



# The First Empires

EGYPT

CANAAN

SUMER

• Haran

• Nineveh

• Ebla

# Sticky note water battle: Rules/Expectations

- Paper/rock/scissors game.
- Each of you has a sticky note on your desk – this represents water! Some have more than others.
- EVERYONE wants to get ***more*** water (sticky notes).
- You get more sticky notes by winning battles of paper/rock/scissors.
- Find another student who has “water” and “battle” them for it.
- We play the 1..2..3.. Shoot! Method.
- Winner takes ONE sticky note each time.
- If you lose ALL your water, you become a “cheerleader” for the last person you lost to. Follow that person around and cheer for them until they lose, then follow the new winner around.
- See how much water you can get in the time given!
- No running
- Level 3 voices

# Vocabulary

- **City-State**: A walled city and the land surrounding it.
- **Empire**: A group of territories ruled by one ruler or state
- **Tribute**: Payment to a ruler to show obedience.
- **Code of Hammurabi**: A code of 282 laws created by Hammurabi, king of Babylon
- **Stele**: A large stone used as a marker, often with important information carved on it
- **LEX TALIONIS**, meaning “the law of like punishment”
- **Social Class**: A group of people within a society with similar wealth and education.
- **Culture**: beliefs and traditions of a group of people that are handed down over time.
- **Trade routes**: A pathway along roads or water where people traveled to trade.
- **Monarchy**: A government led by a king or queen.

