

WORLD HISTORY READERS

Level 2 - 7

The Neo-Assyrian Empire

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Learning



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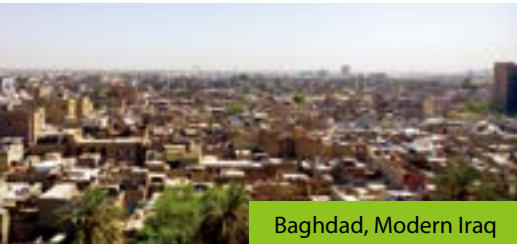
The World's First Empire

The Assyrian people lived 4,500 years ago in the Middle East, mainly in a small area in the rich fields of central Iraq.



The Assyrian Empire

The most well-known and most powerful Assyrian Empire, which lasted from 912 BC to 612 BC, was the Neo-Assyrian Empire.



Baghdad, Modern Iraq



Rich fields near the Tigris River



Relief sculptures in Mosul, Iraq

The Neo-Assyrian Empire is known for its very powerful kings who each captured new cities and lands. Adad Nirari II, and later Shalmaneser III and his son, expanded the empire from central Iraq to cover most of modern-day Iraq and parts of Turkey.



King Shalmaneser III



King Shamshi Adad V,
the son of Shalmaneser III

A War Machine

The Assyrians became powerful because they created new ways to make war. Their use of iron allowed them to make strong weapons.



Assyrian horseman

They learned to fight with big machines to break the walls of cities.



Assyrian soldiers

The Assyrians also learned how to use chariots and built armies of fast horsemen.



An Assyrian chariot

A Big Expansion

The Assyrians could quickly capture cities and make themselves richer and more powerful.



Ancient city of Babylon

Under the rule of Tiglath Pileser III and Shalmaneser V, the Neo-Assyrians captured Babylon in 729 BC and later Israel. In 671 BC, Egypt came under Assyrian control, too.



Tiglath Pileser III





Ruins of the palace of Sargon

Sargon II was a great military leader who not only built the empire, but improved roads and laws.



An old man from Babylon

After Sargon II died, his son moved the capital to Nineveh, which he restored.

The empire's cities were busy and full of artists. There were great libraries and great works of art, beautiful buildings, and huge palaces.



A copy of Ishtar Gates, Babylon

The Cruel Assyrians

The Assyrians controlled their empire by force. But it became too big and too difficult to control as the empire covered the whole of the Middle East.



Assyrian statues, the British Museum

Each time the Assyrians attacked a city, they were very cruel and killed thousands of people, often in terrible ways.



A market in Iraq



Assyrian art of a lion

Comprehension Questions

1. How long did the Neo-Assyrian Empire last?
 - (a) 300 years
 - (b) 4,500 years
 - (c) 500 years
 - (d) 612 years
2. Which is NOT true about the Neo-Assyrian kings?
 - (a) They were very powerful.
 - (b) They were kind.
 - (c) They were rich.
 - (d) They were cruel.
3. The Neo-Assyrians were successful at war because they...
 - (a) had fast horsemen.
 - (b) had big machines.
 - (c) knew how to drive chariots.
 - (d) All of these.
4. Which of these places did they NOT capture?
 - (a) Greece
 - (b) Israel
 - (c) Turkey
 - (d) Egypt
5. After the Assyrians captured a town, the people were often...
 - (a) killed.
 - (b) made slaves.
 - (c) forced to move away.
 - (d) All of these.
6. The city of Nineveh was destroyed by...
 - (a) the Persians.
 - (b) the Assyrians.
 - (c) many Assyrian enemies.
 - (d) the Romans.
7. After it was burned down, the city of Nineveh...
 - (a) was rebuilt.
 - (b) became Baghdad.
 - (c) was buried in sand.
 - (d) became Greek.
8. Which of these things did the Assyrians NOT come up with?
 - (a) Locks and keys
 - (b) Postal service
 - (c) Ships
 - (d) Guitars
9. Some stories related to the Assyrians...
 - (a) were about culture.
 - (b) were about character.
 - (c) appear in the Bible.
 - (d) came from the Roman times.
10. Which leader did NOT follow the Assyrian way?
 - (a) Tiglath Pileser III
 - (b) Shalmaneser V
 - (c) Alexander the Great
 - (d) Sargon II

Glossary

- **capture** to take (a city or people) by force
- **cruel** very unkind
- **desert** a large, hot, dry area of land with very few plants
- **empire** a group of countries that is ruled by one person or government
- **expand** to get larger
- **governor** a ruler or leader of an area of land
- **iron** a dark gray metal
- **library** a place with a lot of books and texts
- **loyal** faithful; giving or showing support
- **paved road** a long, hard surface built for transportation
- **postal service** a method of sending letters and packages
- **ruins** the broken parts that are left from an old building or town
- **slave** a person who is owned by someone else and must work for them for free
- **tablet** a flat piece of stone or clay with words or pictures on it
- **treasure** money, gold, jewels, etc.

Key 1. (a) 2. (b) 3. (d) 4. (a) 5. (d) 6. (c) 7. (c) 8. (c) 9. (c) 10. (c)