

# Art of the Ancient Near East

Chapter 2

Part 2

**Title:** *Stele of Naram-Sin*

**Medium:** Limestone

**Size:** height 6'6" (1.98 m)

**Date:** c. 2220–2184 BCE

What kind of monument is this?

Stele

Composition

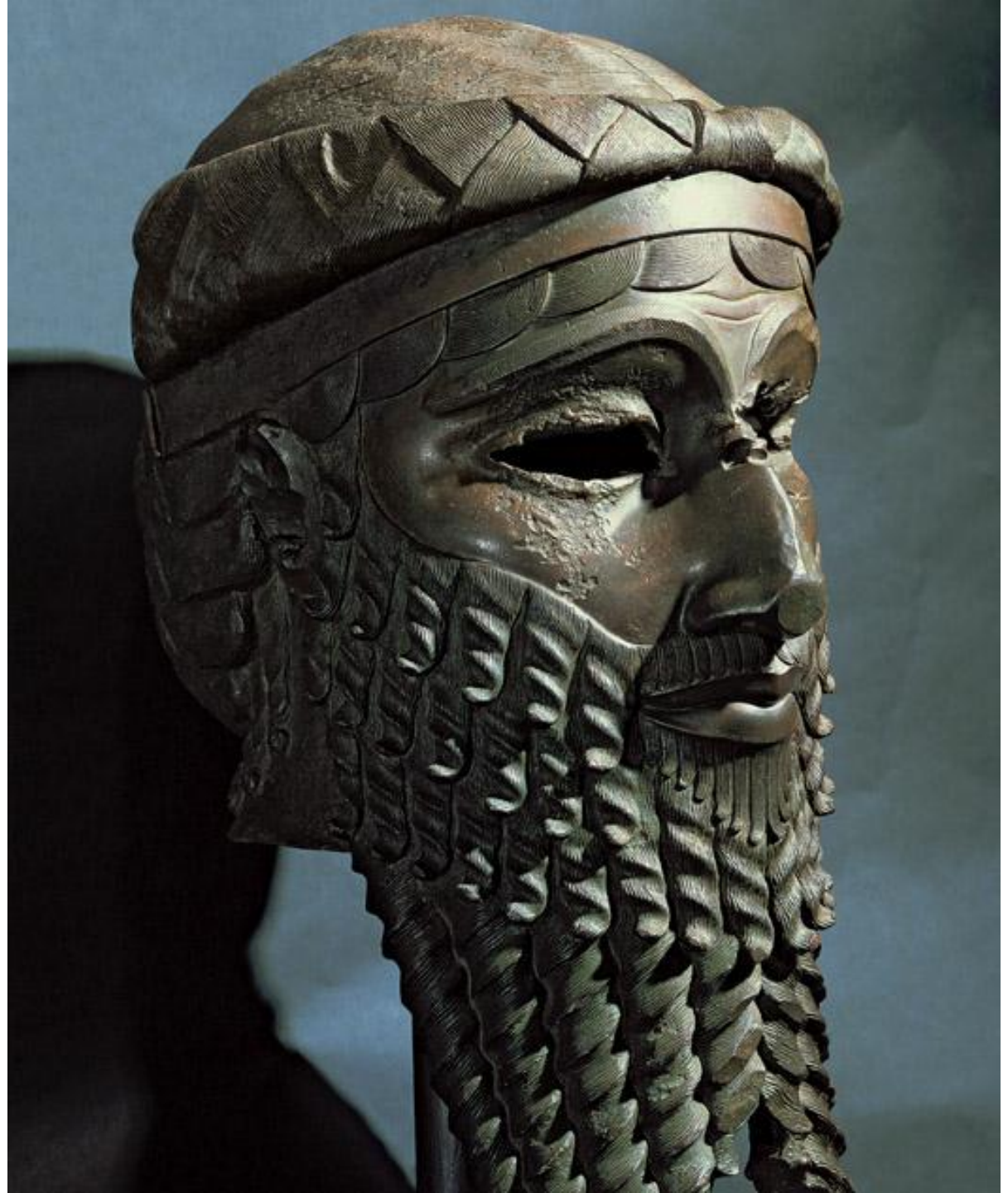


**Title:** Head of a man (known as Akkadian ruler)

**Medium:**  
Copper Alloy

**Size:** height  
14 $\frac{3}{8}$ " (36.5 cm)

**Date:** c. 2300–  
2200 BCE



Who could this be?

