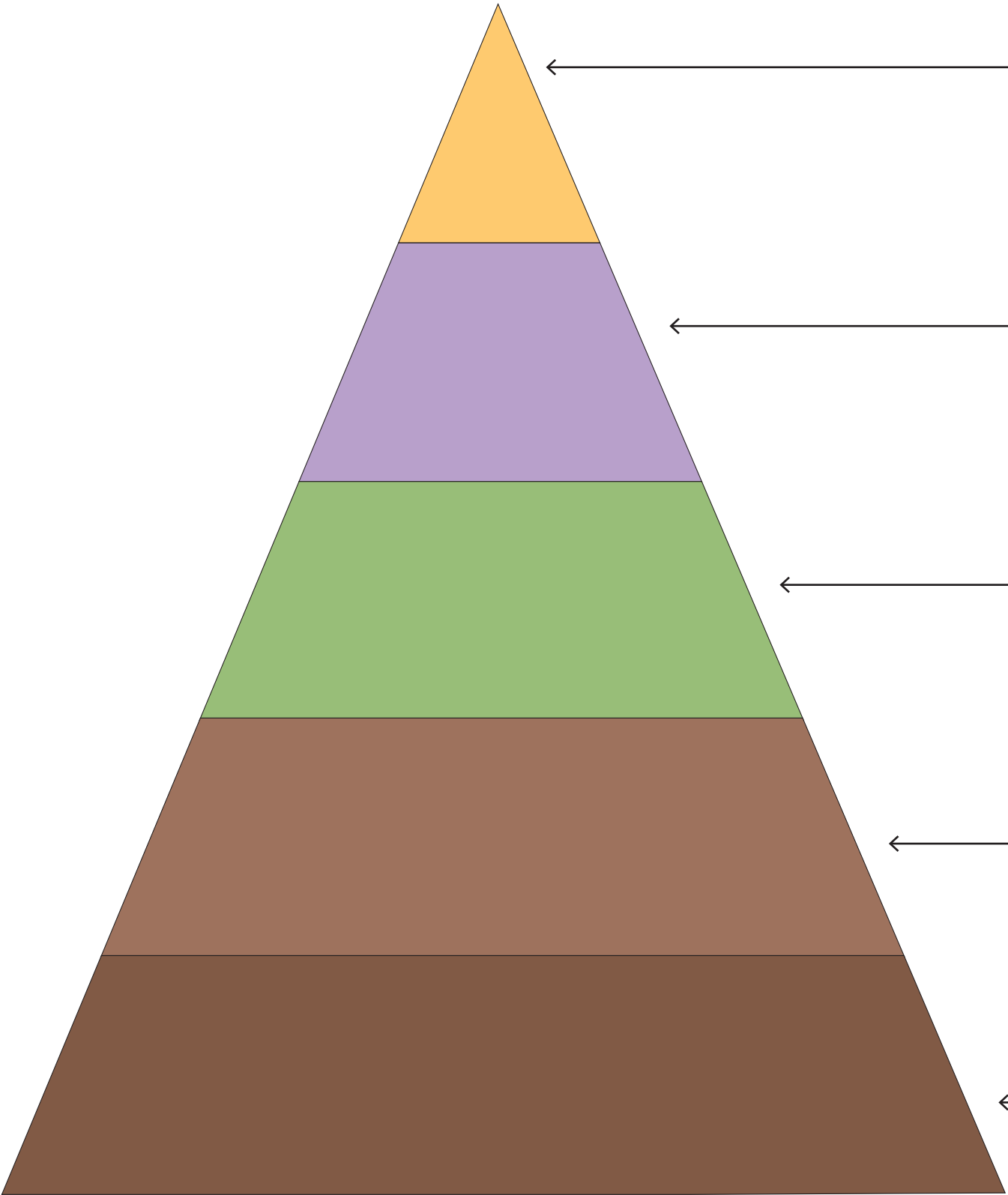


Ancient Sumer hierarchy

most powerful



least powerful

The **king**, or ***lugal***, made laws, led the army and ordered taxes to be paid. He was believed to have a special relationship with the gods.



Priests and **priestesses** were powerful and told people how to behave to keep the gods happy.



The **upper classes** were made up of successful merchants, scribes, high-ranking soldiers, accountants, architects and teachers. They lived well and had leisure time.



Lower classes were craftspeople, farmers, artists, builders, musicians, bakers, fishermen, soldiers and merchants. They kept the city running smoothly.



Slaves were prisoners of war. They worked for the king and priests but upper class Sumerians also bought slaves to work for them. Slaves did many jobs, including manual work and teaching.

