Mesopotamia is an area in modern-day Iraq. Mesopotamia actually means between the rivers; it is the area between the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers. Since Mesopotamia is between the rivers the ground is fertile and good for farming. We call this area of the world the Fertile Crescent. The Sumerians lived in Mesopotamia. They actually invented writing.

In addition to writing, the Sumerians built the first large pieces of architecture that we know of. These large buildings are called ziggurats. Some ziggurats were hundreds of feet tall, with long staircases that led to the top. The Sumerians believed to be closer to their Gods they must built their buildings higher.

In addition, Sumerians started creating different types of masks, sculptures, drawings and sculptures. They used simple shapes to help them create human forms.