1. **archaeologist**: a scientist who learns about ancient people by studying the things they left behind
2. **Babylon**: the chief city of ancient Mesopotamia and capitol of the ancient kingdom of Babylonia
3. **City-State**: A self-governing unit made of a city and its surrounding villages and farmland
4. **civilization**: A complex, highly organized social order
5. **Cuneiform**: A form of writing developed by the Sumerians using a wedge shaped stylus and clay tablets.
6. **deity**: A god or goddess
7. **Fertile Crescent**: A geographical area of fertile land in the Middle East stretching in a broad semicircle from the Nile to the Tigris and Euphrates
8. **Gilgamesh**: A legendary Sumerian king who was the hero of an epic collection of mythic stories.
9. **King Hammurabi**: The first written law code was written by
10. **polytheism**: Belief in many gods
11. **Primary Source**: documents or writings by people from a time of study
12. **Sargon**: 2340 B.C. leader of the Akkadians who overran the Sumerian city-state and set up the first empire
13. **scribes**: someone employed to make written copies of documents and manuscripts
14. **Silt**: A fertile mixture of tiny bits of soil and rock.
15. **Stela**: an ancient upright stone slab bearing markings/ tombstone
16. **Tigris & Euphrates**: rivers in modern-day Iraq; on Fertile Crescent. These rivers brought large volumes of freshwater to the region which was essential for agriculture
17. **ziggurat**: A massive stepped tower on which was built a temple dedicated to the chief god or goddess of a Sumerian city