

Sumerian Achievements

3 SECTION



SECTION

IF YOU lived there...

You are a student at a school for scribes in Sumer. Learning all the symbols for writing is very hard. Your teacher assigns you lessons to write on your clay tablet, but you can't help making mistakes. Then you have to smooth out the surface and try again. Still, being a scribe can lead to important jobs for the king. You could make your family proud.

Why would you want to be a scribe?

BUILDING BACKGROUND Sumerian society was advanced in terms of religion and government organization. The Sumerians were responsible for many other achievements, which were passed down to later civilizations.

Invention of Writing

The Sumerians made one of the greatest cultural advances in history. They developed **cuneiform** (kyoo-NEE-uh-fohm), the world's first system of writing. The Sumerians did not have pens, pencils, or paper, though. Instead, they used sharp tools called styluses to make wedge-shaped symbols on clay tablets.



Sumerians wrote on clay tablets with a special tool called a stylus.

What You Will Learn...

Main Ideas

1. The Sumerians invented the world's first writing system.
2. Advances and inventions changed Sumerian lives.
3. Many types of art developed in Sumer.

The Big Idea

The Sumerians made many advances that helped their society develop.

Key Terms

- cuneiform, p. 127
- pictographs, p. 128
- scribe, p. 128
- epics, p. 128
- architecture, p. 130
- zigurat, p. 130

TAKING NOTES

Create a chart like the one below. As you read, list the achievements and advances made by the Sumerians.

Sumerian Advances and Achievements

ACADEMIC
VOCABULARY
complex
difficult,
not simple

Earlier written communication had used **pictographs**, or picture symbols. Each pictograph represented an object, such as a tree or an animal. In cuneiform, symbols could also represent syllables, or basic parts of words. As a result, Sumerian writers could combine multiple symbols to express more complex ideas such as "joy" or "powerful."
Sumerians first used cuneiform to keep business records. A **scribe**, or writer, would be hired to keep track of the items people traded. Government officials and temples also hired scribes to keep their records. Becoming a scribe was a way to move up in social class.
Sumerian students went to school to learn to read and write. Like today, though, some students did not want to study. A Sumerian story tells of a father who urged his son to do his schoolwork:

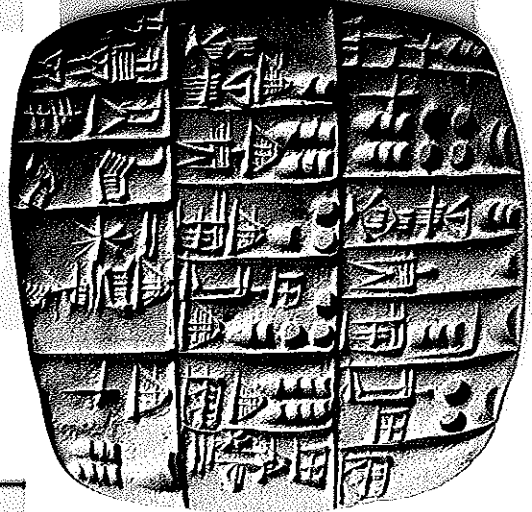
"Go to school, stand before your school-father; recite your assignment, open your schoolbag, write your tablet...After you have finished your assignment and reported to your monitor [teacher], come to me, and do not wander about in the street."

-Sumerian essay quoted in *History Begins at Sumer*, by Samuel Noah Kramer

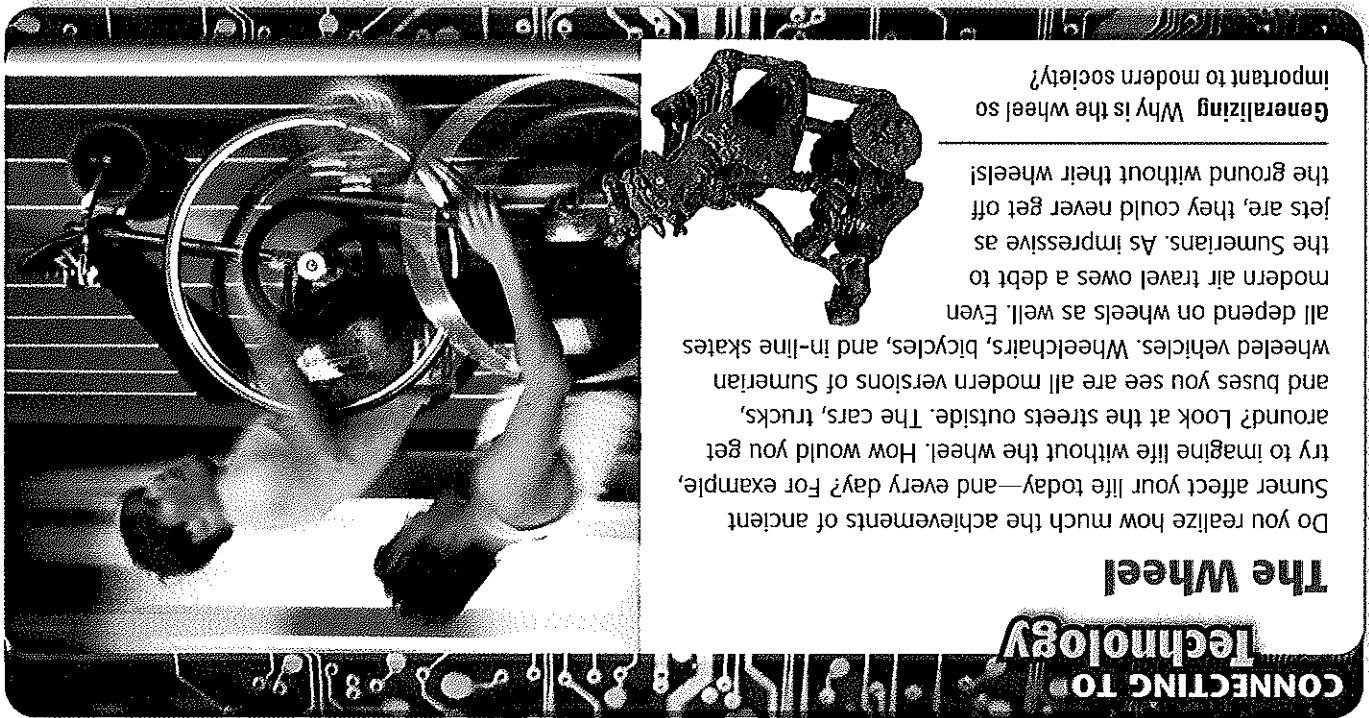
In time, Sumerians put their writing skills to new uses. They wrote works on history, law, grammar, and math. They also created works of literature. Sumerians wrote poems about the gods and about military victories. Some of these were **epics**, long poems that tell the stories of heroes. Later, people used some of these poems to create *The Epic of Gilgamesh*, the story of a legendary Sumerian king.

