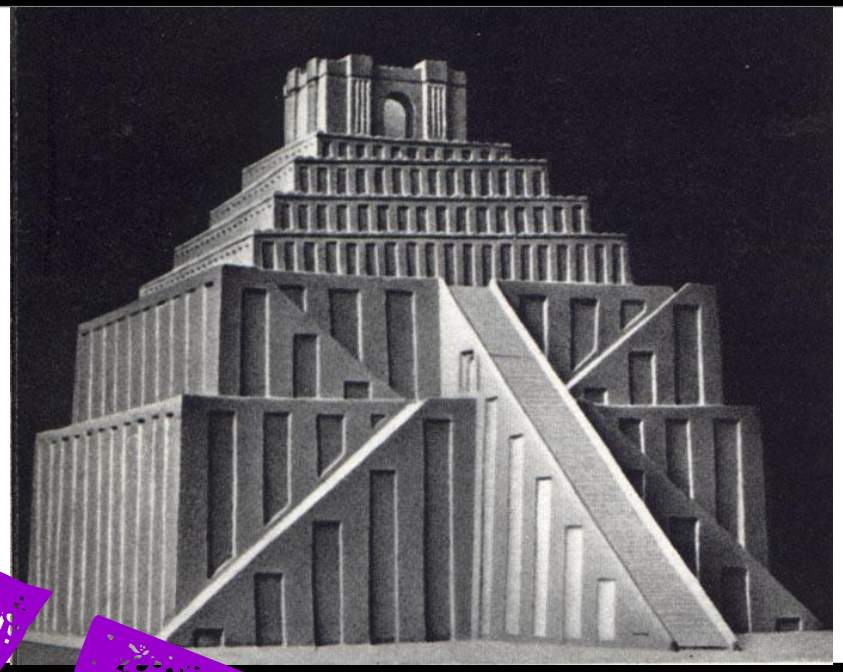
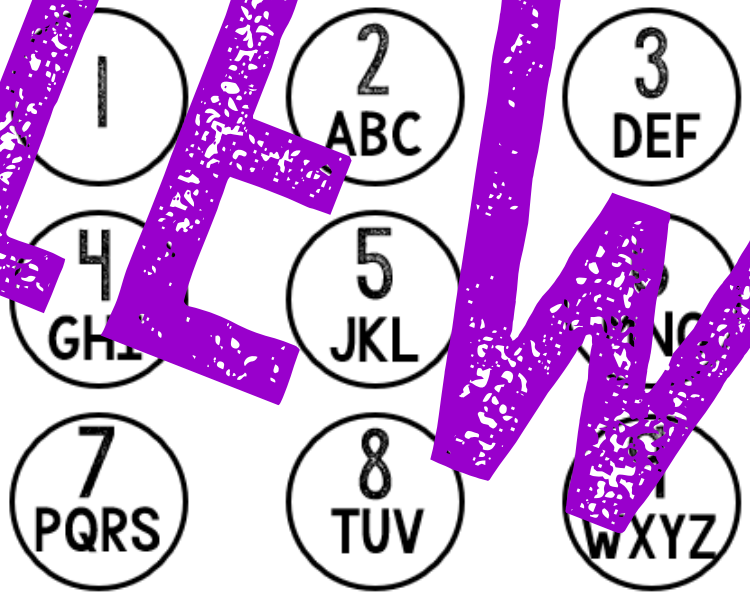
# READING #2

Ziggurats were built by different groups of [illegible] civilizations. The first ziggurat was built in Ur, the capital city of the Sumerians. The ziggurats were referred to as Etemenanki by the Sumerians which meant "[illegible] foundation of heaven and earth." The Babylonians, Akkadians, and Assyrians adopted the tradition of building ziggurats as places of worship. The Sumerians created a form of writing called cuneiform and used clay tablets to inscribe written documents and record stories. To date this is how we know [illegible] about them.

The structures were built with mud bricks on the inside, while the outside was made with baked bricks. The bricks were dried under the sun. Hundreds of thousands of bricks were used to make just one ziggurat. The mud bricks were not very sturdy and because of the rain and wind, the structures had to be rebuilt multiple times after falling apart.



