

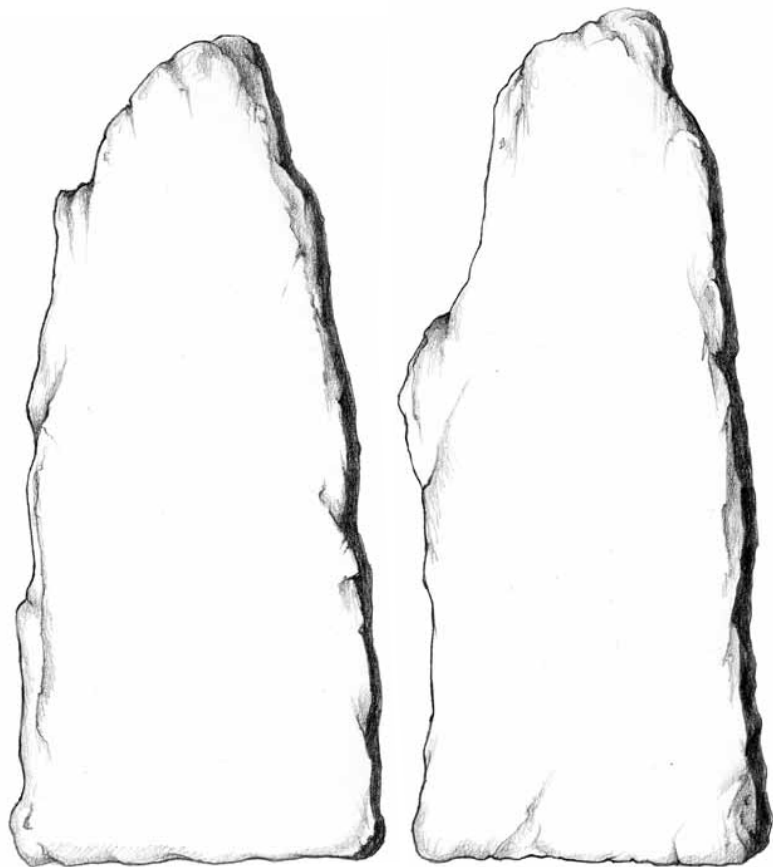
# Exploring Four Empires of Mesopotamia

***What were the most important achievements of the Mesopotamian empires?***

## PREVIEW

In ancient Mesopotamia, rulers recorded their greatest achievements on steles. A *stèle* (STEE-lee) is a stone slab on which an illustration or inscription has been carved.

Complete the two steles at right to celebrate two of your most important personal achievements. Draw pictures or find photographs of images or symbols to represent each achievement.



## READING NOTES

### Key Content Terms

As you complete the Reading Notes, use these terms in your answers.

empire  
capital

tribute  
code of laws

economy  
siege

## Section 2

1. Around what year did the Akkadians conquer the Sumerian city-states? Who was their first leader?
2. In the stele to the right, draw and label pictures to illustrate the *military* achievements of the Akkadian Empire. Then complete these sentences:

This stele represents the Akkadian military achievement of . . .

This achievement was important because . . .



## Section 3

1. In the stele to the right, draw and label pictures to illustrate the *cultural* achievements of the Akkadian Empire. Then complete these sentences:

This stele represents the Akkadian cultural achievement of . . .

This achievement was important because . . .



2. How long did the Akkadian Empire last? Why did it fall?

#### Section 4

1. Who was the next king to unite Mesopotamia after the fall of the Akkadian Empire, and where was his capital city?
2. In the stele to the right, draw and label pictures to illustrate the *political* achievements of the Babylonian Empire. Then complete these sentences:

This stele represents the Babylonian political achievement of . . .

This achievement was important because . . .



#### Section 5

1. In the stele to the right, draw and label pictures to illustrate the *economic* achievements of the Babylonian Empire. Then complete these sentences:

This stele represents the Babylonian economic achievement of . . .

This achievement was important because . . .



2. What rights did slaves and women have under Babylonian law?

### Section 6

1. Where was Assyria located? Using the map in your book, describe the areas the Assyrian Empire conquered.
2. In the stele to the right, draw and label pictures to illustrate the *military* achievements of the Assyrian Empire. Then complete these sentences:

This stele represents the Assyrian military achievement of . . .

This achievement was important because . . .



### Section 7

1. In the stele to the right, draw and label pictures to illustrate the *cultural* achievements of the Assyrian Empire. Then complete these sentences:

This stele represents the Assyrian cultural achievement of . . .

This achievement was important because . . .



2. How long did the Assyrian Empire last? Why did it fall?

Section 8

1. Which group of people regained control of the lands of Mesopotamia after the Assyrians? Who was their most famous king?
2. In the stele to the right, draw and label pictures to illustrate the *military* achievements of the Neo-Babylonian Empire. Then complete these sentences:

This stele represents the Neo-Babylonian military achievement of . . .

This achievement was important because . . .



Section 9

1. In the stele to the right, draw and label pictures to illustrate the *cultural* achievements of the Neo-Babylonian Empire. Then complete these sentences:

This stele represents the Neo-Babylonian cultural achievement of . . .

This achievement was important because . . .



2. How long did the Neo-Babylonian Empire last? Why did it fall?

Complete this report card to evaluate the achievements of the Mesopotamian empires you studied. Follow these steps:

- Evaluate each empire's achievements by giving it a letter grade—A, B, C, D, or F—for each category.
- In the comments section, give evidence to support each letter grade you assigned.

Report Card for the Mesopotamian Empires				
	Akkadian Empire	Babylonian Empire	Assyrian Empire	Neo-Babylonian Empire
<b>Military and Political Achievements</b>	Grade:  Comments:	Grade:  Comments:	Grade:  Comments:	Grade:  Comments:
<b>Economic and Cultural Achievements</b>	Grade:  Comments:	Grade:  Comments:	Grade:  Comments:	Grade:  Comments:

**Timeline Skills**

Analyze the Unit 1 timeline in your book. Also think about what you have learned in this unit. Then answer the following questions.

1. Which hominids lived side by side with prehistoric humans?
2. Which hominids discovered how to use fire?
3. For about how many years did the Neolithic Age last, and why was it important?
4. Where were the world's first cities located, and about when were they established?
5. About when did city-states develop in Sumer?
6. About when did the Sumerians develop cuneiform, and how was it used?
7. Which of these empires—Akkadian, Assyrian, or Babylonian—was the world's first?
8. About how many years after King Hammurabi's reign did the Assyrians establish their empire?
9. Which empire rose to power in Mesopotamia after the Assyrian Empire?

## Critical Thinking

Use the timeline and the chapters in the unit to answer the following questions.

10. Describe at least three important differences between life in the Paleolithic Age and life in the Neolithic Age.
11. The majority of the events listed on the timeline occur after 10,000 B.C.E.
  - a. How does the work of historians and archaeologists help explain why we know more about recent events than ones that occurred earlier?
  - b. How might the development of cuneiform also help explain why we know more about recent events?
12. According to the timeline, how many different empires ruled Mesopotamia between about 2300 and 539 B.C.E.? Identify at least one reason why this region was desirable to conquerors.
13. If you could add two more events to this timeline, which ones would you choose? List each event and explain why you think it is important enough to add to the timeline.
  - a.
  - b.