READING CHECK Generalizing How was cuneiform first used in Sumer?

Sumerian writing developed from early symbols called pictographs. Writers used clay tablets to record business deals, like this tablet that describes a number of sheep and goats.



Development of Writing		3300 BC	2800 BC	2400 BC	1800 BC
Heaven					
Grain					
Fish					
Bird					
Water					



CONNECTING TO Technology

The Wheel

Do you realize how much the achievements of ancient Sumer affect your life today—and every day? For example, try to imagine life without the wheel. How would you get around? Look at the streets outside. The cars, trucks, and buses you see are all modern versions of Sumerian wheeled vehicles. Wheelchairs, bicycles, and in-line skates all depend on wheels as well. Even modern air travel owes a debt to the Sumerians. As impressive as jets are, they could never get off the ground without their wheels!

Generalizing Why is the wheel so important to modern society?

Advances and Inventions

Writing was not the only great Sumerian invention. These early people made many other advances and discoveries.

Technical Advances

One of the Sumerians' most important developments was the wheel. They were the world's first people to build wheeled vehicles, such as carts. Using the wheel, Sumerians invented a device that spins clay as a craftsman shapes it into bowls. This device is called a potter's wheel. The plow was another important Sumerian invention. Pulled by oxen, plows broke through the hard clay soil of Sumer to prepare it for planting. This technique greatly increased farm production. The Sumerians also invented a clock that used falling water to measure time.

Sumerian advances improved daily life. Sumerians built sewers under city streets. They used bronze to make strong tools and weapons. They even produced makeup and glass jewelry.

Math and Science

Another area in which Sumerians excelled was math. In fact, they developed a math system based on the number 60. Based on this system, they divided a circle into 360 degrees. Dividing a year into 12 months—a factor of 60—was another Sumerian idea. Sumerians also calculated the areas of rectangles and triangles.

Sumerian scholars studied science, too. They wrote long lists to record their study of the natural world. These tablets included the names of thousands of animals, plants, and minerals. The Sumerians also made advances in medicine. Using ingredients from animals, plants, and minerals, they produced many healing drugs. Among the items used in these medicines were milk, turtle shells, figs, and salt. The Sumerians catalogued their medical knowledge, listing treatments according to symptoms and body parts.

READING CHECK

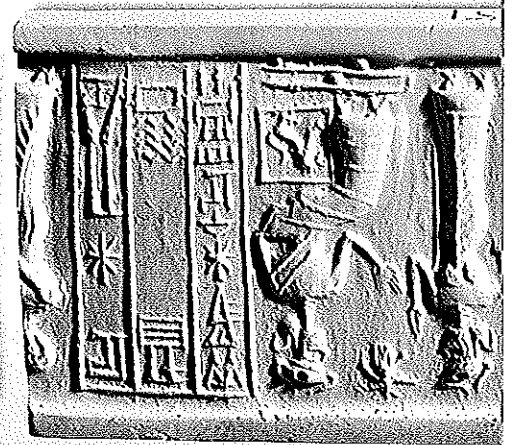
Categorizing What areas of life were improved by Sumerian inventions?



We still use a base-60 system when we talk about 60 seconds in a minute and 60 minutes in an hour.

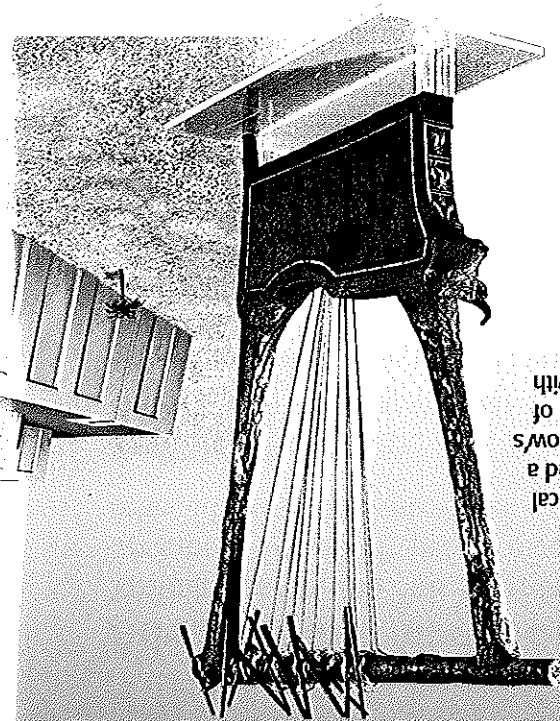
Sumerian Achievements

The Sumerians' artistic achievements included beautiful works of gold, wood, and stone.



