

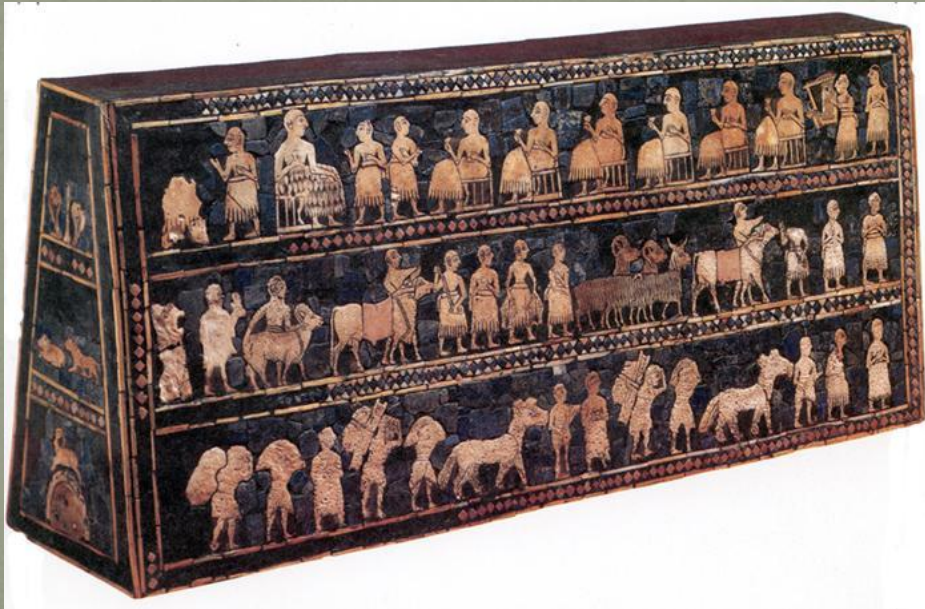
Chapter 2- Exploring Four Empires of Mesopotamia

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



Sumer

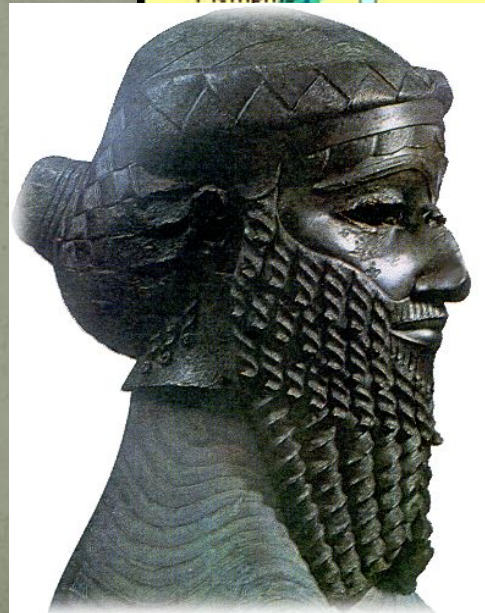
- For 1,500 years, Sumer is a land of independent city-states.



The Akkadian Empire

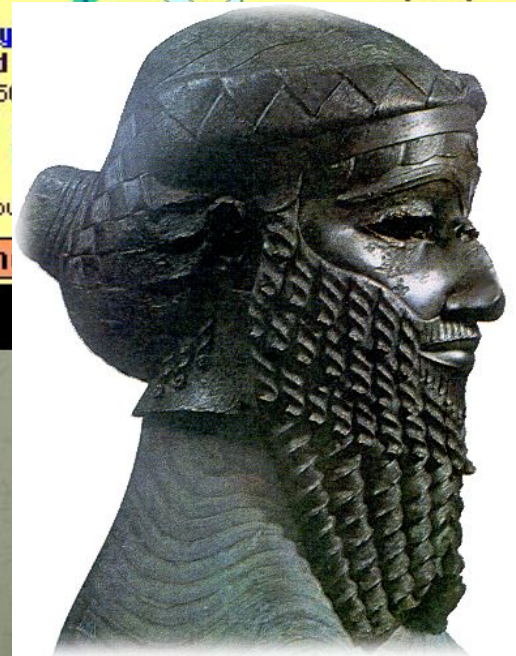
- In 2300 B.C.E, the Sumerians are conquered by a new group called the Akkadians.

