

# First Age of Empires,

## 1570 B.C.–200 B.C.

### Previewing Main Ideas

**EMPIRE BUILDING** Groups from Africa to China sought to conquer other groups and spread their influence across vast regions. These societies built the world's first great empires.

**Geography** *On the map, locate the Nile, Tigris, and Euphrates rivers, where many of the early empires arose. Why do you think the empire builders fought over these regions?*

**CULTURAL INTERACTION** For a long period, Egypt ruled Kush and the two cultures interacted. When the Kush Empire conquered Egypt, therefore, the Kushites adopted many Egyptian cultural values and ideas.

**Geography** *Study the map and time line. What other cultures might have adopted Egyptian values?*

**RELIGIOUS AND ETHICAL SYSTEMS** After the warring states period, Chinese philosophers developed different ethical systems to restore China's social order.

**Geography** *How might China's location have affected the spread of the ethical systems that began there?*

#### INTEGRATED TECHNOLOGY

##### eEdition

- Interactive Maps
- Interactive Visuals
- Interactive Primary Sources



**VIDEO** *Patterns of Interaction: The Rise of the Persians and the Inca*



##### INTERNET RESOURCES

Go to [classzone.com](http://classzone.com) for:

- Research Links
- Internet Activities
- Primary Sources
- Chapter Quiz
- Maps
- Test Practice
- Current Events

AFRICA,  
SOUTHWEST  
ASIA, CHINA

1570 B.C.

Egypt's New Kingdom is established. (temple at Karnak built during era) ▶



1570 B.C.

1000 B.C.

WORLD



1500 B.C.

◀ Mycenaean culture thrives on the Greek mainland. (gold death mask of a Mycenaean king)

1200 B.C.

Minoan civilization mysteriously ends.

# Ancient Empires, 700 B.C.–221 B.C.



**850 B.C.**  
Assyrian Empire begins its rise to power.

**751 B.C.**  
Nubian kingdom of Kush conquers Egypt. (Nubian pottery) ▶



**550 B.C.**  
Persian Empire flourishes.

**202 B.C.**  
The Qin Dynasty collapses. Civil war follows.

**500 B.C.**

**200 B.C.**

**750 B.C.**  
Greek city-states begin colonization.

**509 B.C.**  
Rome becomes a republic.

**334 B.C.**  
Alexander starts to build his empire. ▶



## How will the empire help you or harm you?

As a merchant traveling with your camel caravan, your life has become increasingly difficult. Bandits and thieves roam the roads, attacking traders like you. A new military empire is advancing through your region, putting down the outlaw bands. However, the military empire is also imposing harsh laws and heavy taxes on the regions it conquers.

Armed guards from the new empire battle bandits who were planning to attack the caravan, which carries a fortune in exotic goods.

Merchants traveling in caravans, such as this one, cross the Fertile Crescent and travel the Silk Roads from China.

An armed cavalry escort protects the caravan, bringing a new sense of order and safety to merchants and travelers.

### EXAMINING *the* ISSUES

- Why might a merchant welcome the expansion of a strong empire?
- How might the empire oppress the region?

In small groups, answer the questions, then report back to the class. In your discussion, remember what you've learned about military conquest and the behavior of such groups as the Sumerians, Egyptians, and Hittites. As you read about the empires in this chapter, consider how the winners treat the people under their power and how the conquered people respond.



# The Egyptian and Nubian Empires

## MAIN IDEA

**CULTURAL INTERACTION** Two empires along the Nile, Egypt and Nubia, forged commercial, cultural, and political connections.

## WHY IT MATTERS NOW

Neighboring civilizations today participate in cultural exchange as well as conflict.

## TERMS & NAMES

- Hyksos
- New Kingdom
- Hatshepsut
- Thutmose III
- Nubia
- Ramses II
- Kush
- Piankhi
- Meroë

**SETTING THE STAGE** As you learned in Chapter 2, Egyptian civilization developed along the Nile River and united into a kingdom around 3100 B.C. During the Middle Kingdom (about 2080–1640 B.C.), trade with Mesopotamia and the Indus Valley enriched Egypt. Meanwhile, up the Nile River, less than 600 miles south of the Egyptian city of Thebes, a major kingdom had developed in the region of Nubia. For centuries, the Nubian kingdom of Kush traded with Egypt. The two kingdoms particularly influenced each other culturally.

## Nomadic Invaders Rule Egypt

After the prosperity of the Middle Kingdom, Egypt descended into war and violence. This was caused by a succession of weak pharaohs and power struggles among rival nobles. The weakened country fell to invaders who swept across the Isthmus of Suez in chariots, a weapon of war unknown to the Egyptians. These Asiatic invaders, called **Hyksos** (HIHK•sohs), ruled Egypt from about 1640 to 1570 B.C. The Hyksos invasion shook the Egyptians’ confidence in the desert barriers that had protected their kingdom.

**Hebrews Migrate to Egypt** During the Hyksos rule, some historians believe that another Asiatic group, the Hebrews, settled in Egypt. According to the Bible, Abraham and his family first crossed the Euphrates River and came to Canaan around 1800 B.C. Then, around 1650 B.C., the descendants of Abraham moved again—this time to Egypt. Some historians believe that the Hyksos encouraged the Hebrews to settle there because the two groups were racially similar. The Egyptians resented the presence of the Hyksos in their land but were powerless to remove them.

**Expulsion and Slavery** Around 1600 B.C., a series of warlike rulers began to restore Egypt’s power. Among those who helped drive out the Hyksos was Queen Ahhotep (ah•HOH•tehp). She took over when her husband was killed in battle. The next pharaoh, Kamose (KAH•mohs), won a great victory over the hated Hyksos. His successors drove the Hyksos completely out of Egypt and pursued them across the Sinai Peninsula into Palestine. According to some Biblical scholars, the Hebrews remained in Egypt and were enslaved and forced into hard labor. They would not leave Egypt until sometime between 1500 and 1200 B.C., the time of the Exodus.

## TAKING NOTES

### Following Chronological Order

Use a time line to identify important events in the history of Egypt and Nubia.

1570 B.C. AD. 350

Egyptian New Kingdom established	Aksum defeats Meroë
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## The New Kingdom of Egypt

After overthrowing the Hyksos, the pharaohs of the **New Kingdom** (about 1570–1075 B.C.) sought to strengthen Egypt by building an empire. As you may recall, an empire brings together several peoples or states under the control of one ruler. Egypt entered its third period of glory during the New Kingdom era. During this time, it was wealthier and more powerful than ever before.

