

World Civilizations

(2.4) Empires of the Fertile Crescent

Guided Notes #4



Name _____
Period _____



In about 2330BC the _____, a people who lived in Mesopotamia, attacked and conquered the _____. _____ was the most powerful Akkadian king. He established a great _____ that reached as far west as the Mediterranean.

The Akkadian empire lasted about _____ years. Sumerian _____ prospered once again when the empire fell. Another powerful state began in a large new city called _____.

In about 1792BC a strong ruler named _____ came to power in Babylon. He was a great _____ leader but an outstanding political leader and _____. He is best known for the _____.

The _____ is a collection of about 282 _____ compiled under his direction. _____ was harsh, based on the idea of "_____". Punishment varied according to _____.

In some ways the Babylonian culture resembled that of the _____. Babylonians were very active _____, they exchanged goods with distant parts of the Fertile Crescent and with _____ and _____.

Babylonians made _____ to their gods for favors like good harvest or success in business. They also believed their priests could foretell the _____, therefore priests held great power and wealth.

Many times throughout history, conquerors adopted the _____ of the people they conquered. Some conquerors kept their own cultural values like the _____. The Hittites were a _____ people who invaded the Tigris-Euphrates Valley from _____ (1600BC)

The Hittites were the first people to smelt _____. Their most important achievement may have been their _____ and _____. The Hittites conquered and looted the city of _____.

The _____ were from northern Mesopotamia who eventually dominated the region in 900BC. At its height the mighty _____ included all of Mesopotamia, Syria, Palestine, and the _____ Valley.

The Assyrians were fierce, effective _____. They were the first to use _____, soldiers on horseback, in battle. They used _____ to control their enemies. The frequently _____ the people they conquered and _____ captured enemy soldiers.

The Assyrians sometimes _____ whole populations to other regions. By about 700BC the Assyrians captured _____, looted it, and then destroyed it completely. The Assyrians were the first to effectively govern a large _____.

The Assyrians made _____ their capital. They _____ this city with a huge double _____ around it. Nineveh contained a great _____ in which Assyrian scholars kept _____ tablets filled with literature and other works collected all over the empire.

Among the many texts it contained the great _____, the story of a _____ king and one of the oldest works of literature known.

The _____ took control of much of the territory that the Assyrians had ruled. Under the leadership of _____, the Chaldeans conquered most of the Fertile Crescent. He governed from the rebuilt city of _____ from 605BC to 562BC.

The king's palace included beautiful terraced _____, known as the _____. One of the Seven _____. The myth is that Nebuchadnezzar had this built to appease his wife _____.

The Chaldeans were skilled _____. They kept careful records of the apparent movement of the _____ and _____. This allowed them to predict solar and lunar _____. They were very advanced in _____ and calculated the length of a _____ with a very high degree of accuracy.

The _____ captured Babylon in 539BC. At first the Medes ruled over Persians, by 550BC, the Persian ruler _____ the Great rebelled against the Medes. Cyrus then captured _____ and took over the rest of the _____ and Asia Minor.

Cyrus and later rulers, including _____ and his son _____ expanded Persian rule even more. The Persian _____ stretched between the Indus River and parts of southeastern Europe. Both Darius and Xerxes invaded _____ in the 400sBC but failed to conquer it. The Persians still ruled the mightiest _____ in history up to that time!

The early Persian _____ were effective rulers as well as great generals. They were _____ but concerned for _____. Persians also treated the people they _____ better than earlier empires had.

Persians allowed conquered people to keep their own _____ and _____. Secret agents known as " _____" kept the king informed. Regional _____ and _____ leaders appointed by the ruler were held in check

Persians built _____ to connect the cities within their empire. They built roads mainly for the _____ and postal riders. The Persian road system helped to link the sprawling _____ together. Roads also allowed different cultures in the empire to exchange _____, _____, and _____.

Perhaps the greatest cultural contribution of the Persians concerned _____. At first the Persians worshipped many _____. In 600BC the teachings of a great prophet named _____ changed their religious outlook.

Zoroaster taught that on Earth people received _____ for a future life. He said that in the world the forces of _____ and _____ battle one another. People must _____ between them. Those who chose good were _____, those who chose evil would face _____.

The teachings of Zoroaster are known as _____. The central belief is the universal struggle between _____ and _____ and the idea of a final _____. These beliefs have had a great impact and influence on many great _____. (Judaism and later Christianity) In 331BC the Persians suffered a final defeat at the hands of the _____ forces of _____.