

Class 11th | History



Section : A

Writing and
& City life

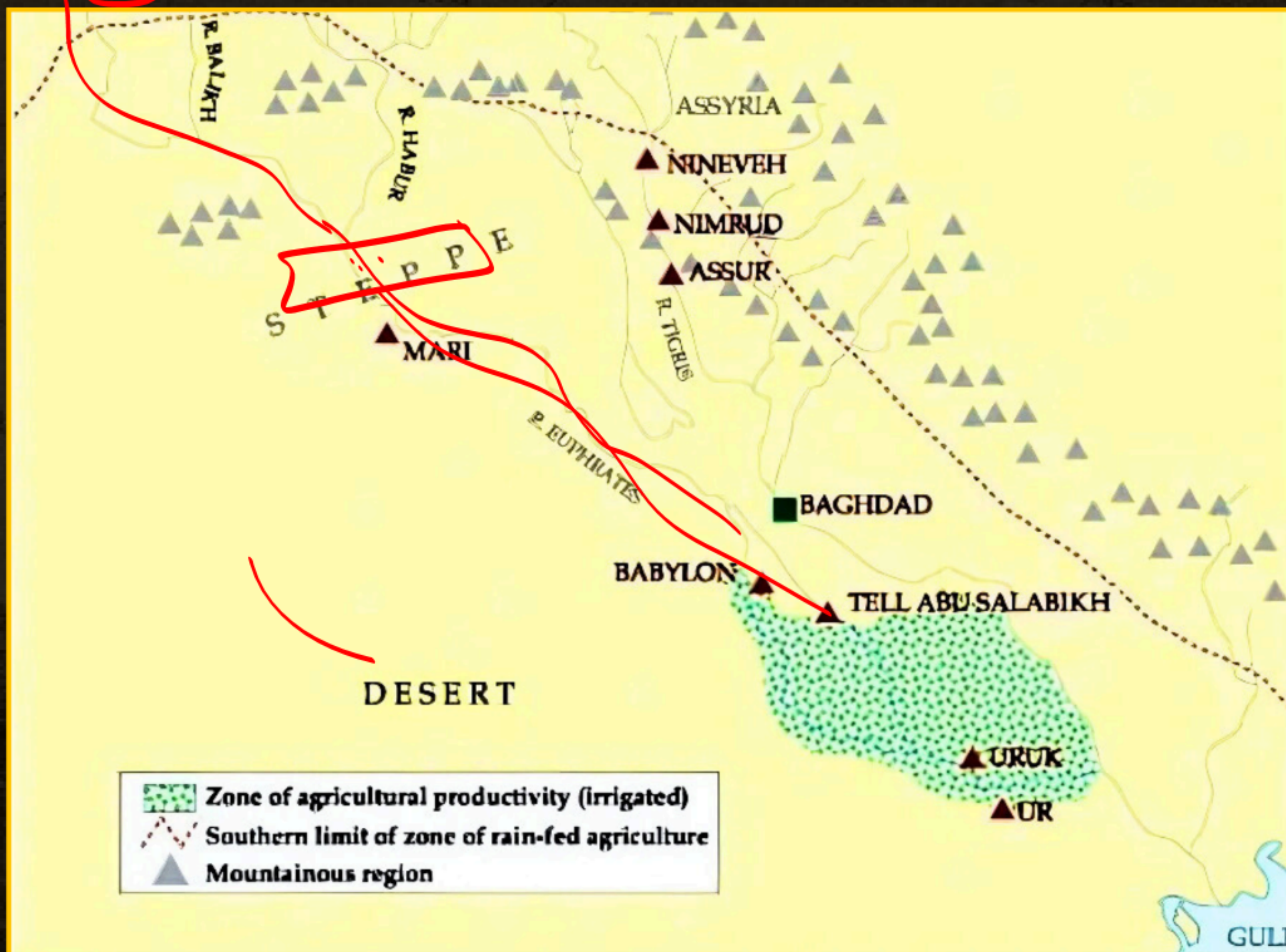
Lecture -05

RECAP

Mesopotamia: Intro

- writing
- Temple cities Uruk, UR
- Trading Town → Mari

GEOGRAPHY



A TRADING TOWN IN A PASTORAL ZONE



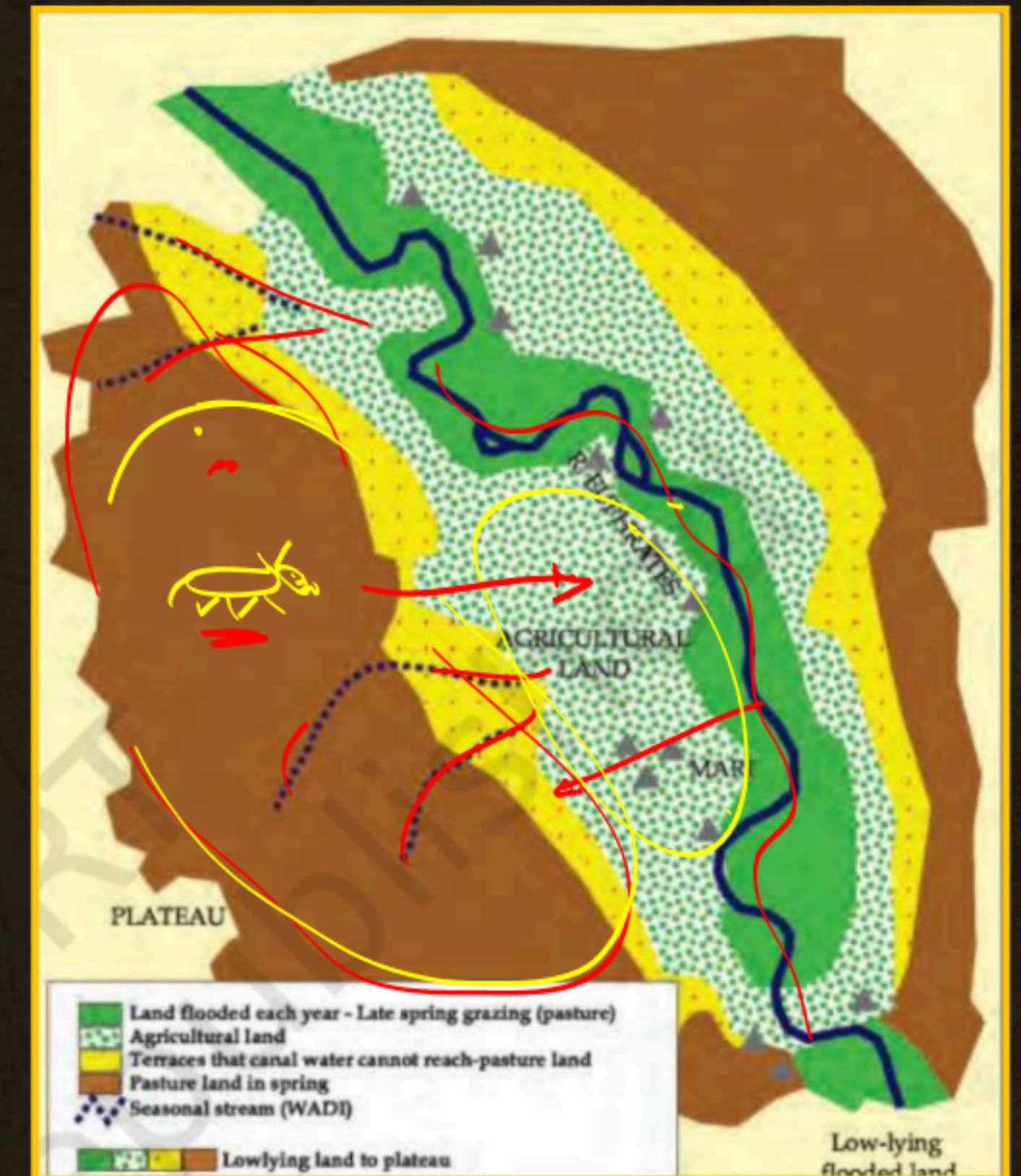
Royal Capital of Mari

- On the Euphrates, upstream from southern plains, flourished after 2000 BCE.

Society:

- Herders need to exchange young animals, Cheese, Leather and meat in return for grain and Metal tools, etc.
- The manure of a penned flock is also of great use to a farmer.

**CONFLICT WAS A PART OF THE SOCIETY
(NOMADIC X AGRICULTURAL)**



A TRADING TOWN IN A PASTORAL ZONE

Conflict

1. Nomadic communities of the western deserts filtered into the prosperous agricultural heartland.
2. A shepherd may take his flock to water across a sown field, to the ruin of the crop.
3. Herdsmen being mobile can raid agricultural villages and seize their stored goods.
4. Farmers, the settled groups may deny pastoralists access to river and canal water along a certain set of paths.

War to gain resources



Establishing their own rule

- Such groups would come in as herders, harvest labourers or hired soldiers, occasionally become prosperous, and settle down.
- A few gained the power to establish their own rule. These included the Akkadians, Amorites, Assyrians and Aramaeans.

A TRADING TOWN IN A PASTORAL ZONE

The kings of Mari - Amorites

- ✓ Their dress was different from that of the original inhabitants.
- They respected not only the gods of Mesopotamia but also raised a temple at Mari for **Dagan-god of the steppe**.
- Thus, Intermixture of culture:



A warrior holding a long spear and a wicker shield. Note the dress, typical of Amorites, and different from that of the Sumerian warrior shown on p. 18. This picture was incised on shell, c.2600 BCE,

A TRADING TOWN IN A PASTORAL ZONE

Challenges Faced by Kings of Mari

- They had to be vigilant as herders of various tribes were allowed to move in the kingdom, suspects that a raid or an attack is being planned.
- **Located on the Euphrates in a prime position for trade:** here officials inspect the cargo, and levy a charge of about one-tenth the value of the goods before allowing the boat to continue downstream in wood, copper, tin, oil, wine, and various other goods that were carried in boats along the **Euphrates**- between the south and the mineral-rich uplands of Turkey, Syria and Lebanon.