# DECODER



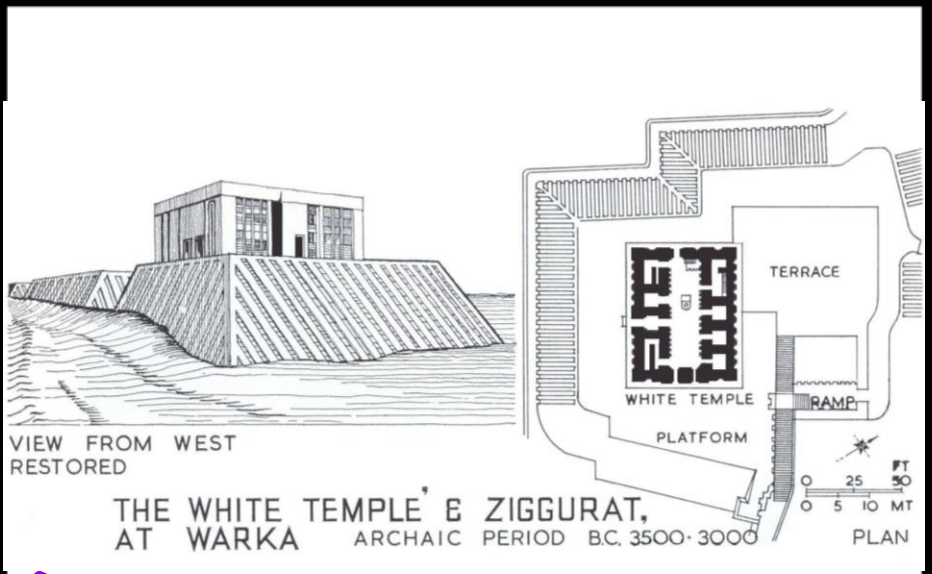

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PREVIEW

# READING #3

The ziggurats resembled Egyptian pyramids but they were not used as tombs. Ziggurats had a square base, with the structure of the bottom being the largest level getting smaller as it went up. Unlike a pyramid, some had steps that led to the upper levels but there were no chambers (rooms) or passageways inside of the ziggurats. They were not meant to be places you enter, but rather places to reach the different levels in the city.

Ziggurats were designed to drain water with drainpipes inside that could get rid of excess water from river flooding. Ziggurats commonly had layers of a grass-like plant called reeds and bitumen. Bitumen was similar to asphalt with its black, sticky, waterproof tar placed between the mud bricks. This also helped to protect the ziggurats from water damage.




# DECODER



Example: 3-7 = M

Example: 14 = R

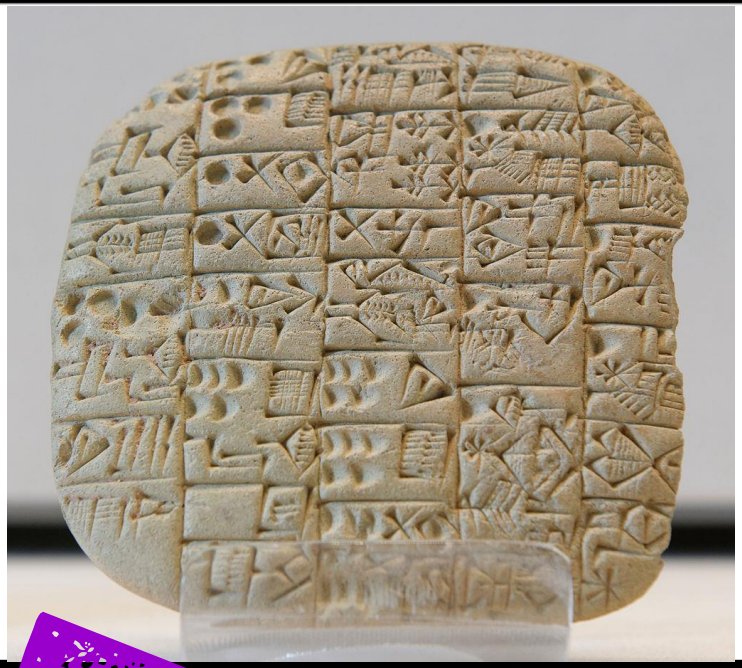
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PREVIEW

# READING #4

Not all ziggurats were the same. Most ziggurats included 4-5 levels, with some of the largest having 7 levels. They were purposefully built tall to bring the people closer to the sky or the gods since they were places of worship, they were built with the intention of connecting the heavens and the earth. They believed the closer the structure was to the sky, the better the gods could hear them and answer their prayers.

Typically, a ziggurat had three staircases at the front of the building that reached the lower level. Two staircases then led to the next level. A third central staircase led to the top of the ziggurat. However, many of the known ziggurats do not have stairs. The stairs allowed priests to reach the top to perform rituals, prayers, and hymns. Locals would gather at the bottom of the ziggurat to listen to the priest.



