The Four Empires of Mesopotamia - Label the outside “windows” with these four empires

- Akkadian Empire (2300-2100 B.C.E)
- Babylonian Empire (1792-1595 B.C.E)
- Assyrian Empire (900-612 B.C.E)
- Neo-Babylonian Empire (605-539 B.C.E)

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Four Empires of Mesopotamia
The Akkadian Empire 2300 B.C.E

- For 1,500 years, Sumer was a land of independent city-states.
- Around 2300 B.C.E the Akkadians conquered the land.
- Akkadians came from northern Mesopotamia.
King Sargon-First Akkadian King

- Sargon was a strong king and a skilled general.
- Sargon used his military skills, like advanced formations, to win territory for his empire.
- To keep control Sargon destroyed the walls of cities to make it harder for people to rebel.
- As a result Akkadians created the world's first empire.
Sargon

- Built the world’s first permanent army, first army to use bows & arrows
- Created the world’s first empire
- Well respected by his soldiers-would dine with them everyday to show them respect

- Legendary childhood—was found as a baby in a basket floating down the river, adopted by the King’s gardener
- Served the king of Kish as a young man—rebelled against him and took his over his city
Empire

- A large territory in which several groups of people are ruled by a single leader or government.
Life Under Akkadian Rule

- The capital city was Agade in northern Mesopotamia.
- Agade became a cultural center with many beautiful temples and palaces. It was one of the richest most powerful cities in the world.
- Akkadians used Sumerian irrigation techniques to farm, Sumerian cuneiform, and gods and goddesses.
Over time the Akkadian Empire becomes weaker and weaker.

After 200 years, the Akkadian Empire fell to new invaders from the north.
The next ruler to unite Mesopotamia was a king named Hammurabi.

Hammurabi was the king of Babylon, a small city state in central Mesopotamia.

After conquering the rest of Mesopotamia, he made Babylon the capital of his empire.
The Code of Hammurabi
Hammurabi’s Code

- Hammurabi is best known for his code of laws.
- He claimed that the gods had told him to create laws that applied to everyone in the empire.
- Hammurabi’s code was very detailed. It covered many situations, such as trade, payment for work, marriage, and divorce.
- The code spelled out punishments for stealing, causing injury, and other crimes.
- The Code of Hammurabi was the first code of laws to apply to everyone.
Life in Babylon

- Hammurabi worked to unite the people of his empire.
- He made the Babylonian god Marduk, supreme over other gods.
- He built roads and created a postal service.
- Agriculture and trade flourished.
- Hammurabi carefully kept irrigation systems working properly, so the land remained fertile and provided plenty of food.
Babylonian society was unusually fair for its time. The laws treated different classes differently, but even slaves had some rights. Slaves could work elsewhere and keep their wages. They could own property. And if they saved enough money, they could buy their freedom. Women also had more rights than they did in most ancient societies. Even though their fathers chose their husbands, women could own property.
Hammurabi said....

- I rooted out the enemy above and below
- I made an end of war.
- I promoted the welfare of the land...
- I have governed the people in peace.
- I have sheltered them in my strength.
The Assyrian Empire

- The next great empire in Mesopotamians was created by a warlike people called the Assyrians.
- With a well-trained army, the Assyrians began to expand their territory.
- Assyrians were feared for their military might and their cruelty.
- They perfected the use of horses and iron weapons in battle. They also became extremely good at siege warfare. Including inventing battering rams, and movable towers that could be rolled up to a city’s walls.
The Assyrians were ruthless, and even made entire populations leave conquered areas. The Assyrians spread tales of their cruelty to create fear in their enemies. One such tale was that after cutting off the heads of enemy leaders, they forced the defeated soldiers to march barefoot wearing their leaders heads around their necks.
Life under the Assyrians

- The Assyrian Empire lasted about 300 years. At its height, it stretched from Egypt to the Persian Gulf.
- In the end the territory was too big to control, and the army was stretched to thin.
- Assyrians could not fight off neighbors who rose up against them.
Neo-Babylonian Empire

- The new empire’s most famous king was Nebuchadrezzar II. He was a ruthless military leader.
- Babylonians were skilled in mathematics and astronomy.
- They created the first sundial. The 60 minute hour, and the 7 day week.
- Neo-Babylonians were also famous for their fabulous Hanging Gardens, one of the great wonders of the ancient world.