

Chapter 3: Ancient Mesopotamia

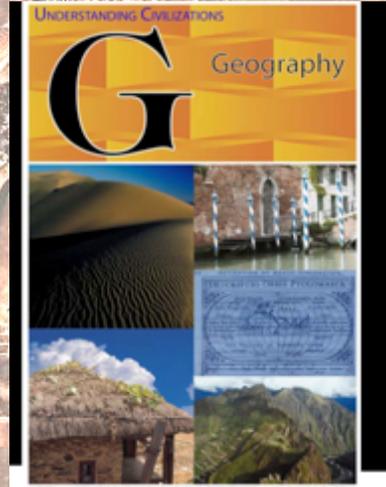
Lesson 1 **Geography of Mesopotamia**

MAIN IDEAS

Geography The land between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers was a good region for agriculture

Geography The environment of Mesopotamia presented several challenges to the people who lived there.

Geography Mesopotamians changed their environment to improve life



Mesopotamia

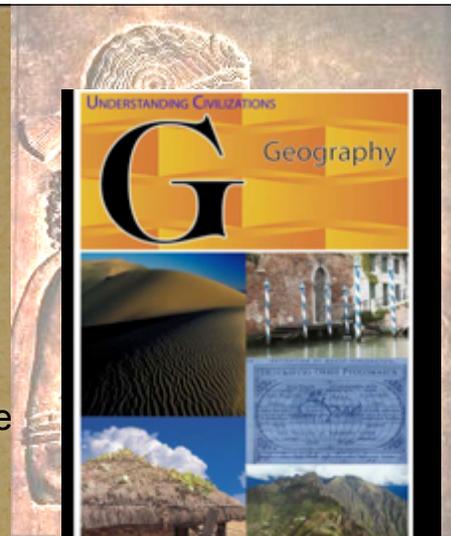
- **Tigris and Euphrates rivers** are in Southwest Asia
 - they start in mountains of today's Turkey, Kurdistan
 - flow southeast through today's Iraq to Persian Gulf
- Region is called **Mesopotamia**, "land between the rivers"
- Rivers provide water and a means for travel
 - area had few roads, so boats carried heavy loads on river currents

Fertile Soil

- Mountain rain and melting snow swelled rivers, carried soil to plains
 - overflowed onto **floodplain**—flat land bordering banks that contains **silt deposited by overflowing rivers**
 - deposited **fine fertile soil, or silt**, making land fertile, good for crops

A Semiarid Climate

- **Semiarid climate**—hot summers, less than 10 inches of annual rainfall
- Crops grew in this dry region because of rivers, fertile soil
 - many farming villages across southern Mesopotamia by 4000 B.C.



Controlling Water by Irrigation

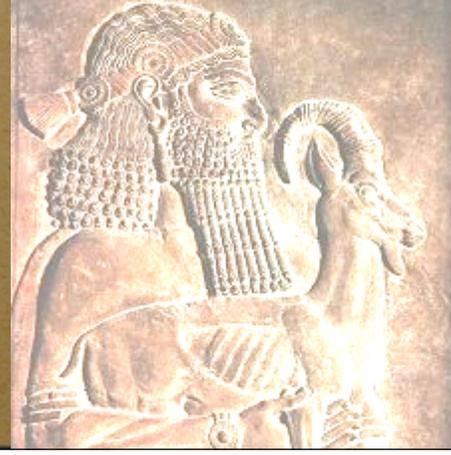
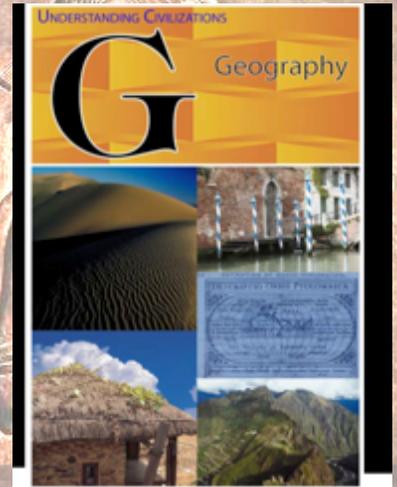
ESSENTIAL QUESTION How did the climate affect farmers?

Floods and Droughts

- Annual flood unpredictable, came sometime between April and June
 - farmers didn't know when to plant or how big flood would be
- **Drought**—period without enough rain and snowfall
 - lowered river levels
 - made it hard to water crops; people starved if crops failed

Irrigation

- By 6000 B.C., **irrigation** canals carried water from rivers to fields
 - workers unclogged canals, built dams to hold back floodwaters



Finding Resources

ESSENTIAL QUESTION How did Mesopotamians cope with a lack of resources?

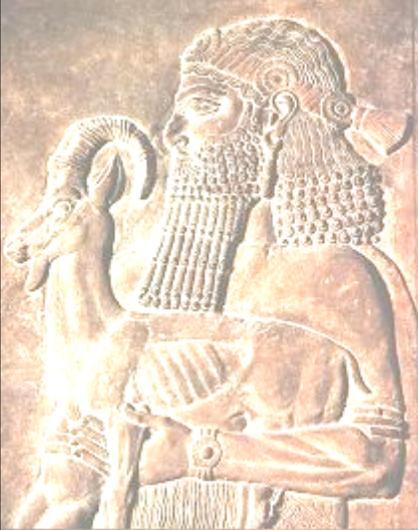
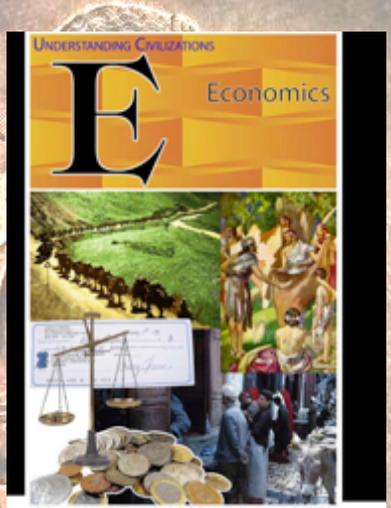
A **resource** is something that is found in the environment that is useful to people

Mud Houses and Walls

- Mesopotamia had no forests for wood, lacked building materials
 - used mud for bricks, plaster; these materials crumbled easily
- Area had few mountains or natural barriers so it was easy to invade
 - other regions' peoples often stole from or conquered Mesopotamians
 - Mesopotamians built mud walls around villages for protection

Finding Resources

- Mesopotamians traded their surplus grain for stone, wood, metal
 - **surplus** means more than they needed for themselves
- Digging canals, building walls, trading were done continuously
 - community leaders began to organize groups to do the work



Lesson Summary

- The Tigris and Euphrates rivers made the soil of Mesopotamia good for growing crops.
- The people of Mesopotamia developed an irrigation system to bring water to crops.
- Mesopotamia had few resources. People traded surplus crops to get what they needed.