Cylinder seals like this one were carved into round stones and then rolled over clay to leave their mark.

This stringed musical instrument is called a lyre. It features a cow's head and is made of shell and stone.



The Arts of Sumer

The Sumerians' skills in the fields of art, metalwork, and **architecture**—the science of building—are well known to us. The ruins of great buildings and fine works of art have provided us with many examples of the Sumerians' creativity.

Architecture

Most Sumerian rulers lived in large palaces. Other rich Sumerians had two-story homes with as many as a dozen rooms. However, most people lived in smaller, one-story houses. These homes had six or seven rooms arranged around a small courtyard. Large and small houses stood side by side along the narrow, unpaved streets of the city. Bricks made of mud were the houses' main building blocks. City centers were dominated by their temples, the largest and most impressive buildings in Sumer. A **ziggurat**, a pyramid-shaped temple, rose high above each city. Outdoor staircases led to a platform and a shrine at the top. Some temples also had columns to make them more attractive.

The Arts

Sumerian sculptors produced many fine works. Among them are the statues of gods created for temples. Sumerian artists also sculpted small objects out of ivory and rare woods. Sumerian pottery is better known for its quantity than its quality. Potters turned out many items, but few were works of beauty.

Jewelry was a popular item in Sumer. The jewelers of the region made many beautiful works out of imported gold, silver, and gems. Earings and other items found in the region show that Sumerian jewelers knew rather advanced methods for putting gold pieces together.

Cylinder seals are perhaps Sumer's most famous works of art. These small objects were stone cylinders engraved with designs. When rolled over clay, the designs would leave behind their imprint. Each seal left its own distinct imprint. As a result, a person could show ownership of a container by rolling a cylinder over the container's wet clay surface. People could also use cylinder seals to "sign" documents or to decorate other clay objects.

FOCUS ON READING
What was a cylinder seal? Describe one in your own words.

5. Evaluating Information What will you include on your poster to show Sumerian achievements? A ziggurat? A piece of jewelry? A musical instrument? Make a list of the pictures you think would be most interesting to elementary students.

FOCUS ON WRITING

Advance/ Achievement	Effect

4. Identifying Effects In a chart like this one, identify the effect of each Sumerian advance you listed in your notes.

Critical Thinking

go.hrw.com
Online Quiz
KEYWORD: SK7 HP5

Section 3 Assessment

Reviewing Ideas, Terms, and Places

1. a. Identify What is cuneiform?
b. Analyze Why do you think writing is one of history's most important cultural advances?
c. Elaborate What current leader would you choose to write an epic about, and why?
2. a. Recall What were two early uses of the wheel?
b. Explain Why do you think the invention of the plow was so important to the Sumerians?
3. a. Describe What was the basic Sumerian building material?
b. Make Inferences Why do you think cylinder seals developed into works of art?

Some cylinder seals showed battle scenes. Others displayed worship rituals. Some were highly decorative, covered with hundreds of carefully cut gems. The Sumerians also enjoyed music. Kings and temples hired musicians to play on special occasions. Sumerian musicians played reed pipes, drums, tambourines, and harp-like stringed instruments called lyres. Children learned songs in school. People sang hymns to gods and kings.

Music and dance provided entertainment in marketplaces and homes. Some cylinder seals showed battle scenes. Others displayed worship rituals. Some were highly decorative, covered with hundreds of carefully cut gems. The Sumerians also enjoyed music. Kings and temples hired musicians to play on special occasions. Sumerian musicians played reed pipes, drums, tambourines, and harp-like stringed instruments called lyres. Children learned songs in school. People sang hymns to gods and kings.

SUMMARY AND PREVIEW The Sumerians greatly enriched their society. Next, you will learn about the later peoples who lived in Mesopotamia.

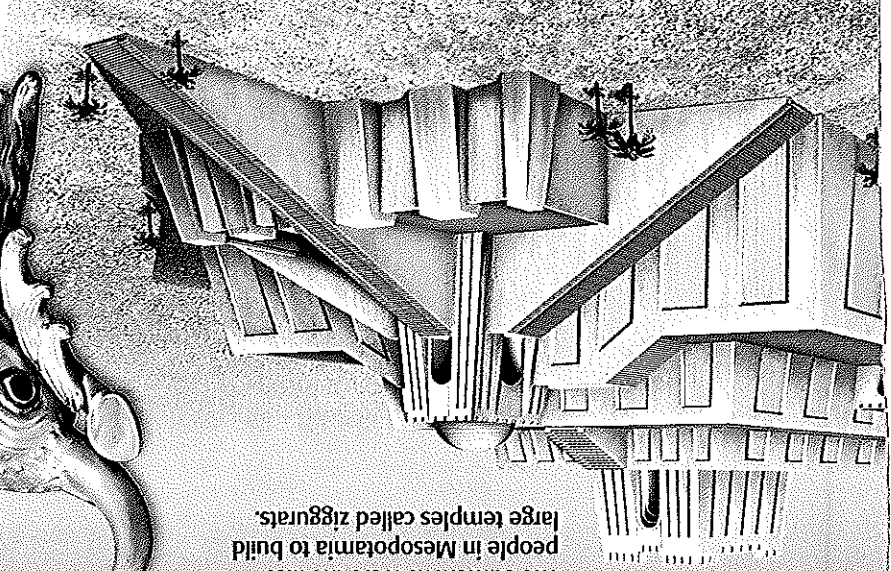
READING CHECK Drawing Inferences What might historians learn from cylinder seals?

