

Schools in Sumer

- I. The school building was located **near the temple** and was called the "tablet house" (**edubba**)
- II. The **purpose** of schooling was to **educate scribes** for religious, governmental and commercial services.
- III. **Tuition fees** were collected. Only **rich** families could afford school for children. Only **males** were educated. The school day lasted from **dawn until sunset**.
- IV. School staff included:
 - A. The **school head** or expert, (**ummi**) "school father" decided what was to be taught.
 1. there were no discussions, field trips or activities, at first students just **copied tablets** all day
 2. later students studied animals, plants, rocks, arithmetic and literature
 - B. The **assistant teacher** (big brother)
 1. **examined homework**
 2. **listened to student recitations**
 3. **prepared new tablets for writing**
 - C. Other **faculty** members were in charge of **penmanship, grammar**, etc.
 - D. **An apprentice teacher** was in charge of **discipline**, which was strict (they used a **cane**)
In one record a schoolboy was punished by caning for each of the following:
 - a) a mistake in written grammar
 - b) wore dirty clothes
 - c) spoke without permission
 - d) rose from chair without permission
 - e) took something without permission
 - f) used poor spoken grammar
 - g) used poor script

**When asked to dinner by the boy's father and given presents,
the teacher gave the boy good reports from then on.**