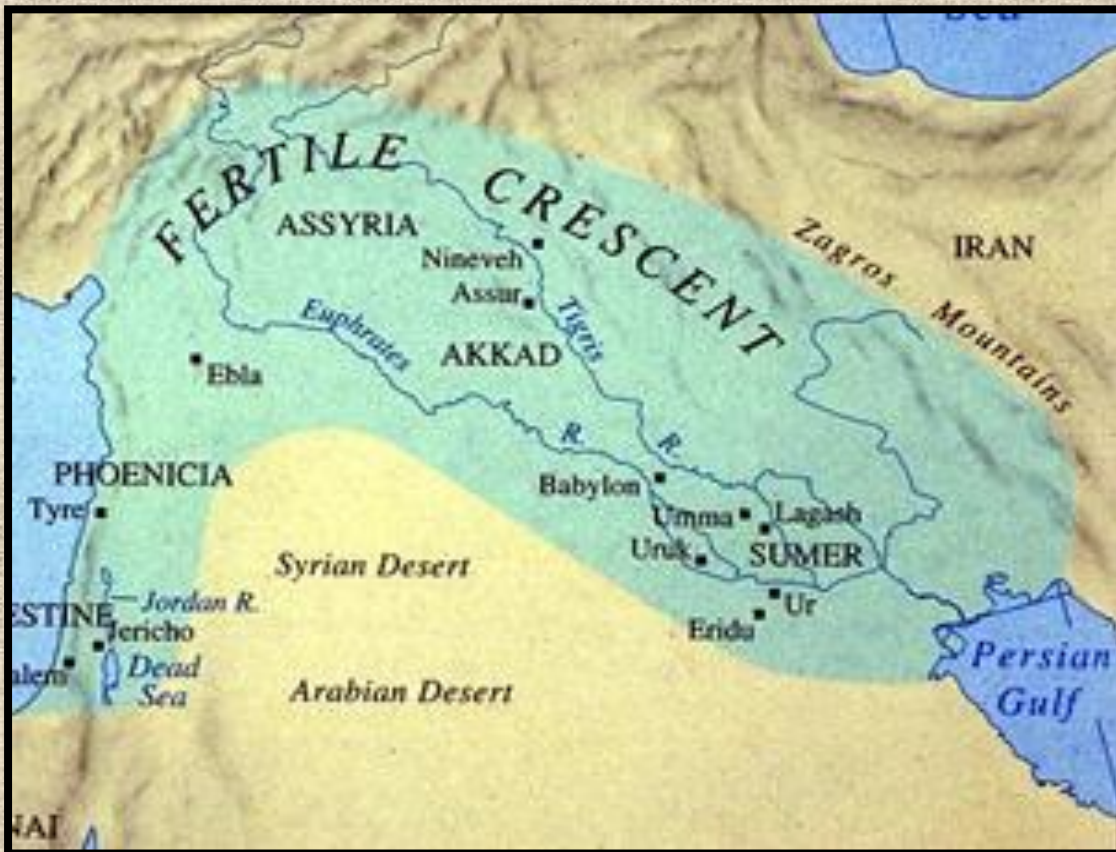
**ESSENTIAL QUESTION:**

**How were the  
first Empires  
established?**

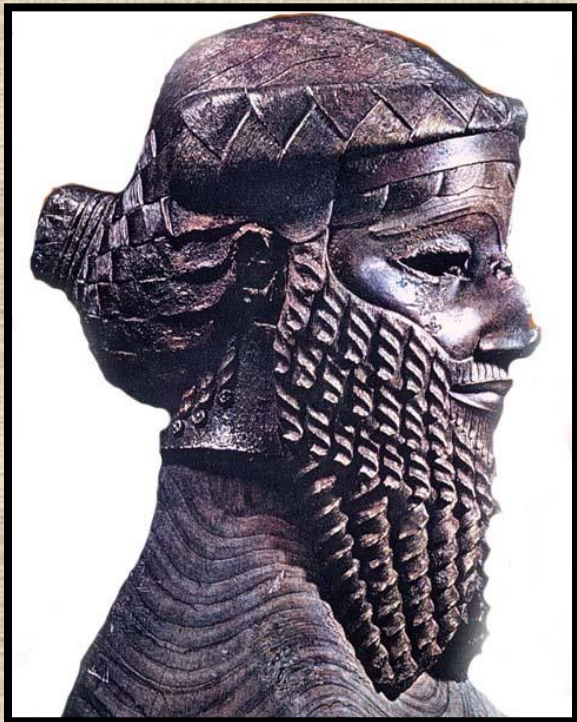


# How was Sargon able to conquer the city-states?

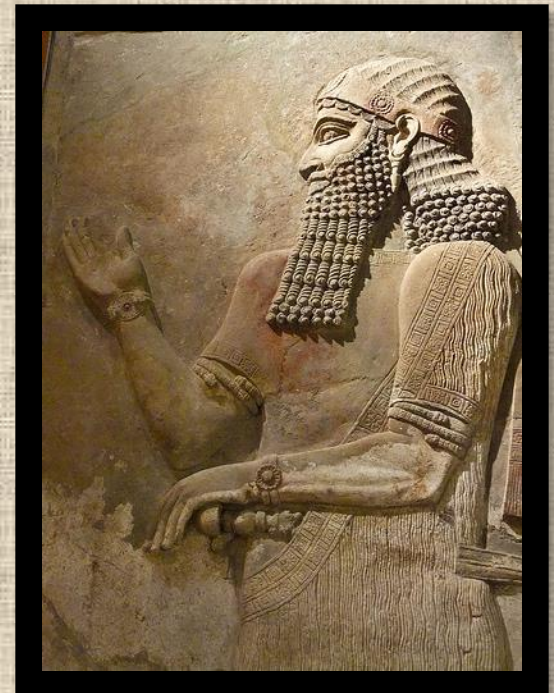
- Those who had control over the water and the **LAND** had the most power, because of this, many **WARS** were started.



Eventually an enemy attacked the Sumerians; their leader's name was SARGON. He was from the city-state of KISH



Sargon marched an army across Mesopotamia, conquering one CITY-STATE at a time, to create the world's first EMPIRE.



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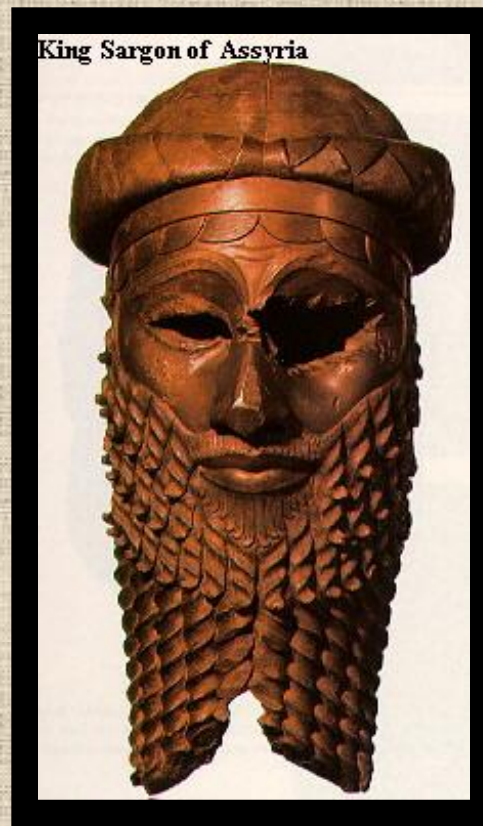
Sargon set up his capitol in the city of **AKKAD**; he ruled for 55 years, his city became the most splendid in all of Mesopotamia



One of the reasons Sargon was so powerful was because he was one of the first leaders to have a standing ARMY







Each of the cities that Sargon conquered were required to pay him a **TRIBUTE**, or a sum of money, similar to taxes. Sargon used this money to make his kingdom more **POWERFUL**. The empire that Sargon set up lasted for more than 200 years after Sargon's death, it eventually fell, and the city-states became **INDEPENDENT** again.



