

CHAPTER 2

Main Idea Activities 2.4

Empires of the Fertile Crescent

READ (pp. 35-40)

VOCABULARY Some terms to understand:

- Sargon:
- Hammurabi:
- Nebuchadnezzar:
- Cyrus:
- Zoroaster:

ORGANIZING INFORMATION Fill in the chart by writing the correct item in the space provided.

- Akkadian
- Assyrian
- Babylonian
- Chaldean
- Hittite
- Persian



| Empires of the Fertile Crescent | |
|--|----------------|
| Important Events | Empires |
| Sargon's great empire extended as far as the Mediterranean. | |
| Hammurabi wrote his code of laws concerning all aspects of life. | |
| People began to smelt iron. | |
| The cavalry—soldiers on horseback—was used for the first time. | |
| Nebuchadnezzar rebuilt Babylon into a magnificent city with Hanging Gardens. | |
| Conquered peoples were allowed to keep their own religions and laws. | |

Chapter 2, Main Idea Activities 2.4, continued

EVALUATING INFORMATION Mark each statement *T* if it is true or *F* if it is false.

- _____ 1. Under the code of Hammurabi, punishment was extremely harsh.
- _____ 2. Under Hittite law, even minor crimes received the death penalty.
- _____ 3. The Assyrians enslaved the people they conquered.
- _____ 4. Of all the empires, only the Chaldeans did not make advances in astronomy and mathematics.
- _____ 5. Trade in Babylon prospered because of the city's impressive roads.
- _____ 6. Secret agents known as the "King's Eyes and Ears" first appeared during the rule of Cyrus the Great.



REVIEWING FACTS Choose the correct items from the following list to complete the statements below.

- | | | |
|--------------------------|------------|----------------------------|
| Alexander the Great | Royal Road | Nineveh |
| Zoroastrianism | Semitic | Seven Wonders of the World |
| <i>Epic of Gilgamesh</i> | Assyrian | |

- 1. The Akkadians spoke a _____ language.
- 2. The city of _____ was the heart of the Assyrian civilization in the Fertile Crescent.
- 3. Nebuchadnezzar built the Hanging Gardens of Babylon for his wife, and the Greeks regarded them as one of the _____.
- 4. The _____ king had absolute power and was answerable only to the god Ashur.
- 5. One of the oldest works of literature kept by Assyrian scholars is the _____.
- 6. The Persian Empire built the _____ to connect its cities and expand trade.
- 7. _____, which centered on the struggle between good and evil, may have influenced Jewish and Christian thought.
- 8. _____, a Greek, conquered the Persian Empire in 331 B.C.