A TRADING TOWN IN A PASTORAL ZONE

System of Taxtion on Trade

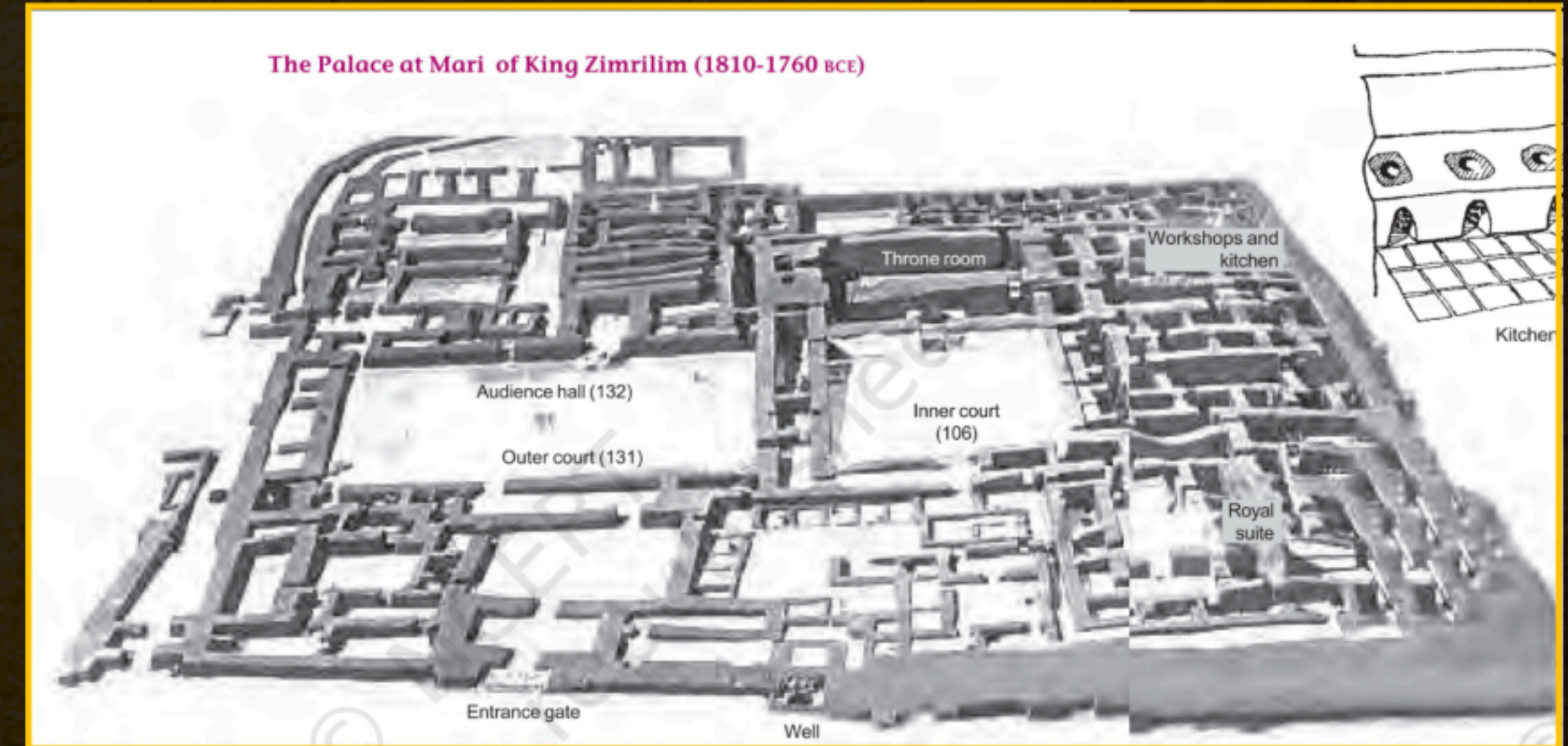
- Barley came in special grain boats.
- Tablets refer to copper from 'Alashiya'-the island of Cyprus (country in East Mediterranean) known for its copper, and tin was also an item of trade.
- Bronze was main industrial material for tools and weapons.
- Although, The Kingdom was not militarily strong, it was exceptionally prosperous.



PALACE OF KING ZIMRILLIM (1810-1760 BCE)

The Palace at Mari of King Zimrilim (1810-1760 BCE)

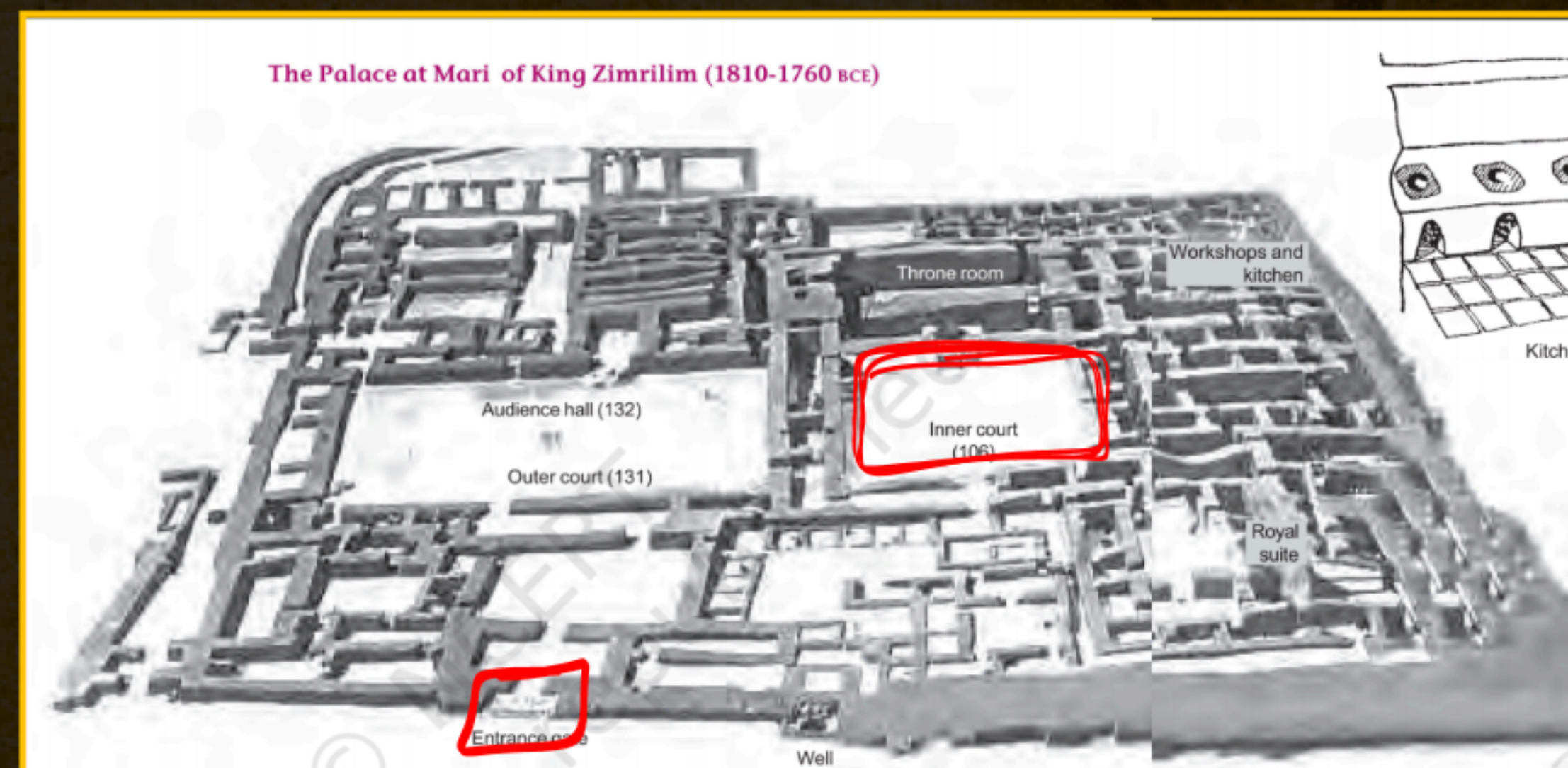
- The great palace of Mari was the residence of the royal family, the hub administration, and a place of production, especially of precious metal ornaments. ?
- It was so famous in its time that a minor king came from north Syria just to see it, carrying with him a letter of introduction from a royal friend of the king of Mari, Zimrilim.



