

Civilization in Ancient Mesopotamia

► Gathering the Facts

1. Turn to pages 10–11 of the atlas. Read the introduction. Also look at chart B, *Sumerians Develop Writing*, and picture A and read its caption to complete the following paragraph.

The earliest known civilization was _____. It developed in an area called _____. The Sumerians were known for trading with places as far as _____ and _____. The Sumerians also created the first written _____. The language was made up of wedge shapes known as _____, which became the basis of written languages in Mesopotamia. Sumerians lived in independent _____, each with its own ruler, _____, and _____. They fought with _____ weapons. The neighboring region of _____ later conquered Sumer. Akkad also conquered the rest of the region surrounding the _____ and _____ Rivers.

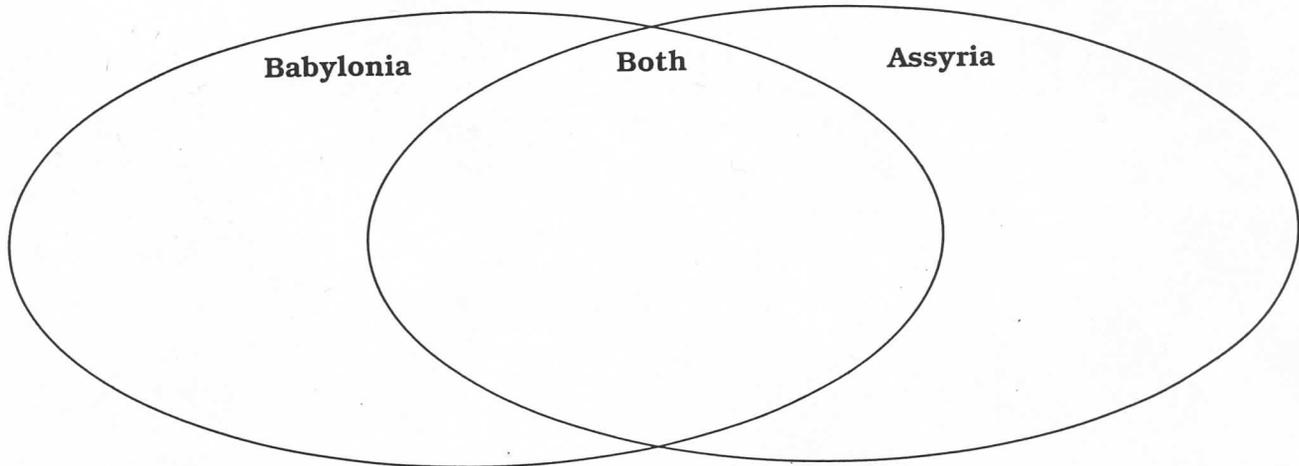
► Places, Regions, and Landscapes

2. Look at map C, *Fertile Crescent and Mesopotamia*. Write **T** next to each of the following statements if it is true or **F** if the statement is false.
- Mesopotamia means “good farmland.” _____
 - Mesopotamia included all of the land between the Tigris River and the Sinai Desert. _____
 - The Fertile Crescent included Mesopotamia. _____
 - The Fertile Crescent included present-day Egypt. _____
 - The Fertile Crescent was bordered by the Mediterranean Sea and the Persian Gulf. _____
 - The dry desert made farming in the Fertile Crescent difficult. _____
 - Mesopotamia included parts of the present-day countries of Syria, Iraq, and Turkey. _____
 - The Fertile Crescent was located between deserts and mountains. _____

Babylonia and Assyria

► People and Cultures

1. Turn to pages 12–13 in the atlas. Read the introduction. Also look at picture B and read its caption. Then put each word or phrase from the Word Bank under the empire it describes in the diagram below.



Word Bank		
Known for fierce army	From Babylon	Built an empire in Fertile Crescent
Built monuments to show wealth	From Ashur	Center of learning

► History through Maps

2. Look at map A, *Assyria and Babylonia*. Write **T** next to each of the following statements if it is true or **F** if the statement is false.
 - a. Babylonia was larger than Assyria in 1800 BCE. _____
 - b. Copper and tin were used to make weapons. _____
 - c. By 1750 BCE, Assyria had conquered most of Babylonia. _____
 - d. Hammurabi was responsible for conquering most of Assyria. _____
 - e. Hammurabi's death had little effect on the Babylonian Empire. _____

★ Thinking about History

3. Read the history question, "Why do empires fail?" Why are empires hard to govern?

➤ **Gathering the Facts**

4. Look at map C, *New Assyrian Empire*. Use the map to complete the following paragraph.

In 934 BCE, the _____ regained power and began expanding from their capital at _____. By 824 BCE, the Assyrian Empire reached the _____ River to the south and west. During the next 160 years, the Assyrians built the largest empire in the Fertile Crescent, conquering lands all the way to the _____ Sea. In 671 BCE, they conquered _____. The Assyrians continued to move south until they reached and conquered the city of _____ in 663 BCE. The Assyrians ruled many different groups of people until 612 BCE, when they were conquered by the _____ and _____.

★ **Time and Change**

5. Use map D, *New Babylonian Empire*, to sequence the following events in chronological order. Write **1** next to the event that occurred first and **5** next to the event that occurred last.

Event

Rank

- a. Babylonians fail to conquer Egypt.
- b. Babylonians conquer Nineveh.
- c. Babylonians conquer Jerusalem.
- d. Persians attack Babylon.
- e. Babylonians conquer Carchemish.

➤ **People and Cultures**

6. Use chart E, *Babylonian Contributions*, to answer the following questions.

- a. Into how many months did the Babylonians divide a year? _____
- b. Into how many hours did they divide a day? _____
- c. Into how many minutes did they divide an hour? _____
- d. Is this the same way we divide time today? _____