SARGON OF AKKAD  
THE FIRST EMPEROR

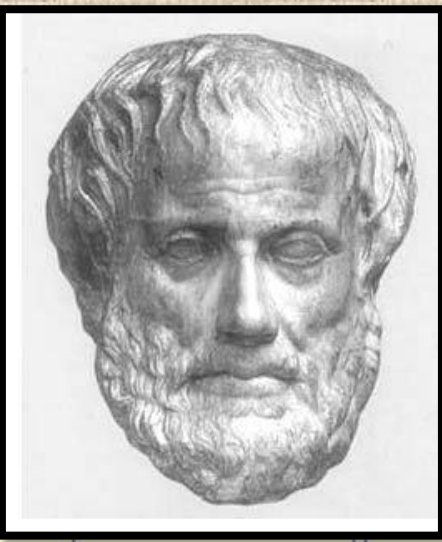
Sargon Video 5 min

A map of the ancient Near East, showing Mesopotamia (Sumer) in green, Canaan in yellow, and Egypt in light green. The map includes labels for Haran, Ebla, Nineveh, Ur, CANAAN, SUMER, and EGYPT. The Tigris and Euphrates rivers are visible. The text 'How was Sargon able to conquer the different city-states?' is overlaid in large red font.

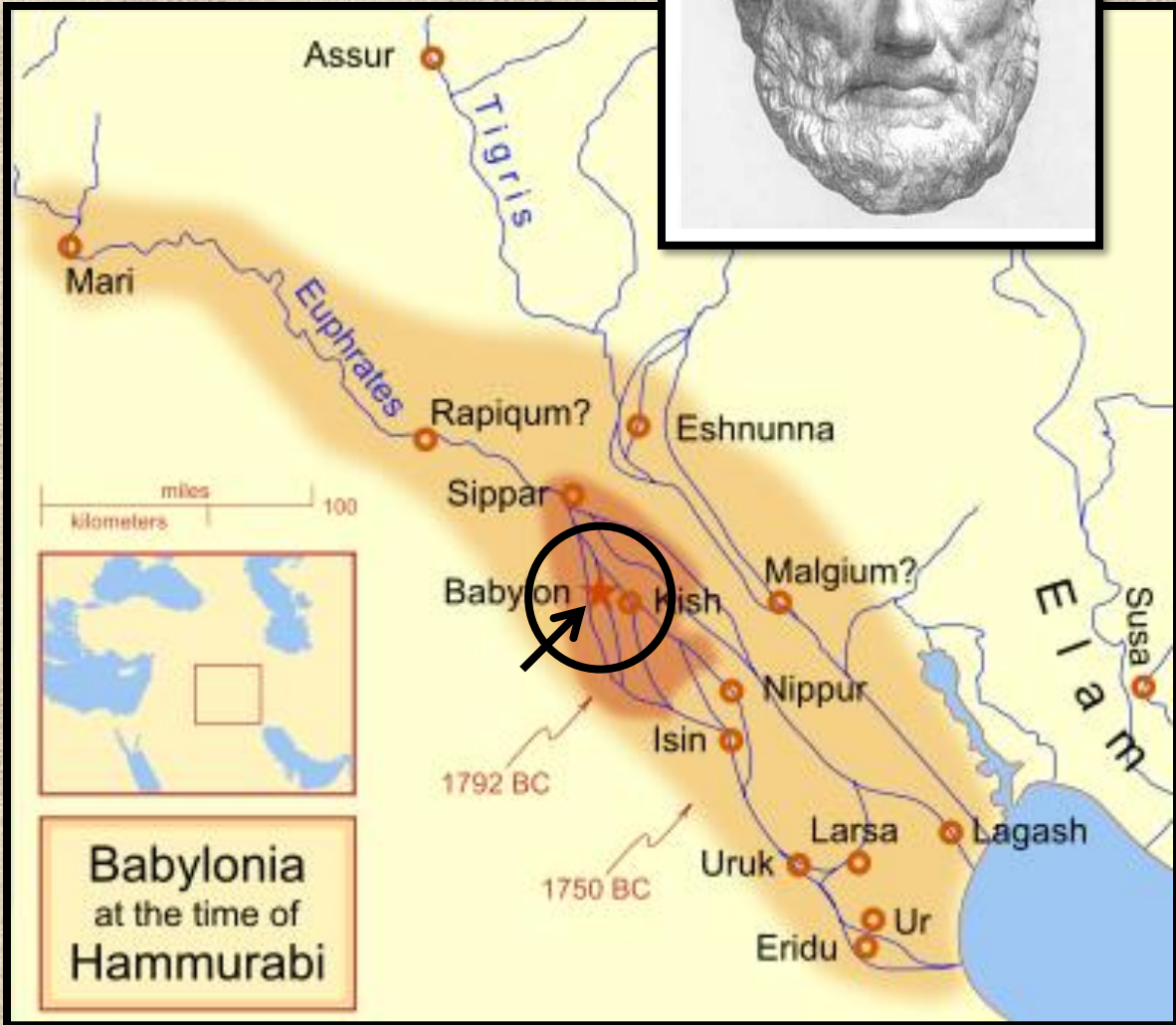
**How was Sargon able to conquer the different city-states?**