PALACE OF KING ZIMRILLIM (1810-1760 BCE)

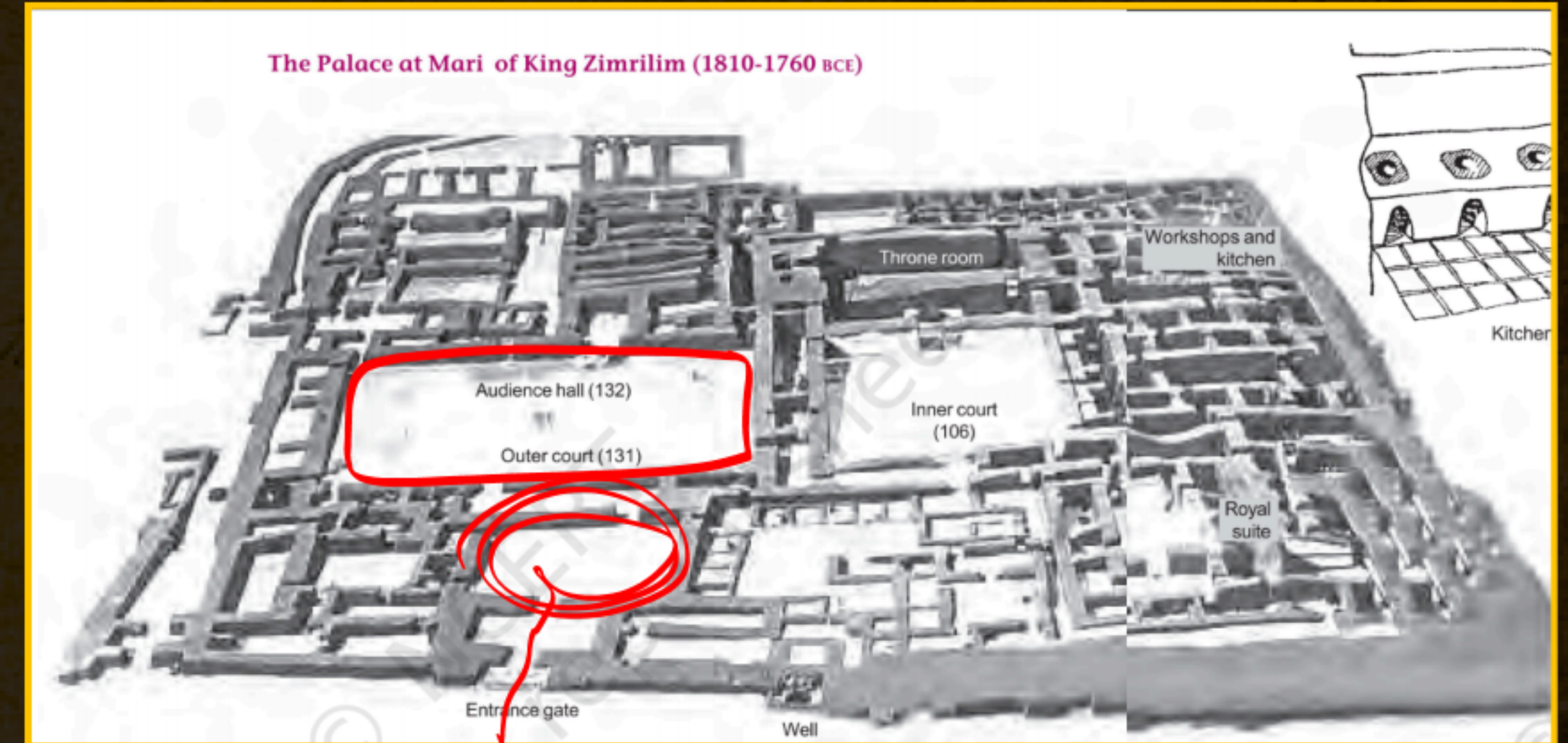
The Palace at Mari of King Zimrilim (1810-1760 BCE)

- Daily lists reveal that huge quantities of food were presented each day for the king's table: flour, bread, meat, fish, fruit, beer and wine.
- He probably ate in the company of many others, in or around courtyard, paved white.
- You will notice from the plan that the palace had only one entrance, on the north.