Equipped with bronze weapons and two-wheeled chariots, the Egyptians became conquerors. The pharaohs of the 18th Dynasty (about 1570–1365 B.C.) set up an army including archers, charioteers, and infantry, or foot soldiers.

**Hatshepsut's Prosperous Rule** Among the rulers of the New Kingdom, **Hatshepsut** (hat•SHEHP•SOOT), who declared herself pharaoh around 1472 B.C., was unique. She took over because her stepson, the male heir to the throne, was a

young child at the time. Unlike other New Kingdom rulers, Hatshepsut spent her reign encouraging trade rather than just waging war.

The trading expedition Hatshepsut ordered to the Land of Punt (poont), near present-day Somalia, was particularly successful. Hatshepsut sent a fleet of five ships down the Red Sea to Punt in search of myrrh, frankincense, and fragrant ointments used for religious ceremonies and in cosmetics. In addition to these goods, Hatshepsut's fleet brought back gold, ivory, and unusual plants and animals.

**Thutmose the Empire Builder** Hatshepsut's stepson, **Thutmose III** (thoot•MOH•suh), proved to be a much more warlike ruler. In his eagerness to ascend to the throne, Thutmose III may even have murdered Hatshepsut. Between the time he took power and his death around 1425 B.C., Thutmose III led a number of victorious invasions eastward into Palestine and Syria. His armies also pushed farther south into **Nubia**, a region of Africa that straddled the upper Nile River. Egypt had traded with Nubia and influenced the region since the time of the Middle Kingdom.

Egypt was now a mighty empire. It controlled lands around the Nile and far beyond. In addition, it drew boundless wealth from them. Contact with other cultures brought Egypt new ideas as well as material goods. Egypt had never before—nor has it since—commanded such power and wealth as during the reigns of the New Kingdom pharaohs.

**The Egyptians and the Hittites** The Egyptians' conquest of parts of Syria and Palestine around 1400 B.C. brought them into conflict with the Hittites. The Hittites had moved into Asia Minor around 1900 B.C. and later expanded southward into Palestine.

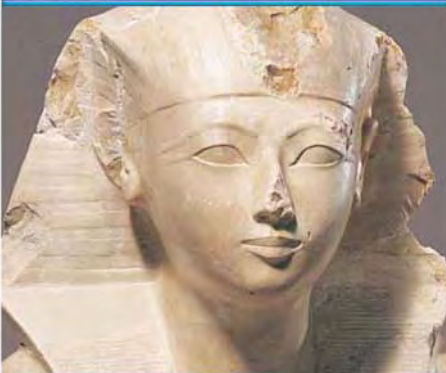
After several smaller battles, the Egyptians and Hittites clashed at Kadesh around 1285 B.C. The pharaoh **Ramses II** (RAM•SEEZ) and a Hittite king later made a treaty that promised “peace and brotherhood between us forever.” Their alliance lasted for the rest of the century. **A**

**An Age of Builders** Like the rulers of the Old Kingdom, who built the towering pyramids, rulers of the New Kingdom

### Vocabulary

A *dynasty* is a series of rulers from a single family.

### History Makers



#### Hatshepsut reigned 1472–1458 B.C.

Hatshepsut was an excellent ruler of outstanding achievement who made Egypt more prosperous. As male pharaohs had done, Hatshepsut planned a tomb for herself in the Valley of the Kings. Carved reliefs on the walls of the temple reveal the glories of her reign.

The inscription from Hatshepsut's obelisk at Karnak trumpets her glory and her feelings about herself:

*I swear as Re loves me, as my father Amon favors me, as my nostrils are filled with satisfying life, as I wear the white crown, as I appear in the red crown, . . . as I rule this land like the son of Isis.*

