

Warm Up:

A mudhif is an ancient town hall constructed of “phragmites,” or reeds, some of which grow in the marshes between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers. The mudhif traces its roots to Sumer, a civilization that thrived 5,000 years ago in modern-day Iraq. You will learn about the mudhif, its cultural, spiritual and environmental importance in Iraq and throughout the world.

1. Work alone or form small groups of 3-4 students.
2. Orient yourself toward the article by focusing on its headline, and the large-type pull-quotes. Look at the photos and images, but don’t read the captions.
3. Discuss or jot down 1-2 complete sentences that you think will summarize the main idea of the story. Brainstorm a few questions you hope will be answered by the time you’ve finished reading the article and completing the assigned activity or activities.