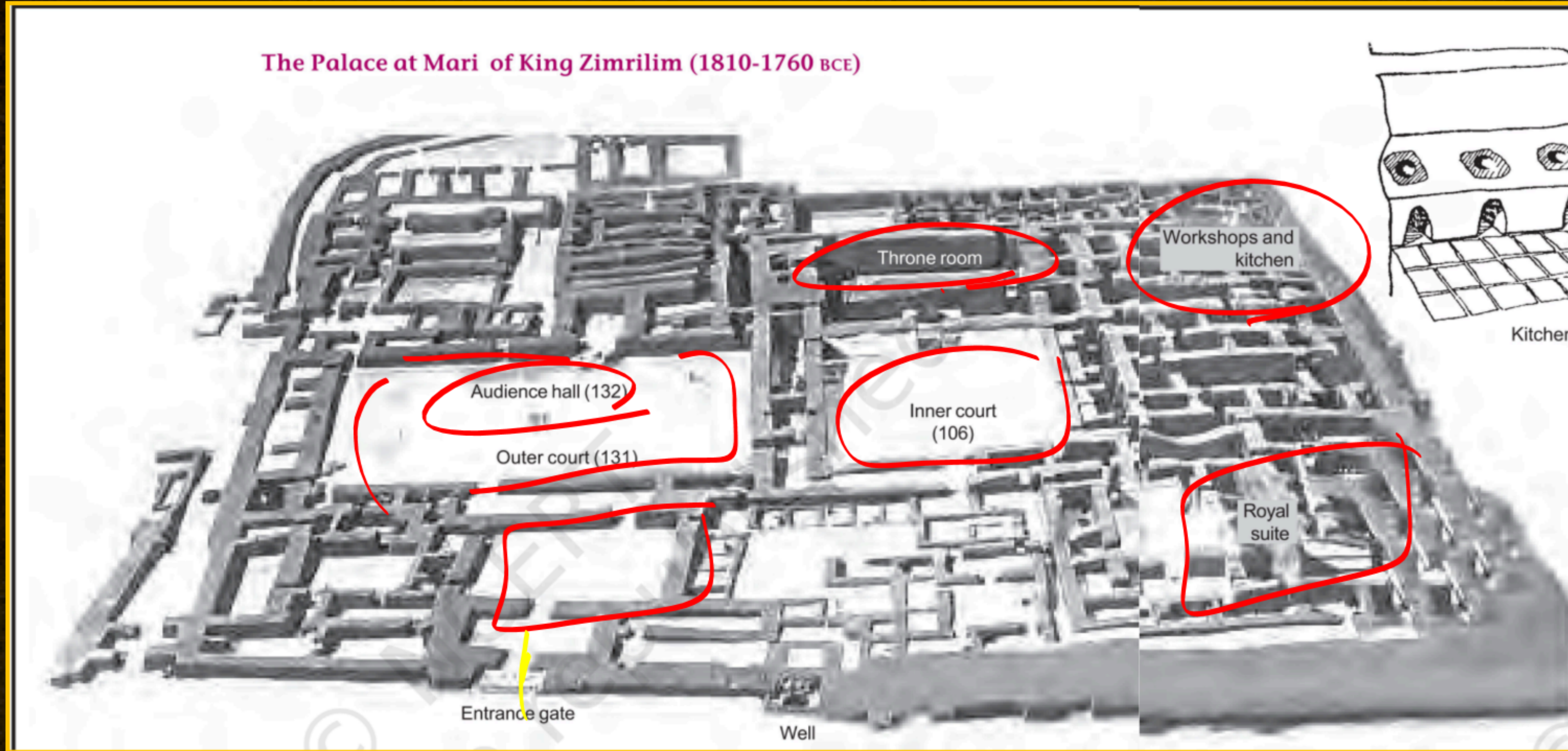


PALACE OF KING ZIMRILLIM (1810-1760 BCE)

