

# Mesopotamian Empires

# Sumerian City-States

3500 - 2300 B.C.E.

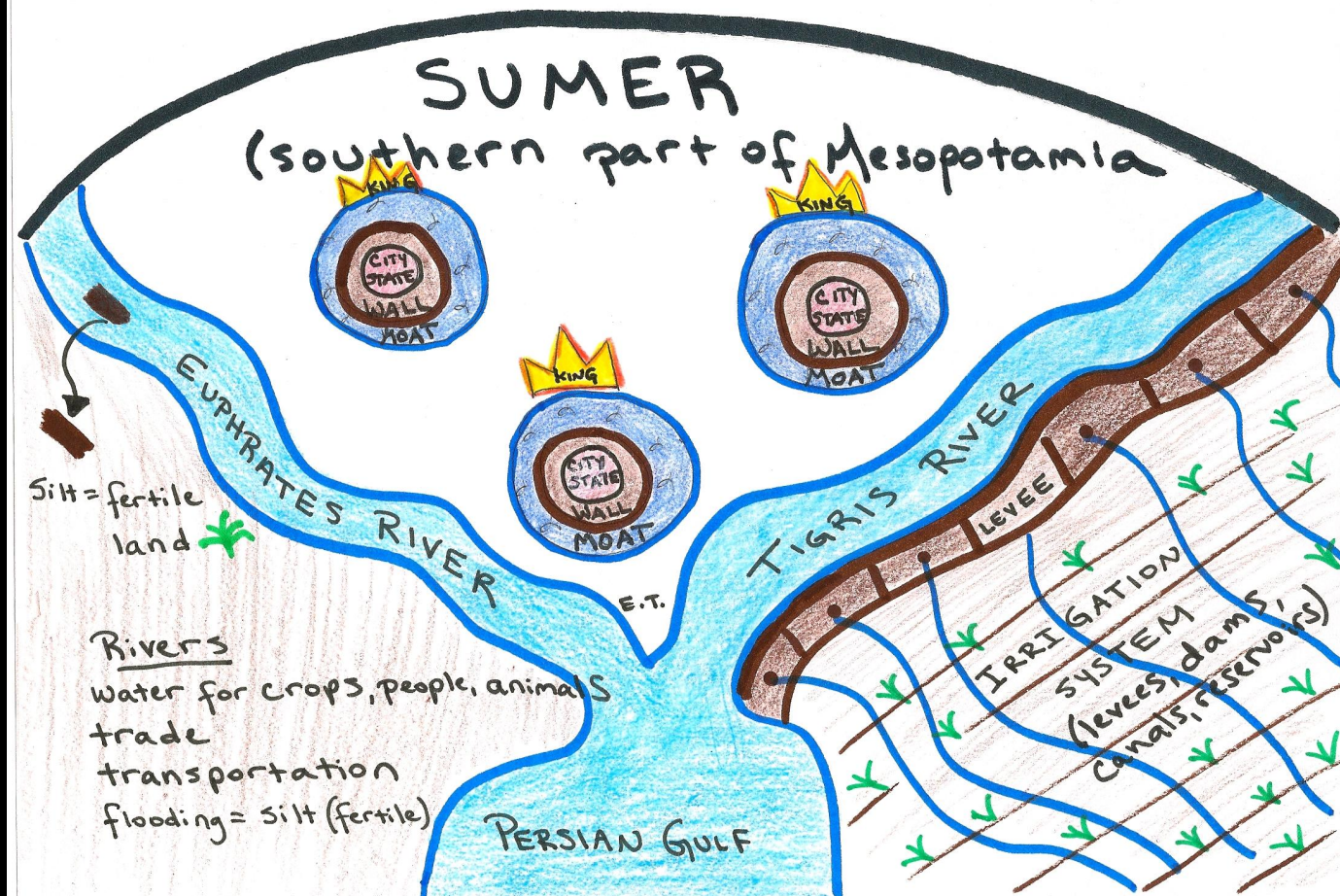


# Sumerian City-States

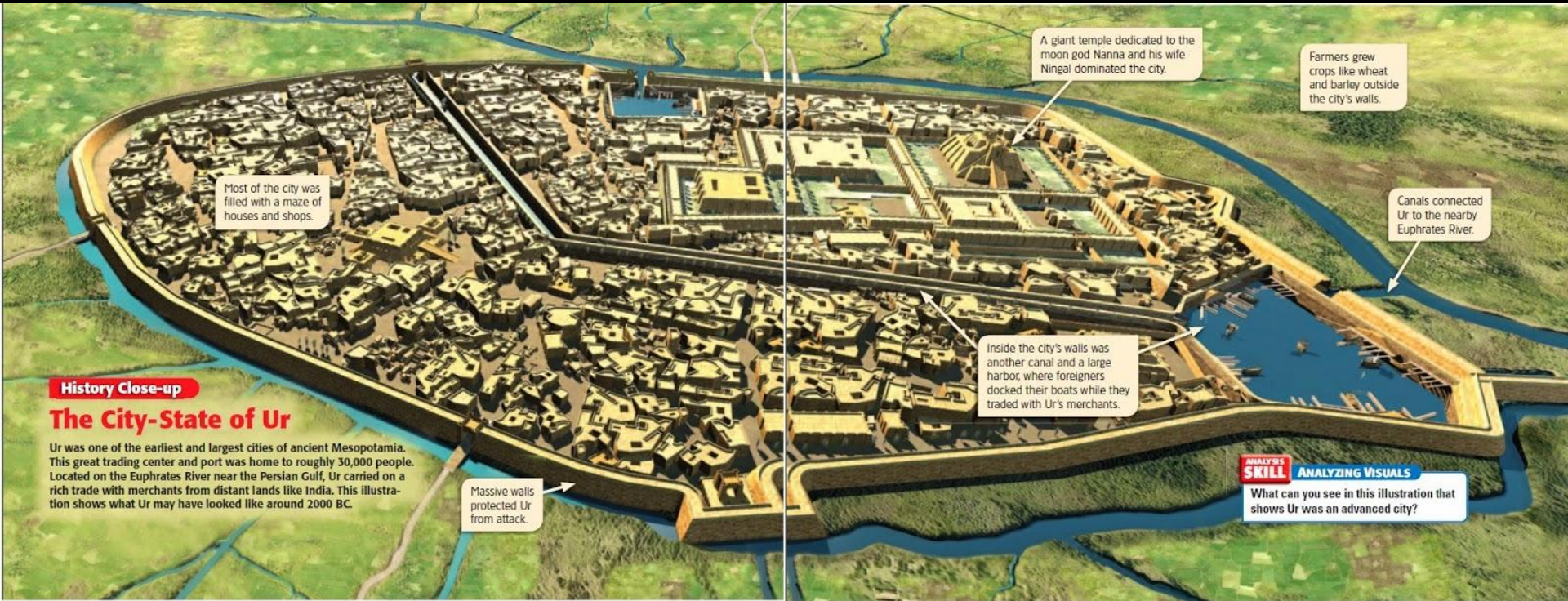
- Each city was like a small, independent country
- Each had its own ruler
- Each had its own farmlands

# Sumerian City-States

Mesopotamia = land between 2 rivers (Greek)



# Sumerian City-State of Ur



Most of the city was filled with a maze of houses and shops.

A giant temple dedicated to the moon god Nanna and his wife Ningal dominated the city.

Farmers grew crops like wheat and barley outside the city's walls.

Canals connected Ur to the nearby Euphrates River.

Inside the city's walls was another canal and a large harbor, where foreigners docked their boats while they traded with Ur's merchants.

Massive walls protected Ur from attack.