What animal is shown in two of these works?

SKILL ANALYSIS ANALYZING VISUALS



This gold dagger was found in a royal tomb. The bull's head is made of gold and silver.



The Sumerians were the first people in Mesopotamia to build large temples called ziggurats.

Later Peoples of the Fertile Crescent

IF YOU lived there...

You are a noble in ancient Babylon, an adviser to the great king Hammurabi. One of your duties is to collect all the laws of the kingdom. They will be carved on a tall block of black stone and placed in the temple. The king asks your opinion about the punishments for certain crimes. For example, should common people be punished more harshly than nobles?

How will you advise the king?

BUILDING BACKGROUND Many peoples invaded Mesopotamia. A series of kings conquered the lands between the rivers. Each new culture inherited the earlier achievements of the Sumerians. Some of the later invasions of the region also introduced new skills and ideas that still influence civilization today, such as a written law code.

The Babylonians Conquer Mesopotamia

Although Ur rose to glory after the death of Sargon, repeated foreign attacks drained its strength. By 2000 BC, Ur lay in ruins. With Ur's power gone, several waves of invaders battled to gain control of Mesopotamia.

Rise of Babylon

Babylon was home to one such group. That city was located on the Euphrates near what is now Baghdad, Iraq. Babylon had once been a Sumerian town. By 1800 BC, however, it was home to a powerful government of its own. In 1792 BC, Hammurabi (ham-uh-RAHB-ee) became Babylon's king. He would become the city's greatest ruler.

What You Will Learn...

- Main Ideas**
1. The Babylonians conquered Mesopotamia and created a code of law.
 2. Invasions of Mesopotamia changed the region's culture.
 3. The Phoenicians built a trading society in the eastern Mediterranean region.

The Big Idea

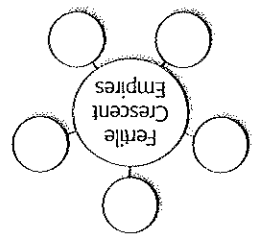
After the Sumerians, many cultures ruled parts of the Fertile Crescent.

Key Terms and Places

- Babylon, p. 132
- Hammurabi's Code, p. 133
- chariot, p. 134
- alphabet, p. 137

MAKING NOTES

As you read, use a diagram like the one below to keep track of the later empires of the Fertile Crescent.



Hamurabi's Code

Hamurabi was a brilliant war leader. His armies fought many battles to expand his power. Eventually, Hamurabi brought all of Mesopotamia into his empire, called the Babylonian Empire after his capital city. Hamurabi was not only skilled on the battlefield, though. He was also an able ruler who could govern a huge empire. He used tax money to pay for building and irrigation projects. He also brought wealth through increased trade. Hamurabi is best known, however, for his code of laws. **Hamurabi's Code** was a set of 282 laws that dealt with almost every part of daily life. There were laws on everything from trade, loans, and theft to marriage, injury, and murder. It contained some ideas that are still found in laws today.

Under Hamurabi's Code, each crime brought a specific penalty. However, social class did matter. For example, injuring a rich man brought a greater penalty than injuring a poor man.

Hamurabi's Code was important not only for how thorough it was but also because it was written down for all to see. People all over the empire could read exactly what was against the law.

Hamurabi ruled for 42 years. During his reign, Babylon became the major city in Mesopotamia. However, after his death, Babylonian power declined. The kings that followed faced invasions from the people. Hamurabi had conquered. Before long, the Babylonian Empire came to an end.

READING CHECK Analyzing What was

Hamurabi's most important accomplishment?

HISTORIC DOCUMENT

Hamurabi's Code

The Babylonian ruler Hamurabi is credited with putting together the earliest known written collection of laws. The code set down rules for both criminal and civil law and informed citizens about what was expected of them.

196. If a man put out the eye of another man, his eye shall be put out.

197. If he break another man's bone, his bone shall be broken.

198. If he put out the eye of a freed man, or break the bone of a freed man, he shall pay one gold mina.

199. If he put out the eye of a man's slave, or break the bone of a man's slave, he shall pay one-half of its value.

221. If a physician heal the broken bone or diseased soft part of a man, the patient shall pay the physician five shekels in money.

222. If he were a freed man he shall pay three shekels.

223. If he were a slave his owner shall pay the physician two shekels.

--Hamurabi, from *The Code of Hammurabi*, translated by L. W. King

SKILL

ANALYZING PRIMARY SOURCES

How do you think Hamurabi's code of laws affected citizens of that time?

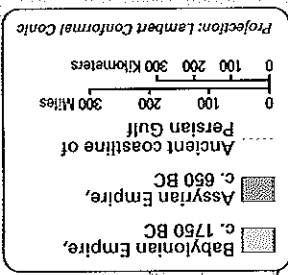




map Geography Skills

Place The Babylonians and the Assyrians conquered much of the Fertile Crescent.

1. Name What region in the southwest did the Assyrian Empire include?



Babylonian and Assyrian Empires



Using these advantages, Hittite forces captured Babylon around 1595 BC. Hittite rule did not last long, however. Soon after taking Babylon, the Hittite king was killed by an assassin. The kingdom plunged into chaos. The Kassites, a people who lived north of Babylon, captured the city and ruled for almost 400 years.