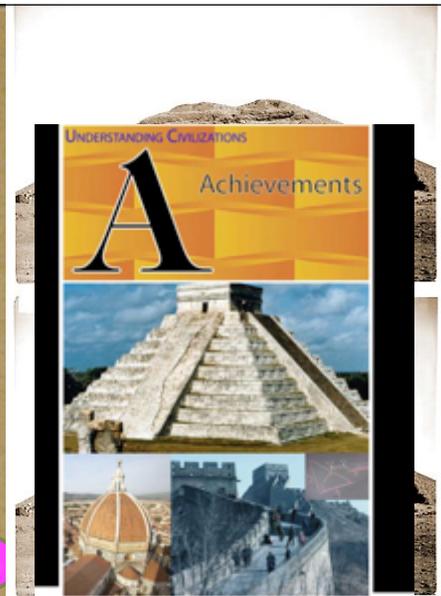
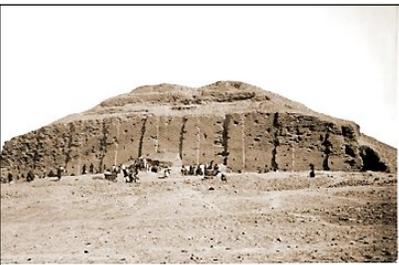
Lesson 2 **The First Civilization**
MAIN IDEAS

Culture Grows More Complex

- Rise of agriculture allowed people to settle in villages
- As villages grew into cities, society and culture grew more complex
 - changes led to **civilization**—advanced form of culture
- Most historians think **civilization first began in Sumer, 3300 B.C.**
 - **Sumer**—a region in southern Mesopotamia

5 Traits of Civilization

- **Advanced Cities**—offered many advantages
 - place to store, trade surplus grain; later, many jobs, large temples
- **Specialized Workers**—people do jobs requiring special skills
 - specialization and developing skills improves quality of work
 - city people must cooperate on projects and organize their society
 - in early Sumerian cities, priests organized society, acted as judges
- **Complex Institutions**—religion, government became institutions
 - groups of people who share a purpose, help society meet its needs
 - institutions also include schools, armies
- **Record Keeping**—societies must keep records of things such as food
 - usually written, but early Mesopotamians used counting sticks
 - later Mesopotamians invented world's first system of writing
- **Advanced Technology**—people learn better ways of doing things
 - Sumerians used canals to irrigate crops
 - created new tools, used new materials
 - made tools from bronze—a mixture of copper and tin
 - replaced softer copper metal



Sumerian City-States

ESSENTIAL QUESTION What new type of community developed in Sumer?

The City-States of Sumer

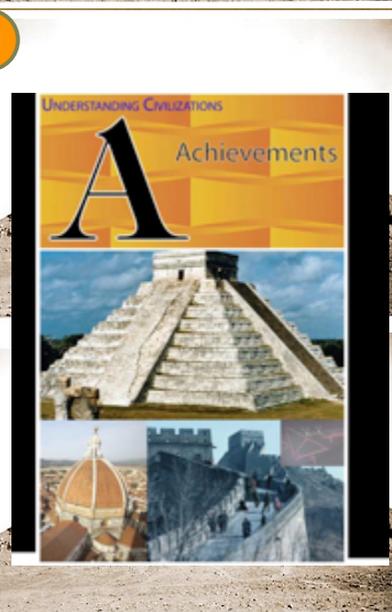
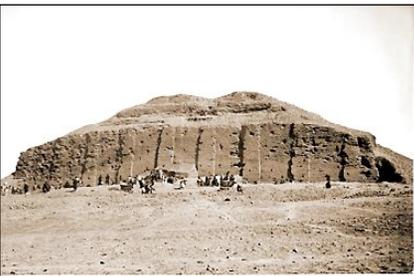
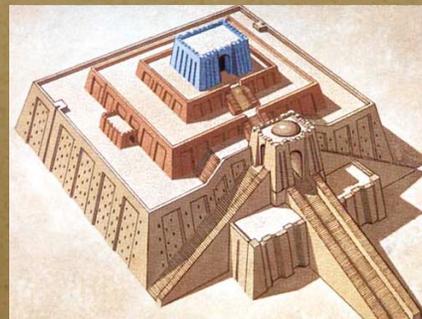
- Cities were centers of society, but most people lived in country
 - cities began to rule surrounding lands, villages
- **City-state**—self-ruled community including city and nearby farmlands
- By 3000 B.C., Sumer had at least 12 city-states
 - most, like Ur, were on fertile land by mouths of Tigris, Euphrates

Life in the City

- Slow-growing Sumerian cities had narrow, winding streets
- Walls surrounded cities; gates let people come and go
- Homes had thick mud walls to keep out heat, tunnels to get fresh air
 - rooms surrounded covered courtyard that was cooking area

The Ziggurat: City Center

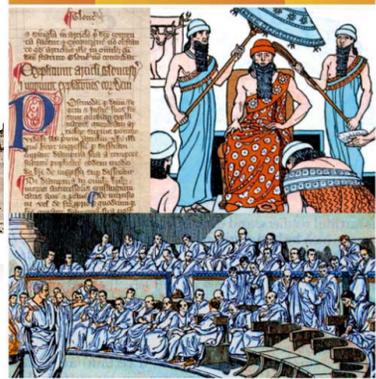
- In Sumerian city, largest, most important building was the **temple**
 - **ziggurats**—Sumerian temples first built around 2200 B.C.
- Priests ran irrigation, so **ziggurat** was center of city life
 - priests were paid with grain, so they controlled, stored surplus
 - priests ended up controlling much of city-states' wealth



R Religion



P Politics



Changes in Leadership

ESSENTIAL QUESTION How did the leadership of Sumer change?

Sumerian Religion

- Sumerian religion based on **polytheism**—belief in many gods, goddesses
 - gods of sky, wind, foothills, fresh water created and ruled world
- Each city-state worshiped own god
 - Sumerians had thousands of lesser gods
- Believed gods looked and acted like people

Priests Become Leaders

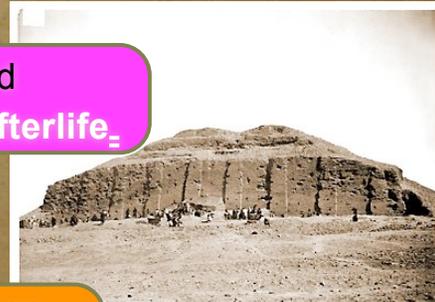
- Sumerians thought gods protected against flood, drought, invasion
- Priests worked to please gods in order to protect cities
 - priests claimed that they had influence with gods
 - people believed claim and **accepted priest** as the cities' leaders

Service to the Gods

- Saw gods as rich landowners who created humans to work for them
- People followed religious rules, prayed, made offerings to gods
 - all participated in rituals, many of which were held at ziggurat
- Believed souls of dead went to land of no return—gloomy underworld
 - Scholars think **hard life** made Sumerians expect **unhappy** afterlife.

New Leaders in Sumer

- By 3000 B.C., rich city-states were attacked by other regions, cities
 - In times of war, people asked **powerful men** to rule, protect cities
 - later they ran city-states full-time, took some of priests' jobs
- This type of ruler became a **king**—the highest-ranked leader of group
- By 2375 B.C., Sumer was a kingdom ruled by a single king
- Priests still tried to please gods—people thought gods let kings rule



Lesson Summary

- Sumer had a complex society and culture. Historians consider it the first civilization.
- Sumerian city-states were a form of government that included cities and the land around them.
- Priests were the first leaders in Sumer, but kings became leaders when the need for defense grew.



