



Lesson 3: Babylonia and Assyria

DIRECTIONS: Review the vocabulary terms in the box. Read the summary to reveal new empires in the Fertile Crescent that advanced by adopting earlier Mesopotamian culture. As you read, underline important details in each section that relate to that section's title. Think about what you already know, what you want to know, and what you have learned after reading the summary.

Vocabulary

conquest: the defeat of another group

The Rise of Hammurabi and Babylonia (p. 49)

Babylon was located between the Euphrates and Tigris Rivers, in southern Mesopotamia. In 1792 B.C., Hammurabi became king of Babylon. By 1754 B.C., he controlled all of Mesopotamia and its surrounding city-states. His empire was called Babylonia. Hammurabi taxed people's properties. He used the tax money to support his large army. He also used the tax money to pay for many new construction projects. He was considered a shrewd, or clever, ruler.

Babylonian Civilization (p. 50)

Life under Hammurabi did not change much. People still irrigated their crops. They still traded. Babylon became a center of culture and learning. There were advances in mathematics, literature, and law. Hammurabi established a set of laws that helped him rule his Babylonian empire. The Code of Hammurabi contained 282 laws. This set of laws protected weak people. Hammurabi's code also called for punishments that fit the crime.

The Assyrians (p. 52)

In northern Mesopotamia, the Assyrian culture grew from 1900 B.C. to 600 B.C. This culture was influenced by Babylonian culture. Yet Assyrian culture placed a higher value on wars and conquest. Conquest is the defeat of another group. From 688 B.C. to 627 B.C., the Assyrian Empire controlled almost all of the Fertile Crescent. During its height, the empire was ruled by King Ashurbanipal. The king built a great library at Nineveh and contained Sumerian, Akkadian, and Babylonian literature.

Babylonia Grows (p. 52-53)

In 605 B.C., Nebuchadnezzar II became king of Babylon. He took over much of the former Assyrian Empire. He started projects to make Babylon powerful again. He built many temples and buildings such as the Hanging Gardens of Babylon, one of the Seven Wonders of the World. It is called the Hanging Gardens because the gardens were built high above the ground on multi-level stone terraces. The plants weren't rooted in the earth like a traditional garden. If it existed it was likely the most beautiful man-made gardens ever created. Babylon was once again an important center of learning. Babylonians made important discoveries in mathematics. For example, they determined that place value refers to the position of numerals. The numerals 5, 55, and 555 all have different values. Babylonian astronomers used geometry to correctly judge when the eclipses of the moon and the sun would occur. The Babylonian Empire was taken over by the Persians in 539 B.C.

Use with pages 48–53.

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DIRECTIONS: Circle the term, **A** or **B**, that best answers each clue. You will use your textbook and/or summary (other side) to find your answers.

p. 49 1. King of Babylon in 1792 B.C.

A Ashurbanipal

B Hammurabi

p. 49 2. The Babylonian Empire in 1754 B.C.

all of Mesopotamia

B northern Mesopotamia

p. 50 3. The Code of Hammurabi

code of laws for Assyrian conquerors **B** code of laws for Babylonian society

p. 52 4. Assyrian homeland

northern Mesopotamia

B southern Mesopotamia

p. 52 5. Assyrian culture was greatly influenced by

Sumerian culture

B Babylonian culture

p. 52 6. Assyrians placed a high value on

war and conquest

B fair laws

p. 52 7. Assyrian king during the height of the Assyrian Empire

Ashurbanipal

B Hammurabi

p. 52 8. Location of library containing Sumerian, Akkadian, and Babylonian writings

Babylon

B Nineveh

DIRECTIONS: Answer the following questions on the lines provided using complete sentences. You will use your textbook and/or summary (other side) to find your answers.

p. 52 9. Who was Nebuchadnezzar II? What did he do? _____

p. 53 10. DESCRIBE an example of Babylonian advancement in mathematics. _____
