

SUMERIAN ACHIEVEMENTS



Cylinder Seals



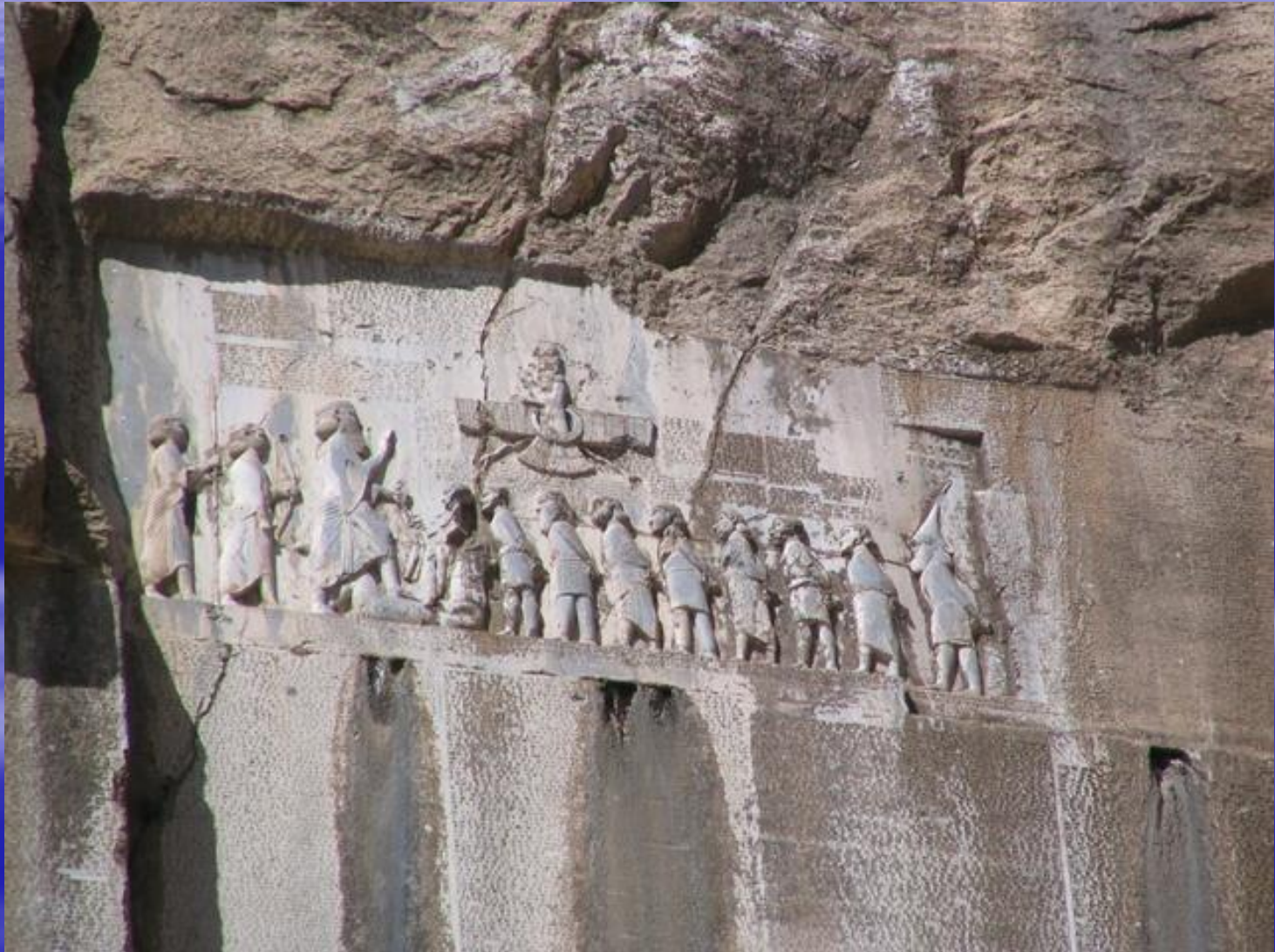
THE INVENTION OF WRITING

- The Sumerians invented many things that were passed onto other civilizations
- **Perhaps the most important new invention was writing**
 - Cuneiform – The world's first writing system (invented by the Sumerians)
 - Sumerians wrote on clay tablets with a sharp tool called a stylus





Bisotun Inscription - Iran



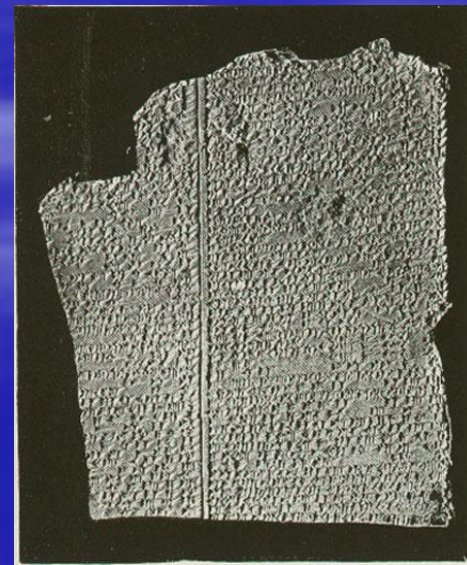
THE INVENTION OF WRITING

- Writing was originally pictographs
 - Pictographs – Picture Symbols
- Writing in symbols is much more complicated
- Writing was originally created to keep track of business records
 - Writing was always done by a scribe
 - Scribe - Writer



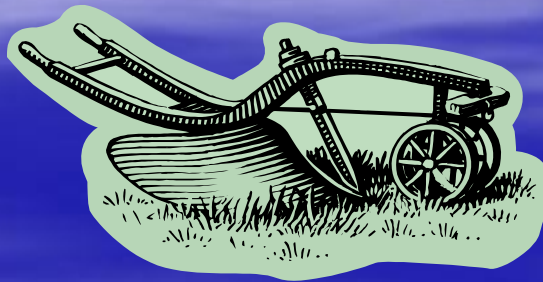
THE INVENTION OF WRITING

- **Becoming a scribe was a way to move up in social class**
- **Eventually writing was done for laws, history, math, grammar, and literature**
 - **The Sumerians wrote some of the world's first epics**
 - **Epic – Long poem that tells the story of a hero**
 - *The Epic of Gilgamesh*



ADVANCES AND INVENTIONS

- **Sumerians invented the wheel**
 - Used it for wheeled vehicles (carts and wagons)
- **Sumerians invented the plow**
 - Made farming a lot easier
- **Sumerians invented a water clock to tell time**
- **Sumerians built sewers and bronze tools/weapons**



MATH

60

- **The Sumerians based their number system on 60**
 - 60 minutes, 60 seconds
 - 360 degrees in a circle
- **The Sumerians figured out how to find the area of rectangles and triangles**
 - For farming fields
- **The Sumerians made a 12-month calendar**



SCIENCE

- Sumerians named thousands of plants, animals, and minerals
- Sumerians produced some of the world's first medicines
 - Also performed surgeries!
- Sumerians recorded much of their medical knowledge on their clay tablets



ART AND ARCHITECTURE

- Sumerians were very good artists and architects
 - Architecture – The science of building
- Designed large palaces and ziggurats
 - Ziggurat – Pyramid-shaped temple tower
- Artists made sculptures out of ivory and rare wood
 - Mainly statues of gods
- Sumerians are also well-known for their cylinder seals
 - Showed ownership and property