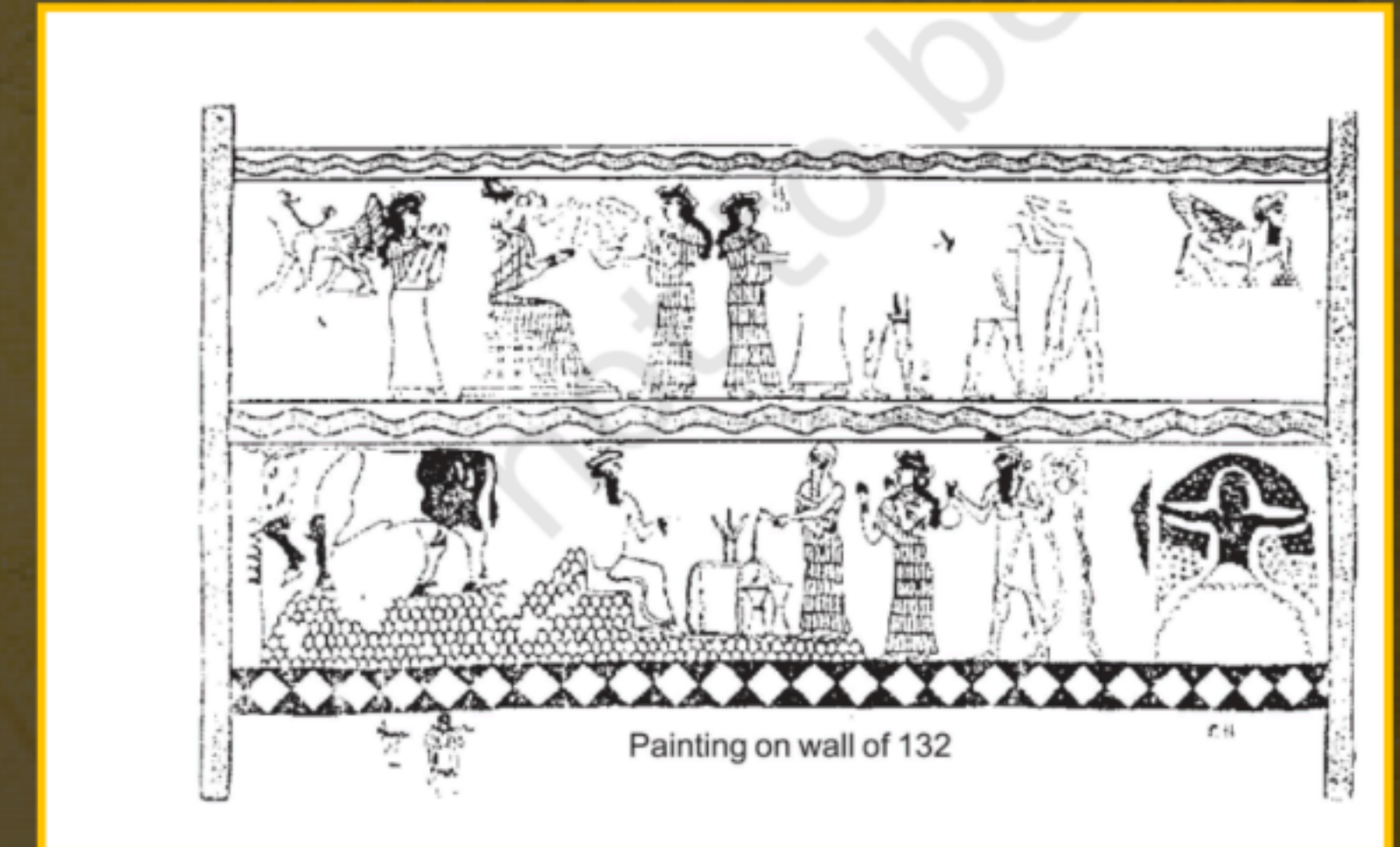
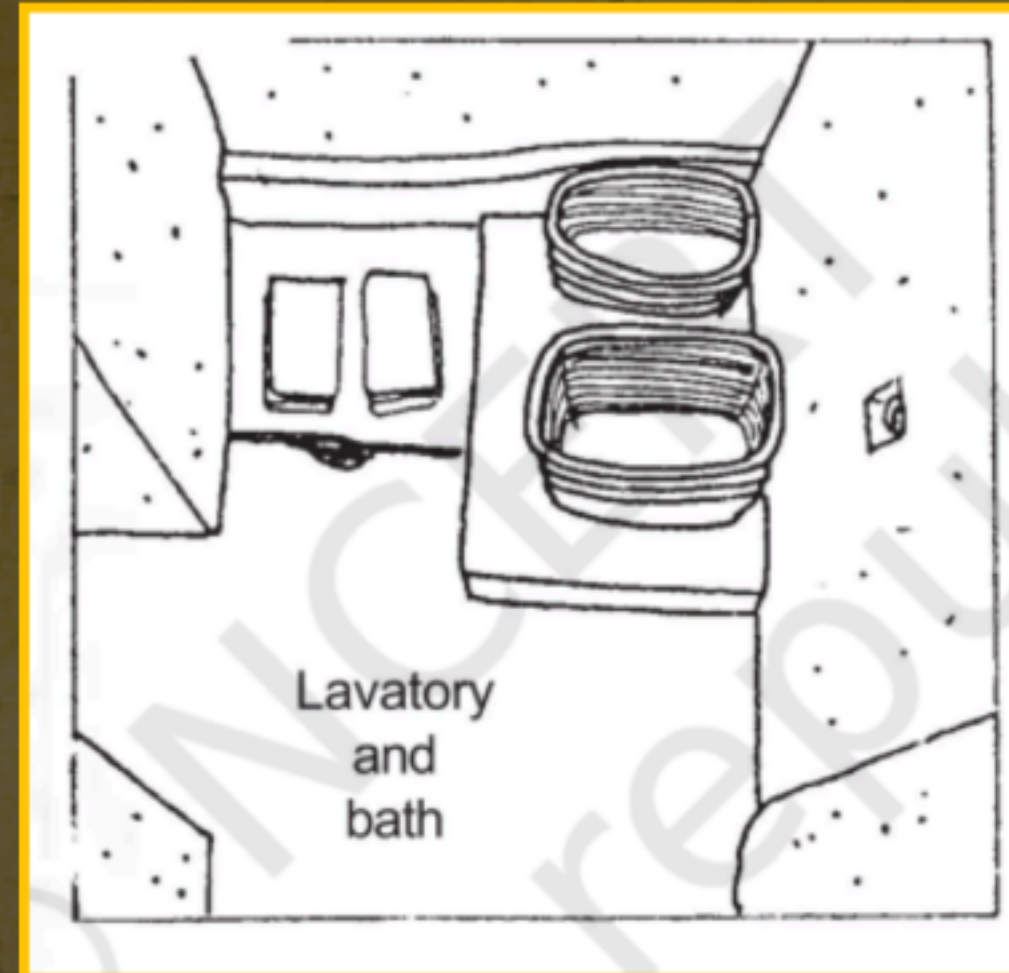
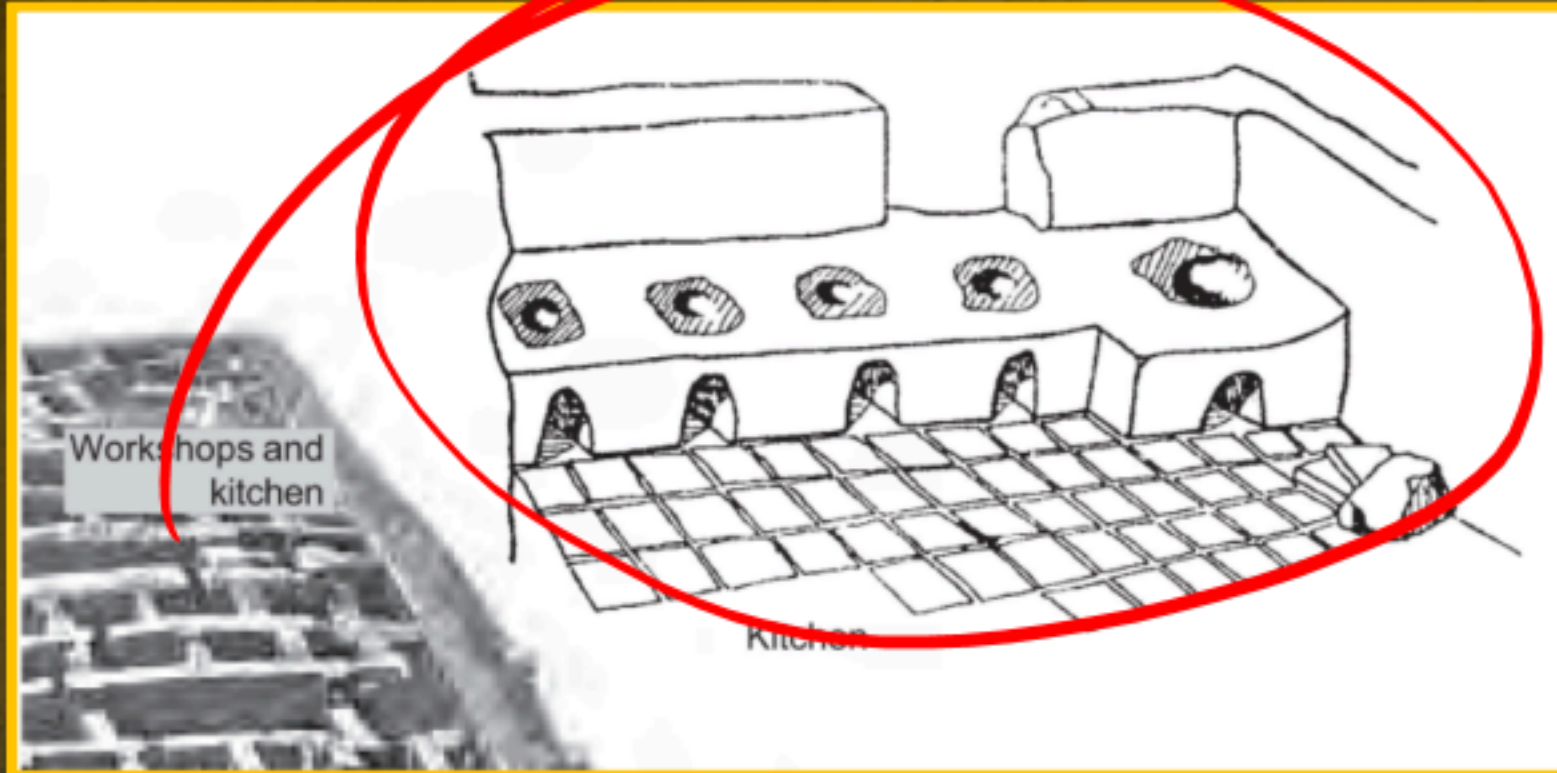
- Large, open courtyards were beautifully paved.
- The king would have received foreign dignitaries and his own people in a room with wall paintings that would have awed the visitors. (Audience hall)
- The palace was a sprawling structure, with 260 rooms and covered an area of 2.4 hectares.



