

By 3000 B.C.E., Sumerian cities were constantly fighting over water usage. People built thick walls around their cities to protect themselves from attack, and built strong gates at the cities' entrances. Cities also gradually grew larger and more highly organized, with organized armies and systems of government. This new form of city and its surrounding villages and farmlands is called a *city-state*. City-state members were almost always prepared for war. They each appointed a "big man," or *lugal*, to lead the city-state during times of emergency warfare. The *lugal* eventually gained power and began to rule the city-state permanently as king.