## History Close-up

### The City-State of Ur

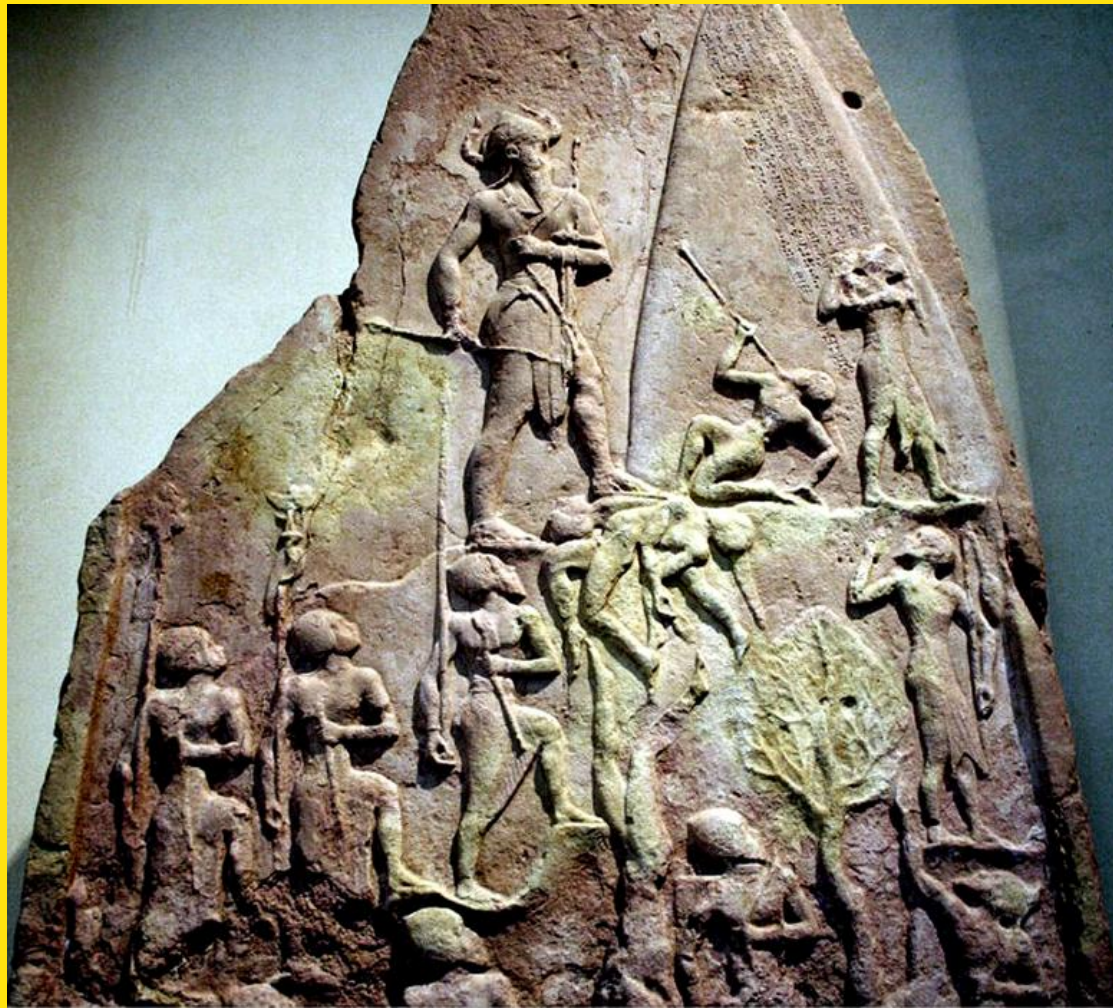
Ur was one of the earliest and largest cities of ancient Mesopotamia. This great trading center and port was home to roughly 30,000 people. Located on the Euphrates River near the Persian Gulf, Ur carried on a rich trade with merchants from distant lands like India. This illustration shows what Ur may have looked like around 2000 BC.

