

Teacher Reference Sheet
Student Handout 4: Mesopotamia and Egypt Primary Document Graphic Organizer

Documents from Sumer	A	B	C
<p>Author: What type of person do you think wrote it? Why do you think that?</p>	<p>A person from the Mesopotamian city of Agade, likely a scribe</p>	<p>A Sumerian father; the title says this. Maybe a farmer because there are references to irrigation and sheep. Maybe someone lower on the social hierarchy, because they have to "bow down" before those with power.</p>	<p>A Sumerian father; the title say this again. This man may have had a higher social status than the one in document B and was probably a scribe himself.</p>
<p>Reason: Why was the source produced and how might this affect the reliability of it?</p>	<p>To portray the city of Agade as blessed and describe its riches.</p> <p>The author may have exaggerated the description of the city, or only shown it from one point of view... as a blessed place.</p>	<p>To provide advice to a young man related to how to behave appropriately in society. To teach a young person how to act as part of a social hierarchy ("submit to strength").</p> <p>This document presents only one point of view that might not represent the views of those in power, for example.</p>	<p>The father seems to be annoyed with his son. He appears to be complaining about his son's behavior, so he wants to encourage him to change his ways. This is basically a lecture a parent gives his child.</p>
<p>Main Idea: What point is the author trying to convey?</p>	<p>The Goddess Inanna blessed the city of Agade and is protecting it. The city has many resources riches it can trade with other places.</p>	<p>Young men need to know their place in society in order to get along with others.</p>	<p>The father wants his son to get his act together, go to school, and get a job as a scribe. He wants his son to follow in his footsteps because the god Enlil will approve.</p>
<p>Social Institutions: What social institutions are described in this document? How do you know?</p>	<p>This document describes religion, trade, economics, social customs, politics, and interactions with other peoples.</p> <p>Students can point to different evidence in the text... religion because it</p>	<p>This document refers to families, social hierarchies, and economic activity related to farming.</p> <p>Evidence in the text includes the title (father to son), and references to farming (irrigation, sheep), and power ("mighty man").</p>	<p>This document references family, education, social hierarchy, and religion.</p> <p>It is a father talking to his son, and asking him to go to school. The son needs education to become a scribe which</p>

	mentions gods; economics because it mentions resources and trades; etc.		will give him a better position in society, and this will also please a god.
Inferences: What can you reasonably determine about the civilization based on this document?	The people there believed that their gods helped them. They likely had many resources, and may have had social hierarchies related to control of this wealth. We can also infer that they interacted and traded with their neighbors. They had a high wall, and so may have had a strong defensive system, or at least felt the need for one. They had a port, and so may have traded by sea.	It was important to know how to act in this society. People who did not "know their place" may have had problems. There was a definite social hierarchy, but maybe laws were still in the process of being developed. It suggests that you would have to be careful how you acted because if you did something wrong, someone might do wrong to you for revenge.	Sons were expected to do the same jobs as their fathers, so trades may have been passed down in families. Also, it appears that religion served to reinforce social hierarchy. We can also infer that there was some sort of education system, and that at least boys who were supposed to (or able to) become scribes had access to it. In other situations, some young people had to support their parents by working. Children had responsibilities to their parents.

Documents from Egypt	A	B	C
<p>Author: What type of person do you think wrote it? Why do you think that?</p>	<p>This was probably written by an Egyptian scribe writing to describe the city... maybe in some sort of official capacity. This document is very complementary to the pharaoh, and so may be like an advertisement or piece of propaganda.</p>	<p>This seems to be written by a Vizier... a political leader with less power than the Pharaoh. He was also a father.</p> <p>The title provides this information.</p>	<p>An Egyptian father... probably a man with some education.</p> <p>A father wants his son to be a scribe (in the title). People with no education probably wouldn't be able to become a scribe.</p>
<p>Reason: Why was the source produced and how might this affect the reliability of it?</p>	<p>This document was produced to complement and positively describe the Egyptian city "Great of Victories" (probably a name translated in to English). It was probably some sort of propaganda.</p> <p>It may have been intended to make things seem better for everyone than they really were.</p>	<p>This document seems to have been written by a father in a position of power who wanted to give advice to his son. He was giving his son advice on how to act properly in family and social situations. He may have been preparing him for a similar position in society.</p> <p>The father, as a man high in the social hierarchy, may have given his son different advice than someone in a different position.</p>	<p>This again seems to a document in which a father gives advice to his son. The father wants his son to succeed and have a better life. To do so, he needs a better job (scribe as opposed to laborer). He also gives advice on how to behave in school.</p> <p>The father again likely would only present one point of view, probably that of someone in the middle or top of the social hierarchy.</p>
<p>Main Idea: What point is the author trying to convey?</p>	<p>This city is great and the Pharaoh is a god. There are many resources available and everyone is happy and good looking!</p>	<p>The father wants his son to know his place and to not challenge his superiors. He wants to teach his son about his expected duties as a father and husband too. Maybe he is worried about his son's attitude!</p>	<p>The father wants his son to be a scribe so that he can have a better life. To make this happen, he needs to do well in school.</p>

<p>Social Institutions: What social institutions are described in this document? How do you know?</p>	<p>The document refers to religion, politics, social hierarchies, trade, and economics. It also talks about culture.</p> <p>There are references to gods and temples which show religion. The pharaoh is the political leader and top of the social hierarchy. There are mentions of resources, ships, and also singers and personal style (oils and make up).</p>	<p>This document deals with family, as it is by a father to his son and directly talks about family roles.</p> <p>It is also about social hierarchies and politics as it talks about respecting one's superiors.</p>	<p>This document references family, social hierarchies, and education.</p> <p>The father is advising the son, showing the importance of family. He wants his son to do well in school so that he can have a better position and a better life.</p>
<p>Inferences: What can you reasonably determine about the civilization based on this document?</p>	<p>The Pharaoh was in control of this society and had lots of power. The Pharaoh could not be questioned. There was probably a lot of wealth in this city, but maybe it wasn't available to everyone. Farming was probably important, and trade was going on as well.</p> <p>Personal appearance seems to have been important too.</p>	<p>There is social hierarchy in this society, and people need to behave appropriately and according to their roles.</p> <p>Family was an important institution with clear power structures: sons needed to listen to their fathers, and husbands needed to control their wives. There was probably a difference in power between men and women with men having more power.</p>	<p>Scribes had a decent position in society, much better than that of laborers.</p> <p>A father was expected to mentor to his son, and family was important in teaching values and social norms.</p> <p>School seems to be seen as a way to move up, or at least maintain, a good social position.</p>

Group reflection question: What were some similarities and differences between Sumer and Egypt that you noticed? Be prepared to share with the class.

Answers will vary, but similarities should revolve around similar views on social hierarchies, relationships and roles between fathers and sons, the importance of education, etc. Differences might deal with specific language or terms used in one but not the other. The Sumerian documents did not reference the pharaoh, showing that there was a difference in their governments.