CHAPTER 2, SECTION 2

FERTILE CRESCENT EMPIRES
OBJECTIVES

• Learn about the three most important empires of the Fertile Crescent.

• Find out what characterized the Babylonian and Assyrian empires.

• Investigate the achievements of the Persian Empire.
KEY TERMS

- empire
- Babylon
- caravan
- bazaar
- Zoroastrianism
THE BABYLONIAN EMPIRE

• Hammurabi created the Babylonian Empire in 1787 B.C. by conquering the cities of Sumer.

• Babylon was the capital of Babylonia.
• The empire had roads which made travel easier and encouraged trade.
• They used caravans to move goods and sold them in bazaars.
• The empire was destroyed in 1500s B.C.
Who was Hammurabi and what did he accomplish?

Hammurabi was a Babylonian king who created the Babylonian Empire by conquering the cities of Sumer and lands far to the north.
THE EMPIRE OF THE ASSYRIANS

• The geography of Assyria was open land making it easy to invade.
• Because they were under constant attack, they became skilled warriors.
• They decided to attack others and eventually the empire spread.
ASSYRIA'S CONTRIBUTIONS

• battering ram – a powerful weapon having a wooden beam mounted on wheels
• slings – used to hurl stones
• archers with helmets and armor
• charioteers
• Assyria’s Capital – Nineveh
  • city of great learning
  • huge library - 1000s of clay tablets from Sumer and Babylon
The Assyrians had many enemies.

Two groups joined together to conquer Assyria:

- Medes
- Chaldeans
What were the strengths of the Assyrian Empire?

The Assyrians were skilled warriors with advanced techniques of warfare; their capital, Nineveh, was a center of learning.
BABYLONIA RISES AGAIN

The Babylonians controlled the entire Fertile Crescent.
NEBUCHADNEZZAR, KING OF BABYLON

Rebuilt Babylon with

- Huge walls
- A gigantic palace w/colored tiles
- Beautiful gardens on terraces for his wife
  - "Hanging Gardens of Babylon"
ADVANCES IN LEARNING

• Chaldeans built on Babylon's knowledge of math

• Astronomers charted the stars
  • Measured length of a year

• Raised honey bees
CONQUERED

- Fell to the Persians
- Cyrus the Great
- Spared the city of Babylon
READING CHECK

• Who was Nebuchadnezzar II?

• Nebuchadnezzar II was the king of Babylon. He rebuilt the city after the Assyrians destroyed it.
THE PERSIAN EMPIRE

- Located east of Mesopotamia,
  - Consisted of mountains, valleys, and deserts,
  - Present day Iran.
- Persia conquered Babylon in 539 BC.
- It was the largest empire in the Fertile Crescent.
- It stretched from Greece to India.
A RICH AND TOLERANT CULTURE

- Religion – Zoroastrianism
- Used bureaucracy – complex structure of government offices
- Built roads – enabling trade with neighbors
- Tolerated different cultures – they freed the Jews who were held captive in Babylon
LASTING INFLUENCE

Spread ideas through conquest and trade.

- Religion, bureaucracy, and science
READING CHECK

How did the Persians promote trade?

They built roads that enabled trade with neighboring civilizations.
1.(b) Analyze

- How did the New Babylonian Empire build on the achievements of earlier empires?
- The New Babylonian Empire drew on the learning and science of earlier empires, including the earlier Babylonian Empire.
1.(a) Identify

- Where was the city of Babylon located and why was it important?
- Babylon was located near the center of Mesopotamia. It was important as a center for trade and as the capital of great empires.
• 2.(a) Recall
  • How did the Assyrians build an empire?
  • The Assyrians used advanced military technologies to conquer surrounding peoples.
2.(b) Compare

- How was the Assyrian Empire similar to or different from other Fertile Crescent empires?

- The Assyrian Empire was similar to other Fertile Crescent empires in its emphasis on conquest and learning; it was different in developing new military technologies.
3. (a) Identify

- Where was the homeland of the Persians?
- The Persians originated from the region of present day Iran.
3.(b) Synthesize

- What were the main achievements of the Persians and what has been their lasting influence?
- The Persians developed an advanced bureaucracy and supported science and mathematics. Their rich trade network spread these achievements to neighboring peoples.