



## Learning from The Ancient Nippur Map

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Part I: The Old Babylonian Facts, Ma'am. Just the Old Babylonian Facts.

**DIRECTIONS:** Match a map feature on the left with each description on the right. Some features will be used more than once. Some may not be used at all.

<p>a. Canals</p> <p>b. City Walls</p> <p>c. Euphrates and Harbor Moat</p> <p>d. Gardens</p> <p>e. Governor's Palace</p> <p>f. Tablet Hill</p> <p>g. Temple of Enlil + Ziggurat</p>	<p>_____ As thick as 45 feet</p> <p>_____ Center of Nippur's government</p> <p>_____ Could supply water within the city walls</p> <p>_____ Existed from 24<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> Century BCE</p> <p>_____ Here, travelers got off their boats.</p> <p>_____ Likely had kitchens, dorms, offices, and workrooms</p> <p>_____ May have had facilities for raising animals and manufacturing goods</p> <p>_____ Most significant shrine in Sumer</p> <p>_____ Particularly rich in cuneiform tablets</p> <p>_____ Probable location of the city's tallest structure</p> <p>_____ This is where exports and imports were loaded and unloaded.</p>
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## Part II: Coming to Some Conclusions: Short Answers

DIRECTIONS: All of the following statements are believed to be true. Write one full sentence explaining the evidence in the Ancient Nippur interactive map supporting each.

EXAMPLE: *It is likely that many of the goods that were imported to Nippur arrived by boat.*

The city was built very close to the Euphrates river, which was used by many traders to transport goods, and had a harbor where traders could land their boats.

1. Nippur must have seen frequent attacks from neighbors. One strategy for conquering a city must have been laying siege, that is, surrounding the city to cut off its supplies.

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2. Nippur was a center of learning.

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3. The central government was important throughout the history of Nippur.

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4. Some municipal construction projects in Nippur were so large and complex they most likely had the support of the central government.

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5. Organized religion was likely wealthy and powerful in Nippur.

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6. It's likely that Nippur was a busy city, with a high volume of goods being loaded and unloaded onto boats.

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7. It's likely that traders liked stopping off in Nippur while on their trade routes so they could make offerings at the Temple of Enlil while there.

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8. It's likely that goods manufactured in Nippur were loaded onto boats for sale elsewhere.

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### Part III Showing Your Understanding

Work together in small groups to answer the following questions using evidence from the Nippur ancient map.

1. The Temple of Enlil was the region's most important shrine, and as a result it gathered great wealth. Many leaders in the region sent valuable offerings to the shrine. How do you think that the city of Nippur might have been affected by having such an important shrine inside its walls?

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2. Many traders visited the shrine in order to give their own offerings to Enlil. What else might they have done while they were visiting Nippur? What affect do you think that the importance of this shrine may have had on trade in the region? Do you think that when traders came to Nippur to visit the temple they might have engaged in other activities? What kinds of activities?

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3. With so many visitors coming to Nippur to visit the temple and to engage in trade, what other local businesses might have been affected- even benefited from- these visits?

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4. The city of Nippur planned many construction projects. In order to move forward with those construction projects the central government needed to raise money. Usually, when a city needs to raise money they collect new taxes or raise the rate of taxes. What do you think might have been one of the things that the central government taxed? (Think of the kinds of taxes you might pay today).

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