## ANALYZE SKILL ANALYZING VISUALS

What can you see in this illustration that shows Ur was an advanced city?

# The Akkadians

## Stele of Naram Sin



# Akkadian Empire

2300 – 2100 B.C.E.



# Capital City of Agade



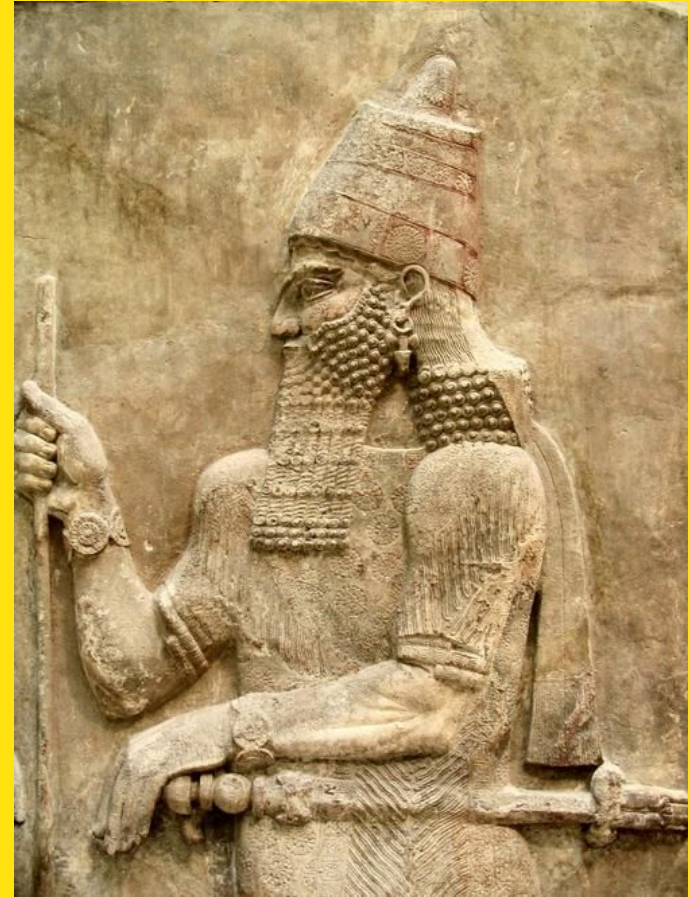
- **Very rich city**
- **Sargon forced conquered city states to pay tribute**



# Sargon

**The first emperor in the world**

**First king to demand his sons rule after him**



# Akkadian Accomplishments

- **First empire in the world**
- **First permanent army**
- **Destroyed the city walls of the city-states**
- **Forced the conquered people to pay tribute**

# Akkadian Fun Facts

- **Learned irrigation, farming, cuneiform, and religion from Sumer.**
- **Able to conquer the Sumerians because the city-states kept fighting each other.**

