

**HOCPP 1111**

# **In The Hands of A Child**

**Grades 4 - 8**



## **Custom Designed Project Pack Heroes & Gods of Ancient Sumer**



**A Ready-to-Assemble  
Hands-On Unit  
Including Reproducibles**

# Gods and Heroes of Ancient Sumer

© 2006 In the Hands of a Child  
[www.handsofachild.com](http://www.handsofachild.com)

Research Guide written by Katie Kubesh  
Activities written by Niki McNeil  
Graphics and Editing by Kimm Bellotto

In the Hands of a Child gives permission for one copy of all written material to be copied and or printed. Reproducible graphics may be copied as many times as needed.

From the time we first began using Project Packs we fell in love with them. We knew that this type of hands-on learning experience was just the thing that was needed to make boring academics not only educational but, fun and exciting too!

To help get you started we have included some of the questions we receive about Project Packs.

### What is a Project Pack?

A Project Pack is simply a great way of compiling key points from your studies into one spot that can easily be stored and available to be reviewed at any time

### How does this help me? and Why is this a better way for learning?

The number one reason is the students will retain the information covered so much faster. Children learn by doing. Project Packs put learning into their hands!

Another reason is it is a convenient way to store those wonderful projects. Students can go back and review them at any time and your schoolroom or refrigerator is not cluttered with bits and pieces of their projects.

And the final reason is they are great and the possibilities are endless! There are no age limits and no subject lines that cannot be worked into a Project Pack. We will be adding many units to help you in the education of your students.

### How do I make a Project Pack?

A Project Pack is simply a file folder refolded into a shutter style book. Open it flat and then fold the sides into the middle creasing neatly and there you have it.

***For a more colorful and eye-appealing Project Pack it is suggested that some of your Reproducibles be printed out on colored multi-purpose paper.***

### What supplies do I need?

You will want to have file folders, paper of different colors and weights, your students' favorite coloring tools, tape, glue, scissors, and a stapler.

## Adapting a Project Pack to Fit the Needs of Your Student

Adapting a Project or Research Pack is key to ensuring that you provide the best lesson for your student. At first glance, some might just skip over an activity because they feel it is too easy or too difficult for their student. We want you to use all the activities we provide...they are easily adaptable!

For example, if you have a PK-3 student the vocabulary activities might be difficult for him or her to complete. Here are some tips to help you adapt the activities that require your student to write:

1. Have your student dictate vocabulary words and their meanings as you write them.
2. Have your child draw a picture instead of writing.
3. You write the word or sentence first so your student can see how it is written.
4. Practice. Practice. Practice. In the car, on a walk, in the shopping cart! Practice saying the vocabulary words and what they mean. Before you know it your preschooler will be telling others what those words mean!
5. Contact us. We would be happy to give you ideas for adapting specific units to a grade level.

On the other hand, some of the activities may seem too easy for your student. Does your 5<sup>th</sup> grade level student want to learn about butterflies, but the Project Pack seems too easy? Try it anyway; just change things up a bit to suit that grade level. Here are some tips to help you adapt the activities to make them a little more difficult.

1. In addition to writing down vocabulary words and their meanings, ask your student to use the word in a sentence; either verbally or written.
2. Give your student 1 hour (or other reasonable time frame) to research the topic on their own; either online or at the library. Give your student a set of questions or see what he/she can find without your guidance.
3. Encourage your student to expand on the topic or choose a related topic to learn about.
4. Take a look at some of our preschool units...there is lots of clipart related to each topic. Have your older student cut these out and write a story or play about the pictures or perform a play.
5. Contact us. We would be happy to give you ideas for adapting specific units to a grade level.

These are just a few ways you can adapt a Project Pack to meet the needs of your student. Let your student be the judge if something is too easy or too difficult...you just might be surprised!

The Website links we have included in our guides are references we found that contain relevant information. However, the sites are not owned or maintained by In the Hands of a Child. The content may have changed or become a “dead” link. If you find the site contains inappropriate material or is no longer a site, please let us know!