- 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 enscibed 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

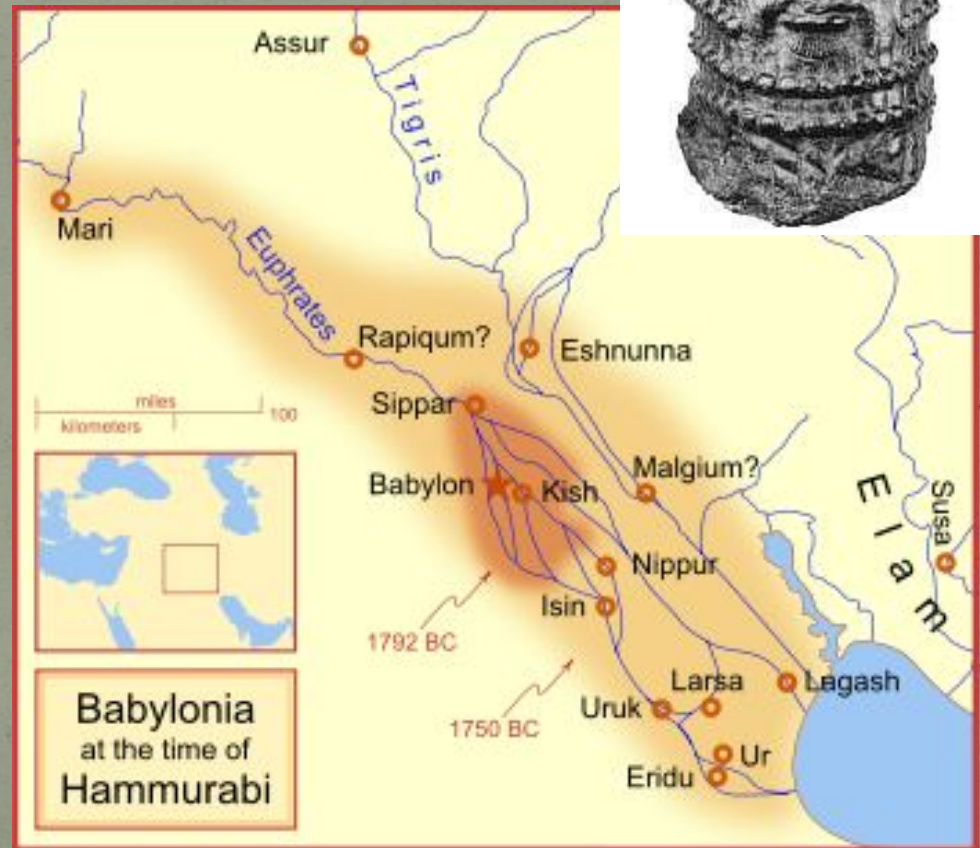
- Look at each code carefully.
- Decide if it is fair or unfair.

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...

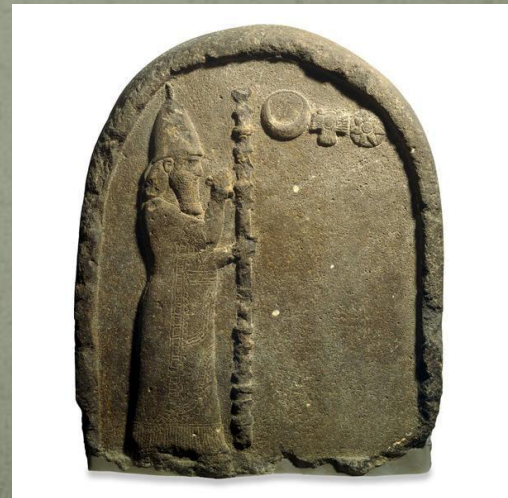


- Babylonians were also skilled in mathematics & astronomy.

