

Men and Women in Sumer

- Sumerian men and women had different roles.
- In general, men held political power and made laws, while women took care of the home and children.
- Education was usually reserved for men, but some upper-class women were educated as well.

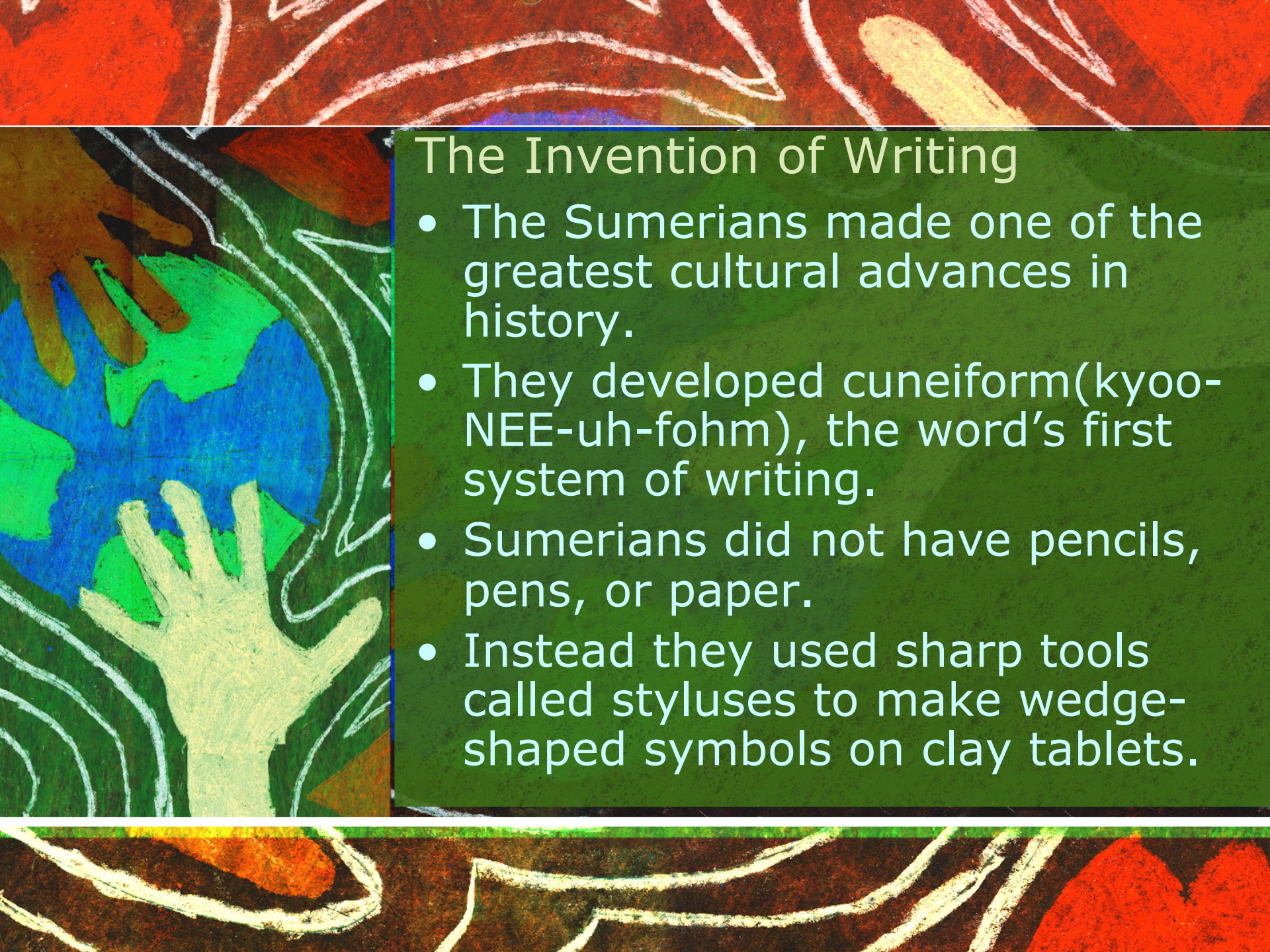
Men and Women in Sumer

- Some educated women were priestesses in Sumer's temples.
- Some priestesses helped shape Sumerian culture.
- One, Enheduanna, the daughter of Sargon, wrote hymns to the goddess Inanna.
- She is the first known female in history.