How are the elements and principles of Art used in this mask?

**Title:** Votive Statue of Gudea

**Medium:** Diorite

**Size:** height 29" (73.7 cm)

**Date:** c. 2090 BCE

**(Neo-Sumerian) The Akkadian Empire was overthrown by the Gutians, known for their leader Gudea of Lagash. This brief period (ca. 2100-2000 BCE) was called, "Neo-Sumerian" for resurrecting the Sumerian language in their writings. Also, the statue here of Gudea has a "Sumerian Votive Figure" style to it.**

Gudea restored temple during his reign.

These statues were left in the temples as?

Diorite is a very hard material to work with, so simplified figures were made.

What is on his garment?

The statue is said to be **monumental**.

Power centers are emphasized...







# Ancient Near East

## Day 2...

- **Babylonian Art**

- Sumer was once again fully united under the Babylonian ruler, Hammurabi in 1792 BCE.

- Hammurabi was most famous for his code of laws.

- *Stela of Hammurabi*, from Susa, c1792-1750 BCE



**Title:** *Stele of Hammurabi*

**Medium:** Diorite

**Size:** height of stele approx. 7' (2.13 m) height of relief 28" (71.1 cm)

**Date:** c. 1792–1750 BCE

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oDALXORbtR4>



- What do you see?





# Assyrians

- **Assyrian Art**
  - ***Guardian Figure***, from throne room of Sargon II, c720 BCE ***Citadel and Palace Complex of Sargon II, c721-706 BCE***

