

DBQ: Examining Primary Sources



This is a votive (prayer or offering) statue of a Babylonian king, dating to approximately 2450 B.C.E. It was discovered in southern Babylonia (present-day Iraq), and now resides in the Louvre, a museum in Paris, France. The statue is made of diorite stone, which would have been imported into Babylonia.

Questions

1. What does the source of the stone used to create this statue say about Babylonian trade circa 2450 BCE?
 - a. Babylonia traded with its neighbors.
 - b. Babylonians did not trade with their neighbors.
 - c. Only diorite was imported into Babylonia.
 - d. Only votive statues could be made from diorite stone.

2. How is the figure posed in the statue? Without knowing what the words on the statue say, how is it possible to assume that the statue is related to prayer, rather than war or power?

3. This statue is an artifact (a human-made object). It was uncovered by archaeologists working in Iraq in the very early 20th century. Why are artifacts important to historians?
