

ANCIENT MESOPOTAMIA

AKKADIAN EMPIRE READING

COMPREHENSION



***Article**

***10 Matching Questions**

***10 True/False Questions**

***4 Multiple Choice Questions**

***Key Included**

Name _____

ANCIENT MESOPOTAMIA- AKKADIAN EMPIRE



The Akkadian Empire was the first Empire to rule all of Mesopotamia. It lasted about 200 years from 2300 BC to 2100 BC. Originally the Sumerians lived in the southern part of Mesopotamia and the Akkadians lived in the northern part. They had similar governments and cultures, but spoke different languages. The governments had individual city-states, where each city had its own ruler that controlled the city and the surrounding area. The city-states were not initially united and often warred with one another. Eventually, the Akkadian rulers started to see the advantage to uniting many of their cities under a single nation and began forming alliances to work together.

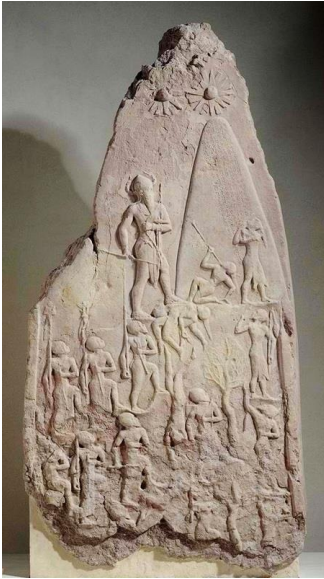
Sargon the Great rose to power around 2300 BC. According to Sumerian literature, Sargon was born to an Akkadian high priestess and a poor father, maybe a gardener. His mother abandoned him by putting him in a reed woven basket and let it float down the river, like Moses a thousand years later. Sargon was rescued and made friends with the goddess Ishtar and was brought up in the king's court. Sargon built himself a new city at Akkad and made himself the king of it when he grew up. He gradually conquered all the land around it, making the Akkadian Empire.

The powerful Sumerian city of Uruk attacked Akkad, but they fought back and eventually conquered Uruk. Sargon went on to conquer all of the Sumerian city-states and united northern and southern Mesopotamia under a single ruler. Sargon brought the new idea that a king should be succeeded by his sons. Prior to this new kings were elected by the rich men of each city. Sargon made his daughter Enheduanna the high priestess for life of the moon god Nanna at Ur, and also the high priestess of the sky god An at Uruk. Enheduanna became powerful and wrote two long sets of hymns, or songs for the gods.



Both hymns insisted that it was good and natural for Sargon's empire to be unified. She is the first author whose name is known- man or woman- anywhere in the world.

When Sargon died, his sons succeeded him as king of the Akkadians. They were



assassinated and Sargon's young grandson, Naram-Sin became the king. He ruled for 56 years and was successful. He stretched the Akkadian Empire from Lebanon on the Mediterranean coast, up north into Turkey and south to the Persian Gulf. Naram-Sin's reign is considered the peak of the Akkadian Empire.

Naram-Sin was succeeded by his own son Shar-kali-Sharri, but he failed to hold the Akkadian Empire together. The Sumerian city of Ur rose back into power and conquered the city of Akkad in 2100 BC. The Empire remained united, but was now ruled by a Sumerian king. The empire grew weaker over the years and was eventually conquered by the Amorites around 2000 BC.

MATCHING: Match the term with its definition.

1. ____ Naram-Sin	A. King who established the Akkadian Empire
2. ____ Sumerians	B. Great city established by Sargon the Great
3. ____ City-States	C. Region where the Akkadian Empire was created
4. ____ Ur	D. People who eventually conquered the Akkadians
5. ____ Mesopotamia	E. The grandson of Sargon the Great who expanded the Akkadian Empire
6. ____ Enheduanna	F. Sargon the Great and this Biblical figure had a similar start in life
7. ____ Akkad	G. People defeated by the Akkadians
8. ____ Sargon the Great	H. City that was taken back by the Sumerians in 2100 BC.
9. ____ Amorites	I. Government system of the Akkadians
10. ____ Moses	J. Sargon the Great's daughter who wrote hymns promoting unification

TRUE or FALSE? Place a check in the correct column.

Statement	True	False
11. The Sumerians and Akkadians both lived in the area of Mesopotamia.		
12. The Sumerians defeated the Akkadians and create an empire.		
13. Sargon the Great established the city of Uruk in Mesopotamia.		
14. Sargon the Great's father was also a king.		
15. Sargon brought the idea that a king should be succeeded by his sons.		
16. Sargon's daughter succeeded him as the ruler of the Akkadian Empire.		
17. Two of Sargon's sons were assassinated.		
18. Naram-Sin ruled the Akkadian Empire for 56 years.		
19. The Sumerians defeated the Akkadian Empire around 2000 BC.		
20. The Akkadian Empire was the first empire to rule all of Mesopotamia.		

MULTIPLE CHOICE: Choose the BEST answer from the choices provided.

21. Which of the following is an accurate statement about the Akkadian Empire?

- A. The Akkadian Empire was created by Naram-Sin.
- B. Sargon the Great was a corrupt ruler and was assassinated.
- C. The Akkadian Empire was the first united empire to rule Mesopotamia.
- D. The Sumerians eventually conquered the Akkadians.

22. Which of the following is an accurate statement about Sargon the Great?

- A. His father was also a king.
- B. His mother was a queen.
- C. He was a cruel ruler.
- D. He was abandoned as a baby.

23. Which of Sargon the Great's descendants greatly expanded the Akkadian Empire?

- A. Naram-Sin
- B. Enheduanna
- C. Shar-kali-Sharri
- D. Nanna

24. Which idea did Sargon the Great bring to the Akkadian Empire?

- A. Rulers should rule with an iron fist
- B. Sons should follow their fathers as rulers
- C. Empires should be ruled by city-states
- D. Only one person should be allowed to rule an empire

KEY

MATCHING: Match the term with its definition.

1. <u> E </u> Naram-Sin	A. King who established the Akkadian Empire
2. <u> G </u> Sumerians	B. Great city established by Sargon the Great
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TRUE or FALSE? Place a check in the correct column.

Statement	True	False
11. The Sumerians and Akkadians both lived in the area of Mesopotamia.	X	
12. The Sumerians defeated the Akkadians and create an empire.		X
13. Sargon the Great established the city of Uruk in Mesopotamia.		X
14. Sargon the Great's father was also a king.		X
15. Sargon brought the idea that a king should be succeeded by his sons.	X	
16. Sargon's daughter succeeded him as the ruler of the Akkadian Empire.		X
17. Two of Sargon's sons were assassinated.	X	
18. Naram-Sin ruled the Akkadian Empire for 56 years.	X	
19. The Sumerians defeated the Akkadian Empire around 2000 BC.		X
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