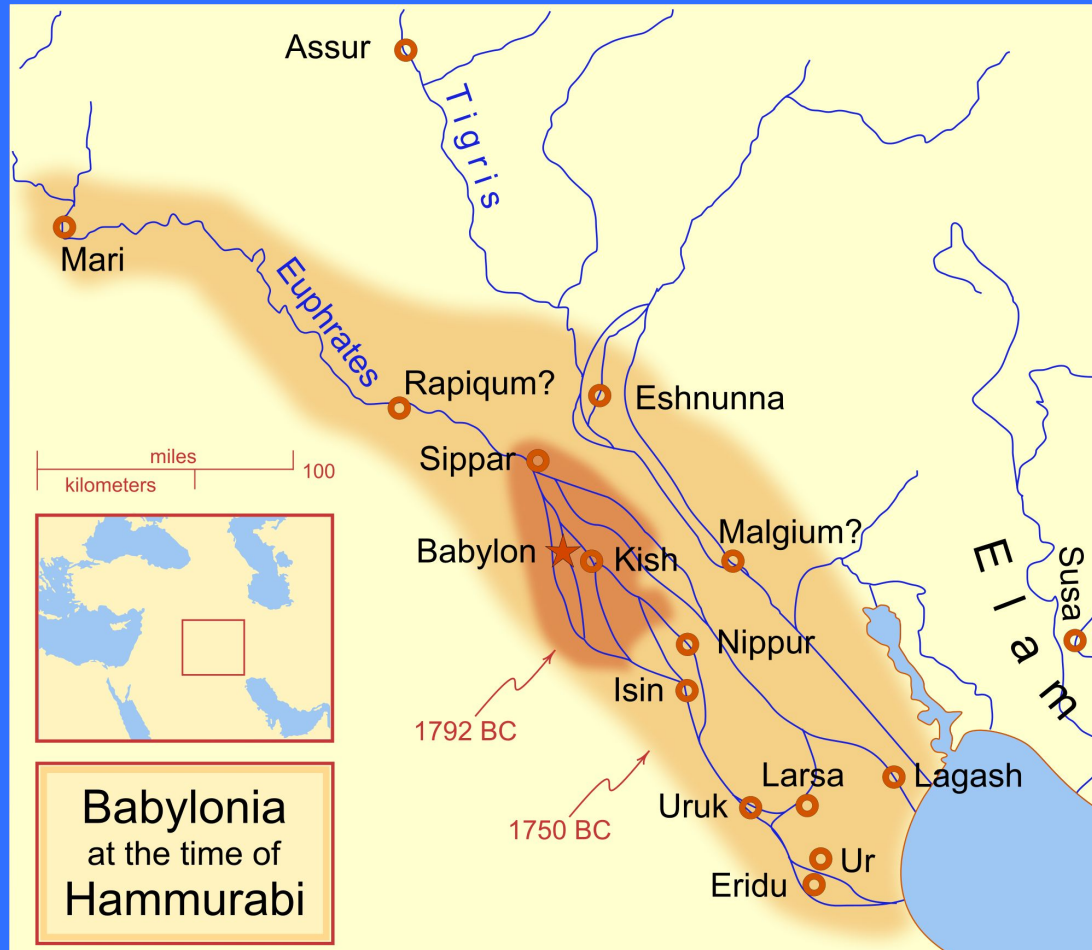
# The Babylonians

## The Tower of Babel



# Babylonian Empire

1728 B.C.E. - ?

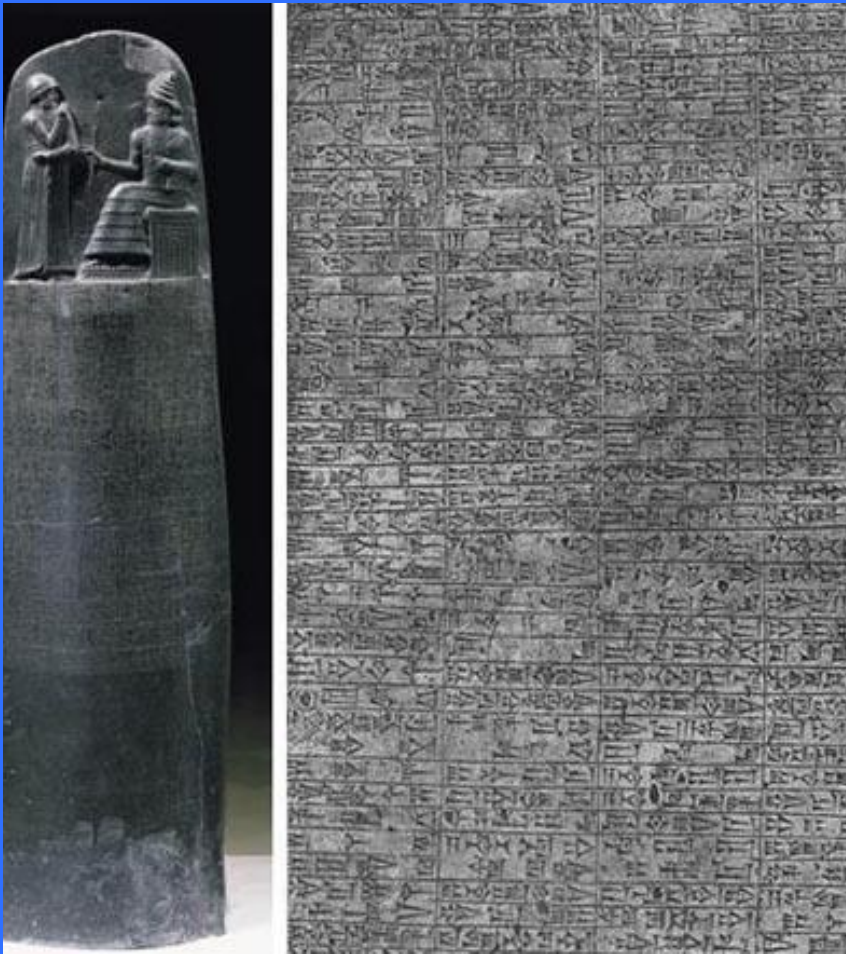


# Capital City of Babylon

Was a Center of Trade



# Hammurabi



- Hammurabi's Code
- First Code of Laws
- 282 Laws

# Babylonian Accomplishments

- **First set of laws in the world that applied to everyone**
- **Laws written on stele for everyone to see**
- **More fair in respect to rights of slaves and women**
- **Hammurabi said the gods told him which laws to include so they could never be changed**