# DECODER




PREVIEW

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## READING 4

**7.** Typically, a ziggurat had ___ staircases at the front of the building.

A. 1
B. 3
C. 5
D. [illegible]

**8.** The stairs allowed priests to reach the top to perform ___.

A. Prayers
B. Hymns
C. Rituals
D. All of the above

The goddess of...

VZIGS DZH

MRMSFIHZT

## READING 5

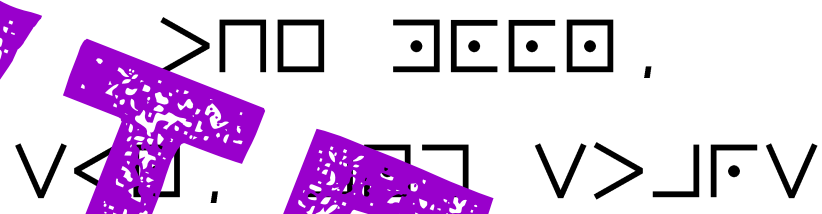
[illegible] ziggurats were likely constructed when ___ came to power.

A. Xerxes II
B. Cyrus the Great
C. Julius Caesar
D. Alexander the Great

In Babylon, their god was named ___.

A. Ishtar
B. [illegible]
C. Murdock
D. Enki

Mesopotamians could measure time by observing...



## READING 6

**11.** The largest ziggurat built was believed to be located in modern day ___.

A. Saudi Arabia
B. Iran
C. Istanbul
D. Uzbekistan

**12.** How many ziggurats are known to exist?

A. 32
B. 42
C. 52
D. 62

Each baked brick weighed as much...



Answer the final two questions based on the puzzles you decoded.

About how many miles long was Mesopotamia?

How much could each baked brick weigh?

PREVIEW

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LEAD DETECTIVE



AGENT NAME:

CODENAME:

BADGE #:

PRECINCT 5005

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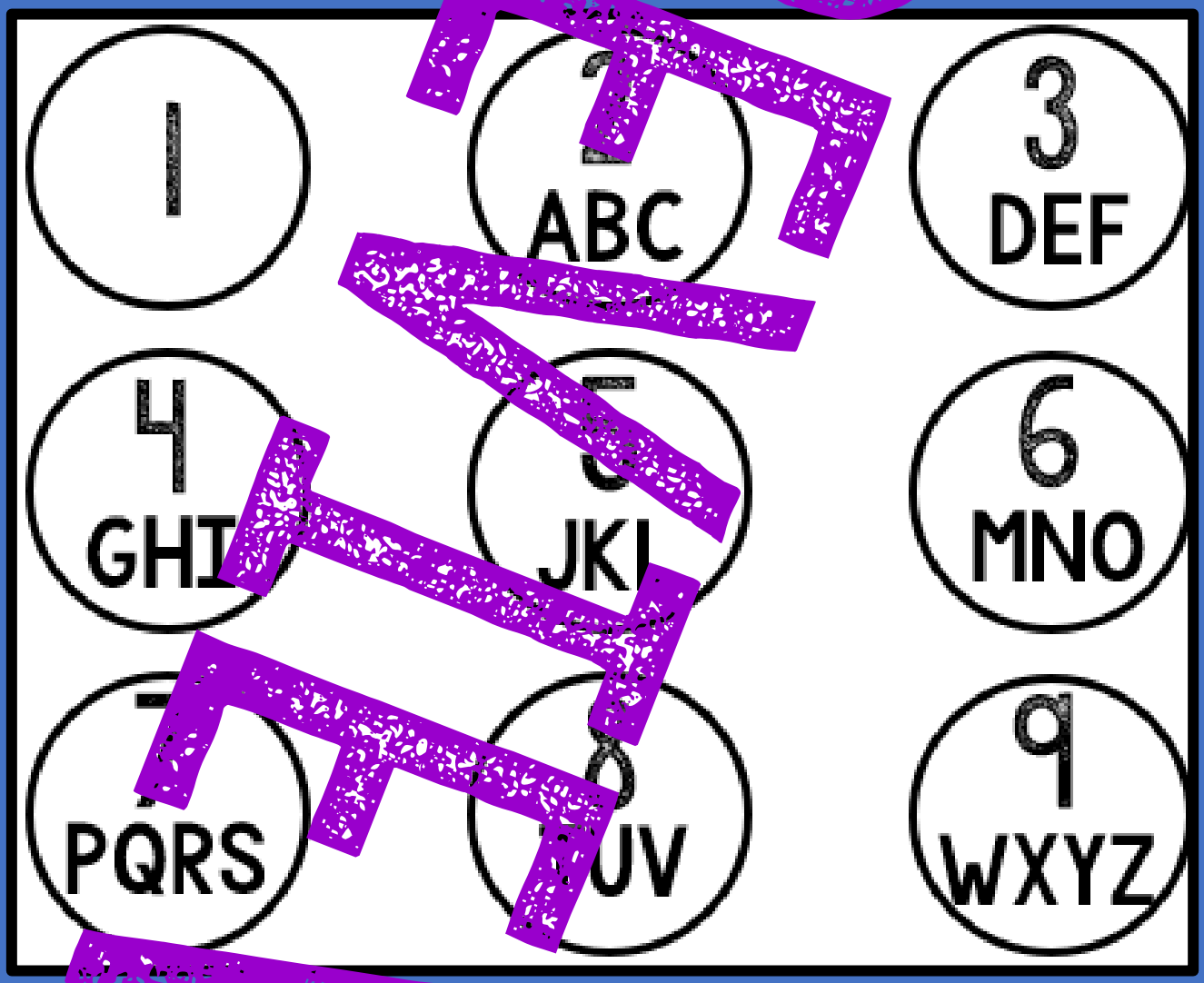
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SAMPLE