Lesson 3 Life in Sumer

Social Classes

- Sumerian society grew complex, split into social groups, or classes
 - **class systems** unequal; define who has power, less desirable jobs
- **King, Priests** were at top of Sumer's upper classes, had influence
 - **upper class** included landowners, government officials, merchants
- Most people were of in-between class, including farmers, artisans
- **Slaves** made up lowest class

Slaves

- Some societies used slaves as cheap labor
 - in Sumer, slaves were war prisoners, orphans, poor children, debtors
 - slaves had right to do business, borrow money, buy freedom

Role of Women

- Women had more rights in early Sumer than in later Mesopotamia
 - some upper-class women were priestesses
 - some women landowners, merchants, artisans; most raised children



Sumerian Science and Technology

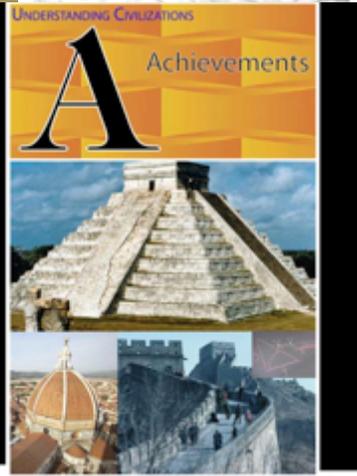
ESSENTIAL QUESTION What tools did the Sumerians invent?

Early Inventions

- May have invented **plow** around 6000 B.C., **wheel** around 3500 B.C.
- First **plows** were digging sticks pulled or pushed by people, animals
 - broke up soil for easier planting, water to get to plants' roots
- **Wheels** used to transport, move goods, get crops to market more easily, quickly
 - transporting goods on river was still more efficient
- **Potter's wheel** let people make pottery faster than by hand
 - pots were important, used to store surplus food
- Sumerians were among first to use **bronze**—mixture of copper, tin
 - bronze stronger than copper, lasted longer, stayed sharper
 - bronze tools could be traded

Mathematics

- Sumerians developed **arithmetic** to record crops, trade goods
- The number system was based on the **number 60**
 - time is one example—60 seconds in a minute, 60 minutes in an hour
- Measuring time helped create calendars
- Used triangle, measuring rope to set land boundaries
 - used geometric shapes to make bricks, ramps, dig canals



Creation of Written Language

ESSENTIAL QUESTION How did the Sumerians invent writing?

Picture Writing

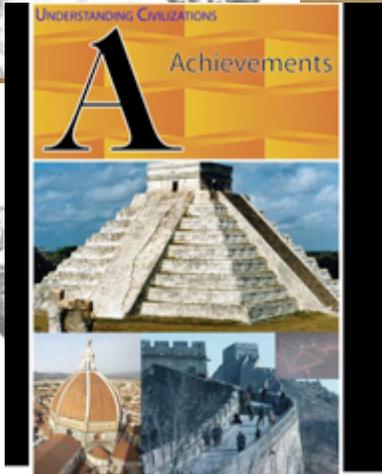
- **Invented writing by 3000 B.C.** for business records, to label goods
- First used clay tokens with image of products, such as cows
 - sealed tokens in containers marked with symbol of product
 - these symbols were **pictographs**—“picture writing”
- Later Sumerians stopped using tokens, drew pictographs on tablets

Cuneiform

- First pictographs showed actual objects, but later stood for ideas
 - eventually they stood for sounds; combined sounds to write words
- **Used sharp reed—stylus—to make wedge-shaped markings in clay**
 - pictures replaced by **cuneiform**—wedge-shaped symbolic writing
- Complex language had 600 symbols, so few people could read and write
 - **scribes**—highly respected writing specialists, record keepers

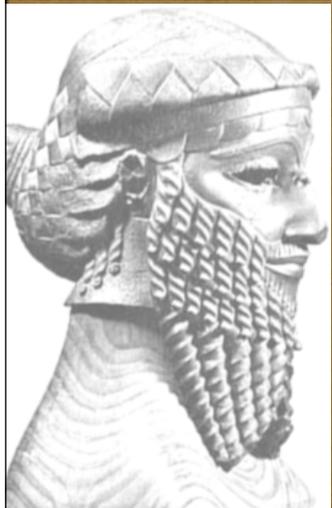
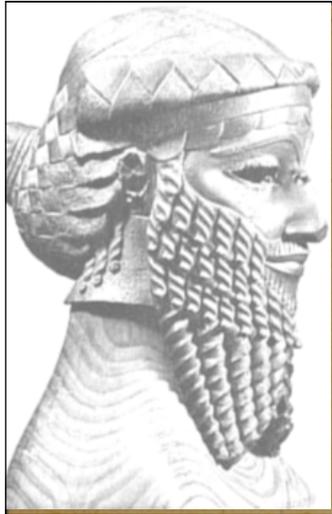
Written History

- At first records were used mainly for business
 - later used writing to record history of wars, floods, kings
- Other Mesopotamian cultures adopted cuneiform system
 - cuneiform tablets found throughout Southwest Asia
 - one king’s library had over 24,000 clay tablet histories, records



Lesson Summary

- Sumerian society had several classes. Kings and priests were at the top of society. Slaves were at the bottom.
- Inventions, such as the wheel and the plow, and mathematical knowledge improved Sumerian life.
- The Sumerians created a system of writing to record business transactions and histories.



Chapter

4

Early Empires

Before You Read: Knowledge Rating

Recognizing what you already know about each of these terms can help you understand the chapter:

Fertile Crescent tribute toleration

In your notebook, rate how well you know each term:

- 3 = I know what this word means.
- 2 = I've seen this word before, but I don't know what it means.
- 1 = I've never seen this word before.

Define each term in your notebook as you read.

Big Ideas About Early Empires

Government Governments create law codes and political bodies to organize a society.

As societies grew, new ways of governing developed to provide people with safety and security. During the early empires, leaders developed law codes to bring fair laws to societies. The leaders also set up new ways to organize and rule vast lands with many different groups of people.



Integrated Technology

eEdition

- Interactive Maps
- Interactive Visuals
- Starting with a Story

INTERNET RESOURCES

- Go to ClassZone.com for
- WebQuest
 - Homework Helper
 - Research Links
 - Internet Activities
 - Quizzes
 - Maps
 - Test Practice
 - Current Events