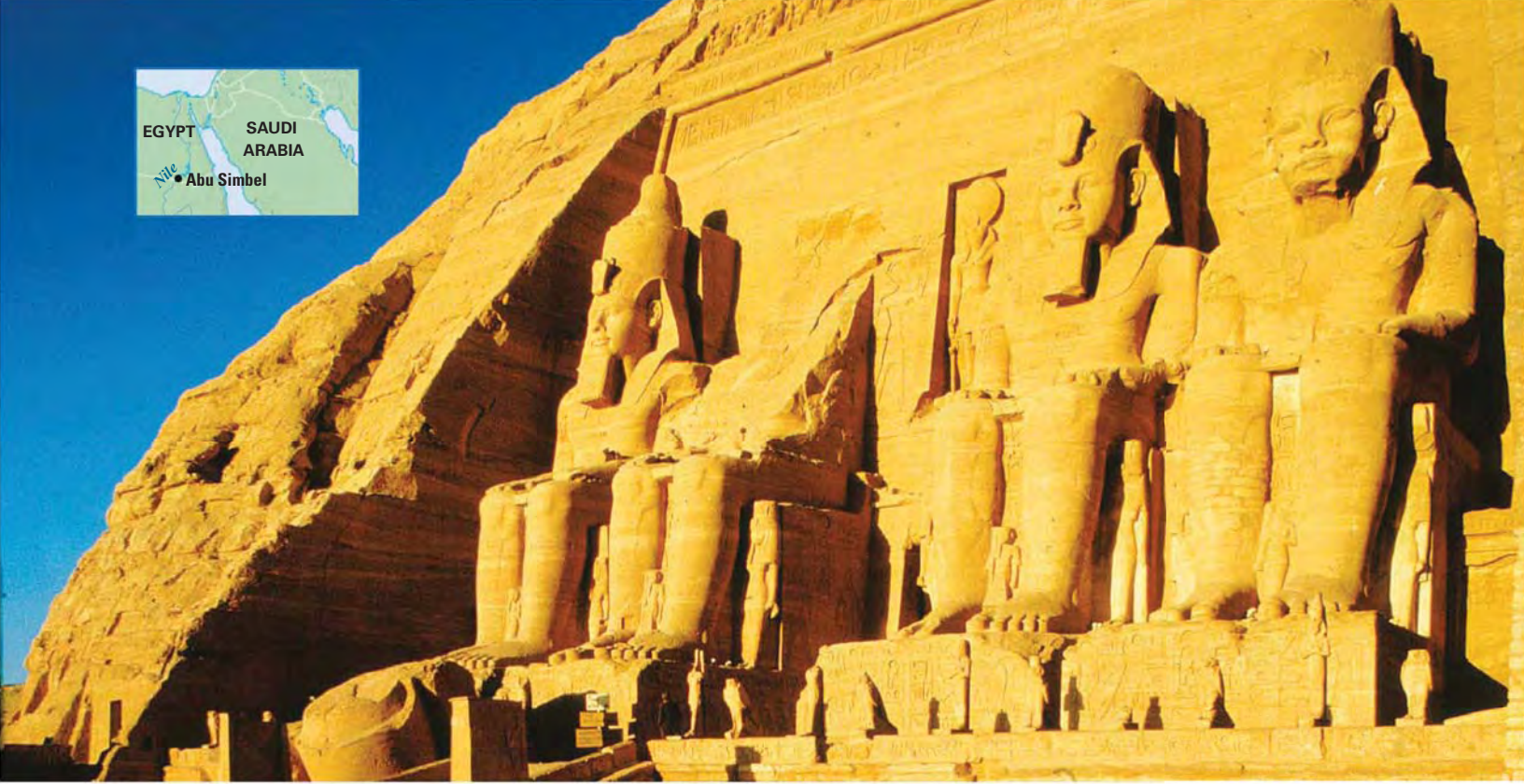
#### INTEGRATED TECHNOLOGY

**INTERNET ACTIVITY** Create a photo exhibit on the trading expeditions to Punt ordered by Hatshepsut. Include pictures of murals of goods collected. Go to [classzone.com](http://classzone.com) for your research.

#### MAIN IDEA

#### Recognizing Effects

**A** What were some of the political and economic effects of Egypt's conquests?



erected grand buildings. In search of security in the afterlife—and protection from grave robbers—they hid their splendid tombs beneath desert cliffs. The site they chose was the remote Valley of the Kings near Thebes. Besides royal tombs, the pharaohs of this period also built great palaces and magnificent temples. Indeed, the royal title *pharaoh* means “great house” and comes from this time period.

Ramses II, whose reign extended from approximately 1290 to 1224 B.C., stood out among the great builders of the New Kingdom. At Karnak, he added to a monumental temple to Amon-Re (AH•muhn•RAY), Egypt’s chief god. Ramses also ordered a temple to be carved into the red sandstone cliffs above the Nile River at Abu Simbel (AH•boo SIHM•buhl). He had these temples decorated with enormous statues of himself. The ears of these statues alone measured more than three feet.

▲ Four statues of Ramses II guarded the entrance to the Great Temple at Abu Simbel.

## The Empire Declines

The empire that Thutmose III had built and Ramses II had ruled slowly came apart after 1200 B.C. as other strong civilizations rose to challenge Egypt’s power. Shortly after Ramses died, the entire eastern Mediterranean suffered a wave of invasions.

**Invasions by Land and Sea** Both the Egyptian empire and the Hittite kingdom were attacked by invaders called the “Sea Peoples” in Egyptian texts. These invaders may have included the Philistines, who are often mentioned in the Bible. Whoever they were, the Sea Peoples caused great destruction.

The Egyptians faced other attacks. In the east, the tribes of Palestine often rebelled against their Egyptian overlords. In the west, the vast desert no longer served as a barrier against Libyan raids on Egyptian villages.

**Egypt’s Empire Fades** After these invasions, Egypt never recovered its previous power. The Egyptian empire broke apart into regional units, and numerous small kingdoms arose. Each was eager to protect its independence.

Almost powerless, Egypt soon fell to its neighbors’ invasions. Libyans crossed the desert to the Nile Delta. There they established independent dynasties. From around 950 to 730 B.C., Libyan pharaohs ruled Egypt and erected cities. But instead

of imposing their own culture, the Libyans adopted the Egyptian way of life. When the Nubians came north to seize power, they too adopted Egyptian culture.

## The Kushites Conquer the Nile Region

For centuries, Egypt dominated Nubia and the Nubian kingdom of **Kush**, which lasted for about a thousand years, between 2000 and 1000 B.C. During this time, Egyptian armies raided and even occupied Kush for a brief period. But as Egypt fell into decline during the Hyksos period, Kush began to emerge as a regional power. Nubia now established its own Kushite dynasty on the throne of Egypt.

**The People of Nubia** Nubia lay south of Egypt between the first cataract of the Nile, an area of churning rapids, and the division of the river into the Blue Nile and the White Nile. Despite several cataracts around which boats had to be carried, the Nile provided the best north-south trade route. Several Nubian kingdoms, including Kush, served as a trade corridor. They linked Egypt and the Mediterranean world to the interior of Africa and to the Red Sea. Goods and ideas flowed back and forth along the river for centuries. The first Nubian kingdom, Kerma, arose shortly after 2000 B.C.

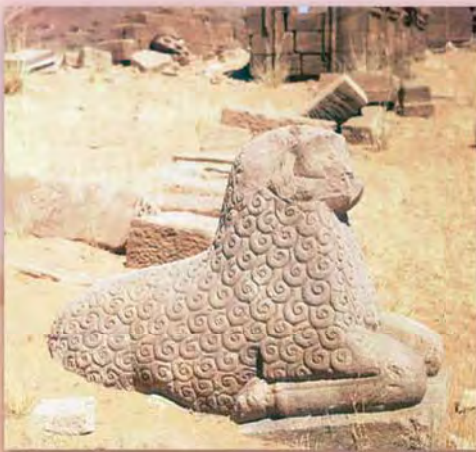
**The Interaction of Egypt and Nubia** With Egypt's revival during the New Kingdom, pharaohs forced Egyptian rule on Kush. Egyptian governors, priests, soldiers, and artists strongly influenced the Nubians. Indeed, Kush's capital, Napata, became the center for the spread of Egyptian culture to Kush's other African trading partners.

### History *in* Depth

## Egyptian Influence on Nubian Culture

Nubia was heavily influenced by Egypt. This influence is particularly apparent in Nubian religious practices and burial traditions. But even though the Nubians adopted Egyptian ways, they didn't abandon their cultural identity. In many of these religious and funeral practices, the Nubians blended Egyptian customs with their own traditions.

**Pyramids** Unlike the Egyptian pyramids, the pyramids of Nubia had steeply sloping sides and were probably designed with a flat top.



**Temples** This stone ram, representing the Egyptian god Amen, lay at the entrance to a Nubian temple dedicated to that god. Although the Nubians worshiped many Egyptian gods, Amen's temple was located near another dedicated to Apedemak, a Nubian god.



Kushite princes went to Egypt. They learned the Egyptian language and worshiped Egyptian gods. They adopted the customs and clothing styles of the Egyptian upper class. When they returned home, the Kushite nobles brought back royal rituals and hieroglyphic writing.