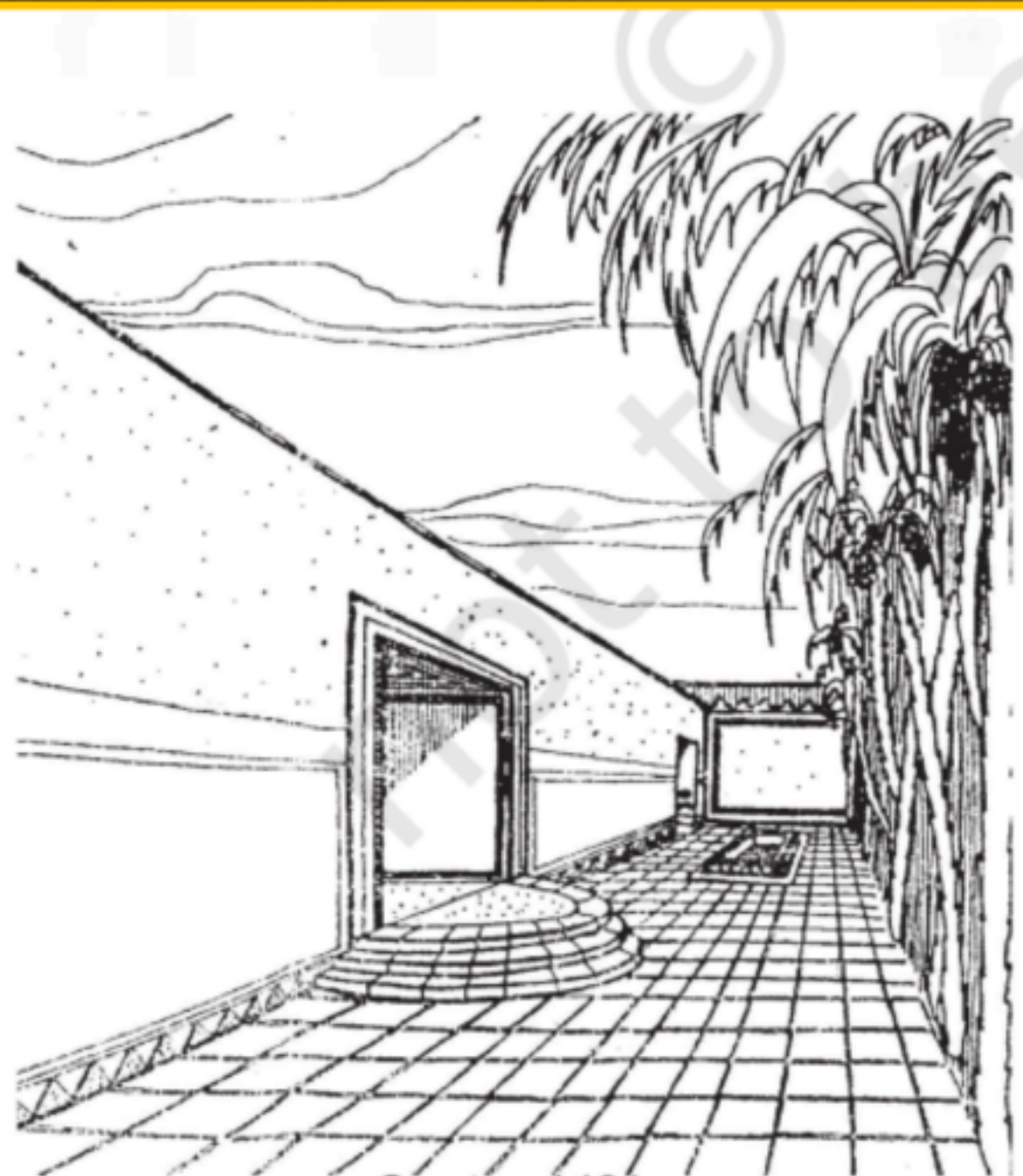
PALACE OF KING ZIMRILLIM (1810-1760 BCE)