**Title:** *Human-Headed Winged Lion  
(Lamassu)*

**Medium:** Limestone

**Size:** height 10'3½" (3.11 m)

**Date:** 883–859 BCE



**Title: Lion Gate**

**Medium: Limestone**

**Size: n/a**

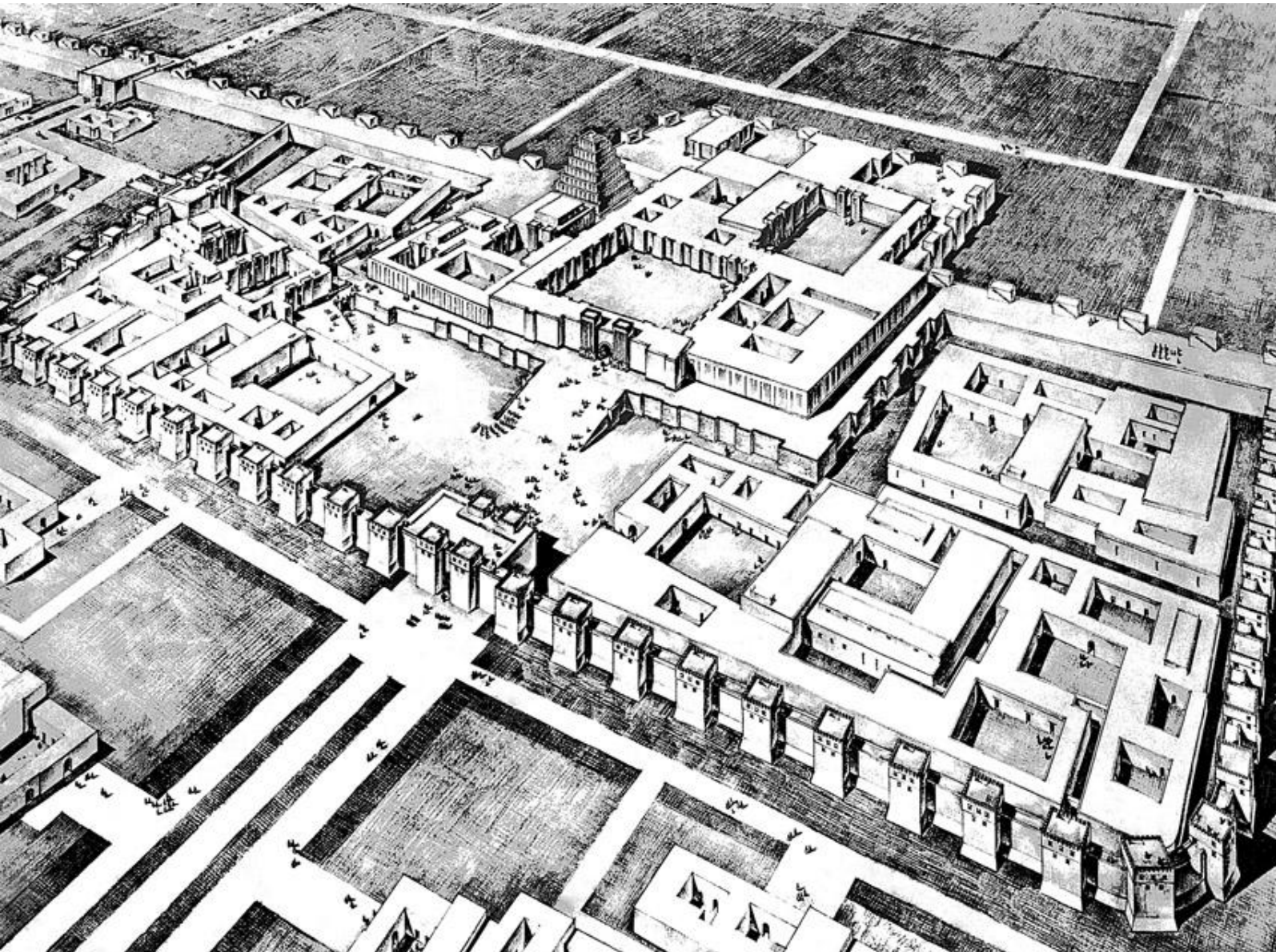
**Date: c. 1400 BCE**



At the southwest of the Upper City stands the Lion Gate, one of the two grand entrances in the southern curve of the city wall of Hattusha. As with all the larger city gates, two rectangular towers (each about 15x10 m in plan) flanked the actual entranceway, or passage between the exterior and interior portals. The walls of this vestibule-like entranceway were built of huge blocks. Both portals were fitted with pairs of heavy wooden doors, those at the exterior most probably sheathed in bronze.

**Title: Reconstruction drawing of the citadel and palace complex of Sargon II, Dur Sharrukin (Present-Day Khorsabad, Iraq). C. 721–706 BCE**

Citadel- fortress  
Palace complex- group of buildings were the ruler governed and resided



**Title:** Assurnasirpal II Killing Lions

**Medium:** Alabaster

**Size:** height approx. 39" (99.1 cm)

**Date:** c. 850 BCE

Low-relief- shallow carvings



After centuries of power struggles in southern Mesopotamia, a people called the Assyrians began to rise to dominance in northern Mesopotamia. Became very powerful by 1400 bce, in 1000 bce they began to conquer. From 900 bce to the empires collapse in 600 bce the empire had many capitals. In a vivid lion-hunting scene, the emperor stand in a chariot, drawing his bow against an attacking lion. The immediacy marks a change in Mesopotamian art. Unlike earlier works of this time and place the humans assume a dominant role over the beasts.

**Title:** *Assurbanipal and His Queen in the Garden*

**Medium:** Alabaster

**Size:** height approx. 21" (53.3 cm)

**Date:** c. 647 BCE



Assurbanipal ruled Mesopotamia from 669 bce to 627 bce. He claimed Nineveh as his capital. In his capital he decorated with alabaster panels carved with pictorial narratives in low relief. Most of these show the king and his subjects in battle or hunting. One in particular however shows king and the queen in a pleasure garden. A Egyptian necklace hangs from the couch. This may symbolize the Egyptian takeover in 663 bce. This actually is a victory celebration. The heads of the king's enemies hang from the tree as a form of psychological warfare. As a gift from his generals the king would display this as a trophy