EARLY EMPIRES

WORLD



2334 B.C.
Sargon builds an empire.

1850 B.C.

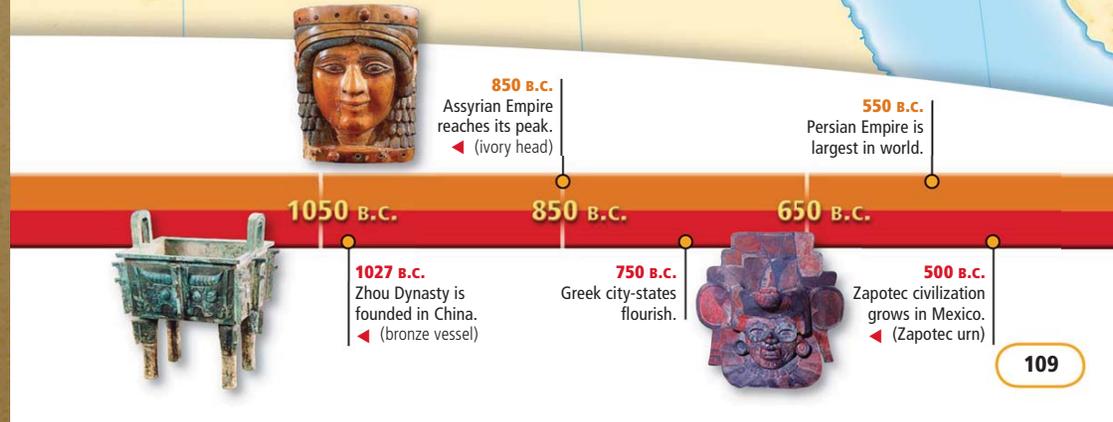
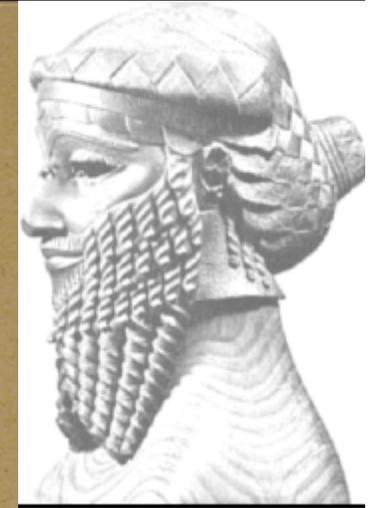
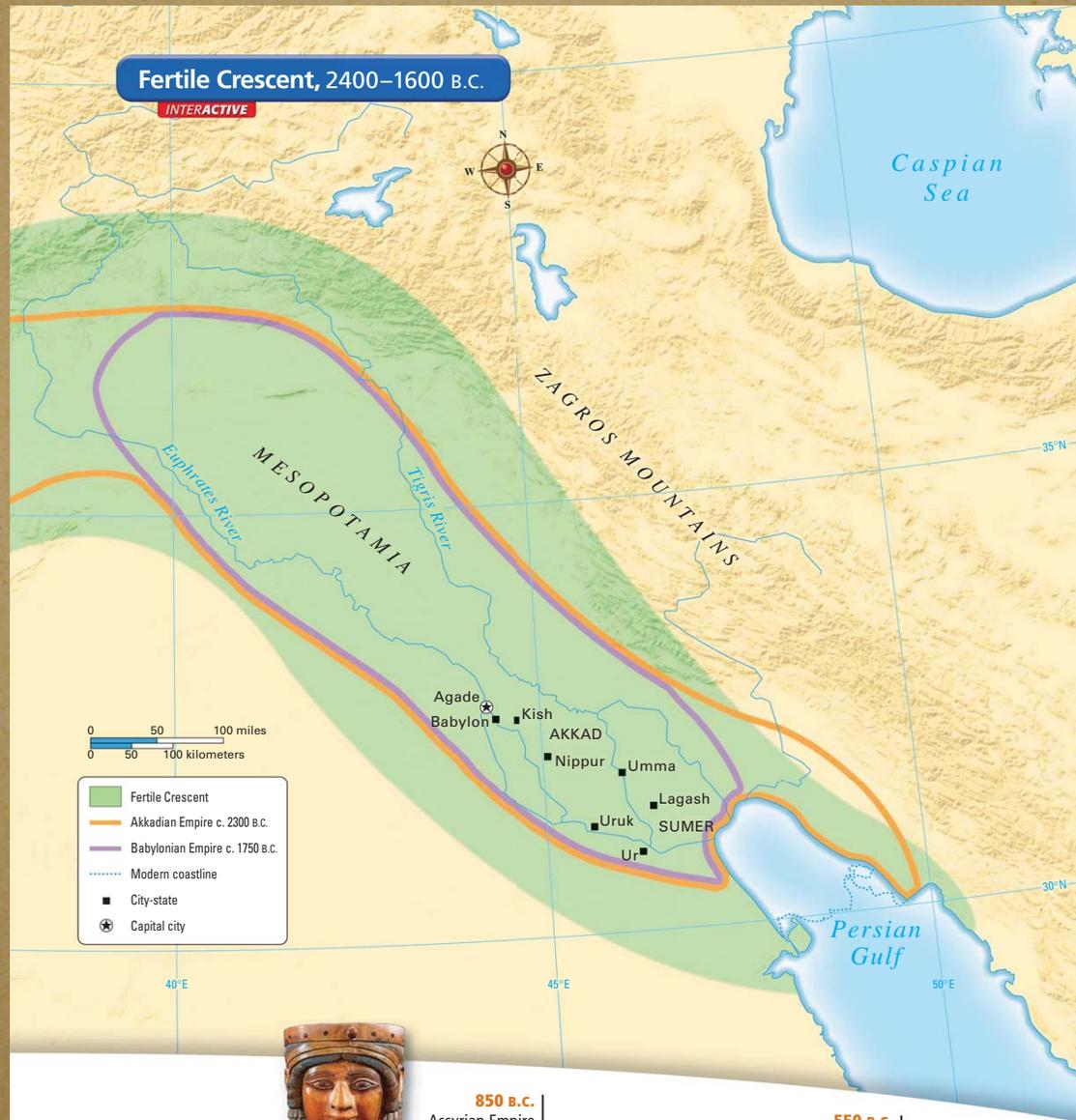
1700 B.C.
Indus River Valley civilization declines.
◀ (Harappan seal)

1792 B.C.
Hammurabi's Code developed in Babylonian Empire.
(statue of Hammurabi) ▶

1650 B.C.

1570 B.C.
The New Kingdom in Egypt begins.

1450 B.C.



Lesson

1

MAIN IDEAS

- 1 Geography** Powerful city-states expanded to control much of Mesopotamia.
- 2 Government** Babylon built a large empire in the Fertile Crescent.
- 3 Government** Hammurabi created one of the first codes of law.

TAKING NOTES

Reading Skill: Summarizing

Summarizing means restating the main idea and important details about a subject. As you read Lesson 1, make a summary statement about each of the topics listed. Record them on a list of your own.

Topic	Statement
Geography	
A strong king	
A law code	

 Skillbuilder Handbook, page R3



▲ Bust of Sargon Sargon of Akkad created the world's first empire 4,500 years ago.

Words to Know

Understanding the following words will help you read this lesson:

ambitious eager to gain success, fame, or power (page 113)

Many Mesopotamian leaders were ambitious, but few were as successful as Sargon of Akkad.

pattern a series of events that occur repeatedly (page 114)

The decline, as well as the creation, of empires is an important historical pattern.

governor a person chosen to rule over a colony or territory (page 114)

Emperors selected governors who would carry out the emperors' policies.

class a group of persons that are usually alike in some way (page 115)

The upper class of a society usually has more wealth, resources, and power than do other classes.



Mesopotamian Empires

TERMS & NAMES

empire
emperor
Fertile Crescent
Hammurabi
code of law
justice

Build on What You Know How big is the state where you live? What kinds of activities take place in the capital of your state? Most of the Mesopotamian city-states were smaller than the state you live in. The city-states were centers of culture and power.

The First Empire Builders

1 ESSENTIAL QUESTION Who controlled Mesopotamia?

From about 3000 to 2000 B.C., ambitious kings of the city-states of Sumer fought over land. The land was flat and easy to invade. More land would give more wealth and power to the king. However, no single king was able to control all of the city-states in Mesopotamia.