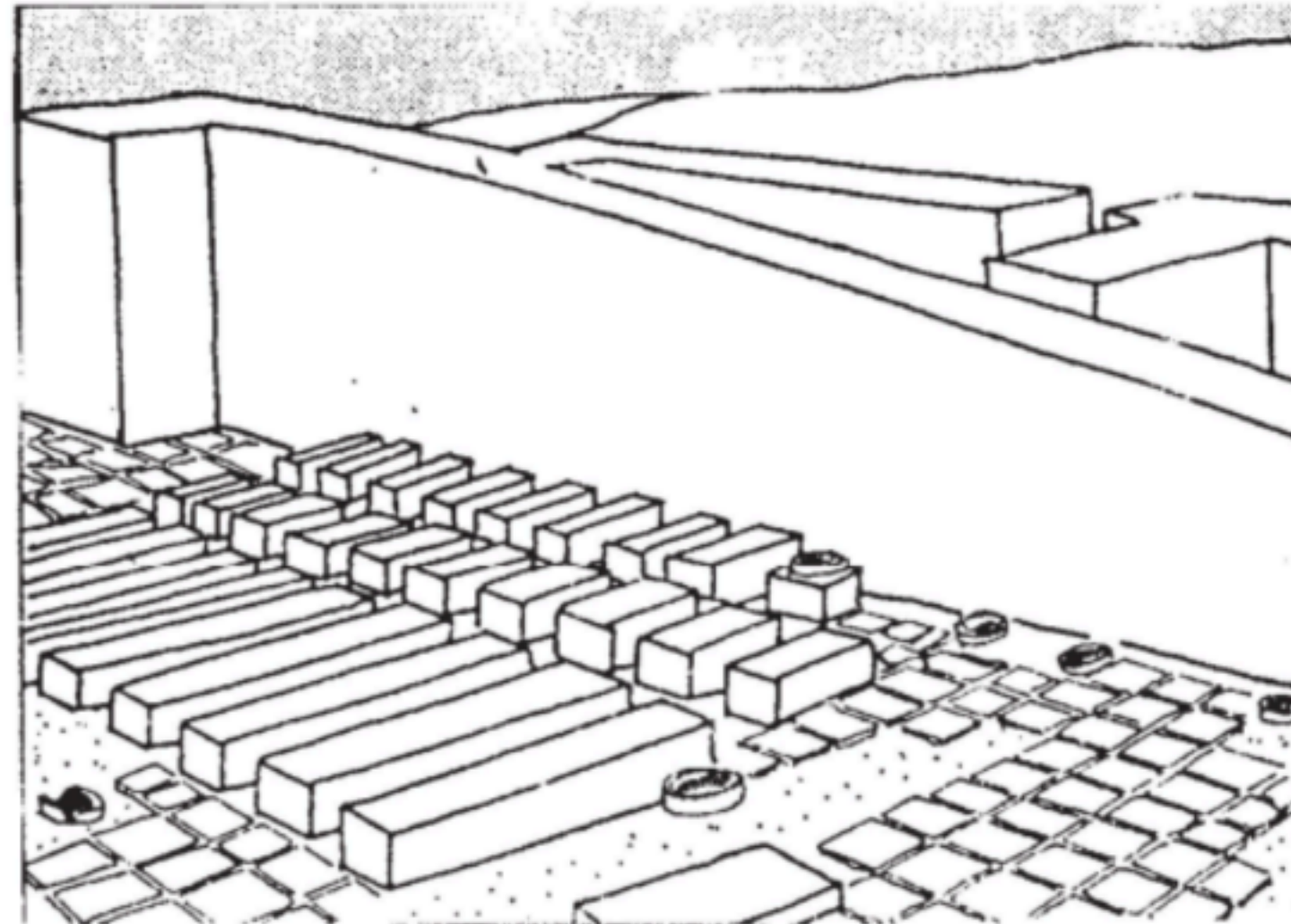
PALACE OF KING ZIMRILLIM (1810-1760 BCE)



PALACE OF KING ZIMRILLIM (1810-1760 BCE)



Courtyard 131



Scribes' office with benches and clay bins for
storing tablets

PALACE OF KING ZIMRILLIM (1810-1760 BCE)

Excavating Mesopotamian Towns

Today, Mesopotamian excavators have much higher standards of accuracy and care in recording than in the old days, so that few dig huge areas the way Ur was excavated. Moreover, few archaeologists have the funds to employ large teams of excavators. Thus, the mode of obtaining data has changed.

Take the small town at Abu Salabikh, about 10 hectares in area in 2500 BCE with a population less than 10,000. The outlines of walls were at first traced by scraping surfaces. This involves scraping off the top few millimetres of the mound with the sharp and wide end of a shovel or other tool. While the soil underneath was still slightly moist, the archaeologist could make out different colours, textures and lines of brick walls or pits or other features. A few houses that were discovered were excavated. The archaeologists also sieved through tons of earth to recover plant and animal remains, and in the process identified many species of plants and animals and found large quantities of charred fish bones that had been swept out on to the streets. Plant seeds and fibre remained after dung cakes had been burned as fuel and thus kitchens were identified. Living rooms were those with fewer traces. Because they found the teeth of very young pigs on the streets, archaeologists concluded that pigs must have roamed freely here as in any other Mesopotamian town. In fact, one house burial contained some pig bones – the dead person must have been given some pork for his nourishment in the afterlife! The archaeologists also made microscopic studies of room floors to decide which rooms in a house were roofed (with poplar logs, palm leaves, straw, etc.) and which were open to the sky.

MCQ'S

01. Who established their rule in Mari?

- (a) Akkadians
- (b) Amorites
- (c) Assyrians and Aramaeans
- ~~(d) All of the above~~

STAY CONNECTED

KEEP LEARNING

Thank You



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