Hint: questions 2, 3, 5, and 6

# Who was Hammurabi and why was he important?



Between 1790 and 1750 BC, the KING of BABYLON, conquered and united most of the city-states, his name was HAMMURABI.



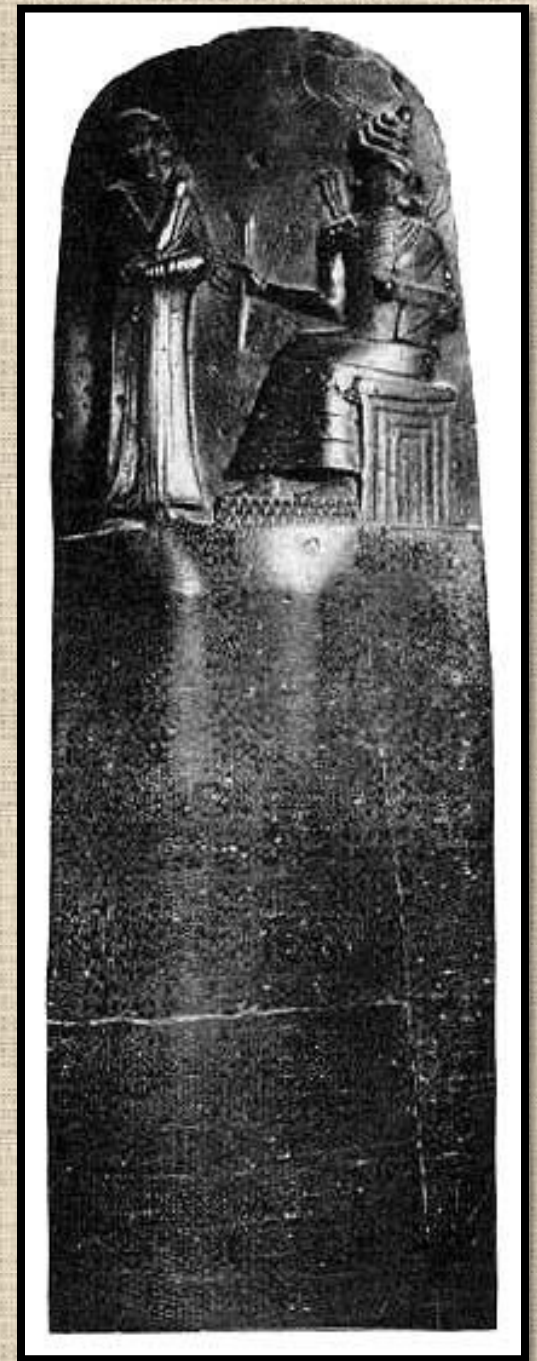
Hammurabi encouraged TRADE and oversaw agriculture. He also had all the people pay a fair TAX

Hammurabi combined all the laws of the city-states and created what is known as the **CODE OF HAMMURABI**, this consisted of **282** laws.

He changed the old laws and made the confusing laws clearer.

He carved his laws on a large stone and put it where everyone could see.

Most of the **PUNISHMENTS** in the law were designed to match the **CRIME**. The code lasted for years, but his empire had fallen by about 1600 BC.



