**AP Art History Notes---Prehistoric, Ancient Near East**

Prehistoric---cannot be used in long essay answers

**Chapter 1**

**Paleolithic**--- 40,000 BCE to 10,000 BCE----Old Stone

 Venuses, cave painting

 Venus of Hole Fells; Venus of Willendorf

1879-Altamira, first cave discovery

 Lascaux

 Hand prints for what purpose?

**Neolithic---**New Stone---10,000 BCE

Transition from hunter gatherers to farmers and villages

Jericho and Catal Huyuk (in present-day Turkey…first landscape of houses….streets and doors were on rooftops)

**Stonehenge = circle of stones** in England; includes several hundred burial mounds. @ 2,500 BCE to 3,000 BCE. **MEGALITHs**

**Chapter 2**

**Ancient Near East** (cannot be used in long answer essays)

Map and overview: <http://smarthistory.khanacademy.org/ancient-near-east1.html>

**Mesopotamia—Fertile Crescent—present day Iraq**

Mesopotamia= land between the TIGRIS AND EUPHRATES

1st civilization is Sumer…turning into farmer/herder from hunter/gatherer

Garden of Eden---3 religions= Christianity, Muslim and Judaic

**SUMERIA**

Began 3,400-3,200 BCE (5,000 years ago\_)

 Developed writing, commercial transactions and city administration

 First major city with organized society and recorded history

**Pictographs**---writing in symbols and pictures

**Cuneiform**---first written language

**Epic of Gilgamesh**—first novel

**Pantheon of Nature gods**= Anu (sky, like Zeus); Nanna (moon god); Inanna (love and war, like Athena); Utu (sun);

**Frieze** = bands of relief sculpture (registers)

**\*\*Temple at URUK (** city in present-day Iraq ) 5,000 years old (3,000 BCE); bent axis plan (unlike pyramid)

in Uruk, **SEALS** were used as signature tablets, showing rank and power of person

**\*\*Inanna (Athena)** bust…URUK (p. 34); marble bust, disappeared in Iraq war; colored stone in eyes, gold wig

**\*\*WARKA VASE,** p. 34; 5,000 years old---oldest narrative art; alabaster

**Sumerian worshippers**, p. 35….mortals; eternal wakefulness <http://www.metmuseum.org/toah/works-of-art/40.156>

**Hierarchical scale** = size equals status

**\*\*Stele of the Vultures (p 36)**--@2,500 BCE; cuneiform; Sumerian (Iraq); oldest known historical document.

<http://arthistorypart1.blogspot.com/2011/01/sumerian-art-stele-of-vultures.html>

one side human protection, the other side, god interference for victory

**Stele** = carved stone slab for historical event

**\*\*STANDARD OF UR**—P. 37---ON POLE; RECTANGULAR BOX AT CEMETERY WITH LAPIS, SHELLS,

 DEPICTS WAR AND PEACE

 3 **REGISTERS** (LIKE COMIC STRIPS, TELLING STORIES)

\*\***BULL-HEADED LYRE**, p. 38

 gold leaf and wood---pics of human-head bulls

**Heraldic composition** = symmetrical on either side of the figure

\*\***Head of Akkadian King**---2,200 BCE; copper eyes gouged, both natural and stylized

**\*\*Ziggurat at UR**, p. 41; 2150 BCE (fter battle, Sumerians reestablish power); much bigger than zig. At URUK; mud bricks…temple does not survive

On **ziggaurat;** corners are N-S-E-W; “MOUNTAINS OF THE GODS”; stepped platforms

By 2,000 BCE In Mesopotamia, Sumeria wains but other city states rise---

Babylon rises; King Hammurabi establishes central power

**\*\*\*HAMMURABI STELE** (Hammurabi’s Code)---@1780 BCE; **LAWS are made!**

 Laws for Babylon, the great civilization led by Hammurabi; almost 1,000 years before other laws were made in other parts of the world; cuneiform

 **High relief** of sun god (Shamash) an King Ham**.; black basalt; hierarchical comp.**

**Great** video on the stele at the Louvre: <http://smarthistory.khanacademy.org/law-code-stele-of-king-hammurabi>

**Hittites** (present day Turkey--Asia)---foes of Babylonia---quickly conquer Mesopotamia, then retreat back to their home in Asia Minor. Build :

 \*\*\***Lion Gate in @1,400 BCE; 7 ft. high stone** gate— MASSIVE OPEN GATE , protecting from attack and evil, carved from massive stone blocks… good, quick video of this lion gate: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wqlX8Dj5Tqg>

(\*\*\*Not to be confused with the Lion Gate of Mycenae….(Greek origin) with a closed top---one of the earliest examples of **post and lintel construction** technique. Two lion carvings are at the top, the **relieving triangle**, made of lighter stone to take the pressure off of the lintel. HEADS NOW GONE, ORIGINALLY MADE OF METAL http://proteus.brown.edu/greekpast/4918)

**Elam** city state (Iran)--@1,300BCE; life-sized bronze and copper statue of queen---almost 2 tons!

 **text**---inscription of queen’s skirt is a curse; asks gods to protect statue—a CURSE

**ASSYRIANS---**take over a large empire around 700BCE; royal citadel shows protection; elevated palace with limestone monsters

**\*\*Lamassu**=winged man/bulls with 5 legs to show motion….14 ft high. Another example of mythical beasts protecting fortresses and cities

**NEO-BABYLONIA**—takes over around 600 BCE

 **Nebuchadnezzar** restores Babylon to splendor

 **Tower of Babel** = ziggurat of bible fame, many gods

 \*\***Ishtar Gate,** @575 BCE = Neb’s gates of blue tiles…one is in Germany; arch flanked by towers; MORE mythical animals and sacred lions to protect city

**PERSIAN EMPIRE**---**conquers all including Egypt in @525 BCE**; Persian styles are eclectic because of conquerings