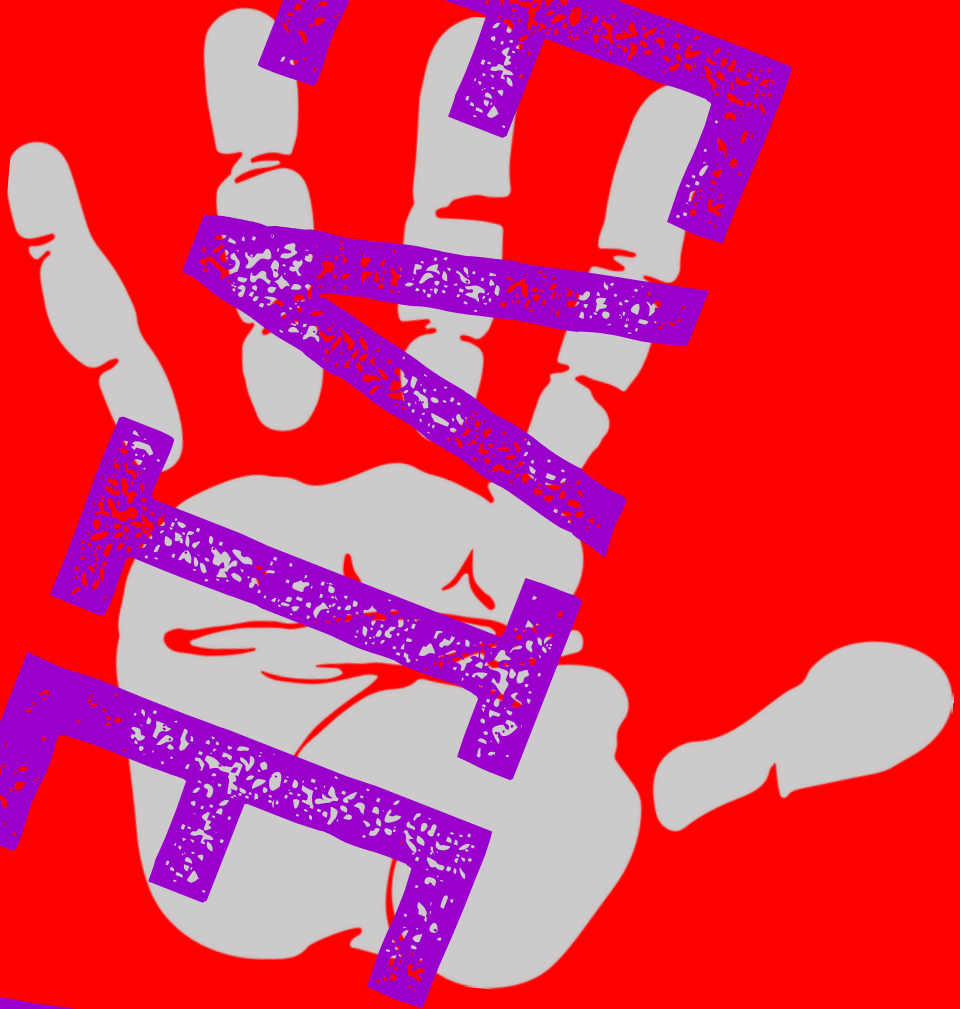
# ENTER




# ACCESS CODE

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TO ENTER

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