Assyrians

Later, in the 1200s BC, a group called the Assyrians (uh-sir-ee-unz) from northern Mesopotamia briefly gained control of Babylon. However, their empire was soon overrun by invaders. After this defeat, the Assyrians took about 300 years to recover their strength. Then, starting about 900 BC, they began to conquer all of the Fertile Crescent. They even took over parts of Asia Minor and Egypt.

Invasions of Mesopotamia

Several other civilizations developed in and around the Fertile Crescent. As their armies battled for land, control of the region passed from one empire to another.

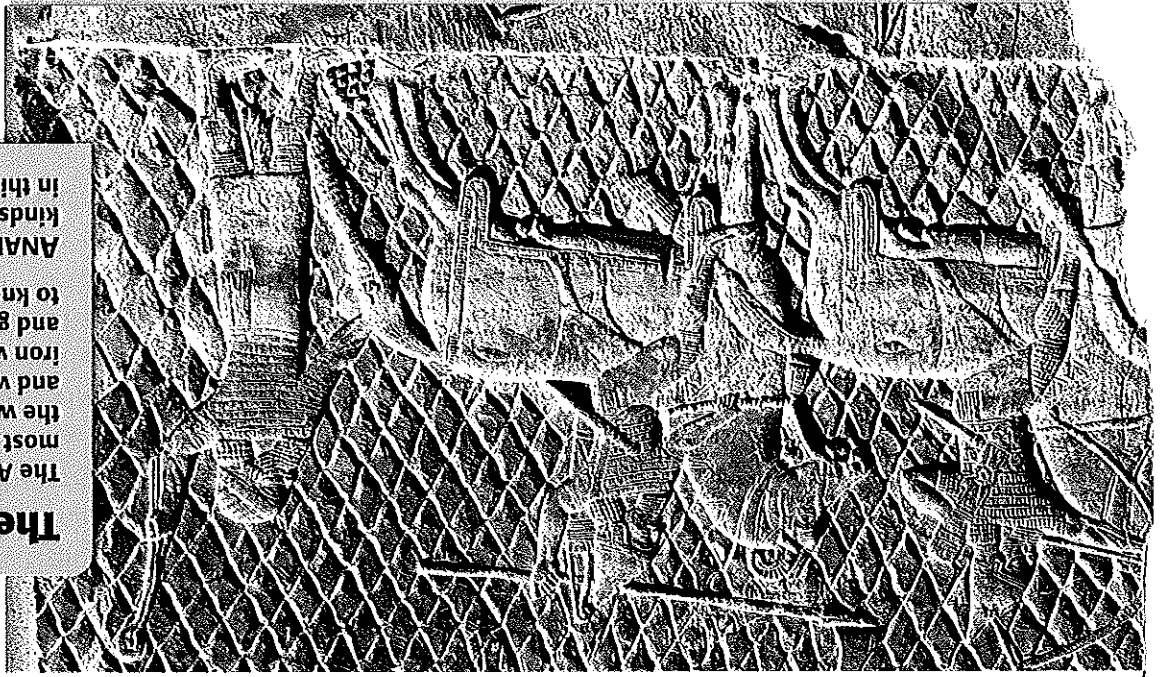
Hittites and Kassites

A people known as the Hittites built a strong kingdom in Asia Minor, in what is today Turkey. Their success came, in part, from two key military advantages they had over rivals. First, the Hittites were among the first people to master ironworking. This meant they could make stronger weapons than their foes. Second, the Hittite army skillfully used the **chariot**, a wheeled, horse-drawn cart used in battle. Chariots allowed Hittite soldiers to move quickly around a battlefield. Archers riding in the chariots fired arrows at the enemy.

FOCUS ON READING

Make sure you understand this paragraph by resting it in your own words.

The Assyrian Army
 The Assyrian army was the most powerful fighting force the world had ever seen. Large and well organized, it featured iron weapons, war chariots, and giant war machines used to knock down city walls.
ANALYZING VISUALS What kinds of weapons can you see in this carving?



Sensing this weakness, the Chaldeans (kal-DEE-unz), a group from the Syrian Desert, led other peoples in an attack on the Assyrians. In 612 BC, they destroyed Nineveh and the Assyrian Empire.

In its place, the Chaldeans set up a new empire of their own. Nebuchadnezzar (neb-uh-KUH-d-NEZ-zhr), the most famous Chaldean king, rebuilt Babylon into a beautiful city. According to legend, his grand palace featured the famous Hanging Gardens. Trees and flowers grew on its terraces and roofs. From the ground the gardens seemed to hang in the air.

The Chaldeans greatly admired the ideas and culture of the Sumerians. They studied the Sumerian language and built temples to Sumerian gods.

At the same time, Babylon became a center for astronomy. Chaldeans charted the positions of the stars and kept track of economic, political, and weather events. They also created a calendar and solved complex problems of geometry.

READING CHECK Sequencing List in order the peoples who ruled Mesopotamia.

The key to the Assyrians' success was their strong army. Like the Hittites, the Assyrians used iron weapons and chariots. The army was very well organized, and every soldier knew his role.

The Assyrians were fierce in battle. Before attacking, they spread terror by looting villages and burning crops. Anyone who still dared to resist them was killed.

After conquering the Fertile Crescent, the Assyrians ruled from their capital city, Nineveh (NI-nuh-vuh). They demanded heavy taxes from across the empire. Areas that resisted the Assyrians' demands were harshly punished.

Assyrian kings ruled their large empire through local leaders. Each governed a small area, collected taxes, enforced laws, and raised troops for the army. Roads were built to link distant parts of the empire. Messengers on horseback were sent to deliver orders to faraway officials.