## Table of Contents

Timeline	Page 2
Major Gods and Goddesses	Page 2
Lesser Gods	Page 4
Major heroes	Page 6
Major Myths of Ancient Sumer	Page 7
Storytelling	Page 9
Role of Women	Page 10
Family Tree	Page 11
Vocabulary	Page 12
Activity List	Page 14
Activity 1	Page 15
Activity 2	Page 17
Activity 3	Page 19
Activity 4	Page 20
Activity 5	Page 26
Activity 6	Page 28
Activity 7	Page 29
Activity 8	Page 30
Activity 9	Page 31
Activity 10	Page 33
Activity 11	Page 34
Activity 12	Page 36
Activity 13	Page 39
Activity 14	Page 40
Activity 15	Page 42
Activity 16	Page 43
Activity 17	Page 44
Activity 18	Page 46
Activity 19	Page 47
Activity 20	Page 48
Folder Instructions	Page 49

## Gods and Heroes of Ancient Sumer



Mesopotamia is Greek for “between the rivers.” Located between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers in eastern Syria, Mesopotamia was one of the earliest centers of urban civilization. Today, most of modern

Iraq and Kuwait are where Ancient Mesopotamia was located. In Ancient Mesopotamia, people believed that gods and goddesses controlled the world. There were many different cities in Mesopotamia and each city had its own gods and goddesses.

Sumer, which was located in Mesopotamia, may have been the very first civilization in the world. Around 5000 BC, Sumer was merely farm villages located around the Lower Tigris and Euphrates Rivers. By 2000 BC, Sumer was a region with a social culture and a developed religion. It was divided into several different cities including Uruk, Eridu, Kish, Lagash, Ur, and Nippur.

### Major Gods and Goddesses of Ancient Sumer



Ancient Mesopotamians believed in hundreds of gods and goddesses that were responsible for everything in the world. Each city was protected by its own god or goddess. The people built large temples in their cities for their gods to live in called **ziggurats**. Priests performed special rituals to honor and look after the gods.

The people of Ancient Mesopotamia also believed that their gods and goddesses were just like them; that they looked and acted like people; had marriages, children, wars, and celebrations; could feel emotions such as jealousy, anger, and joy; and that the gods and goddesses had families and problems just like humans.

Historians believe that by making the gods and goddesses like **mortals**, they made it easier for people to relate to them.

### Sumerian Timeline (BCE)

*4500 to 4000:* People settle in the city of Sumer.

*4000:* Sumerians build towns with walls, brick houses, and temples called ziggurats at the center of their towns. They also begin trading with nearby towns.

*3800 to 3200:* The Uruk period. Historians believe this is the time period when the Sumerians invented the wheel.

*c. 3100s:* Sumerians develop cuneiform.

*3000s:* Political and military conflicts in Sumer.

*3200 to 2900:* The Jemdat Nasr period.

*2900 to 2370:* The Early Dynastic period.

*2750:* Gilgamesh rules Uruk. Gilgamesh is hero of many epics including “Gilgamesh and Enkidu in the Nether World,” and the “Epic of Gilgamesh.”

*2320:* Sargon conquers cities of Sumer and develops a central government.

## Gods and Heroes of Ancient Sumer Activities

1. Vocabulary
2. Create your own timeline of Ancient Sumer.
3. Where was Ancient Sumer located? What were some of the surrounding areas and bodies of water?
4. Who were the five major gods and goddesses of Ancient Sumer? What did they represent? What were they associated with?
5. Name three lesser gods and goddesses and give a brief description of each.
6. Name two Sumerian poems in which Lugalbanda is the hero. What is each about?
7. Pick one major hero and write a brief biography.
8. According to major myths of Ancient Sumer, how were heaven and earth created?
9. According to major myths of Ancient Sumer, how were people created?
10. Compare and contrast these myths to your beliefs about the creation of heaven, earth, and man.
11. Read about Gilgamesh (we recommend *The Last Quest of Gilgamesh: The Gilgamesh Trilogy* by Ludmila Zeman), choose your favorite part and act it out. \*\* (*Educator: Take pictures of the child/children acting for this mini book*).
12. Create a newspaper article describing a myth, legend, story, or epic poem from Ancient Sumer.
13. Why was Enheduanna important?
14. How do historians determine what life was like in Ancient Sumer?
15. Name two problems with the sources of information that historians use to find out about Sumerian mythology. Give brief details.
16. What was cuneiform?
17. Paper, pens and pencils had not yet been invented in Sumer, what did Ancient Sumerians use to write on and with?
18. What role did goddesses play in Ancient Sumerian myths and literature?
19. How did the female goddesses differ from the mortal women of Sumer?
20. Compare Sumerian mythology to Greek mythology.