**MAIN IDEA**

**Making Inferences**

**B** Why might the Kushites have viewed themselves as guardians of Egyptian values?

With Egypt's decline, beginning about 1200 B.C., Kush regained its independence. The Kushites viewed themselves as more suitable guardians of Egyptian values than the Libyans. They sought to guard these values by conquering Egypt and ousting its Libyan rulers. **B**

**Piankhi Captures the Egyptian Throne** In 751 B.C., a Kushite king named **Piankhi** overthrew the Libyan dynasty that had ruled Egypt for over 200 years. He united the entire Nile Valley from the delta in the north to Napata in the south. Piankhi and his descendants became Egypt's 25th Dynasty. After his victory, Piankhi erected a monument in his homeland of Kush. On the monument, he had words inscribed that celebrated his victory. The inscription provided a catalog of the riches of the north:

**PRIMARY SOURCE**

Then the ships were laden with silver, gold, copper, clothing, and everything of the Northland, every product of Syria and all sweet woods of God's-Land. His Majesty sailed upstream [south], with glad heart, the shores on his either side were jubilating. West and east were jubilating in the presence of His Majesty.

**PIANKHI**, monument in Cairo Museum

**Statues** These figurines represented Nubian slaves. They were buried with Nubian kings and meant to serve them in death. The figurines reflect traditional Egyptian style. The human faces, however, reveal Nubian features.



**SKILLBUILDER: Interpreting Visual Sources**  
**Forming Opinions** Why did the Nubians combine Egyptian culture with elements of their own culture?



However, Piankhi's dynasty proved short-lived. In 671 B.C., the Assyrians, a warlike people from Southwest Asia, conquered Egypt. The Kushites fought bravely, but they were forced to retreat south along the Nile. There the Kushites would experience a golden age, despite their loss of Egypt.

▼ This ring, bearing the head of a Kushite guardian god, was found inside a Meroë queen's pyramid. It dates from the late first century B.C.



## The Golden Age of Meroë

After their defeat by the Assyrians, the Kushite royal family eventually moved south to **Meroë** (MEHR•oh•EE). Meroë lay closer to the Red Sea than Napata did, and so became active in the flourishing trade among Africa, Arabia, and India. (See the map on page 93.)

**The Wealth of Kush** Kush used the natural resources around Meroë and thrived for several hundred years. Unlike Egyptian cities along the Nile, Meroë enjoyed significant rainfall. And, unlike Egypt, Meroë boasted abundant supplies of iron ore. As a result, Meroë became a major center for the manufacture of iron weapons and tools.

In Meroë, ambitious merchants loaded iron bars, tools, and spearheads onto their donkeys. They then transported the goods to the Red Sea, where they exchanged these goods for jewelry, fine cotton cloth, silver lamps, and glass bottles. As the mineral wealth of the central Nile Valley flowed out of Meroë, luxury goods from India and Arabia flowed in.

**The Decline of Meroë** After four centuries of prosperity, from about 250 B.C. to A.D. 150, Meroë began to decline. Aksum, another kingdom located 400 miles to the southeast, contributed to Meroë's fall. With a seaport on the Red Sea, Aksum came to dominate North African trade. Aksum defeated Meroë around A.D. 350.

Centuries earlier, around the time the Kushite pharaoh sat on the Egyptian throne, a new empire—Assyria—had risen in the north. Like Kush, Assyria came to dominate Egypt.

### SECTION

### 1

### ASSESSMENT

**TERMS & NAMES** 1. For each term or name, write a sentence explaining its significance.

- Hyksos
- New Kingdom
- Hatshepsut
- Thutmose III
- Nubia
- Ramses II
- Kush
- Piankhi
- Meroë

#### USING YOUR NOTES

2. Which empire was invaded more often? Why?

1570 B.C.	A.D. 350
Egyptian New Kingdom established	Aksum defeats Meroë

#### MAIN IDEAS

3. How did the New Kingdom of Egypt become so powerful and wealthy?
4. What cultural aspects of Egyptian civilization did the Kushites adopt?
5. Why was Kush able to thrive after losing Egypt to the Assyrians?

#### CRITICAL THINKING & WRITING

6. **DRAWING CONCLUSIONS** What role did geography play in Egypt's rise and fall?
7. **MAKING INFERENCES** How did trade help both Egypt and Nubia maintain their dominance in the Nile region?
8. **HYPOTHESIZING** What might have happened if the Kushites had imposed their own culture on Egypt?
9. **WRITING ACTIVITY** **CULTURAL INTERACTION** How did Egypt and Nubia strengthen each other at various times in their histories? Support your ideas in a one-paragraph analysis.

#### CONNECT TO TODAY CREATING A TIME LINE

Research to learn about the collapse of the Soviet Union—a modern-day empire—in 1991. Create a **time line** of the events that led to the collapse.



# The Assyrian Empire

## MAIN IDEA

**EMPIRE BUILDING** Assyria developed a military machine and established a well-organized administration.

## WHY IT MATTERS NOW

Some leaders still use military force to extend their rule, stamp out opposition, and gain wealth and power.

## TERMS & NAMES

- Assyria
- Sennacherib
- Nineveh
- Ashurbanipal
- Medes
- Chaldeans
- Nebuchadnezzar

**SETTING THE STAGE** For more than two centuries, the Assyrian army advanced across Southwest Asia. It overwhelmed foes with its military strength. After the Assyrians seized control of Egypt, the Assyrian king Esarhaddon proclaimed, “I tore up the root of Kush, and not one therein escaped to submit to me.” The last Kushite pharaoh retreated to Napata, Kush’s capital city.

## A Mighty Military Machine

Beginning around 850 B.C., **Assyria** (uh•SEER•ee•uh) acquired a large empire. It accomplished this by means of a highly advanced military organization and state-of-the-art weaponry. For a time, this campaign of conquest made Assyria the greatest power in Southwest Asia.

**The Rise of a Warrior People** The Assyrians came from the northern part of Mesopotamia. (See the map on page 96.) Their flat, exposed land made them easy for other people to attack. Invaders frequently swept down into Assyria from the nearby mountains. The Assyrians may have developed their warlike behavior in response to these invasions. Through constant warfare, Assyrian kings eventually built an empire that stretched from east and north of the Tigris River all the way to central Egypt. One of these Assyrian kings, **Sennacherib** (sih•NAK•uhr•ihb), bragged that he had destroyed 89 cities and 820 villages, burned Babylon, and ordered most of its inhabitants killed.

