

Key Terms, Concepts and Characters

November 4, 2006: Urbanization and the formation of early states - Sumer

Sumer

Uruk period

- construction of monumental temples
- production of cylinder seals
- coalescent stage of the development of writing

Jemdet Nasr period

- widespread urbanization in the lower Mesopotamian floodplain
- emergence of competing city-states

Early Dynastic period

- emergence of highly stratified societies, kingship and bureaucracy

Writing systems

- tokens
- envelopes (bullae)
- tablets
- cuneiform

Ur - evidence for class stratification