### Activity 5

Name three lesser gods and goddesses and give a brief description of each.

Follow the diagrams to create the book.

Write the names of the figures you chose; one per section.

Unfold and write the descriptions under the appropriate sections.

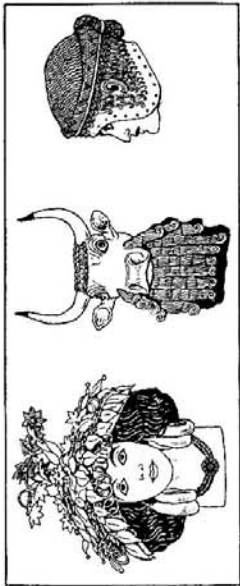

Cut on dotted lines.


Fold lowest sections up on solid line.

<b>Name 1</b>	<b>Name 2</b>	<b>Name 3</b>

Fold next section up on solid line.

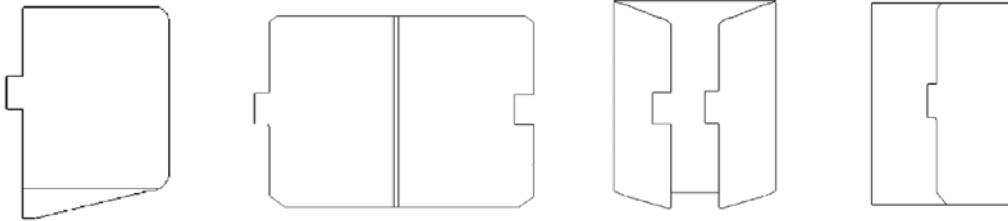
# Lesser Gods or Goddesses







## Instructions to Re-fold a Folder



### Normal Fold:

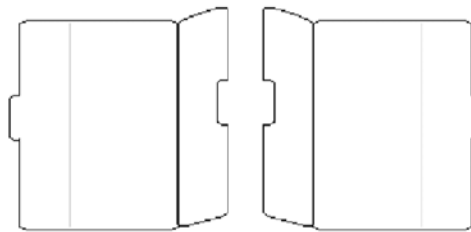
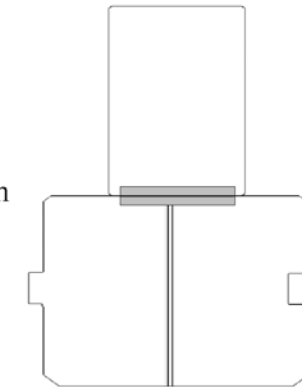
Open folder flat

Fold both the right and left edge to the center crease creating a shutter

Cut a folder in half OR use a piece of cardstock to form your extension

Lay the extension in the center of the shutter fold folder

Attach at the top end using clear packing tape



### Double Folder:

Open folder flat

Fold both the right and left edge in toward the center crease creating a shutter

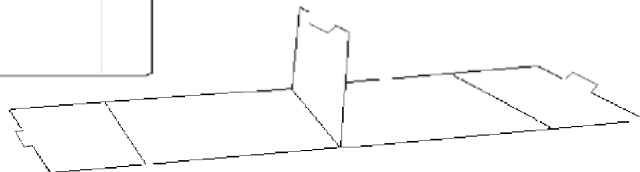
Do this again with a second folder

Set both folders side by side with their shutters opened (pointing straight up not flat)

In the center where the two folders meet glue the outer flaps of each shutter together connecting the two folders

Fold both shutters closed and flip over and close

The back of one of the folders becomes your cover



\*\*\*You can add extensions to a double folder using the same method as for a single folder.

Bookings  
0200 88 - 2170 88

Gods &  
esses of  
Summer

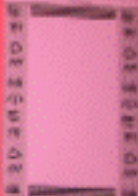


The Role  
of the  
Godesses



Bookings  
0758 88 - 2063 88

Bookings  
0758 88 - 2063 88



Lower Gods or Goddesses

Sumerian Myth  
The Creation  
of Man

# Major Gods & Goddesses of Ancient Sumer



Lugalbanda  
Poems

Source Problems

Click to reveal content

HIGHLIGHTS  
FROM  
CIVILIZATION

Gods  
&  
Mortal Women

## Vocabulary

A list of words and other phrases usually arranged alphabetically and defined or translated



Arabic Numeration Creation M...