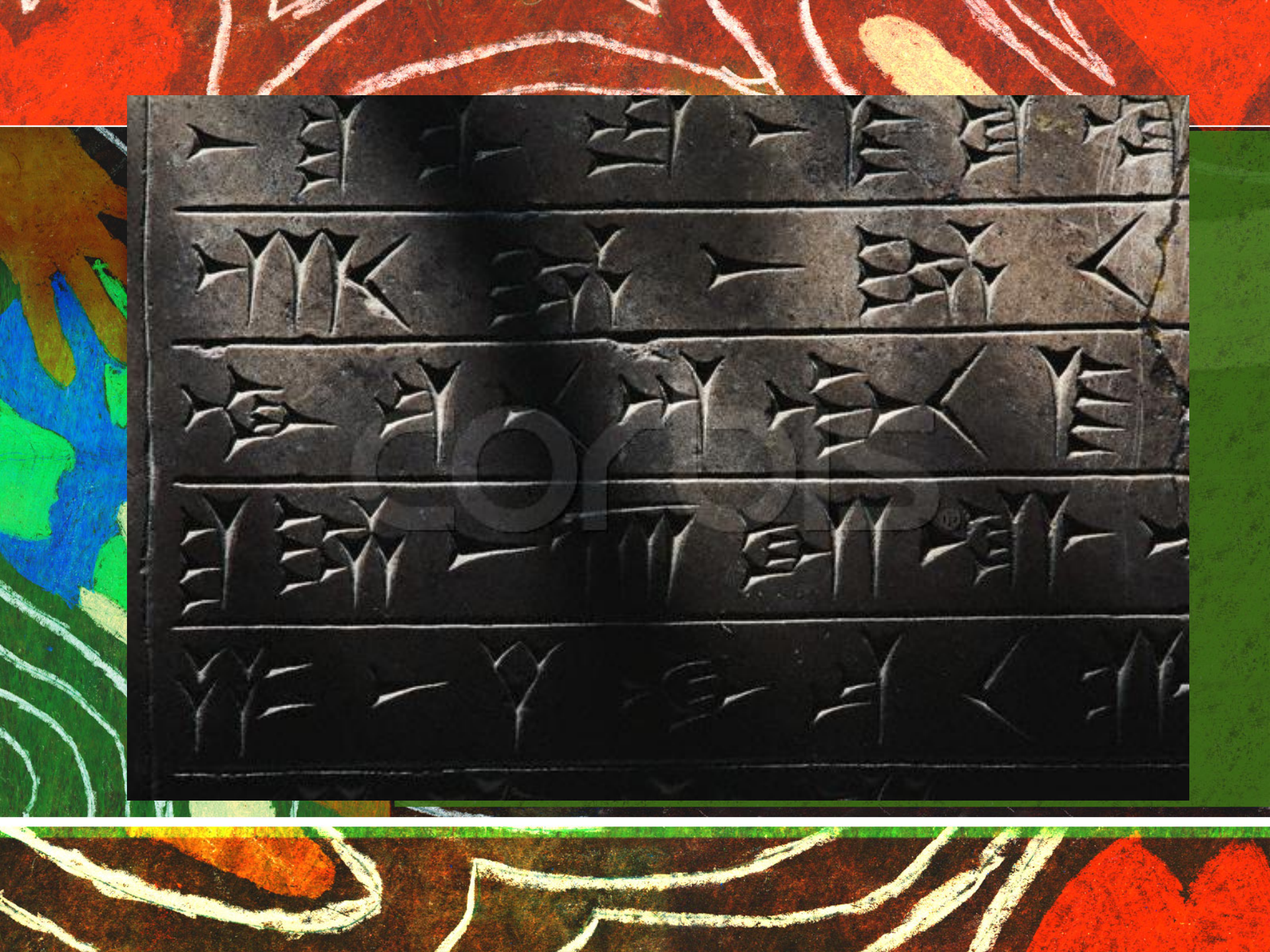


Sumerian Achievements



The Invention of Writing

- The Sumerians made one of the greatest cultural advances in history.
- They developed cuneiform (kyoo-NEE-uh-fohm), the world's first system of writing.
- Sumerians did not have pencils, pens, or paper.
- Instead they used sharp tools called styluses to make wedge-shaped symbols on clay tablets.