Sargon Builds an Empire About 2350 B.C., a powerful leader named Sargon took control of both northern and southern Mesopotamia. Sargon of Akkad is known as the creator of the first empire in world history. An **empire** brings together many different peoples and lands under the control of one ruler. The person who rules is called an **emperor**.

Sumerian Ruins
Doorways are visible in these ruins of the once important Sumerian city of Uruk. ▼





The Akkadian Empire Sargon's empire was called the Akkadian Empire. Eventually, Sargon ruled over lands that stretched in a curve from the Mediterranean Sea through Mesopotamia to the Persian Gulf. This region is called the **Fertile Crescent** (see map on page 109). Unlike the dry region around it, the Fertile Crescent had rich soil and water that made the area good for farming.

Sargon's conquests helped to spread Akkadian ideas and ways of life. One of the most important ideas shared in the empire was the Akkadian system of writing.

The creation of an empire is a pattern that repeats in history. Empires are important because they change the way people live. They may bring peace to the peoples there. They encourage trade, which makes more goods available. Empires often include people from several cultures. The ideas, technology, and customs of the different peoples may be shared by all.

REVIEW How do empires change the lives of people who live in them?

The Babylonian Empire

2 ESSENTIAL QUESTION Which empires ruled the Fertile Crescent?

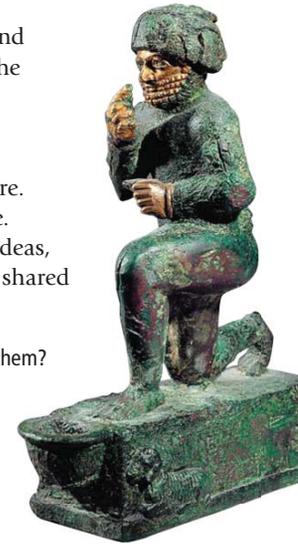
The empire of Akkad lasted for about 200 years. It fell apart because of attacks by outside peoples. Fighting also took place among city-states within the empire.

Babylonians Expand About 2000 B.C., people known as the Amorites began to invade and take control of the city-states of Sumer. They chose the city of Babylon, which was located on the Euphrates River, for their capital.

From 1792 to 1750 B.C., a powerful Amorite king named **Hammurabi** (HAM•uh•RAH•bee) ruled the Babylonian Empire. Hammurabi expanded control over many city-states. Soon, his empire stretched across Mesopotamia and other parts of the Fertile Crescent.

Hammurabi used governors to help him control the lands. He sent out people to collect tax money and appointed judges to help keep order. Hammurabi also watched over agriculture, irrigation, trade, and the construction of buildings.

REVIEW How did Hammurabi control his huge empire?



▲ Statue of Hammurabi
This statue from about 1760 B.C. shows Hammurabi praying.





Hammurabi's Law Code

3 ESSENTIAL QUESTION Why did Hammurabi create a law code?

Hammurabi ruled a vast empire of many peoples with different ideas, ways of life, and sets of laws. He needed a set of rules that all his people could obey.

A Code of Laws Hammurabi believed a **code of law** would help to control the empire. A code of law is a set of written rules for people to obey. He sent out people to collect the existing rules. After studying these rules, Hammurabi put together a single code of law. The code, written in cuneiform, was displayed on huge pillars near a temple.

P Primary Source Handbook
See the excerpt from the Code of Hammurabi, page R38.

Justice for All The code's goal was to bring **justice**, fair treatment of people, to the people. In addition to identifying acts of wrongdoing, the code gave rights to people living in the land. Even women and children had rights, which was not the case in many ancient cultures. Punishments were different for each social class. (See Primary Source below.)

Primary Source

Background: Hammurabi's Code is sometimes called the "eye for an eye" code. It included 282 laws covering business, property, and conduct toward other people. The laws help us understand what was important to the people in Hammurabi's empire.

This scene is from the upper section of a pillar with the law code of Hammurabi. The laws were written on the lower section so that people could see them. ▶



from Code of Hammurabi

Translated by L. W. King

- 195. If a son strike his father, his hands shall be hewn [cut off].
- 196. If a man put out the eye of another man, his eye shall be put out.
- 197. If a man break another man's bone, his bone shall be broken.
- 202. If any one strike the body of a man higher in rank than he, he shall receive sixty blows with an ox-whip in public.
- 204. If a freed man strike the body of another freed man, he shall pay ten shekels in money.
- 205. If the slave of a freed man strike the body of a freed man, his ear shall be cut off.

DOCUMENT-BASED QUESTION

What do the laws tell you about justice at the time?



Hammurabi's Legacy The code established the idea that the government should provide protection and justice for the people. Hammurabi wanted to replace the belief in personal revenge as a way of solving problems. Hammurabi's Code set out the belief that society should be run by the rule of law. That means the law should be applied to all people, not just a few. By placing the laws on pillars where they could be seen, it also suggests everyone has a right to know the laws and the punishments for breaking them.

REVIEW What was the purpose of Hammurabi's Code?

Lesson Summary

- Sargon of Akkad built an empire of many different peoples under one ruler and one government.
- Hammurabi expanded the Babylonian Empire and brought its peoples together by wise government.
- Hammurabi created a single code of law that set up well-defined rules of treatment for all.

Why It Matters Now . . .

Hammurabi's Code established the idea that rule of law is an important part of society. Rule of law that guarantees fair treatment is practiced in most countries today.

1 Lesson Review

 **Homework Helper**
ClassZone.com

Terms & Names

1. Explain the importance of

empire	Fertile Crescent	code of law
emperer	Hammurabi	justice

Using Your Notes

Summarizing Use your completed chart to answer the following question:

2. How does a strong king become an emperer?

Topic	Statement
Geography	
A strong king	
A law code	

Main Ideas

3. Which empires gained control of the Fertile Crescent?
4. Why did Hammurabi think his empire needed a single code of law?
5. What basic ideas about the law did Hammurabi's Code set up?

Critical Thinking

6. **Making Inferences** How did the geography of Mesopotamia affect the history of the region?
7. **Drawing Conclusions** Why is the development of Hammurabi's Code an important landmark in the growth of civilization?

Activity

Creating a Code of Law Develop a code of law for use in your classroom. Include penalties for failing to meet the rules. Have classmates compare your list with theirs.

Lesson

2

MAIN IDEAS

- 1 Science and Technology** Assyria built a military machine that was greatly feared by others in the region.
- 2 Government** Assyria used several different methods to control its empire.
- 3 Government** The Chaldeans replaced the Assyrians as the main power in Mesopotamia and other parts of the Fertile Crescent.

TAKING NOTES

Reading Skill: Understanding Cause and Effect

Finding causes and effects will help you understand the events in Lesson 2. Look for the effect of each cause listed in the chart. Fill in the effects on a chart of your own.

Causes	Effects
Assyrian military machine	
Cruelty to captured peoples	
Huge empires	

 Skillbuilder Handbook, page R26

Words to Know

Understanding the following words will help you read this lesson:

battering ram a large wooden beam used to knock down walls or gates (page 119)

The battering ram bashed open the fortress gate.

treasury the place in a country or empire where money is kept and managed (page 120)

The emperor was pleased that so much money was flowing into the treasury.

loom to stand high above (page 122)

The walls of the city loomed above the plains below.

wonder a very unusual or remarkable thing (page 122)

Many of the wonders of the ancient world no longer exist.