Chaldeans

In 652 BC a series of wars broke out in the Assyrian Empire over who should rule. These wars greatly weakened the empire.

Because so many cedar trees have been cut down in Lebanon's forests over the years, very few trees remain.



Phoenicia had few resources. One thing it did have, however, was cedar. Cedar trees were prized for their timber, a valuable trade item. But Phoenicia's overland trade routes were blocked by mountains and hostile neighbors. Phoenicians had to look to the sea for a way to trade.

The Phoenicians were largely an urban people. Among their chief cities were Tyre, Sidon, and Byblos. These three cities, like many Phoenician cities, still exist today.

Today the nation of Lebanon occupies most of what was Phoenicia. Mountains border the region to the north and east. To the west lies the Mediterranean.

Geography of Phoenicia

At the western end of the Fertile Crescent, along the Mediterranean Sea, was a land known as Phoenicia (fi-NI-shuh). It was not home to a great military power and was often ruled by foreign governments. Nevertheless, the Phoenicians created a wealthy trading society.

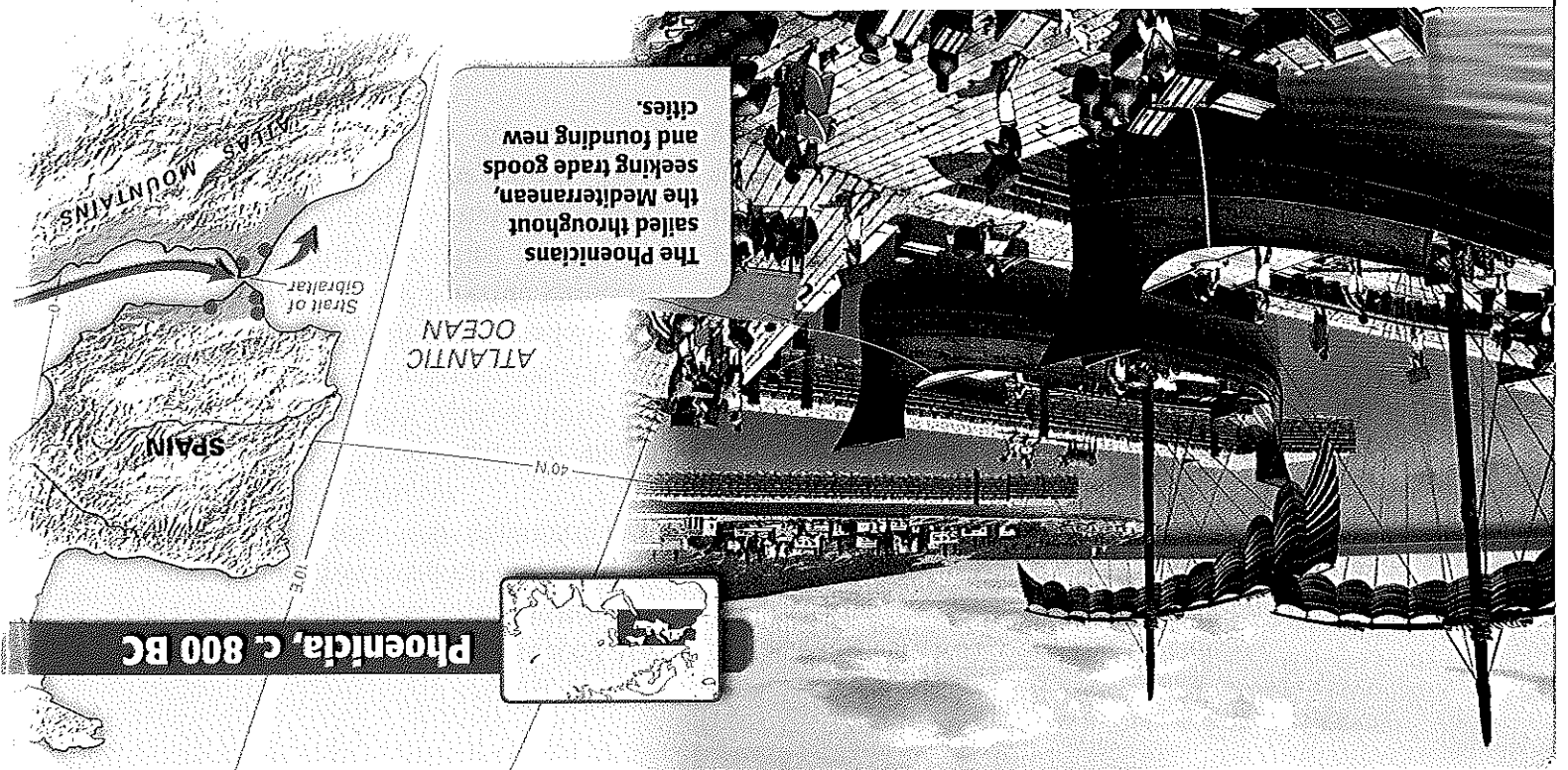
The Phoenicians

Expansion of Trade

Phoenicia grew wealthy from its trade. Besides lumber, the Phoenicians traded silverwork, ivory carvings, and slaves. They also made and sold beautiful glass items. In addition, the Phoenicians made purple dye from a type of shellfish. They then traded cloth that had been dyed with this purple color. Phoenician purple fabric was very popular with rich people all around the Mediterranean.

The Phoenicians founded several new colonies along their trade routes. Carthage (KAHR-thi), located on the northern coast of Africa, was the most famous of these. It later became one of the most powerful cities on the Mediterranean.