**Military Organization and Conquest** Assyria was a society that glorified military strength. Its soldiers were well equipped for conquering an empire. Making use of the ironworking technology of the time, the soldiers covered themselves in stiff leather and metal armor. They wore copper or iron helmets, padded loin-cloths, and leather skirts layered with metal scales. Their weapons were iron swords and iron-pointed spears.

Advance planning and technical skill allowed the Assyrians to lay siege to enemy cities. When deep water blocked their passage, engineers would span the rivers with pontoons, or floating structures used to support a bridge. Before attacking, the Assyrians dug beneath the city’s walls to weaken them. Then, with disciplined organization, foot soldiers marched shoulder to shoulder. The foot soldiers approached the city walls and shot wave upon wave of arrows. Meanwhile, another group of troops hammered the city’s gates with massive, iron-tipped battering rams.

## TAKING NOTES

**Analyzing Causes** Use a chart to identify the causes of the rise and decline of Assyrian power.

Causes for Rise	Causes for Decline
Need to defend against attacks	Hated by conquered people



## Assyrian Empire, 650 B.C.

### GEOGRAPHY SKILLBUILDER: Interpreting Maps

- 1. Location** What is the approximate distance between Nineveh and Thebes?
- 2. Location** What is the southernmost part of the Assyrian Empire and to what other empire did it previously belong?

When the city gates finally splintered, the Assyrians showed no mercy. They killed or enslaved their victims. To prevent their enemies from rebelling again, the Assyrians forced captives to settle far away in the empire's distant provinces and dependent states.

## The Empire Expands

Between 850 and 650 B.C., the kings of Assyria defeated Syria, Palestine, and Babylonia. Eventually, the Assyrians ruled lands that extended far beyond the Fertile Crescent into Anatolia and Egypt.

**Assyrian Rule** At its peak around 650 B.C., the Assyrian Empire included almost all of the old centers of civilization and power in

Southwest Asia. Assyrian officials governed lands closest to Assyria as provinces and made them dependent territories. Assyrian kings controlled these dependent regions by choosing their rulers or by supporting kings who aligned themselves with Assyria. The Assyrian system of having local governors report to a central authority became the fundamental model of administration, or system of government management.

In addition, the military campaigns added new territory to the empire. These additional lands brought taxes and tribute to the Assyrian treasury. If a conquered people refused to pay, the Assyrians destroyed their cities and sent the people into exile. Such methods enabled the Assyrians to effectively govern an extended empire.

**Assyrian Culture** Some of Assyria's most fearsome warriors earned reputations as great builders. For example, the same King Sennacherib who had burned Babylon also established Assyria's capital at **Nineveh** (NIHN•uh•vuh) along the Tigris River. This great walled city, about three miles long and a mile wide, was the largest city of its day. In the ruins of Nineveh and other Assyrian cities, archaeologists found finely carved sculptures. Two artistic subjects particularly fascinated the Assyrians: brutal military campaigns and the lion hunt.

Nineveh also held one of the ancient world's largest libraries. In this unique library, King **Ashurbanipal** (AH•shur•BAH•nuh•PAHL) collected more than 20,000 clay tablets from throughout the Fertile Crescent. The collection included the ancient Sumerian poem the *Epic of Gilgamesh* and provided historians with much information about the earliest civilizations in Southwest Asia. The library was the first to have many of the features of a modern library. For instance, the collection was organized into many rooms according to subject matter. The collection was also cataloged. Europeans would not use a library cataloging system for centuries.

## > Analyzing Primary Sources

INTERACTIVE

### Assyrian Sculpture

This relief shows ferocious Assyrian warriors attacking a fortified city. A relief is a sculpture that has figures standing out from a flat background. The Assyrian war machine included a variety of weapons and methods of attack.

#### 1 Ladders

Assyrian archers launched waves of arrows against opponents defending the city walls. Meanwhile, Assyrian troops threw their ladders up against the walls and began their climb into the enemy's stronghold.

#### 2 Weapons

Troops were armed with the best weapons of the time, iron-tipped spears, as well as iron daggers and swords. They were also protected with armor and large shields.

#### 3 Tactics

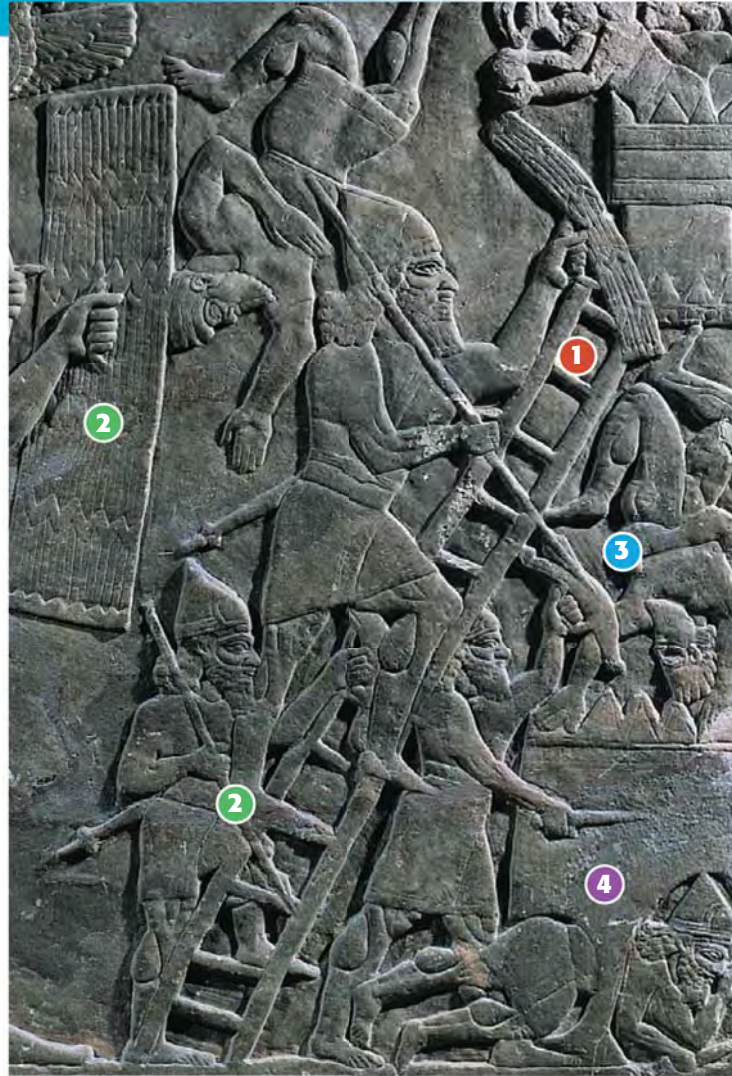
The Assyrians were savage in their treatment of defeated opponents. Those who were not slaughtered in the initial attack were often impaled or beheaded, while women and children were sometimes murdered or sold into slavery.