# Examples from Hammurabi's Code

22. If any one is committing a robbery and is caught, then he shall be put to death.

195. If a son strike his father, his hands shall be hewn off.

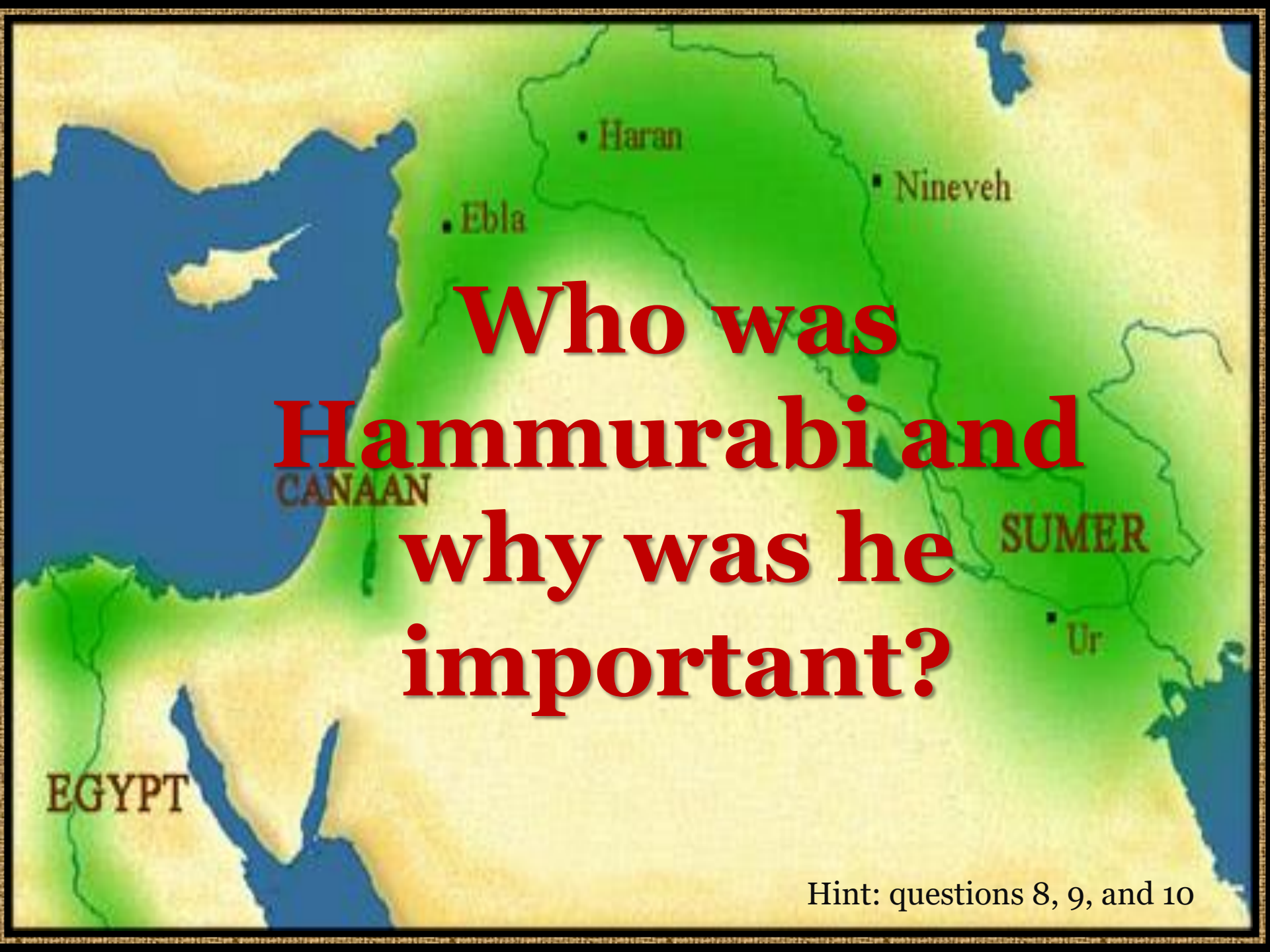
197. If he break another man's bone, his bone shall be broken.

229. If a builder build a house for some one, and does not construct it properly, and the house which he built fall in and kill its owner, then that builder shall be put to death.

200. If a man knock out the teeth of his equal, his teeth shall be knocked out.



Hammurabi Video 3 min



Who was  
Hammurabi and  
why was he  
important?

