

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Unveiling the Marvels of Ancient Mesopotamian Art: From Ziggurats to Musical Talents

### Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. Ziggurats were central to religious worship in ancient Mesopotamia. For example, the ziggurat of Ur was dedicated to the moon god Nanna and served as a place of devotion and community gatherings. People climbed its steps to offer prayers and perform religious rituals, strengthening their connection to the divine.
2. The "Epic of Gilgamesh" is culturally significant as one of the earliest known pieces of literature. It reflects Mesopotamian values, such as the quest for immortality and the importance of friendship. The epic also showcases the Mesopotamian worldview, with its focus on gods, heroes, and the challenges of human existence.
3. The relief sculpture of the Code of Hammurabi is rich in symbolism and themes. It symbolizes the king's divine authority to establish laws, with Shamash representing justice. The themes of law, order, and accountability are central, emphasizing the importance of maintaining a just society.
4. Cylinder seals were created by engraving intricate designs onto small, cylindrical objects. These seals were used to make impressions on clay or other materials to validate documents, mark ownership, and seal containers. They often depicted scenes from mythological stories, daily life, and religious rituals, providing valuable insights into Mesopotamian beliefs and practices.