- Created the first sundial.

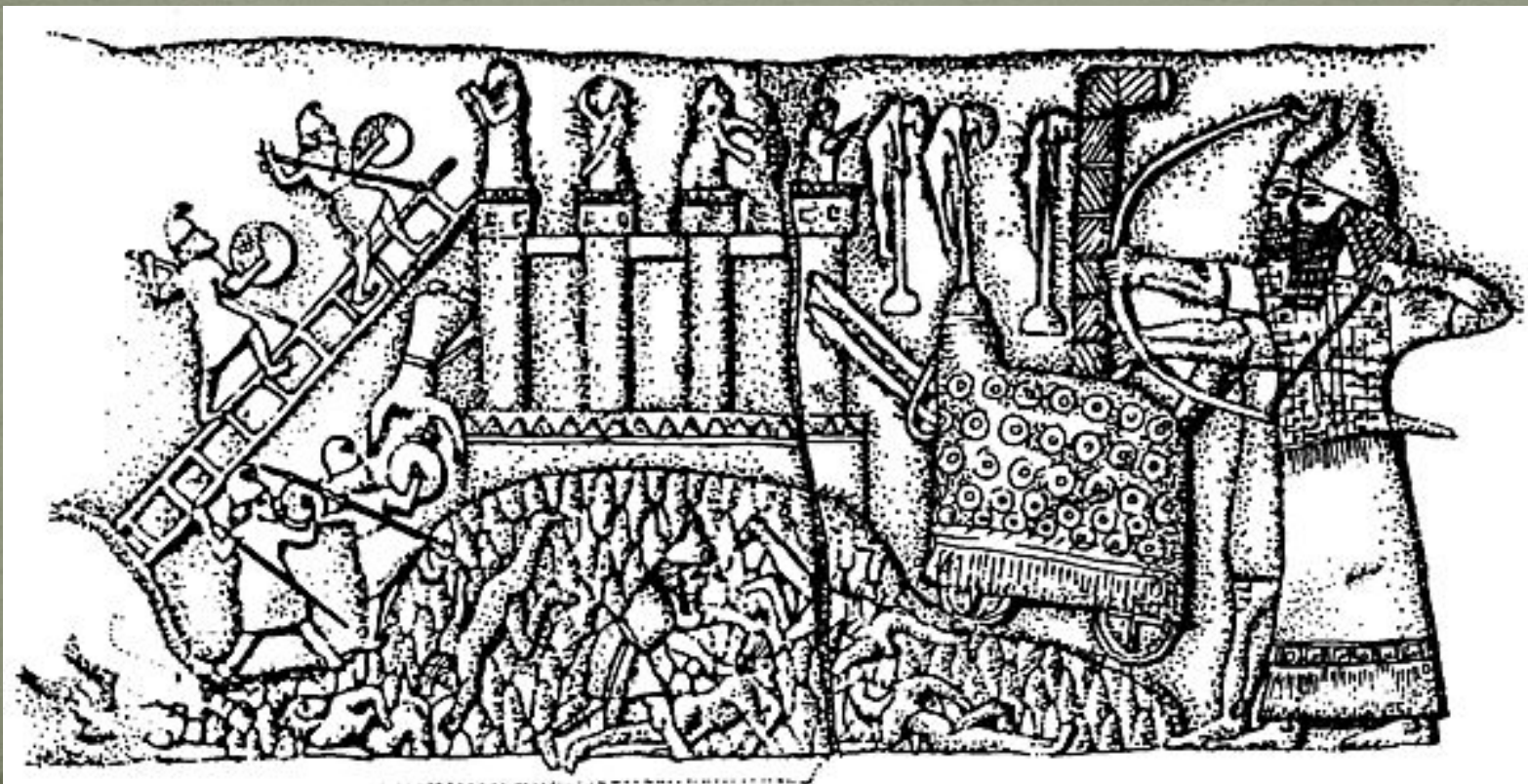
- Discoveries in the 60 minute hour & 7-day week.