# Neo-Babylonian Art

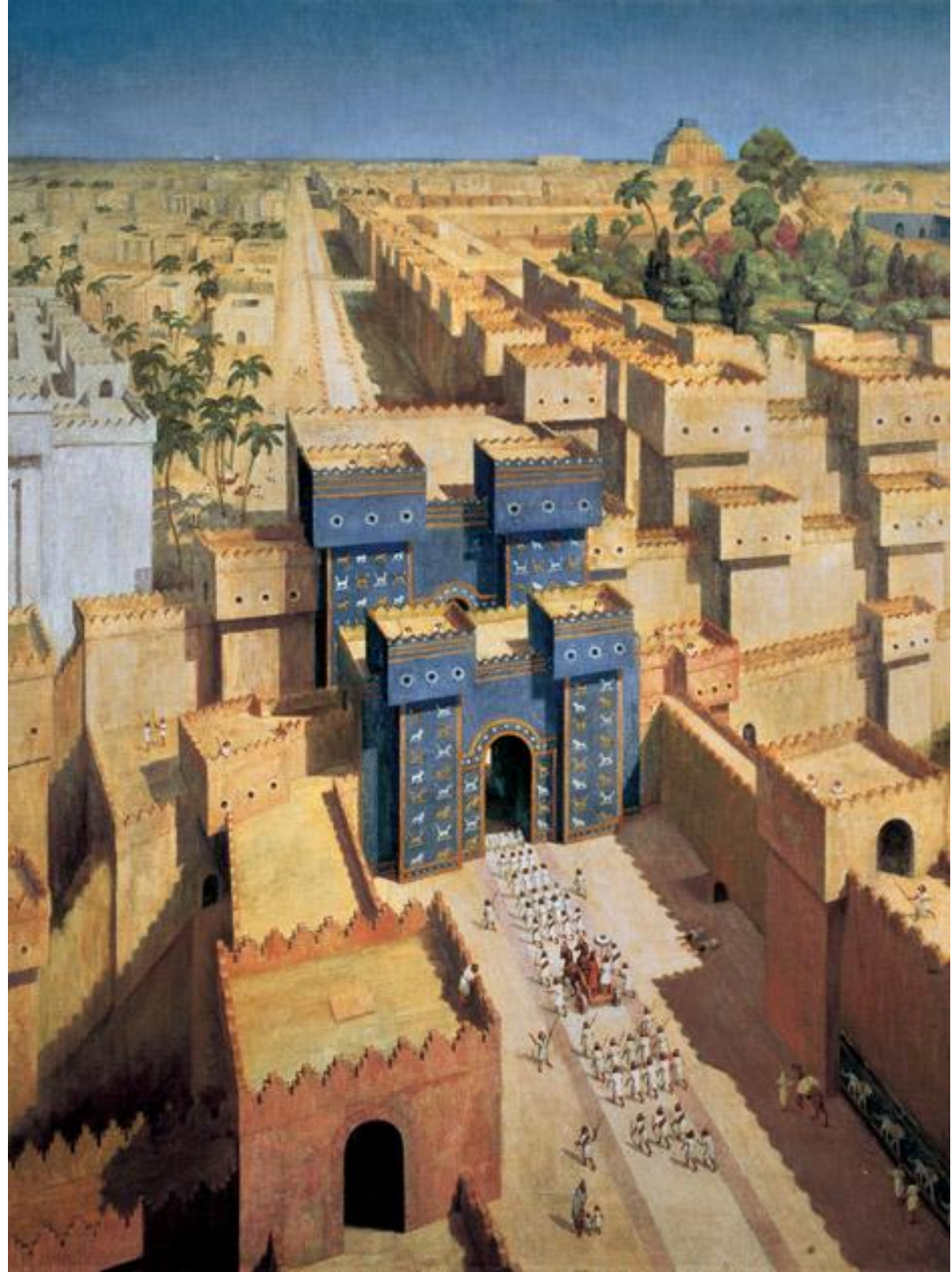
- The term Neo-Babylonian or Chaldean refers to Babylonia after the death of Ashurbanipal, from the revolt of Nabopolassar in 626 BC until the invasion of Cyrus the Great in 539 BC, notably including the reign of Nebuchadnezzar.
- *Ishtar Gate* c575 BCE - Gate to Babylon ordered built by King Nebuchadnezzar in honor of the Assyrian Goddess Ishtar.

**Title:** Reconstruction drawing of Babylon in the 6th century BCE  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mUobrO0EeRI&feature=related>

Babylon was built by Nebakanzer

**The Bible records that it was Nebuchadnezzar who destroyed Jerusalem, brought the kingdom of Judah to an end, and carried off the Jews into exile. The Ishtar Gate was the starting point for processions. The Babylonians would assemble in front of it and march through the triumphal arch and proceed along the Sacred Way to the 7-story Ziggurat, which was crowned near the temple of Marduk..**

It was home to the hanging gardens on of the 7 wonders of the ancient world.