#### 4 Tunnels

The Assyrian army used sappers—soldiers who dug tunnels to sap, or undermine, the foundations of the enemy's walls so that they would fall.

#### SKILLBUILDER: Interpreting Visual Sources

1. **Making Inferences** *What emotions might the relief have inspired in the Assyrian people?*
2. **Making Inferences** *How might the Assyrians' enemies have reacted to the sculpture?*



## The Empire Crumbles

Ashurbanipal proved to be one of the last of the mighty Assyrian kings. Assyrian power had spread itself too thin. Also, the cruelty displayed by the Assyrians had earned them many enemies. Shortly after Ashurbanipal's death, Nineveh fell.

**Decline and Fall** In 612 B.C., a combined army of **Medes** (meedz), **Chaldeans** (kal•DEE•uhnz), and others burned and leveled Nineveh. However, because the clay writing tablets in Nineveh's library had been baked in a pottery oven, many survived the fire.

Most people in the region rejoiced at Nineveh's destruction. The Hebrew prophet Nahum (NAY•huhm) gave voice to the feelings of many:

#### MAIN IDEA

#### Analyzing Primary Sources

**A** What was Nahum's opinion on the collapse of the Assyrian Empire?

#### PRIMARY SOURCE **A**

And it shall come to pass, that all they that look upon thee shall flee from thee, and say, Nineveh is laid waste: who will bemoan her? Whence shall I seek comforters for thee? . . . Thy shepherds slumber, O king of Assyria: thy nobles shall dwell in the dust: thy people is scattered upon the mountains, and no man gathereth them.

NAHUM 3:7, 18 (Bible)

**Rebirth of Babylon Under the Chaldeans** After defeating the Assyrians, the Chaldeans made Babylon their capital. Around 600 B.C., Babylon became the center



▲ This is an artist's rendering of the legendary hanging gardens of Babylon. Slaves watered the plants by using hidden pumps that drew water from the Euphrates River.

of a new empire, more than 1,000 years after Hammurabi had ruled there. A Chaldean king named **Nebuchadnezzar** (NEHB•uh•kuhd•NEHZ•uhr) restored the city. Perhaps the most impressive part of the restoration was the famous hanging gardens. Greek scholars later listed them as one of the seven wonders of the ancient world. According to legend, one of Nebuchadnezzar's wives missed the flowering shrubs of her mountain homeland. To please her, he had fragrant trees and shrubs planted on terraces that rose 75 feet above Babylon's flat, dry plain.

Indeed, the entire city was a wonder. Its walls were so thick that, according to one report, a four-horse chariot could wheel

around on top of them. To ensure that the world knew who ruled Babylon, the king had the bricks inscribed with the words, "I am Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon."

The highest building in Babylon was a great, seven-tiered ziggurat more than 300 feet high. It was visible for miles. At night, priests observed the stars from the top of this tower and others in the city. Chaldean astronomers kept detailed records of how the stars and planets seemed to change position in the night sky. They also concluded that the sun, moon, Earth, and five other planets belonged to the same solar system. The Chaldeans' observations formed the basis for both astronomy and astrology.

Nebuchadnezzar's empire fell shortly after his death. The Persians who next came to power adopted many Assyrian military, political, and artistic inventions. The Persians would use the organization the Assyrians had developed to stabilize the region.

SECTION

2

ASSESSMENT

**TERMS & NAMES** 1. For each term or name, write a sentence explaining its significance.

- Assyria
- Sennacherib
- Nineveh
- Ashurbanipal
- Medes
- Chaldeans
- Nebuchadnezzar

**USING YOUR NOTES**

2. Why did the Assyrians develop into a great military power? Why did their power decline?

*Assyrian Power*

<i>Causes For Rise</i>	<i>Causes for Decline</i>
<i>Need to defend against attacks</i>	<i>Hated by conquered people</i>

**MAIN IDEAS**

3. What methods did the Assyrians use when they attacked enemy cities?
4. What contributions to government administration and culture did the Assyrians make?
5. Why did the people in the region rejoice when the Assyrian Empire was defeated?

**CRITICAL THINKING & WRITING**

6. **FORMING OPINIONS** Do you think the Assyrians' almost exclusive reliance on military power was a good strategy for creating their empire? Why or why not?
7. **MAKING INFERENCES** Why might the Assyrian warrior kings have had such a great interest in writing and reading?
8. **COMPARING** In what ways were King Ashurbanipal and King Nebuchadnezzar similar?
9. **WRITING ACTIVITY** **EMPIRE BUILDING** Write a one-paragraph **essay** on how developments in technology influenced the rise and decline of the Assyrian Empire.

**CONNECT TO TODAY** CREATING A POSTER

Research an instance when a modern ruler used excessive force to govern or put down opposition. Create a **poster** that tells about and illustrates the ruler and the event.



# The Persian Empire

## MAIN IDEA

**EMPIRE BUILDING** By governing with tolerance and wisdom, the Persians established a well-ordered empire that lasted for 200 years.

## WHY IT MATTERS NOW

Leaders today try to follow the Persian example of tolerance and wise government.

## TERMS & NAMES

- Cyrus
- Cambyses
- Darius
- satrap
- Royal Road
- Zoroaster

**SETTING THE STAGE** The Medes, along with the Chaldeans and others, helped to overthrow the Assyrian Empire in 612 B.C. The Medes marched to Nineveh from their homeland in the area of present-day northern Iran. Meanwhile, the Medes' close neighbor to the south, Persia, began to expand its horizons and territorial ambitions.

## The Rise of Persia

The Assyrians employed military force to control a vast empire. In contrast, the Persians based their empire on tolerance and diplomacy. They relied on a strong military to back up their policies. Ancient Persia included what today is Iran.

**The Persian Homeland** Indo-Europeans first migrated from Central Europe and southern Russia to the mountains and plateaus east of the Fertile Crescent around 1000 B.C. This area extended from the Caspian Sea in the north to the Persian Gulf in the south. (See the map on page 101.) In addition to fertile farmland, ancient Iran boasted a wealth of minerals. These included copper, lead, gold, silver, and gleaming blue lapis lazuli. A thriving trade in these minerals put the settlers in contact with their neighbors to the east and the west.

