – Each had it’s own ruler
  – Class hierarchy: most people made up the lower, peasant class.

• Male dominated society but some women had power/legal rights.

• Religion: polytheistic, many gods; controlled all aspects of life.

• Ziggurat: pyramid-type temple.
Education

• Advanced education system.
• Only for the select few.
• Cuneiform: first writing system; wedge-like writing on clay tablets.
• Mathematics: based on the number 6.
• Epic Of Gilgamesh: first work of literature; Sumerian beliefs.
• Influenced later Greek & Roman civilizations.
Cuneiform Wall – British Museum