Development of Writing



Sumerian writing developed from early symbols called pictographs. Writers used clay tablets to record business deals, like this tablet that describes a number of sheep and goats.

	3300 BC	2800 BC	2400 BC	1800 BC
Heaven				
Grain				
Fish				
Bird				
Water				



Legacy

- Their accomplishments:
 - Number system based on an hour being 60 minutes and a circle being 360 degrees.
 - The beginnings of basic algebra and geometry.
 - An accurate calendar – 12 month lunar calendar
 - Units of time – 60 minutes in an hour and 60 seconds in a minute
 - Writing System.
 - Eclipses of the Sun and Moon.



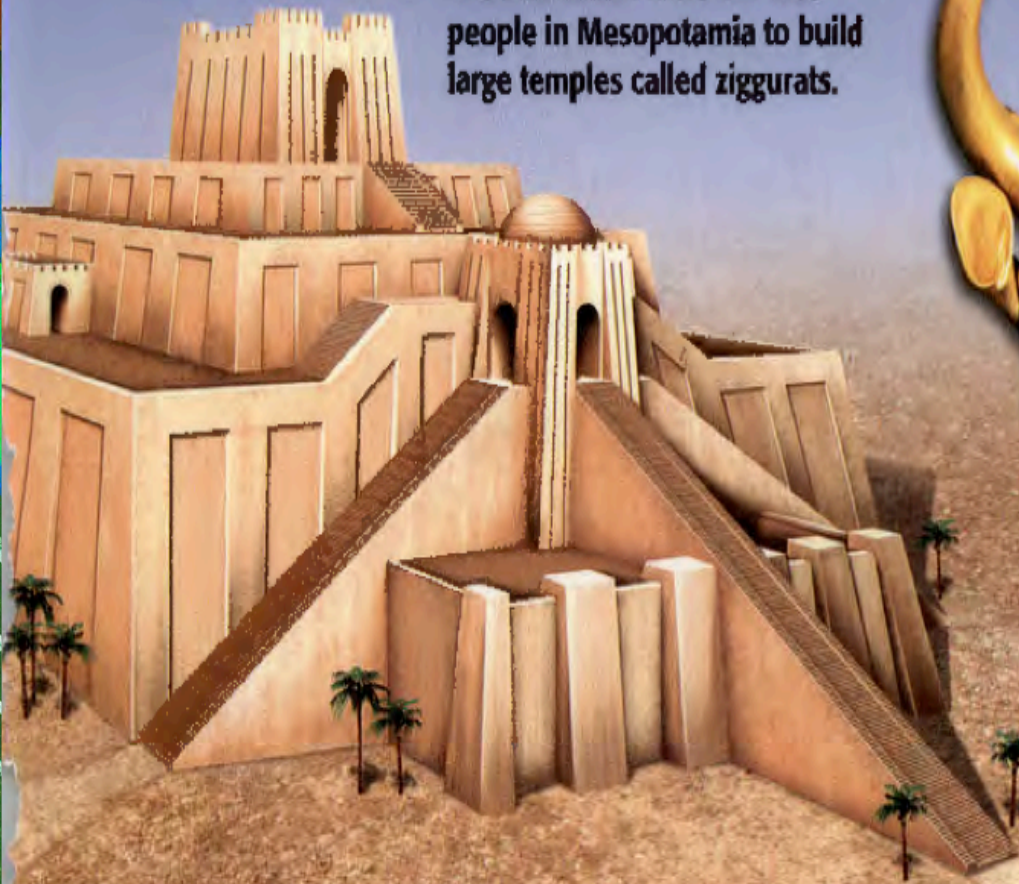
Sumerian Science and Technology



- Early inventions included the plow and the wheel.
- A special kind of wheel, the potter's wheel enabled Sumerians to make pottery much quicker.
- Bronze, a mixture of copper and tin was used to make sharper tools that lasted longer.



The Sumerians were the first people in Mesopotamia to build large temples called ziggurats.



This gold dagger was found in a royal tomb. The bull's head is made of gold and silver.



ANALYSIS
SKILL

ANALYZING VISUALS

What animal is shown in two of these works?