Motivated by a desire for trade, the people of Phoenicia became expert sailors. They built one of the world's finest harbors at the city of Tyre. Fleets of fast Phoenician trading ships sailed to ports all around the Mediterranean Sea. Traders traveled to Egypt, Greece, Italy, Sicily, and Spain. They even passed through the Strait of Gibraltar to reach the Atlantic Ocean.



SUMMARY AND PREVIEW Many peoples ruled in the Fertile Crescent after the Sumerians. Some made contributions that are still valued today. Next, you will learn about two religions that developed in the Fertile Crescent and are still alive today—Judaism and Christianity.

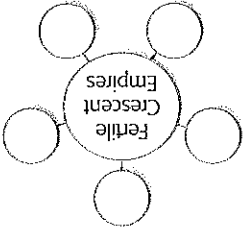
The Phoenicians' most important achievement, however, wasn't a trade good. To record their activities, Phoenician traders developed one of the world's first alphabets. An **alphabet** is a set of letters that can be combined to form words. This development made writing much easier. It had a major impact on the ancient world and on our own. In fact, the alphabet we use today is based on the Phoenicians'.

READING CHECK Finding Main Ideas What were the Phoenicians' main achievements?

5. Gathering information about later peoples Several different peoples contributed to civilization in the Fertile Crescent after the Sumerians. Which ones, if any, will you include on your poster? What will you show?

FOCUS ON WRITING

4. Categorizing Use your note-taking diagram with the names of the empires. List at least one advance or achievement made by each empire.



Critical Thinking

1. a. Identify Where was Babylon located?
b. Analyze What does Hammurabi's Code reveal about Babylonian society?
2. a. Describe What two advantages did Hittite soldiers have over their opponents?
b. Rank Which empire discussed in this section do you feel contributed the most to modern-day society? Why?
3. a. Identify For what trade goods were the Phoenicians known? For what else were they known?
b. Analyze How did Phoenicia grow wealthy?

Reviewing Ideas, Terms, and Places

1. a. Identify Where was Babylon located?
b. Analyze What does Hammurabi's Code reveal about Babylonian society?

2. a. Describe What two advantages did Hittite soldiers have over their opponents?

3. a. Identify For what trade goods were the Phoenicians known? For what else were they known?

b. Analyze How did Phoenicia grow wealthy?

Section 4 Assessment

go.hrw.com
Online Quiz
KEYWORD: SK7 HP5

Geography Skills

1. Locate Where was Phoenicia located?
2. Interpret What areas did Phoenicians settle?



Projection: Azimuthal Equal-Area

0 150 300 Kilometers
0 150 300 Miles

Trade route

Area of Phoenician settlement

Phoenician colony

Phoenicia

Movement Phoenician merchants and settlers sailed all around the Mediterranean.

1. Locate Where was Phoenicia located?
2. Interpret What areas did Phoenicians settle?

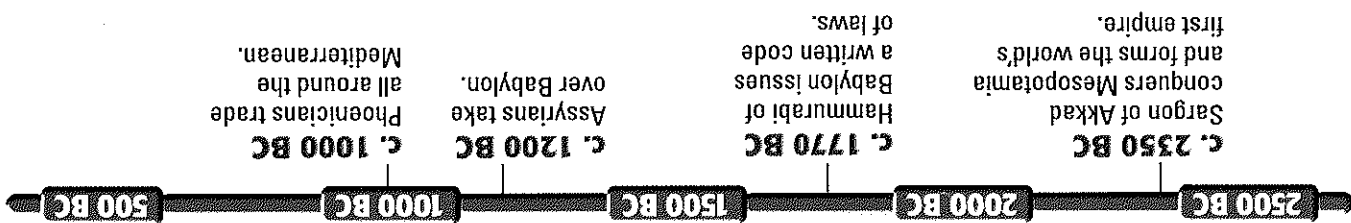
Sequencing and Using Time Lines

Learn

When you are reading about events in the past, it is important to learn their sequence, or the order in which the events occurred. If you do not know the sequence in which events happen, history will not make any sense.

One way to examine the sequence of events is to construct a time line. A time line is a visual display showing events in the order in which they happened. Events on the left side of the time line occurred first. Events farther to the right occurred later.

Major Events in the Fertile Crescent



Apply

Think about a typical school day. What time do you wake up? What classes do you have? When do you get home? Make a list of events that occur on a typical day. Once you have made your list, rearrange it so that the events are listed in sequence. Then use your list to draw a time line of your day.

Practice

- Use the time line below to answer the following questions.
- 1 Around what year did Hammurabi issue his code of laws?
 - 2 Which happened earlier, the formation of Sargon's empire or the beginning of Phoenician trade?
 - 3 About how many years after Hammurabi issued his law code did the Assyrians conquer Babylon?

Reviewing Vocabulary, Terms, and Places

Using your own paper, complete the sentences below by providing the correct term for each blank.

- Mesopotamian farmers built _____ to irrigate their fields.
- The art and science of building is known as _____.
- The people of Sumer practiced _____ the worship of many gods.
- Instead of using pictographs, Sumerians developed a type of writing called _____.
- Horse-drawn _____ gave the Hittites an advantage during battle.
- _____ was Hammurabi's capital and one of Mesopotamia's greatest cities.
- _____ ideas are not simple.
- Sumerian society was organized in _____ which consisted of a city and the surrounding lands.

