

Enlil

- Enlil was the god of air and storms.
- The people of ancient Sumer believed that he was responsible for separating the earth from the heavens so he is regarded as 'The Father of the Gods'.
- Enlil was thought to be responsible for bringing life to the land.
- The people of Nippur believed he was Lord of the Ghost Land and responsible for giving humans spells to use on spirits.
- Enlil was the inventor of the mattock (a farming tool). His temple was called Enkur, meaning 'House of the Mountain'.



Ninhursag

- Ninhursag was the goddess of the earth.
- Her name means 'Lady of the Sacred Mountain'.
- It was believed that she was responsible for creating the plants and life on earth.
- Ninhursag was responsible for granting fertility.
- She wore a green leafy crown and held a branch, reflecting her position as mother earth.
- Ninhursag was also often shown holding a lion cub on a lead.



Enki

- Enki was the god of water.
- It was believed that he was responsible for bringing the arts and sciences to mankind.
- Enki could give the rulers of ancient Sumer intelligence and provide craftsmen with valuable skills.
- Enki is often shown surrounded by flowing water.
- The people believed Enki was full of fun and, sometimes, mischief.
- He was the keeper of the 'Me', which were the laws of civilisation, adhered to and overseen by the gods.



Utu

- Utu was the god of the Sun.
- He was the son of the Moon god, Nanna, and the goddess Ningal.
- He was shown with rays of light emanating from his shoulders.
- It was believed that Utu was responsible for ensuring that all was well in the world.
- He carried a saw that had many teeth and represented his responsibility for carving out justice.
- Utu was believed to emerge from a hole in an eastern mountain in the morning and retreat to a hole in a western mountain in the evening.



Ereshkigal

- Ereshkigal was the goddess of the underworld, which was called Irkalla.
- Her name means 'Great Lady under the Earth'.
- She was solely responsible for deciding what happened to people and giving advice in her kingdom.
- Her main temple was in Kutha.
- It was believed that Ereshkigal employed monsters to guard the gates to the underworld.
- Ereshkigal may have been depicted as a naked lady with wings and talons on her feet, but nobody knows exactly what she was thought to look like as there is no conclusive evidence.



Ninurta

- Ninurta was the god of war.
- He was believed, by the people of Nippur, to be the son of the god Enlil and the goddess Ninlil.
- Ninurta was usually shown carrying a bow and arrow or a sickle sword.
- Some myths tell of Ninurta taking the form of a lion with wings.
- In many legends, Ninurta battles with vicious monsters.
- He is sometimes shown standing on the back of a winged lion that has a scorpion's tail.

