

Gilgamesh.....An Epic or Just a Really Long Story?



WHICH ELEMENTS OF AN EPIC DOES GILGAMESH HAVE? (Tick the box)

- **Is Gilgamesh a long narrative?**
- **Does Gilgamesh have a legendary hero?**
- **Does the hero have superhuman strength?**
- **Does the success of the hero determine the fate of the nation?**
- **Is Gilgamesh set in many settings?**
- **Does Gilgamesh have omniscient narration?**
- **Does Gilgamesh have supernatural elements?**
- **Is it written in an epic style of writing?**
- **Does it contain epic similes—long descriptive passages?**

Comparison of Noah's Flood and the Flood of Gilgamesh

ELEMENTS OF THE FLOOD STORY

GENESIS FLOOD

GILGAMESH FLOOD

Extent of Flood

Cause of Flood

Who was flood intended for?

Name of Hero

Hero's Character

Who did the hero receive instructions from?

Size of Boat

Means of flood

Duration of flood

Test to find land

Types of birds

Ark landing spot

Was there a sacrifice after flood?

Was there a blessing after flood?

Gilgamesh - The Lamassu



Lamassu are human-headed, eagle-winged, bulls or lions which were once thought to protect cities in Mesopotamia. They were believed to be very powerful creatures, and were symbols of protection for all people.

The Mesopotamians believed that Lamassu terrified any spirits of chaos thus bringing peace to their homes. Lamassu in the Akkadian language means “protective spirits.”

In the Epic of Gilgamesh the Lamassu are zodiac symbols representing constellations. They were considered to be protective because they encompass all life within them.

Study the picture carefully and discuss the questions below.

What is this statue of and where might you find it?

What are the three proponents of this deity?

What one thing stands out as unusual? Why might this have been done?

Can you remember where you might have seen a picture of this statue?

How important do you think it was to the Mesopotamians to have a visual representation of their deity, and why?

Art Project: Create Your Own Lamassu



Materials Needed:

Picture of a Lamassu

Clay

Clay Tools

You need to start with a slab of clay which you will carve rather than creating a model of the Lamassu which you build. Cut away the clay between the area which will become the Lamassu's legs. Also cut away the clay to leave what will become the head, wings and body.

Use the smaller, sharper tools to craft detail to the body, legs, head and wings.