Hint: questions 8, 9, and 10

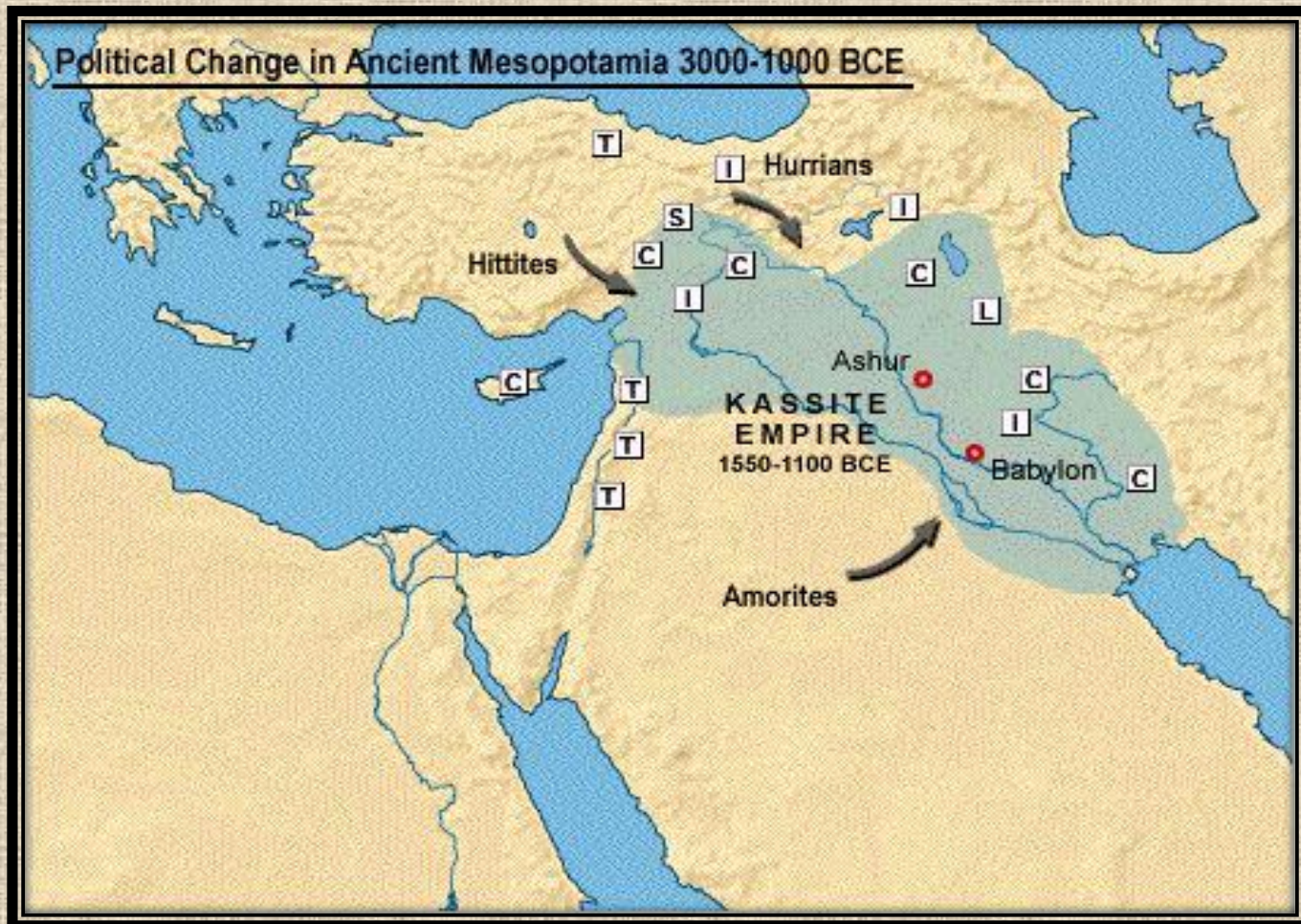


## Which other civilizations conquered Mesopotamia? What made them successful?

After the Babylonian Empire fell, the HITTITES came in and conquered. They were armed with IRON weapons and chariots



The Hittites eventually moved back to their home country, but their neighbors, the **KASSITES** moved in and conquered Babylon, they ruled for more than 500 years. They kept the religion, laws and **CULTURE** of the Babylonians.



The next nation to conquer Babylon was the **ASSYRIANS**. They wanted control over the **TRADE ROUTES** in southwest Asia.

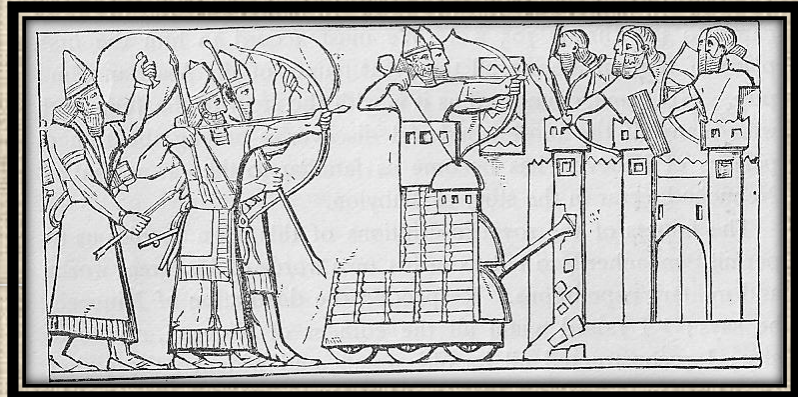


The Assyrians were extremely powerful because of the new weapons they introduced, such as the **BATTERING RAM** and the **LANCE**.