**Title:** Ishtar Gate and throne room wall

**Medium:** Glazed brick

**Size:** height of gate originally 40 feet (12.2 m) with towers rising 100 feet (30.5 m)

**Date:** c. 575 BCE

**King Nebuchadnezzar II of Babylon dedicated the great Ishtar Gate to the goddess Ishtar. It was the main entrance into**



**Glazed- colorful glass was heated and fused over bricks**



# Persian Art

- **6<sup>th</sup> century a formerly nomadic Indo-European speaking Tribe seized power.**
- **Persia, now Iran, created the Persepolis. It was begun by Darius I (the Great) and finished by his son Xerxes.**

**Title:** *Woman Spinning*

**Medium:** Bitumen compound

**Size:** 3 1/4" X 5 1/2" (9.2 X 13 cm)

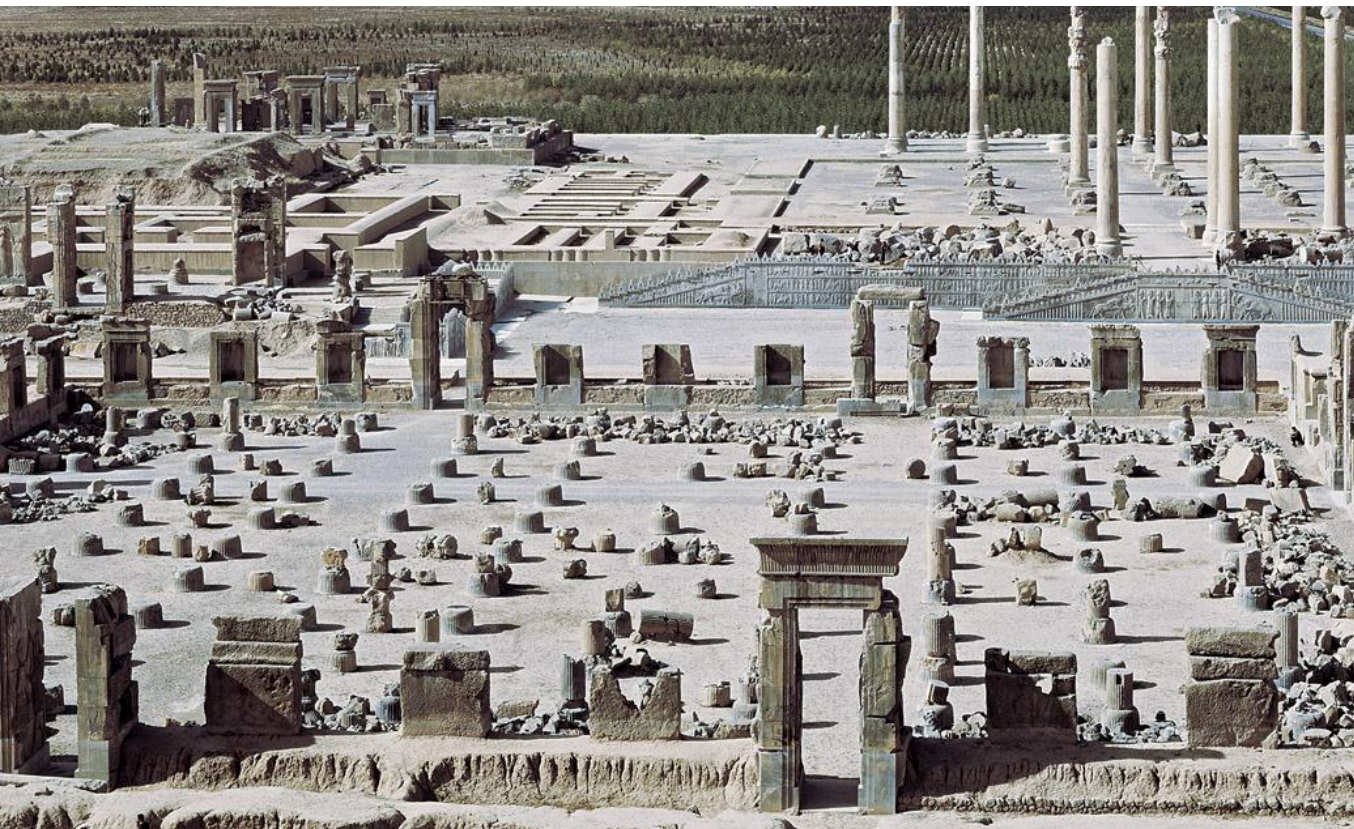
**Date:** c. 8th–7th century BCE

The role of the women was to stay home and run the production end of the business.