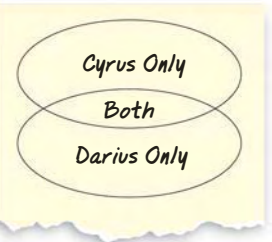
At first, dozens of tiny kingdoms occupied the region. Eventually two major powers emerged: the Medes and the Persians. In time, a remarkable ruler would lead Persia to dominate the Medes and found a huge empire.

**Cyrus the Great Finds an Empire** The rest of the world paid little attention to the Persians until 550 B.C. In that year, **Cyrus** (SY•ruhs), Persia's king, began to conquer several neighboring kingdoms. Cyrus was a military genius, leading his army from victory to victory between 550 and 539 B.C. In time, Cyrus controlled an empire that spanned 2,000 miles, from the Indus River in the east to Anatolia in the west.

Even more than his military genius, though, Cyrus's most enduring legacy was his method of governing. His kindness toward conquered peoples revealed a wise and tolerant view of empire. For example, when Cyrus's army marched into a city, his generals prevented Persian soldiers from looting and burning. Unlike other conquerors, Cyrus believed in honoring local customs and religions. Instead of destroying the local temple, Cyrus would kneel there to pray.

## TAKING NOTES

**Comparing and Contrasting** Use a diagram to identify the similarities and differences between Cyrus and Darius.



Cyrus also allowed the Jews, who had been driven from their homeland by the Babylonians, to return to Jerusalem in 538 B.C. Under Persian rule, the Jews rebuilt their city and temple. The Jews were forever grateful to Cyrus, whom they considered one of God's anointed ones. The Hebrew prophet Ezra tells of Cyrus's kindness:

#### PRIMARY SOURCE

This is the word of Cyrus king of Persia: The Lord the God of heaven has given me all the kingdoms of the earth, and he himself has charged me to build him a house at Jerusalem in Judah. To every man of his people now among you I say, God be with him, and let him go up to Jerusalem in Judah, and rebuild the house of the Lord the God of Israel, the God whose city is Jerusalem.

EZRA 1: 2–3 (Bible)

#### MAIN IDEA

#### Summarizing

**A** What are some examples of Cyrus's tolerant method of governing?

Cyrus was killed as he fought nomadic invaders on the eastern border of his empire. According to the Greek historian Arrian, his simple, house-shaped tomb bore these words: "O man, I am Cyrus the son of Cambyses. I established the Persian Empire and was king of Asia. Do not begrudge me my memorial." **A**

## Persian Rule

The task of unifying conquered territories fell to rulers who followed Cyrus. They succeeded by combining Persian control with local self-government.

**Cambyses and Darius** Cyrus died in 530 B.C. His son **Cambyses** (kam•BY•seez), named after Cyrus's father, expanded the Persian Empire by conquering Egypt. However, the son neglected to follow his father's wise example. Cambyses scorned the Egyptian religion. He ordered the images of Egyptian gods to be burned. After ruling for only eight years, Cambyses died. Immediately, widespread rebellions broke out across the empire. Persian control had seemed strong a decade earlier. It now seemed surprisingly fragile.

Cambyses's successor, **Darius** (duh•RY•uhs), a noble of the ruling dynasty, had begun his career as a member of the king's bodyguard. An elite group of Persian soldiers, the Ten Thousand Immortals, helped Darius seize the throne around 522 B.C. Darius spent the first three years of his reign putting down revolts. He spent the next few years establishing a well-organized and efficient administration.

Having brought peace and stability to the empire, Darius turned his attention to conquest. He led his armies eastward into the mountains of present-day Afghanistan and then down into the river valleys of India. The immense Persian Empire now extended over 2,500 miles, embracing Egypt and Anatolia in the west, part of India in the east, and the Fertile Crescent in the center. Darius's only failure was his inability to conquer Greece.

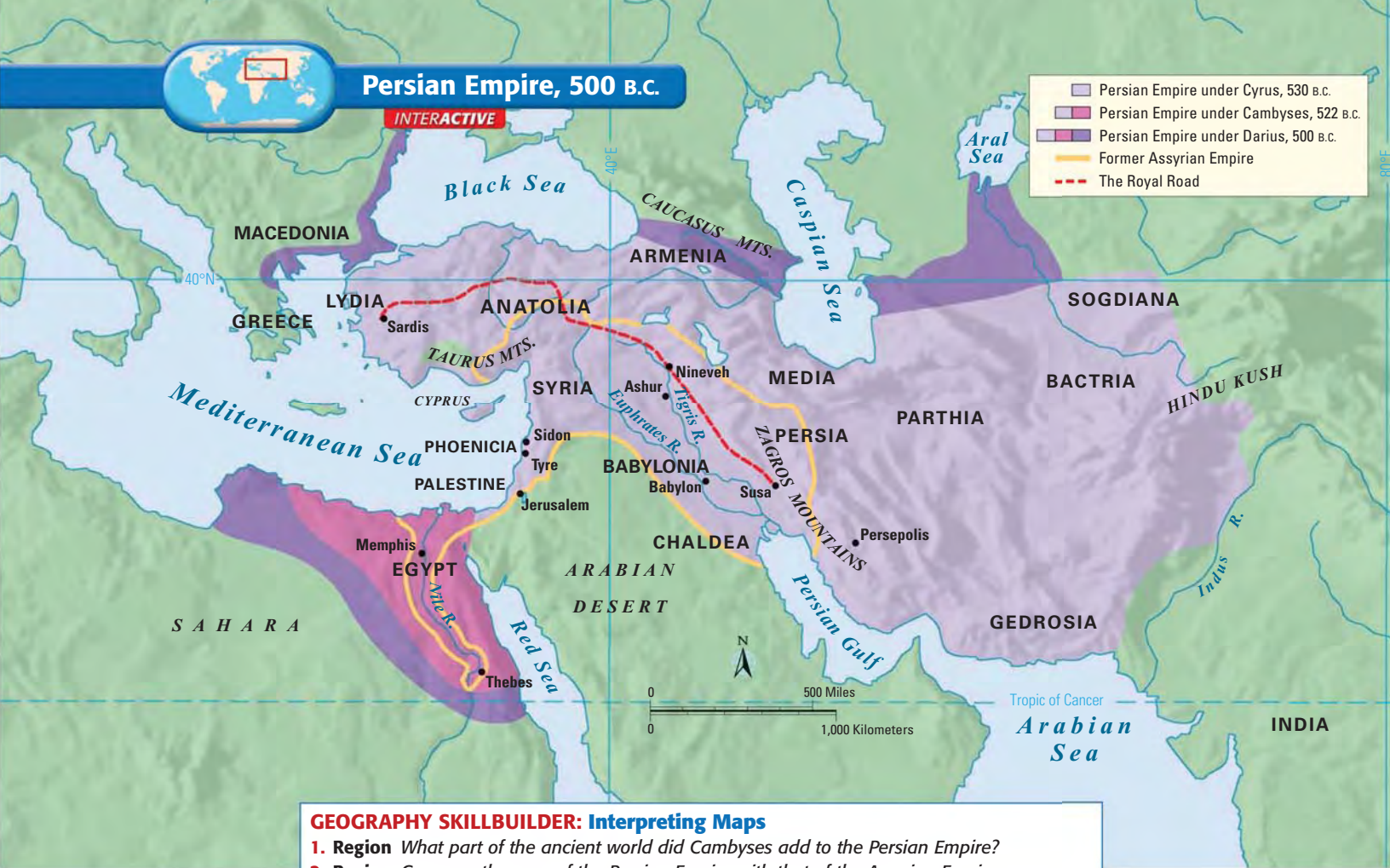
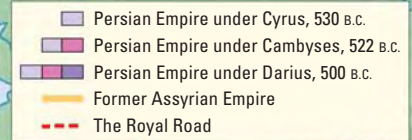
▼ Sculpted figures bring gifts to Darius. The relief sculpture, located in the ancient Persian capital of Persepolis, dates from around the sixth century B.C.





