

Empire	Key Features	Key Leaders
Civilization in Sumer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Independent city-states • Each city-state had its own en, or king • They were often at war with each other • Writing and other innovations began 	Each city-state had its own monarch.
Akkadian Empire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Every wall and boundary pillar was brought down • A standing army was maintained • Loyal officials governed the city-states 	Sargon the Great gathered his own army and conquered all of the city-states of Sumer. He extended his empire beyond Sumer as well.
Babylonian Empire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taxation system was established to pay for the government • Laws were clear and made known to all • The Babylonians were later ruled by the Kassites, who continued to rule in the Babylonian style 	Hammurabi was known for establishing a code of laws that governed his empire: "An eye for an eye."
Assyrian Empire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Assyrian War Machine was powerful, using chariots, archers, cavalry, and foot soldiers • The largest empire of its time, extending into Africa • Nineveh was a center for learning in the ancient world • Recognized for many achievements, including several inventions, plumbing, and modern systems of government 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sargon II, who was both successful and ruthless • Sennacherib, who attacked and destroyed the city of Babylon
Neo-Babylonian Empire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Medes and Chaldeans combined forces to conquer the Assyrians • Established Babylon as one of the most well-known and richest cities of the ancient world 	Nebuchadnezzar built the Hanging Gardens of Babylon and the Tower of Babel.
Persians	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The city of Babylon was spared from destruction. 	Cyrus conquered the Babylonians and allowed each group of people to return to their own gods and ways of life.