Women would sit home weaving and complaining about late payments while the men would spend time with the clients.



The magnificent palace complex at Persepolis was founded by [Darius the Great](#) around 518 B.C., although more than a century passed before it was finally completed. Conceived to be the seat of government for the [Achaemenian](#) kings and a center for receptions and ceremonial festivities, the wealth of the Persian empire was evident in all aspects of its construction. The splendor of Persepolis, however, was short-lived; the palaces were looted and burned by Alexander the Great in 331-330 B.C. The ruins were not excavated until the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago sponsored an archaeological expedition to Persepolis.



Grid- crossed  
lines

**Title:** Air View of the  
ceremonial complex,  
Persepolis

**Date:** 518–c. 460 BCE

## Apadana (audience hall) of Darius and Xerxes

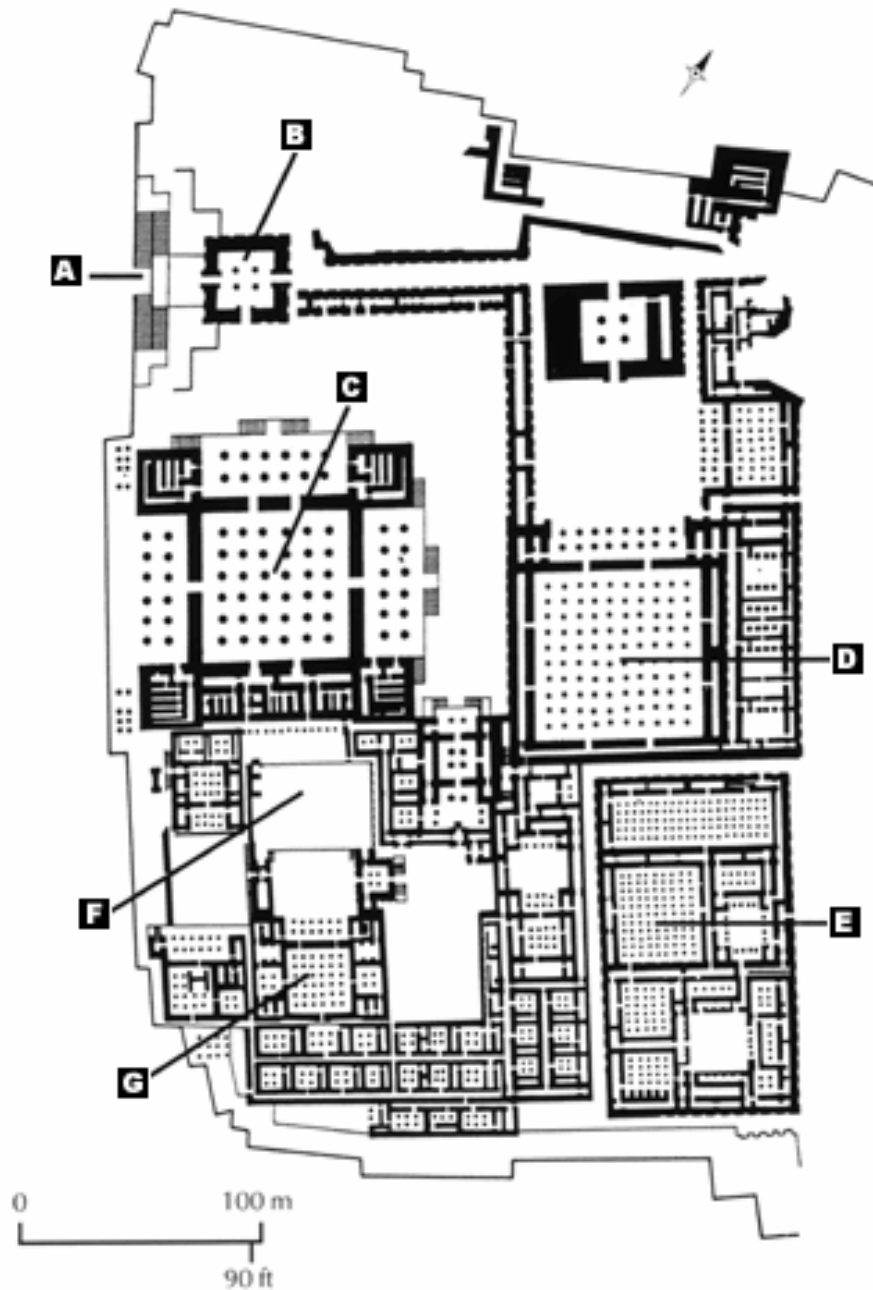
**Date:** 518–c. 460 BCE

Begun by Darius and completed under Xerxes. Apadana served as a large audience hall for Darius.