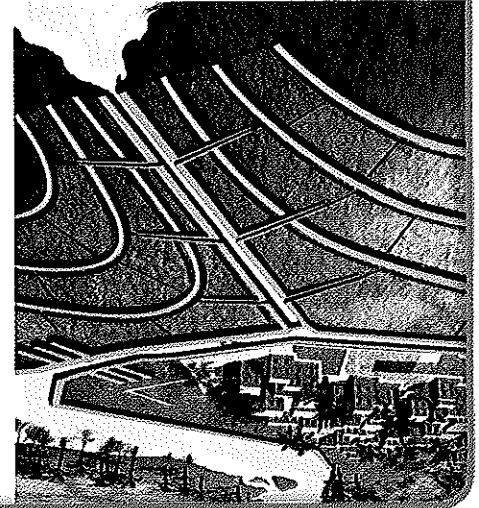
Comprehension and Critical Thinking

SECTION 1 (Pages 116-119)

- Describe Where was Mesopotamia, and what does the name mean?
- Analyze How did Mesopotamian irrigation systems allow civilization to develop?
- Elaborate Do you think a division of labor is necessary for civilization to develop? Why or why not?

SECTION 2 (Pages 122-126)

- Identify Who built the world's first empire, and what land did that empire include?
- Analyze Politically, how was early Sumerian society organized? How did that organization affect society?
- Elaborate Why did the Sumerians consider it everyone's responsibility to keep the gods happy?



The early Mesopotamians developed irrigation to grow food. As a result, they were able to form cities.



Sumerian advances included ziggurats, the wheel, and the world's first writing system, cuneiform.



Later peoples created the first written laws and the first empires. They also formed great trading networks.

Visual Summary

Use the visual summary below to help you review the main ideas of the chapter.

Chapter Review



Geography's Impact

video series
Review the video to answer the closing question:
What would life in America be like today without a written code of laws?



Social Studies Skills

15. Sequencing and Using Time Lines Create a time line that shows the various people who ruled the Fertile Crescent. Remember that the people should appear on your time line in order.

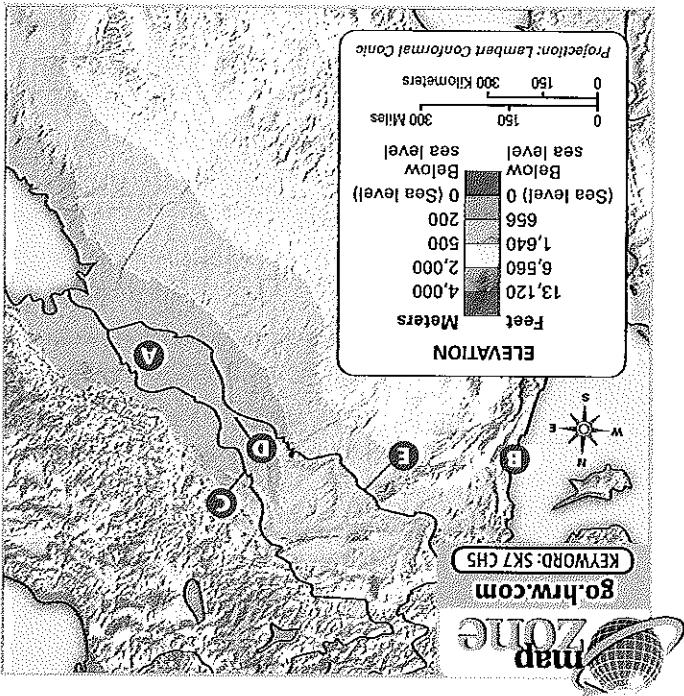
Using the Internet
 go.hrw.com
 KEYWORD: SK7 CH5

16. Activity: Looking at Writing The Sumerians made one of the greatest cultural advances in history by developing the world's first system of writing. Enter the activity keyword and research the evolution of language and its written forms. Look at one of the newest methods of writing: text messaging. Then write a paragraph explaining why writing is important using abbreviations and symbols used in text messaging.

Map Activity
 Interactive

17. The Fertile Crescent On a separate sheet of paper, match the letters on the map with their correct labels.

- | | | |
|-----------------|--------------|-------|
| Babylon | Phoenicia | Sumer |
| Euphrates River | Tigris River | |



SECTION 3 (Pages 127-131)

11. a. Identify What was the Sumerian writing system called, and why is it so significant?

b. Compare and Contrast What were two ways in which Sumerian society was similar to our society today? What were two ways in which it was different?

c. Evaluate Other than writing and the wheel, which Sumerian invention do you think is most important? Why?

SECTION 4 (Pages 132-137)

12. a. Describe What were two developments of the Phoenicians?

b. Draw Conclusions Why do you think several peoples banded together to fight the Assyrians?

c. Evaluate Do you think Hammurabi was more effective as a ruler or as a military leader? Why?

FOCUS ON READING AND WRITING

Paraphrasing Read the paragraph below carefully.

Then rewrite the paragraph in your own words, taking care to include all the main ideas.

13. Mesopotamia was the home of many ancient civilizations. The first of these civilizations was the Sumerians. They lived in Mesopotamia by 3000 BC. There they built cities, created a system of writing, and invented the wheel.

Creating a Poster Use your notes and the instructions below to help you create a poster.

14. Using a large poster board, create a poster on the Fertile Crescent. From your list, select 5 or 6 pictures to show. Remember that your audience is young children and think about what would interest them.

Begin by collecting pictures or drawings from magazines or the Internet. Then make a plan for your poster. Decide where you will place each picture and what you will say about each. After you have arranged the pictures, create a title for the poster and center it at the top. Write a one- or two-sentence introduction for your poster. You will also have to create a label or short caption for each picture.