▲ **Jeweled Pendant** This ornament for a necklace is made from gold and precious stones. It shows a sacred palm tree.



Assyria Rules the Fertile Crescent

TERMS & NAMES

exile

tribute

Hanging Gardens of Babylon

Build on What You Know In the last lesson, you learned that early empires in Mesopotamia conquered land that stretched into the Fertile Crescent. These empires needed strong armies and wise leaders to hold them together. When the Babylonian Empire fell, another took its place—Assyria.

A Mighty Military Machine

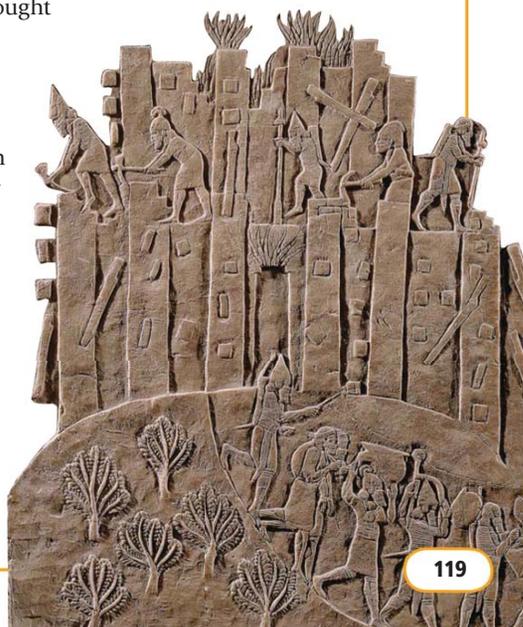
1 ESSENTIAL QUESTION How was Assyria able to build an empire?

Assyria was located in northern Mesopotamia, an area of rolling hills. To protect their lands, the rulers built a powerful army and set out to control the neighboring lands. The Assyrian army proved they were second to none.

A Powerful Army The Assyrians fought fiercely on foot, on horseback, and with chariots. Assyrian soldiers used the latest inventions for war. They carried iron swords and iron-tipped spears. Few of their enemies had iron weapons. The Assyrians attacked city walls with battering rams. They used ladders to scale the walls of cities. They even dug tunnels under city walls to get soldiers inside.

Once inside the city, they slaughtered the inhabitants. One Assyrian king boasted that he had destroyed 89 cities, 820 villages, and had burned the city of Babylon. As a result, the Assyrians were greatly feared by other peoples.

Stone Carving
Assyrian warriors
attack the walls and
burn a neighboring
city. ▼





Harsh Treatment of Captured People The Assyrians were cruel to the peoples they defeated. Enemies who surrendered were allowed to choose a leader. But those who refused to submit to Assyrian control were taken captive. The Assyrians killed or made slaves of captives. They spared enemy leaders and burned their cities. They sent captured peoples into **exile**. This means that they forced people to move from their homelands to other lands, often far away.

REVIEW Why were the Assyrians feared by their enemies?

Assyria Builds a Huge Empire

2 ESSENTIAL QUESTION How did Assyria control its empire?

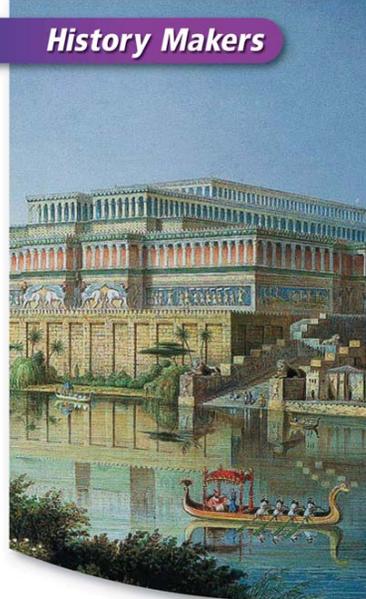
Between 850 and 650 B.C., the Assyrians conquered many lands. They added Syria, Babylonia, Egypt, and Palestine to the empire. Assyria reached its peak of power under the rule of Ashurbanipal (AH•shur•BAH•nuh•PAHL) from 668 to 627 B.C. Under his leadership, the Assyrians controlled almost all of the Fertile Crescent.

A Huge Empire The Assyrian Empire grew so large that it needed to be very well organized. The Assyrians governed the conquered lands by choosing a governor or native king from that land to rule under their direction. The Assyrians provided the army that protected all of the lands.

Each ruler in a conquered land had to send **tribute** to the Assyrian emperor. This meant that the ruler had to pay for the protection given by the Assyrian army. Tribute brought money and goods into the empire's treasury. If any ruler failed to pay tribute, the army destroyed cities in that land. People of the land were forced into exile.



History Makers



Ashurbanipal (c. 668–627 B.C.)

Ashurbanipal, an Assyrian king, sent people to find and bring back copies of writings from throughout the empire. His collection contained over 20,000 cuneiform tablets. The collection included dictionaries, myths, and stories. He kept writings on special subjects such as science, geography, medicine, and religion. He even had some reports by spies.

Ashurbanipal set up a huge library in the capital at Nineveh (shown at the left). The library organized the collected texts by subject, like books in a modern library. However, Nineveh's enemies leveled the library. When archaeologists dug up the library's ruins, they found tablets. The tablets became the main source of information about ancient Mesopotamia.

◀ This is an artist's idea of what the library in Nineveh looked like.

The Assyrians made many enemies by their cruel actions. The leaders worried that exiled peoples might try to gather a force strong enough to defeat the Assyrians. They were right. The Assyrians had to put down many revolts.

Assyria Crumbles In 609 B.C., the Assyrian Empire fell. Two of its enemies, the Medes (meedz) and the Chaldeans (kal•DEE•uhnz), joined forces to defeat the Assyrians. These forces completely destroyed the city of Nineveh by burning it to the ground. For centuries afterward, only mounds of earth marked the location of the once great capital.

REVIEW Why did the Assyrians receive tribute?

A New Babylonian Empire

3 ESSENTIAL QUESTION Who replaced the Assyrian Empire?

In time, Assyria's neighbors, the Chaldeans, ruled much of the former Assyrian empire. The city of Babylon became the capital of the Chaldeans' new empire. Remember that Babylon was the capital of the first Babylonian empire. Sometimes the Chaldeans are called the New Babylonians.