War chariots

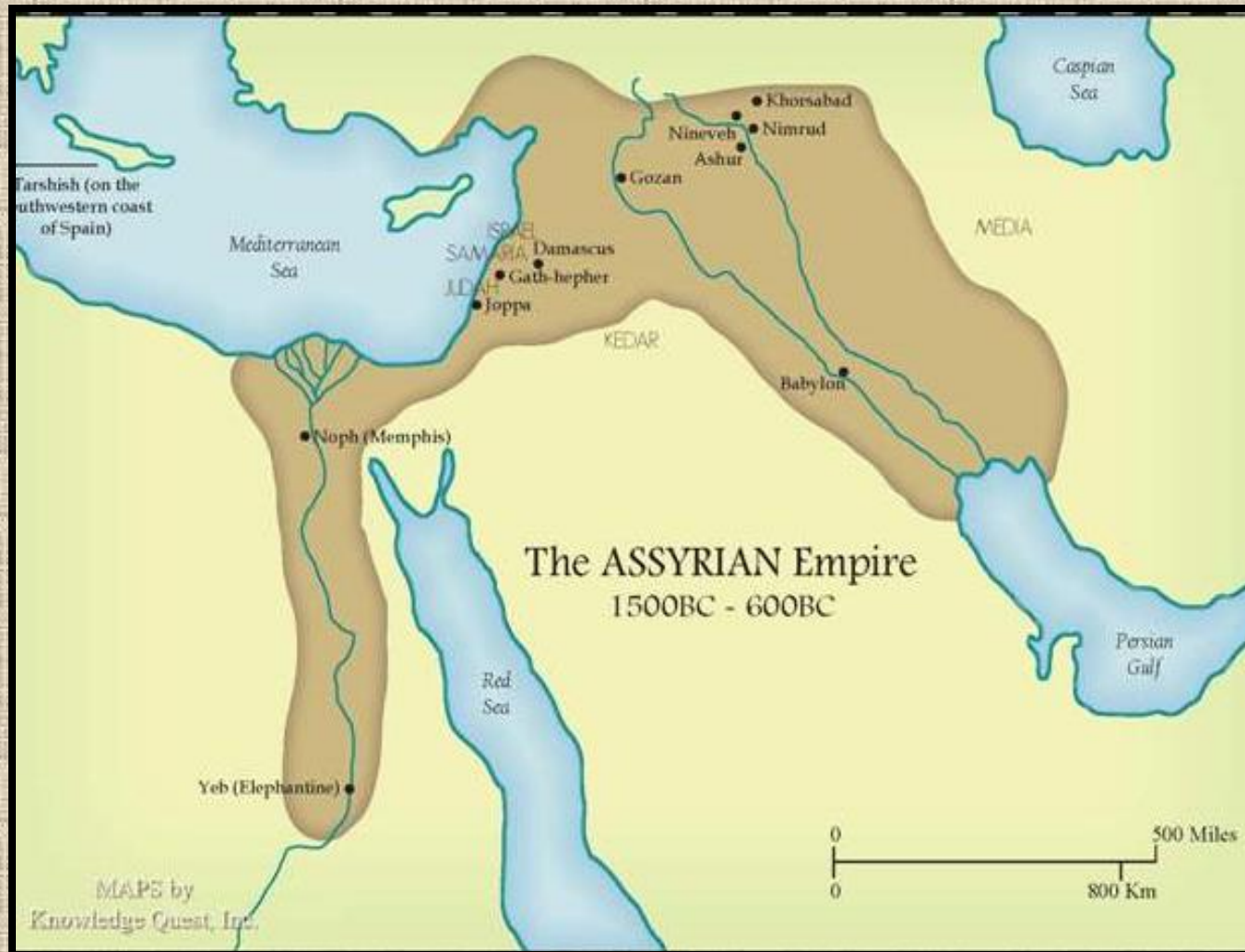


Battering rams



The lance

The Assyrians conquered all their neighbors, and by the 700's BC, they were the largest **EMPIRE** in the world



Their empire controlled all of Mesopotamia, as well as lands that are today known as Turkey, Egypt, and the Persian Gulf

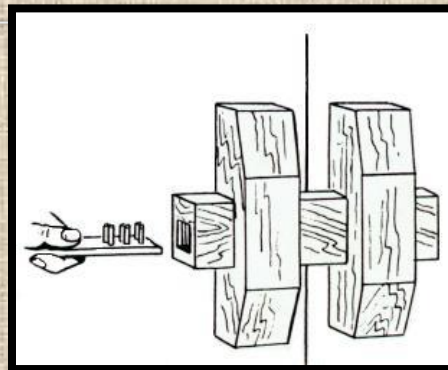
A map of the ancient Near East, showing Mesopotamia (modern-day Iraq and Syria) and surrounding regions. The Tigris and Euphrates rivers are visible. Key locations marked include Haran, Ebla, Nineveh, and Ur. The region of Sumer is labeled in the south, and Egypt is labeled in the southwest. The text is overlaid in large, bold, red letters.