The work began in 515 BC and was completed 30 years later.

**Relief artwork, originally painted and sometimes gilded, covered the walls of the Apadana depicting warriors defending the palace complex**





- A. Main Gate
- B. Gatehouse
- C. Apadana-Audience Hall
- D. Throne room
- E. Treasury
- F. Palace of Darius I
- G. Palace of Xerxes I

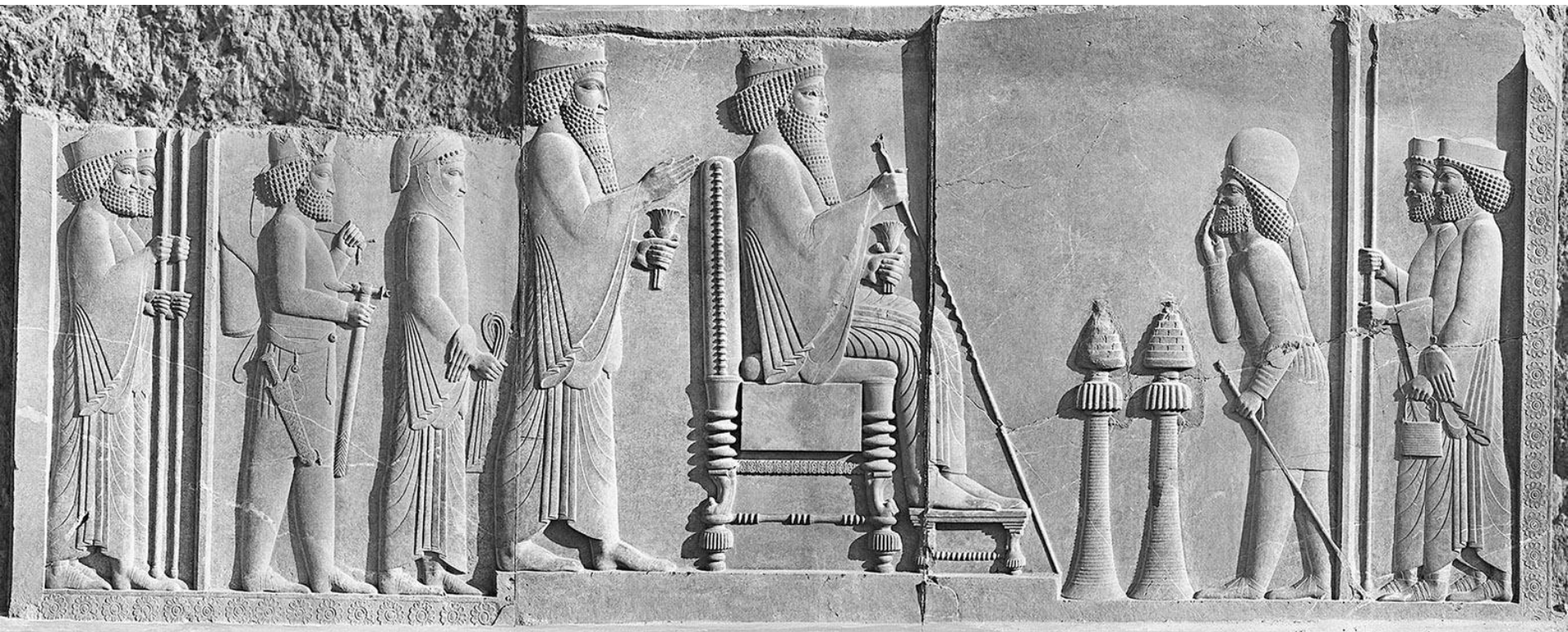


**Title:** *Darius and Xerxes Receiving Tribute*

**Medium:** Limestone

**Size:** height 8'4" (2.54 m)

**Date:** 491–486 BCE



Panels were originally covered with paint and gold.