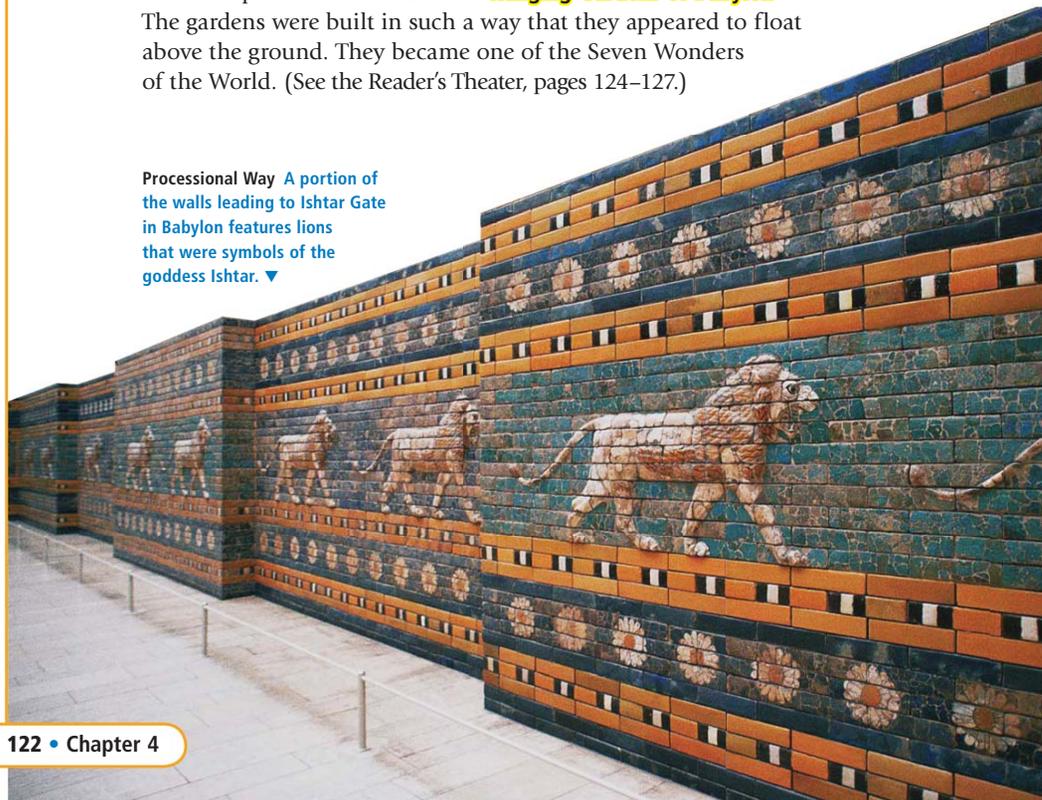


Chaldeans Take Assyrian Lands The Chaldean Empire reached its peak between 605 and 562 B.C. The Chaldeans were led by Nebuchadnezzar II (**NEHB•uh•kuhd•NEHZ•uhr**) who drove the Egyptians out of Syria and captured trading cities on the Mediterranean coast.

Like the Assyrians, the Chaldeans faced revolts by captured people. The Hebrews, a group of people living in lands near the Mediterranean Sea coast, rebelled in 598 B.C. Nebuchadnezzar seized Jerusalem, which was the capital city of the Hebrews. The Hebrews' sacred temple there was destroyed. The Chaldeans held thousands of Hebrews captive in Babylon for about 50 years.

Height of Wealth and Power Nebuchadnezzar rebuilt the city of Babylon and constructed the huge, colorful Ishtar Gate. Processions into the city went through this gate. An enormous ziggurat loomed 300 feet above the city. Chaldean astronomers used the tower to study the skies. It is said that to please his wife, Nebuchadnezzar built an artificial mountain covered with trees and plants. It was called the **Hanging Gardens of Babylon**. The gardens were built in such a way that they appeared to float above the ground. They became one of the Seven Wonders of the World. (See the Reader's Theater, pages 124–127.)

Processional Way A portion of the walls leading to Ishtar Gate in Babylon features lions that were symbols of the goddess Ishtar. ▼





The Empire Fades Weak rulers followed Nebuchadnezzar II. In addition to the weak rulers, internal conflicts about religion upset and divided the Chaldeans. This made it easy for Cyrus of Persia to conquer the land. You will learn more about Cyrus in the next lesson.



▲ Detail from the Ishtar Gate This is one of the mythical dragons found on the Ishtar Gate. The dragons were believed to dwell in ancient Babylon.

REVIEW What were some features of the Chaldean capital of Babylon?

Lesson Summary

- The Assyrian military used new kinds of weapons and ways of fighting. The military was very cruel to captured peoples.
- The Assyrians' highly organized government controlled the conquered lands.
- The Chaldeans conquered Assyrian lands. Their empire reached its peak under Nebuchadnezzar II.

Why It Matters Now . . .

The Assyrian Empire showed that to control large areas of land with many people, an empire must have a highly organized government and a strong military.

2 Lesson Review



Terms & Names

1. Explain the importance of exile tribute Hanging Gardens of Babylon

Using Your Notes

Understanding Cause and Effect Use your completed chart to answer the following question:

2. What caused Assyria to improve its methods of government?

Causes	Effects
Assyrian military machine	
Cruelty to captured peoples	
Huge empires	

Main Ideas

3. What tactics did the Assyrians use to defeat their enemies?
4. How did the Assyrians maintain control of their lands?
5. What happened to the Hebrews when they rebelled against the Chaldeans?

Critical Thinking

6. **Making Inferences** What can happen when a country follows a policy of cruelty toward captured peoples, as Assyria did?
7. **Comparing** In what ways were the Assyrians and the Chaldeans alike?

Activity

Internet Activity Use the Internet to research the wonders of Babylon under Nebuchadnezzar II. Create a guide for tourists.

INTERNET KEYWORDS: *Babylon, Nebuchadnezzar*

Lesson

3

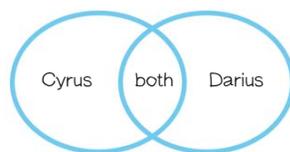
MAIN IDEAS

- 1 Geography** Persia's location between Mesopotamia and India was a bridge between eastern and western Asia.
- 2 Government** Cyrus used a policy of toleration to control the Persian Empire.
- 3 Government** To better govern, Persia divided its lands into smaller units.

TAKING NOTES

Reading Skill: Identifying Issues and Problems

A study of problems faced by rulers in Lesson 3 can help you understand the growth of governments. Use a Venn diagram to identify the issues and problems faced by Cyrus and Darius.



 Skillbuilder Handbook, page R28



▲ **Drinking Vessel** A winged lion decorates a gold drinking vessel. Winged lions symbolizing speed and power were associated with Persia.

Words to Know

Understanding the following words will help you read this lesson:

isolate to keep apart from others (page 129)

The mountains that isolated Persia from the rest of the Fertile Crescent slowed trade between the two regions.

semiprecious not quite as valuable as the most expensive (page 129)

Opals are semiprecious gems.

policy a course of action chosen by a government (page 131)

The new emperor's harsh policy toward conquered peoples resulted in a rebellion.

wise showing intelligence and good judgment (page 131)

The peace of his rule showed that he had made wise choices about how to govern.



Persia Controls Southwest Asia

TERMS & NAMES

Anatolia
toleration
province
satrap
Royal Road

Build on What You Know In Lessons 1 and 2, you learned about empires that were built in the lands of the Fertile Crescent. To the east of these empires was the land of the Medes, which was called Media. These lands bridged east and west Asia.

A Land Between East and West

1 ESSENTIAL QUESTION What was the land of the Persians like?

The Medes controlled lands that included the Persians. Modern-day Iran lies on Persian land. It is marked by geographic differences.

Mountains, Deserts, and a Plateau The area Persia would control was isolated from the rest of the Fertile Crescent. Mountain ranges cut off the land from the sea and from the rest of the continent. These ranges are the Zagros, the Caucasus (KAW•kuh•sus), and the Hindu Kush. (See the map on page 130.) Most people lived at the edge of a high plateau in the middle of the region or in mountain valleys. Iron, copper, and semiprecious gems could be found in the land.

