Learning Objective:
I can explain the achievements & rise of the empires of Mesopotamia.
Sumer

- For 1,500 years, Sumer is a land of independent city-states.
The Akkadian Empire

- In 2300 B.C.E, the Sumerians are conquered by a new group called the Akkadians.
- Led by King Sargon
The Akkadian Empire

- King Sargon used his powerful army to create a huge empire.
- Adopted Sumerian...
  - Irrigation techniques
  - Cuneiform writing
  - Gods & goddess
The Akkadian Empire

- “Victory Stele”
- Created to celebrate military victory...King Naram-Sin (grandson)
The Akkadian Empire

- King Sargon ruled for 56 years...died of old age
- Their greatest achievement... world’s first empire!
- The Akkadians thought...
Hammurabi & the Babylonian Empire

- Hammurabi is best known for his code of laws.
- He claimed that the gods had told him...
- greatest achievement. . .

CODE OF LAWS
Code of Hammurabi

- First code of laws written down
- 282 laws enscribed into stone pillar
- First code of laws that apply to everyone
- Now people can see & know their rights & responsibilities.
- Based on an “Eye for an Eye” belief
Babylonian Life

- Slave Rights
  - Keep wages
  - Buy freedom

- Women’s Rights
  - Own property
  - Keep money

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oDALXORbtR4
Code of Hammurabi

- Look at each code carefully.
- Decide if it is fair or unfair.

Law 5: If a judge makes an error through his own fault when trying a case, he must pay a fine, be removed from the judge’s bench, and never judge another case.

Law 195: If a son strikes his father, the son’s hands shall be cut off....
Babylonian Life

- Hammurabi makes Babylon his capital city.
- He built roads & postal service.
- Babylon became...important center of trade.
- Trade helped the empire’s economy.
Hammurabi & the Babylonian Empire

- The Babylonians thought their empire would last forever. However...
Babylonians were also skilled in mathematics & astronomy.

Created the first sundial.

Discoveries in the 60 minute hour & 7-day week.

The Babylonians thought...
The Assyrians were feared for their military might & cruelty.

The Assyrian Empire
Their greatest achievements included...advanced weapons & military strategies

- Perfected use of horses & iron weapons
- Experts at archery
- Wore helmets and armor
The Assyrian Empire

- Became experts at siege warfare.
The Assyrian Empire

- First to use battering rams
- Allowed them to break through the gates to take control of cities
The Assyrian Empire

61 A six-wheeled battering-ram
From the bronze gates of Balawat, ninth century B.C.
The Assyrian Empire

- First to use movable towers.
• Assyrians are feared by their enemies for their cruelty.

• Fear is part of their military strategy.

• Tales told of Assyrians...cutting off heads of leaders...force soldiers to wear around necks.
The Assyrian Empire
- Assyrian craftspeople...famous for two-dimensional sculptures
- Famous for the enormous library that included historic tablets from Sumer & Babylon
Neo-Babylonian Empire

- Led by King Nebuchadnezzar
- Controlled the entire Fertile Crescent
- Known for one of the 7 Wonders of the World...Hanging Gardens of Babylon, built for the queen
Nebuchadnezzar II

- **Chaldean king who rebuilt the Babylonian empire**
  - Took over the southern and western Assyrian empire after that empire collapsed
  - Neo-Babylonian Empire
  - Captured Jerusalem and sent many Jews back to Babylon as slaves
Neo-Babylonian Empire

- Known for being good astronomers, accurately measured the length of the year
- Learned how to raise honeybees
Nebuchadnezzar wanted to keep Babylon safe, so he built around the city...

- Inner wall & outer wall
- Moats
- Ishtar Gate
### Four Empires of Mesopotamia

- Babylonians
- Assyrians
- Neo-Babylonians
- Persians
Songs about the Empires of Mesopotamia

They Might Be Giants- “Mesopotamians”
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jAMRTGv82Zo

Flocabulary-”Fertile Crescent”
https://www.flocabulary.com/fertile-crescent-civilizations/
Legacies of Mesopotamia

*Revolutionary innovations* emerged in Mesopotamia such as:

- codified laws
- ziggurats
- Cuneiform
- Irrigation
- Metal working, tools
- Trade
- transportation
- wheel
- Writing
- mathematics
- prosperous living based on large scale agriculture