- The Babylonians thought...



The Assyrian Empire

- The Assyrians were feared for their military might & cruelty.



- Their greatest achievements included...advanced weapons & military strategies
 - Perfected use of horses & iron weapons
 - Experts at archery
 - Wore helmets and armor



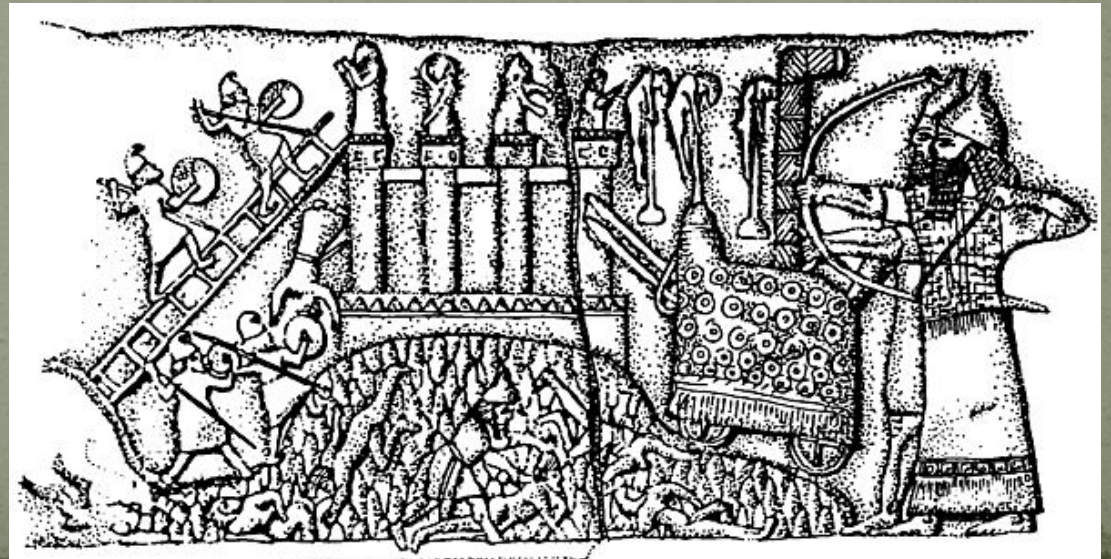
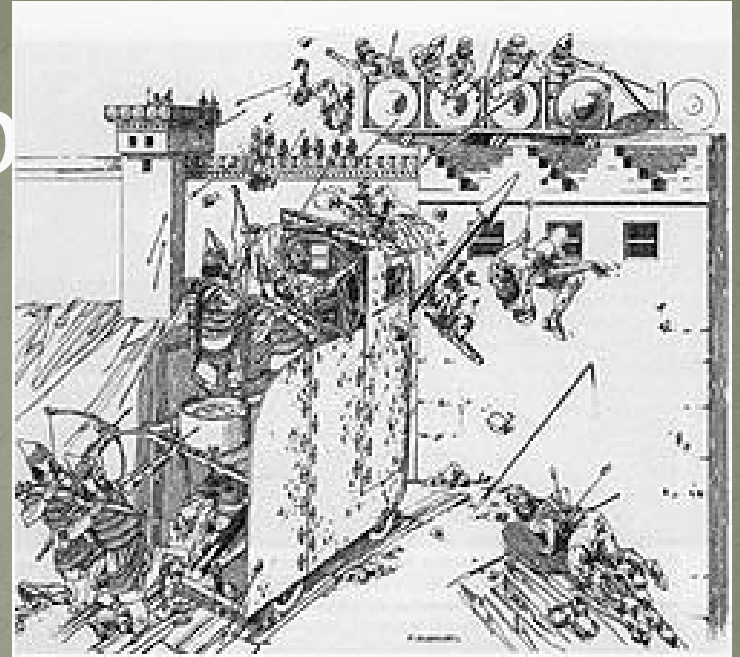
The Assyrian Empire