Iranian Valley
Fertile valleys still exist between the mountain ranges in the lands once known as Persia. ▼





Persians Occupy the Land Nomadic invaders often swept in and occupied the lands of the Medes. The nomads came from the plains of Central Asia. They were related to other nomadic people who would later move into Europe and into India. The result of these invasions was much mixing of nomads' customs with other societies that lived there. About 1000 B.C., Persians entered the region. They created many tiny kingdoms that thrived through trade in horses and minerals with eastern and western Asia. These kingdoms grew in power and began to threaten the Medes' control of the land.

REVIEW How did the presence of nomadic tribes affect Persia?

Cyrus Finds the Persian Empire

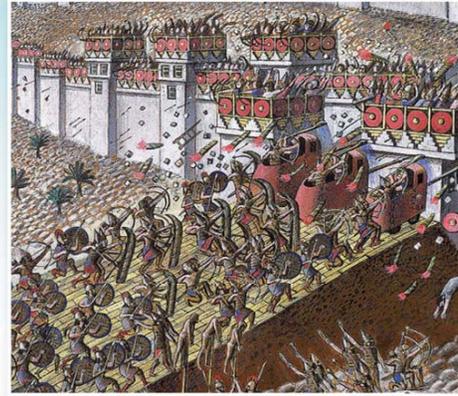
2 ESSENTIAL QUESTION What was the rule of Cyrus like?

The Medes ruled Persia until a brilliant, powerful Persian king named Cyrus (SY•ruhs) took control. He was known as Cyrus the Great. Cyrus had a vision of conquering the lands around Persia and uniting these lands as one large empire. Then he set out to accomplish his goal.

Comparisons Across Cultures

Treatment of Captured Peoples

Ashurbanipal and the Assyrians	Cyrus, Darius, and the Persians
Used policies of cruelty	Used policies of toleration
Tortured leaders	Allowed leaders to remain in power
Burned cities	Did not destroy homes
Sent people into exile	Allowed people to keep their own gods and culture
Collected tribute	Collected tribute



▲ This is an artist's idea of the surrender of a conquered leader to Assyrian king Sennacherib.

Fearless Military Leader Cyrus led swift, deadly attacks in the region. First, Cyrus conquered **Anatolia**, also called Asia Minor. It lies within modern-day Turkey. Then, between 550 and 539 **B.C.**, Cyrus conquered the Fertile Crescent lands that had once been controlled by the Assyrians and the Chaldeans. His empire was immense.

A Wise Emperor Cyrus needed ways to control lands filled with many different peoples. Unlike the Assyrians who ruled through cruelty, Cyrus set up a policy of **toleration**. This meant allowing people to keep their customs and beliefs. Cyrus allowed the conquered peoples to continue to worship their own gods, speak their own languages, and practice their own ways of life. However, they did have to pay tribute.

Cyrus's policies of respect and toleration made friends instead of enemies. For example, the Hebrew people (see Lesson 2) who had been captured by the Chaldeans greatly liked Cyrus because he freed them. He also allowed them to rebuild their temple and the city of Jerusalem. Cyrus's policy of toleration made governing the empire much easier. There were fewer revolts, and the people lived in peace.

REVIEW Why can Cyrus be considered a wise emperor?



Darius Expands the Empire

3 ESSENTIAL QUESTION How did Darius control his empire?

Cyrus built a stable empire of many peoples by his policy of toleration. After he died, a weak, less-tolerant ruler faced rebellions in the empire. Then a strong leader named Darius (duh•RY•uhs) came to power.

Darius Extends Persian Control The new emperor, Darius I, spent his first years as emperor dealing with rebellious peoples. After he put down the revolts, he moved to conquer lands as far east as India. The Persian Empire grew to 2,800 miles from east to west. (The distance from New York City to Los Angeles is about 2,500 miles.)

Political Organization The empire was so large that Darius added new policies to those set up by Cyrus. Darius divided the empire into 20 **provinces**. Each province, which was an area of land similar to a state, had a local government.

Darius set up governors called **satraps** (SAY•traps) to carry out his orders in the provinces and to collect taxes. He appointed a military commander for each satrap. He also sent out spies called “king’s eyes and ears” to be sure his satraps followed orders. These policies allowed him to have greater control over all of the lands.

Uniting the Empire The policy of provinces ruled by satraps was only one way to unite the empire. Darius started the use of a **Royal Road**, or road for government purposes. The Royal Road was 1,775 miles long. The eastern end of the road was in Susa, and the western end was in Sardis on the Anatolian Peninsula. Royal messages were sent by a relay of messengers.

About every 15 miles there was a relay station where the messengers could get a fresh horse. Royal messages could move from one end of the road to the other in about seven days. Military troops and mail also moved along it from all parts of the empire to the capital. The road also promoted trade and business throughout the empire.

Connect to Today

Ruins at Persepolis
Winged and bearded bull-like figures guard the Gate of All Nations at the Persian royal palace. ▼



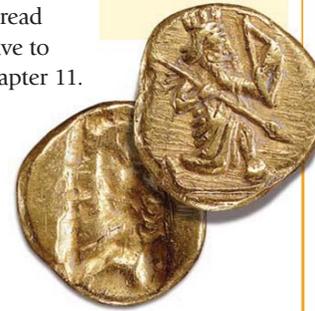


Darius set up a law code based on Hammurabi's model. From the Lydians, a conquered people, Darius took the idea of *minted coins*. The coins were good throughout the empire. They promoted business and made it easy to pay taxes.

Visual Vocabulary

Minted coins is a term for coins that are issued by the government and are official money.

Enemies of Persia Darius planned a march against Egyptian rebels in 486 B.C., but he died that year. His son Xerxes (ZURK•seez) had to deal with Egypt. You will read about Egypt in the next chapter. Xerxes would also have to deal with the Greeks. You will read about them in Chapter 11.



REVIEW Why did Darius divide the empire into provinces?

Lesson Summary

- Tiny Persian kingdoms thrived due to trade.
- Cyrus the Great ruled the Persian Empire with a policy of toleration.
- Darius formed provinces and appointed satraps to improve government.

Why It Matters Now . . .

The Persians showed that lands ruled with policies of toleration could be stable and peaceful.

3 Lesson Review



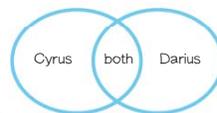
Terms & Names

1. Explain the importance of
 Anatolia province Royal Road
 toleration satrap

Taking Notes

Identifying Issues and Problems Use your completed Venn diagram to answer the following question:

2. What common problems did Cyrus and Darius face during their reigns?



Main Ideas

3. How did people in early Persian kingdoms earn their living?
 4. How did Cyrus treat the Hebrew people in the lands he captured?
 5. In what ways did the Royal Road and minted coins help Darius unite the empire?

Critical Thinking

6. **Making Inferences** How did Cyrus's policy of toleration change the way empires were ruled?
 7. **Comparing and Contrasting** How did the policies of Cyrus and Darius contrast with those of the Assyrians?

Activity

Making a Map Take out the world map you created in Chapter 2. Add to the map by outlining the expansion of the Persian Empire under Darius.

