

Egypt - Temples

Overview - Temple = fulfilling the role of house. Entrance into the divine world, allows gods to be provided for in their spiritual form. Duty of king to maintain temples.
- Two types of temples: **cult** and **mortuary** temples.

Old Kingdom (2686-2125 BCE)
- Early temples as arenas for royal display rather than places of worship?
- **Abu Ghurab** - Central obelisk, alabaster altar

New Kingdom (1550-1069 BCE)
- **Abu Simbel** - Temple dedicated to Amon-Re during reign of Ramses II, existence of temple very much for the purpose of glorifying the king. Symbolism in the architecture targeted at elite members of society - statue over entrance that spells out Ramses' name + scenes inside the temple representing the king smiting enemies. 4 monumental statues of Ramses in the front.

Abu Simbel



Mesopotamia - Temples

Uruk (4th millennium BCE)
- Pre-mud brick - reed altars with naval processions.
- **Eanna complex**:
Different construction stages illustrating the development of architecture from 4th to 3rd millennium. Tripartite floorplan.
Square building = latest addition to Eanna, break in homogeneity of structure - political statement, new traditions.
Eanna as public building? Central + visible. Or as demonstration of power.

Early Dynastic (2900-2334 BCE)
- Rectangular + multi-levelled structure on top of mound. --> bottom level = similar structure to Babylonian house + very restricted access.
- **Marduk temple** - biblical tower of Babel.

Ur III (2112-2004 BCE)
- Ziggurats.
- Low homogeneity in design, continuity in building program, but no standardisation of architecture.
Used for cultic activity, storage, court and administration. Walled off and separated from everyday life.
Gipparu-House - temple of high-priestess + used as storage room.

Mesopotamia - Temples (cont)

Neo- - Oblong shape with court for worshippers where deity
As- could be found
syrian - Deity = master of house, but shielded from view so could
(934- not be seen without entering the temple.
612
BCE)

Mesopotamia - Settlements in Sumer and Akkad

Ubaid period Small sites, with the additional emergence of
c.3100-1500 larger ones e.g. Eridu and Ur.
BCE

Uruk period Urbanisation in Uruk through migration from
c.4000-3100 surrounding regions and sedentisation of local
BCE pastoral nomadic groups.

Jemdet Nasr + Expansion of urbanism. --> abandonment of
Early Dynastic countryside (coerced or not).
I period
c. 3000-2600
BCE

Early Dynastic Standardisation + spread of cuneiform and political
II-III - Ur III unification. Each city = house of a god. *e.g.*
c. 2600-2100 *Lagash.*
BCE

Ur III Followed by political decentralisation in the Isin-
c. 2100-1850 Larsa period. End of 3rd millennium = first irrigation
BCE systems.

Old Babylonian Political reunification under Hammurabi. Growth of
period existing cities e.g. *Nippur* and *Ur*.
c. 1850-1500
BCE

Issues with settlement surveys:

Relies on assumption that physical traces are left behind on surface.
Therefore tends to miss smaller sites, and requires reliance on
textual sources.

