



Invaders, Traders, and Empire Builders

Focus Question: How did various strong rulers unite the lands of the Fertile Crescent into well organized empires?

Lesson Objectives

19. Outline the achievements of the first empires that arose in Mesopotamia.
20. Understand how conquests brought new empires and ideas into the Middle East.
21. Describe how the Persians established a huge empire.
22. Summarize the contributions the Phoenicians made to the ancient Middle East.

19. Outline the achievements of the first empires that arose in Mesopotamia.



First Empires in Mesopotamia

- Invaders swept into Mesopotamia looking to conquer.
- Created large empires
- Brought peace and prosperity to region



Sargon Builds the First Empire

- In 2300 B.C. Sargon, ruler of Akkad conquered Sumer.
- First empire in the history of the world.
- Empire fell apart after his death.



Hammurabi's Babylon



- Brought Mesopotamia under his control
- Established a code of laws which became known as **Hammurabi's Code.**
- First written set of laws.

Establishing Civil Law

- One section of Hammurabi's Code dealt with civil law.
- **Civil law-** deals with private matters.
 - Property Inheritance
 - Taxes
 - Marriage
 - Divorce



Defining Crime and Punishment

- Hammurabi's Code also addressed **criminal law**.
- Robbery
- Assault
- Murder
- Limited vigilantes and set specific punishments.
- **"Eye for an eye and life for a life."**
- Punishments varied depending on social class. (Everyone was not equal before the law)



20. Understand how conquests brought new empires and ideas into the Middle East.



Conquests Bring New Empires and Ideas

- Some conquerors brought new ideas to Mesopotamia.
- Others forced people to leave; spreading the ideas of those made to leave.
- Warfare causes **cultural diffusion.**



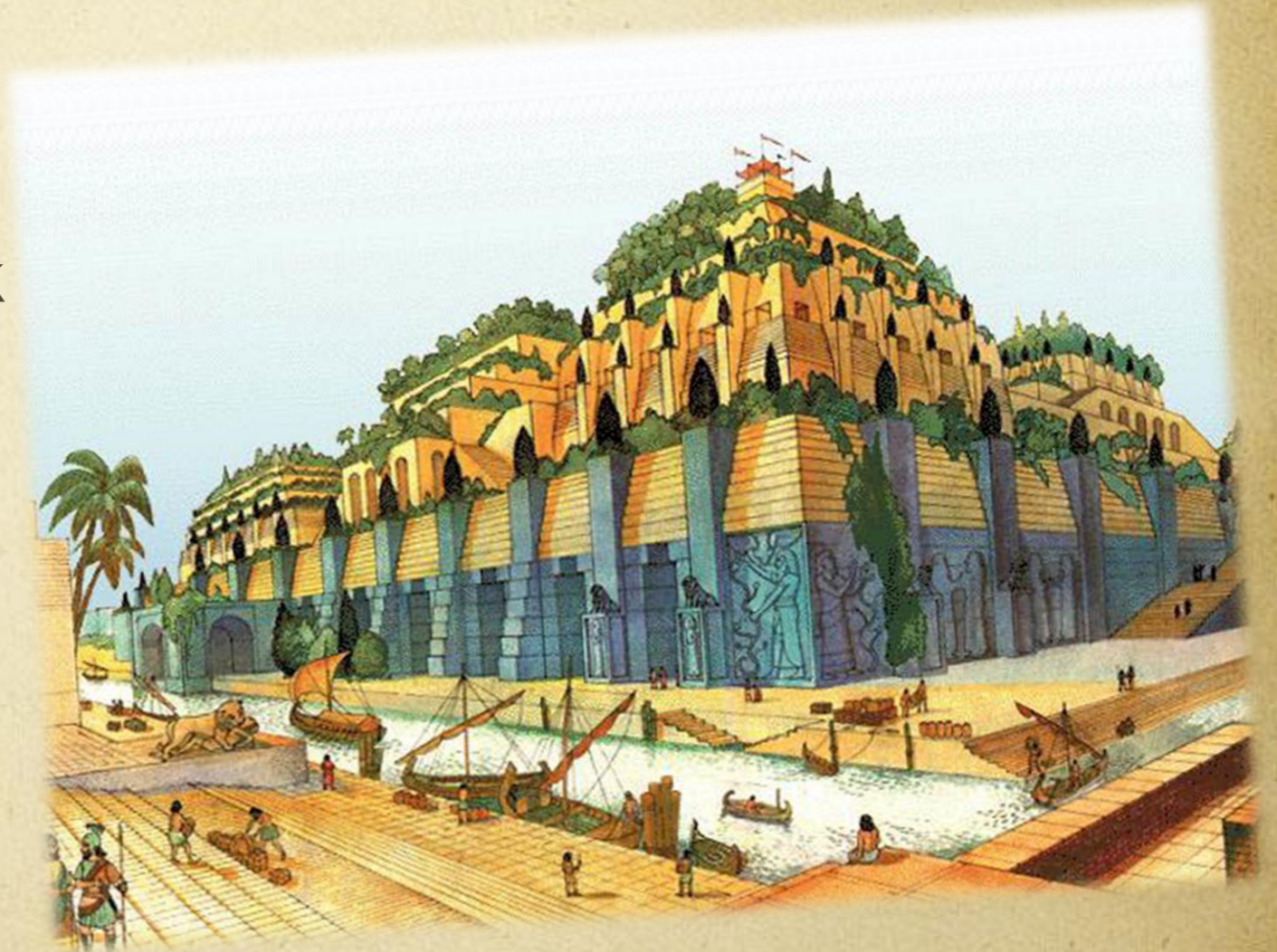
Hittites Learn Ironworking

- ↳ Brought with them the knowledge of how to extract iron from ore.
- ↳ Iron weapons
 - ↳ Harder/Stronger
 - ↳ Sharper edges
 - ↳ Plentiful- cheaper to produce



The City of Babylon

- ↳ Nebuchadnezzar rebuilt the city of Babylon.
- ↳ He surrounded Babylon with a defensive moat and a brick wall 84 feet thick.
- ↳ Enlarged the ziggurat at the city center.
- ↳ He may have built the famous **Hanging Gardens**, known as one of the “**seven wonders of the ancient world**”.



21. Describe how the Persians established a huge empire.



The Persians Establish a Huge Empire

Babylon was conquered by the Persians from the East.

Their empire eventually stretched from Asia Minor to India.

In general Persian kings issued a policy of **tolerance**, or acceptance, of the people they conquered.

The Persians respected the customs of the **diverse** groups in their empire.



The Persian Empire 500 B.C.



Darius Unites Many Peoples



- Darius I was a skilled organizer and excellent leader.
- He divided the empire into provinces (states).
- Each province had a governor and paid taxes based on its wealth and resources.
- He adopted laws and customs of the conquered people.
- To encourage unity he had hundreds of miles of roads built.

Improving Economic Life

- Common sets of weights and measures
- Encouraged the use of coins
- Most people remained part of the **barter economy**, in which they exchanged one set of goods for another.
- Some merchants used coins which signaled the beginning of a **money economy**, where goods or services are paid for by a coin or bill with a set value.



22. Summarize the contributions the Phoenicians made to the ancient Middle East.



Contributions of Phoenician Sea Traders

Expanded manufacturing and trade

- ↳ Made glass from sand
- ↳ Produced a purple dye from snails found on the coast.
- ↳ Traded all around the Mediterranean Sea and set up colonies.



Established an alphabet

- ↳ An **alphabet** is a writing system in which each symbol represents a single basic sound.