- 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



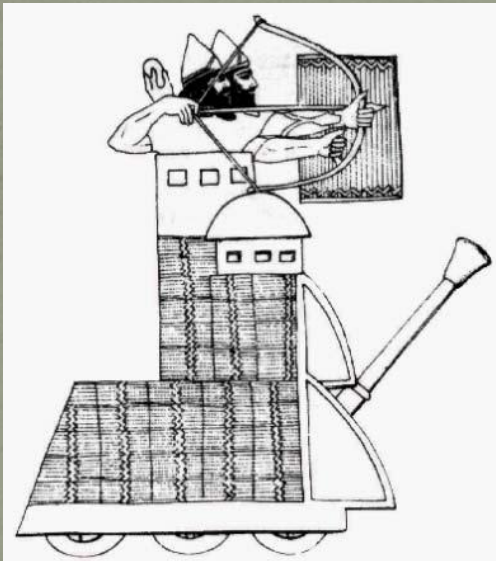
The Assyrian Empire



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

The Assyrian Empire

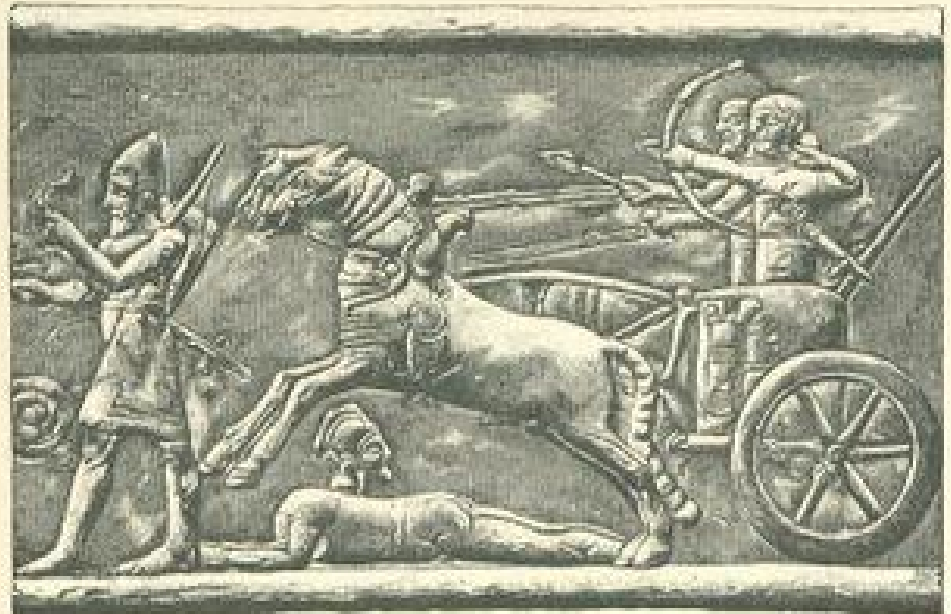
- First to use movable towers.



- 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 WAR-CHARIOT OF THE NINTH CENTURY B.C.¹

The Assyrian Empire

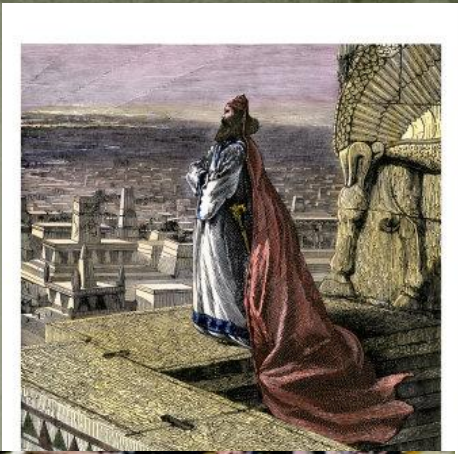


- Assyrian craftspeople...famous for two-dimensional sculptures
- Famous for the enormous library that included historic tablets from Sumer & Babylon



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