# Babylonian Fun Facts

- Had a postal service and roads

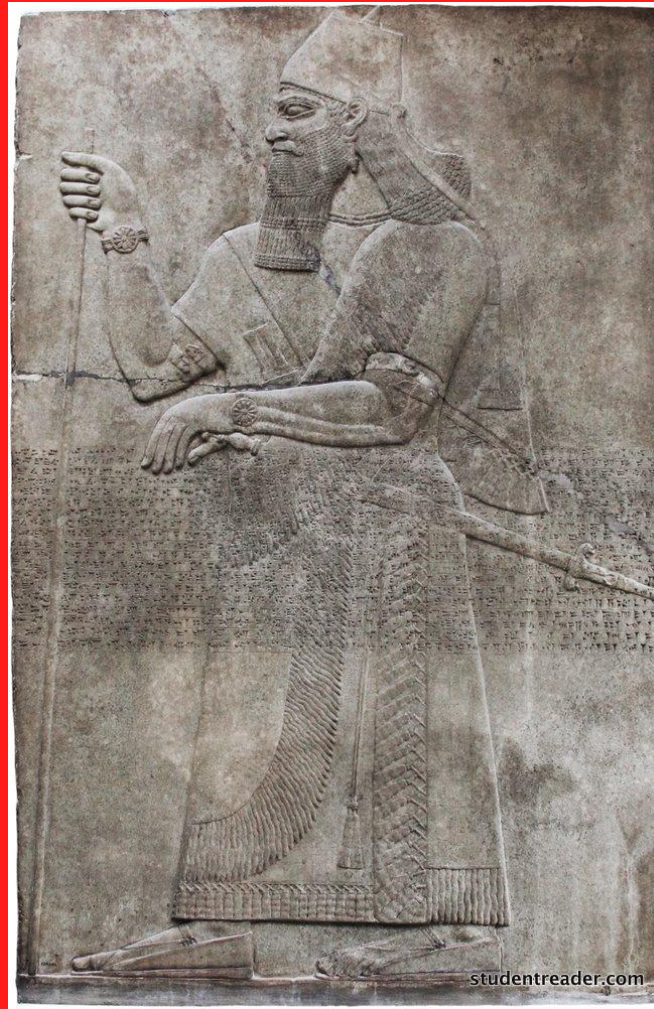
# The Hittites



- 1400 – 1200 B.C.E.
- Iron weapons
- First to use chariots in battle

# The Assyrians

## Relief of Ashurnasirpal



# The Assyrian Empire

## 900 – 600 B.C.E.

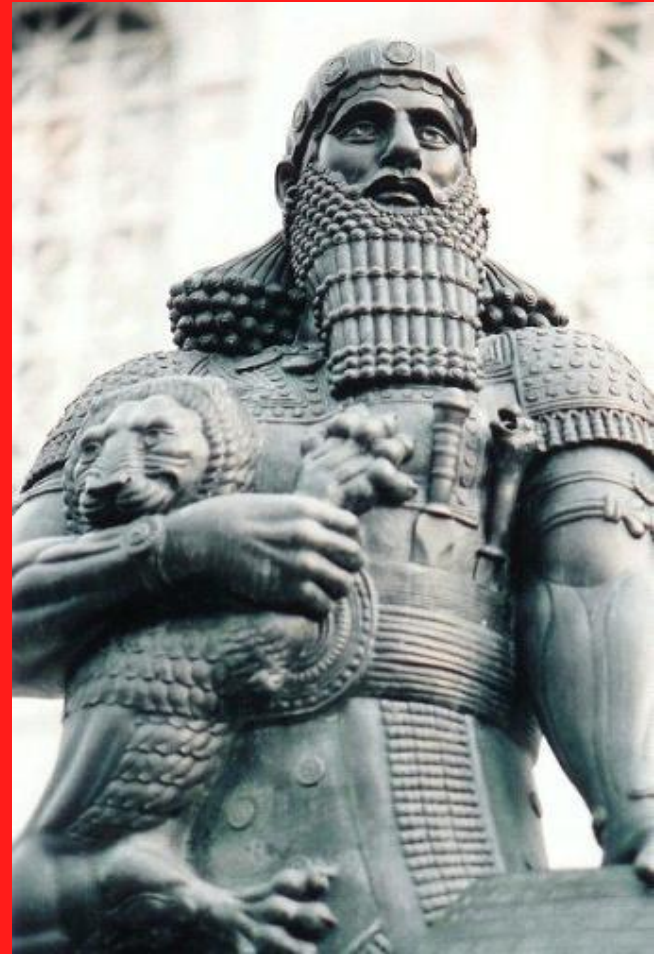


# Capital City of Nineveh

Ruins from the ancient city of Nineveh



# Ashurbanipal



# Assyrian Accomplishments

- **WAR:** Learned to use horses, chariots, and iron weapons from Hittites; Used sieges, moveable towers, and battering rams
- **WATER:** Aqueducts brought water to Nineveh from 30 miles away
- **HEBREWS:** Conquered them and took them as slaves
- **BAS RELIEF:** Artwork

