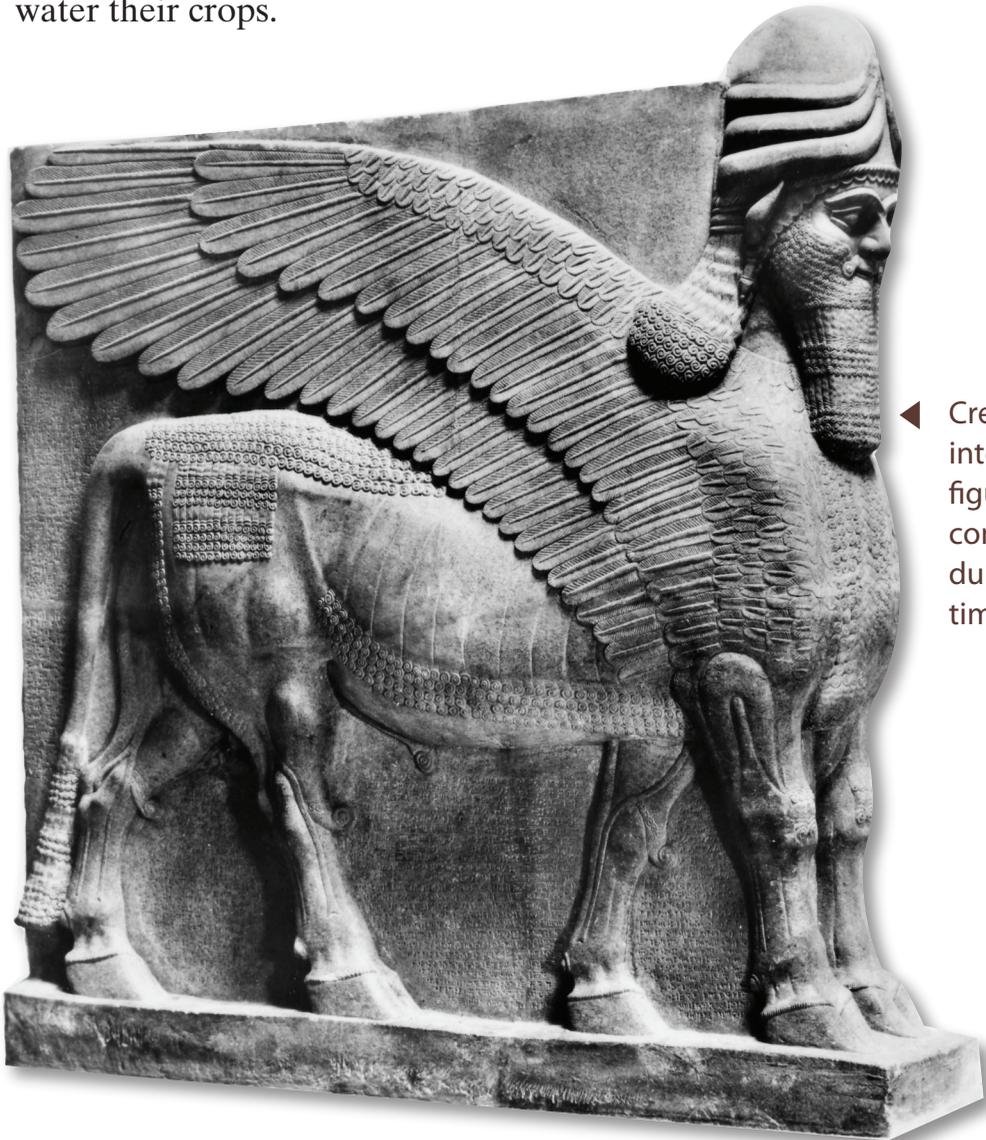


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ANCIENT MESO-WHAT?

People today are really lucky the ancient Mesopotamians (mehs-uh-puh-TAY-mee-uhnz) lived so many years ago. These people invented items that we still use today. They created the wheel and glass. They were the first to use coins and mathematics. They used an alphabet and calendars. They farmed and used **irrigation** (ir-ruh-GAY-shuhn) to water their crops.



◀ Creating interesting figures was common during this time.



◀ This tablet shows ancient writing.

Amazing Mathematicians

The Babylonians lived in ancient Mesopotamia. They invented the decimal system, something that is still used today. They recorded the first calendar in which they divided the year into weeks. They were also the first to divide the days into hours, minutes, and seconds.

The World Today

How do you use the things created by the Mesopotamians in your life today? Imagine one day without these things in your life. The ancient **civilizations** (siv-uh-luh-ZAY-shuhnz) are still very important to us. We can learn about our lives by learning about theirs.

The ancient Mesopotamians were very artistic people. They decorated temples and palaces with strange creatures. The artists sometimes made creatures with both human and animal qualities. These might look funny to us, but the ancient Mesopotamians thought they were beautiful. Some of the creatures were symbols of greatness and strength. These qualities were very important to leaders in ancient Mesopotamia.