

Empires in Mesopotamia



As a Young Historian, I will be able to...

- **Outline the achievements of the first empires that arose in Mesopotamia**
- **Understand how conquests brought new empires and ideas into the Middle East.**
- **Describe the major political, religious, and cultural influences of Persia.**
- **Summarize the contributions the Phoenicians made to the ancient Middle East.**

Empires Emerge

Sargon of Akkad conquers Sumer & builds the first empire in history

Empire- Group of regions or countries that are controlled by one ruler or government

Hammurabi, king of Babylon, takes control of Mesopotamia & creates a set of laws

Hammurabi's Code

Set of laws collected by Hammurabi to set rules of government for Mesopotamia

Codify- Arrange & set down in writing the laws that govern a state

Criminal Laws- Codes to address murder, assault, & theft

Civil Laws- Laws that deal with private rights and matters such as marriage & taxes

Eventually standing armies & religious unity were developed under the god Marduk

New Empires & Ideas

The Hittites begin to take over the region with the help of iron

Iron weapons are developed & ushers in the Iron Age

The war tribes of Assyria take iron technology & take over Mesopotamia with brutality

Assyrian society was organized though & created some of the first libraries, glassmaking, & lock and keys

New Babylonia

Nebuchadnezzar revives the Babylonian empire & stretches power from the Red & Persian Sea

The development of the **Hanging Gardens** were recognized as one of the 7 wonders of the ancient world

**Babylon builds a great city
surrounded by a moat & giant
gateways**

**Babylonians became some of the first
people to begin basic forms of
astronomy**

PERSIANS!

**Eventually Babylon was overtaken
by Cyrus the Great & the
Persian Empire**

Darius I set up a **bureaucracy-
system of managing government
through various bureaus by
official**

**The Empire was divided between
provinces & headed by a governor
called a Satrap**

**Roads were developed to connect the
Empire and promote safe & fast
travels**

Persian Economy & Religion

Darius I sets up weights & measurements in the empire & encourages the use of coin

Barter Economy- Exchange of one set of goods or services for another

Money Economy- People pay for goods & services by exchanging tokens of value

Zoroaster, a Persian thinker, develops a new religion based on the idea of people choosing good or evil

The Phoenicians

The Phoenicians took to the sea as sailors & traders taking control of the coastlines

The developed a new type of dye as well to make a purple color

Colony- Territory settled & ruled by people from another land

Eventually Phoenicians adapt an **alphabet, a system of writing that uses symbols to represent a single basic sound**