# Assyrian Fun Facts

- **Vicious fighters and cruel rulers who glorified war**
- **Greatest archers**



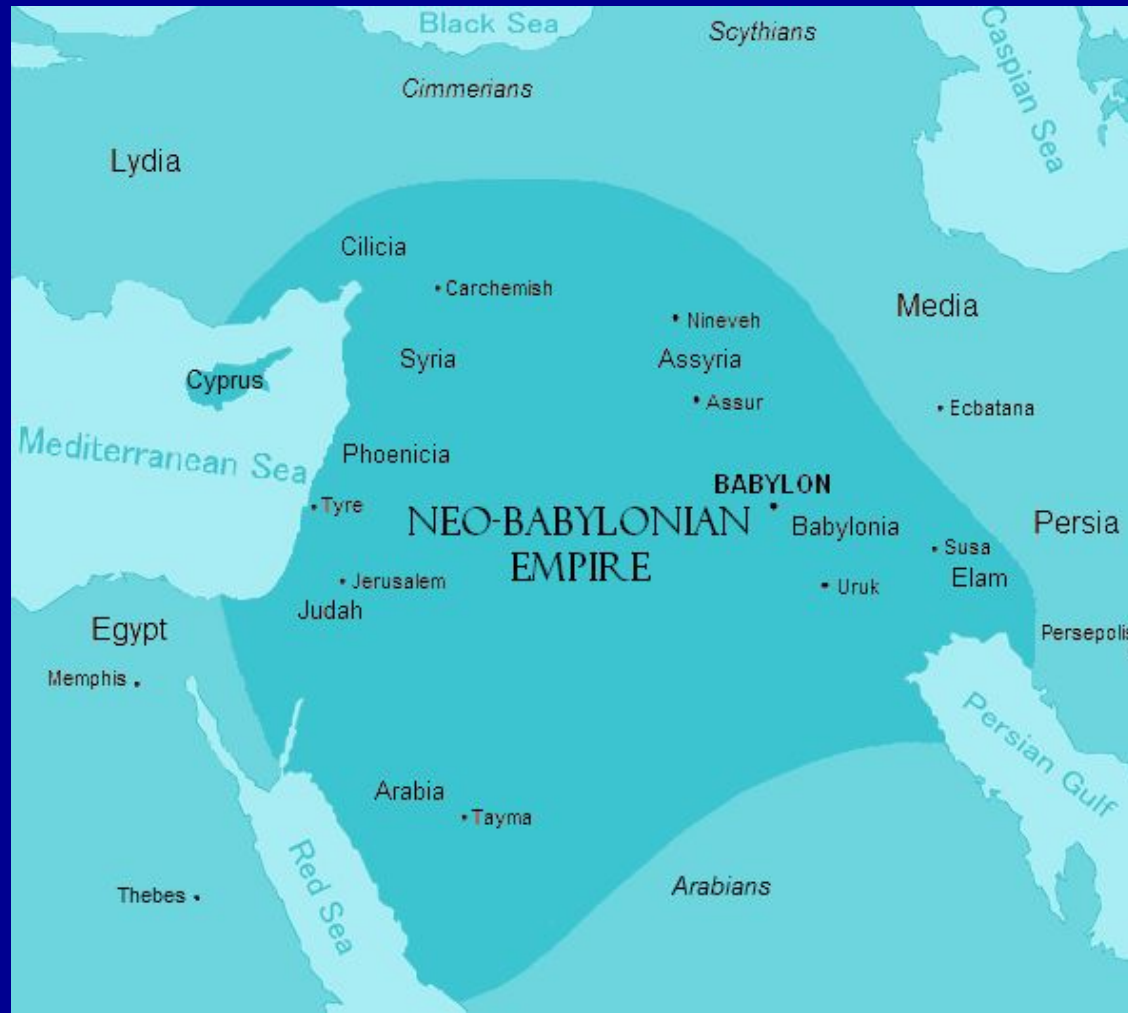
# The Neo-Babylonians

## The Ishtar Gate



# The Neo-Babylonian Empire

614 – 539 B.C.E.



# Capital City of Babylon

## The Hanging Gardens of Babylon



# Nebuchadrezzar



# Neo-Babylonian Accomplishments

- **First to develop a sundial**
  - 60 second minute
  - 60 minute hour
  - 7 day week
- **Great at math and astronomy**
- **Conquered the Hebrews and took them as slaves**
- **Hanging Gardens of Babylon**

# Neo-Babylonian Fun Facts

- **Ishtar Gate**
- **Conquered by the  
Persians**

# Persians

- 550 – 350 B.C.E.
- Persia is now Iran
- Allowed the Hebrews to go back home to Israel
- Fought the Greeks and eventually conquered by Alexander the Great



# Phoenicians

- Great sailors and traders
- Developed the first alphabet
- Made purple dye by boiling sea snails