Gold Leaf- thin sheets of hammered gold

**Title:** Darius

**Medium:**

Gold

**Size:**

Diameter

approximately

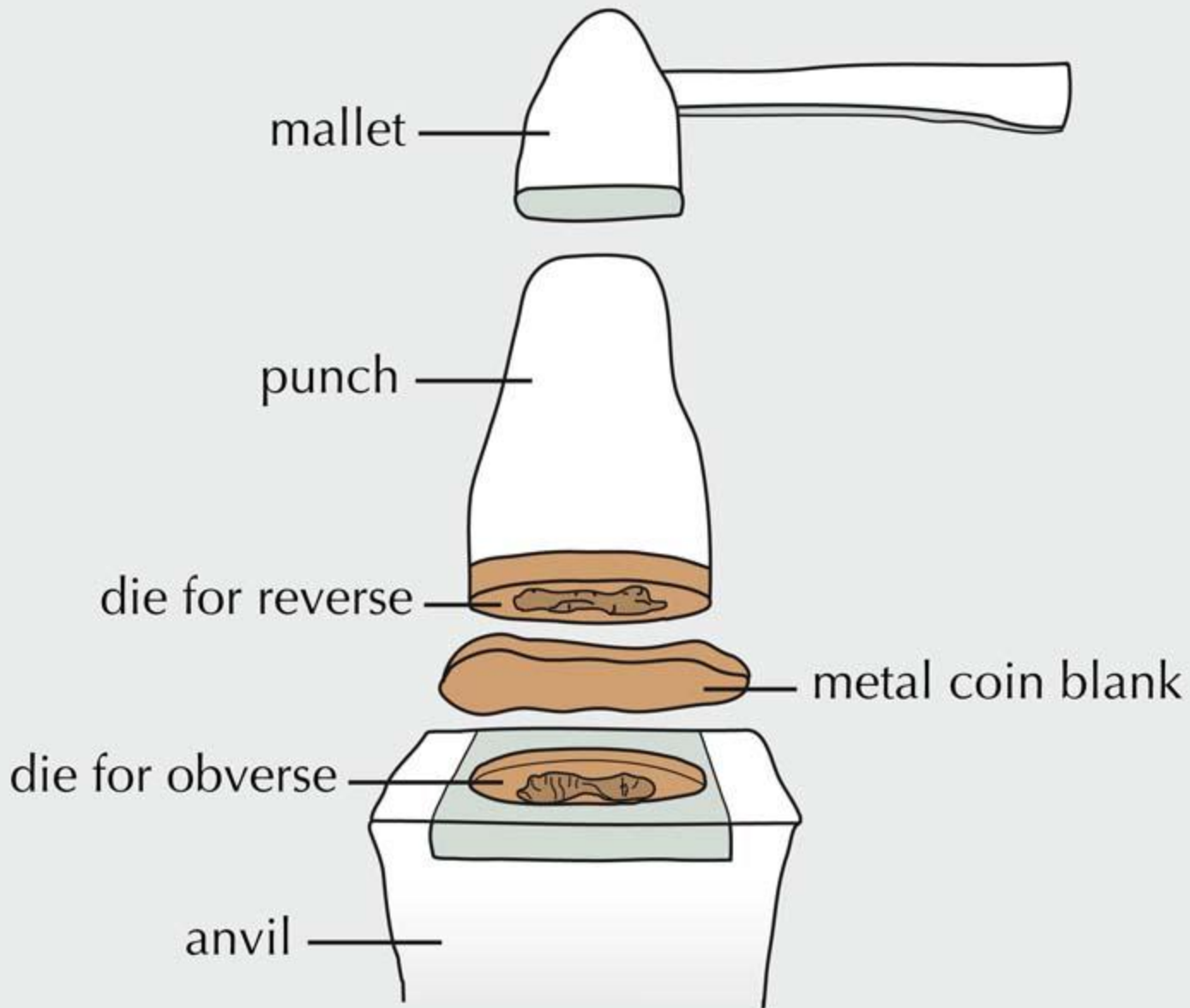
1/2" (1.45cm)

**Date:** 4th

century BCE.

The institution of the first distinctly Persian coinage is credited to Darius I (522-486 B.C.). He issued gold coins, which became famous as "*darics*". Their design depicted the king in a running position holding a spear or bow.





# Quick Write

- Explain how "The Fertile Crescent" both allowed for the creation of a sustained civilization and was the cause for repeated invasions and changes of leadership states in Mesopotamia.

One a separate piece of paper. Take a few minutes and design what your votive figure would look like.