**Which other civilizations  
conquered Mesopotamia?  
What made them  
successful?**

Hint: questions 12, 13, 14, and 15

## What were some of the Assyrian's achievements?

The Assyrians also introduced the **MAGNIFYING GLASS**, paved roads, and a **POSTAL SYSTEM**.

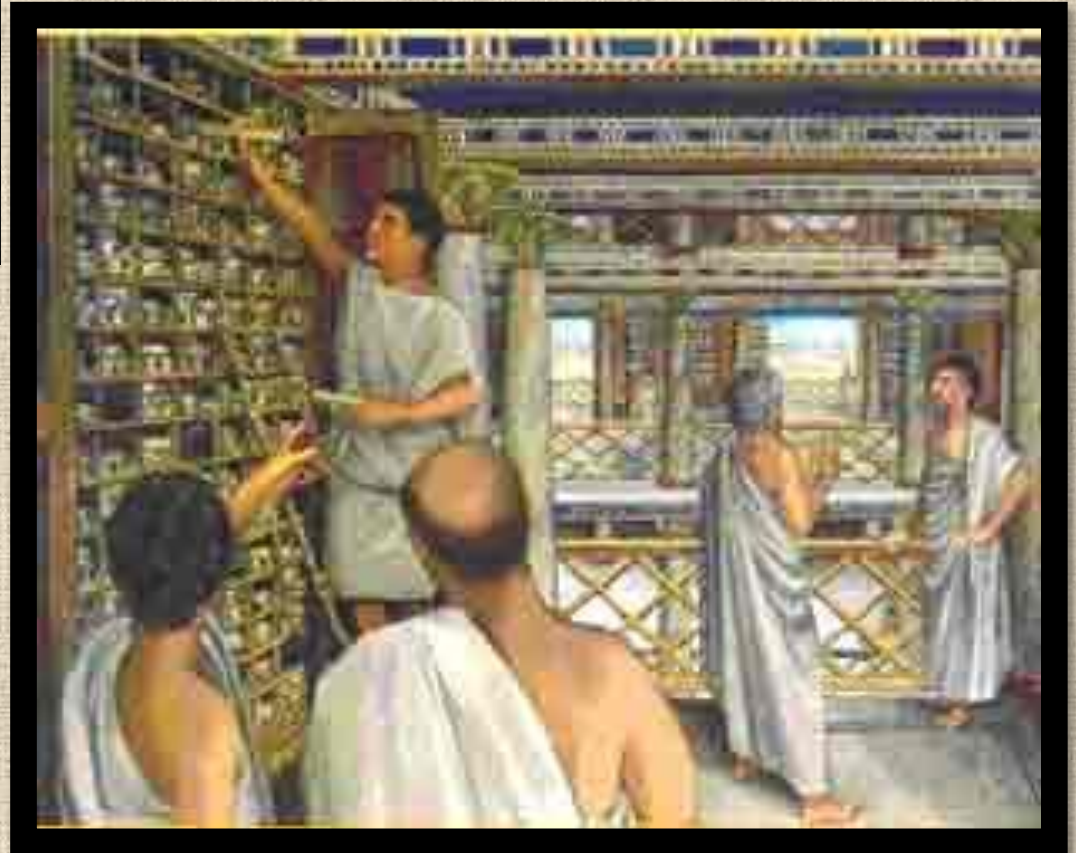


They even had keys that opened locks!

They invented the magnifying glass and had the world's first libraries



**Ashurbanipal created the first library, it had over 30,000 clay tablets!**





In 600 BC the Assyrian Empire fell to a new enemy, **NEBUCHADNEZZAR** was the new king, he is known for creating the **HANGING GARDENS OF BABYLON**, one of the seven wonders of the ancient world



King Nebuchadnezzar  
built the hanging  
gardens of Babylon

One of the  
seven  
wonders  
of the  
Ancient  
World



All that remains today...



A map of the Near East region, showing the Tigris and Euphrates river systems. The map is color-coded with green for the river valleys and tan for the surrounding land. Key locations are marked with dots and labels: Haran, Ebla, Nineveh, and Ur. The regions of CANAAN and SUMER are also labeled. The Mediterranean Sea is to the west, and the Red Sea is to the south. The text 'What were some of the Assyrian's achievements?' is overlaid in large red font.

**What were some of the  
Assyrian's  
achievements?**

Hint: questions 17 and 18

**Essential Question:**

# **How were the first empires established?**

EGYPT

CANAN

Ebla

Haran

Nineveh

SUMER

Ur

Hint: Copy down your answers to the previous questions to make a paragraph

# The End

EGYPT

CANAAN

• Ebla

• Haran

• Nineveh

SUMER

• Ur