## Persian Empire, 500 B.C.

INTERACTIVE



### GEOGRAPHY SKILLBUILDER: Interpreting Maps

- 1. Region** What part of the ancient world did Cambyses add to the Persian Empire?
- 2. Region** Compare the map of the Persian Empire with that of the Assyrian Empire on page 96. What areas did the Persians rule that the Assyrians did not?

**Provinces and Satraps** Although Darius was a great warrior, his real genius lay in administration. To govern his sprawling empire, Darius divided it into 20 provinces. These provinces were roughly similar to the homelands of the different groups of people who lived within the Persian Empire. Under Persian rule, the people of each province still practiced their own religion. They also spoke their own language and followed many of their own laws. This administrative policy of many groups—sometimes called “nationalities”—living by their own laws within one empire was repeatedly practiced in Southwest Asia.

Although tolerant of the many groups within his empire, Darius still ruled with absolute power. In each province, Darius installed a governor called a **satrap** (SAY•TRAP), who ruled locally. Darius also appointed a military leader and a tax collector for each province. To ensure the loyalty of these officials, Darius sent out inspectors known as the “King’s Eyes and Ears.”

Two other tools helped Darius hold together his empire. An excellent system of roads allowed Darius to communicate quickly with the most distant parts of the empire. The famous **Royal Road**, for example, ran from Susa in Persia to Sardis in Anatolia, a distance of 1,677 miles. Darius borrowed the second tool, manufacturing metal coins, from the Lydians of Asia Minor. For the first time, coins of a standard value circulated throughout an extended empire. People no longer had to weigh and measure odd pieces of gold or silver to pay for what they bought. The network roads and the wide use of standardized coins promoted trade. Trade, in turn, helped to hold together the empire.



## The Royal Road

One of the ways in which societies build and maintain empires is by establishing systems of communication and transportation. The Royal Road, built by the rulers of the Persian Empire, connected Susa in Persia to Sardis in Anatolia.

► This four-horse chariot dates from the 6th to 4th centuries B.C. It is the type of vehicle that would have traveled the Royal Road in the time of Darius. The studs on the wheels were designed to help prevent the chariot from slipping.



### A Ride Along the Royal Road



#### The Road

The road was 1,677 miles in length. There were 111 post or relay stations spaced about 15 miles apart along the road. Other roads branched off the main road to distant parts of the empire.

#### The Ride

Relay stations were equipped with fresh horses for the king's messengers. Royal messengers could cover the length of the Royal Road in seven days. Normal travel time along the road was longer. A caravan, for example, might take three months to travel the whole distance.

### Patterns of Interaction video series

*Building Empires: The Rise of the Persians and the Inca*

Strong road networks like the Royal Road enabled empires to expand and maintain control over people and places. Like the Persians, the Inca of South America created a road system thousands of miles long. These roads allowed the Inca to extend their rule over as many as 16 million people. Empires throughout history have shared characteristics such as efficient communication systems, effective leaders, and powerful armies.

### Connect to Today

- 1. Recognizing Effects** How would the Royal Road enable a ruler to maintain power in the empire?  
See Skillbuilder Handbook, Page R6.
- 2. Comparing** What systems of communication and transportation today might be compared to the Royal Road of the Persians?

## The Persian Legacy

By the time of Darius's rule, about 2,500 years had passed since the first Sumerian city-states had been built. During those years, people of the Fertile Crescent had endured war, conquest, and famine. These events gave rise to a basic question: Why should so much suffering and chaos exist in the world? A Persian prophet named **Zoroaster** (ZAWR•oh•AS•tuhr), who lived around 600 B.C., offered an answer.

**Zoroaster's Teachings** Zoroaster taught that the earth is a battleground where a great struggle is fought between the spirit of good and the spirit of evil. Each person, Zoroaster preached, is expected to take part in this struggle. The Zoroastrian religion teaches a belief in one god, Ahura Mazda (ah•HUR•uh MAZ•duh). At the end of time, Ahura Mazda will judge everyone according to how well he or she fought the battle for good. Traces of Zoroastrianism—such as the concept of Satan and a belief in angels—can be found in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.

After the Muslim conquest of Persia in the A.D. 600s, the Zoroastrian religion declined. Some groups carried the faith eastward to India. Zoroastrianism also was an important influence in the development of Manichaeism (MAN•ih•KEE•IHZ•uhm), a religious system that competed with early Christianity for believers. The followers of Mithra, a Zoroastrian god, spread westward to become a popular religion among the military legions in the Roman Empire. Today, modern Zoroastrians continue to observe the religion's traditions in several countries including Iran and India, where its followers are called Parsis. **B**

**Political Order** Through their tolerance and good government, the Persians brought political order to Southwest Asia. They preserved ideas from earlier civilizations and found new ways to live and rule. Their respect for other cultures helped to preserve those cultures for the future. The powerful dynasty Cyrus established in Persia lasted 200 years and grew into a huge empire. As you will learn in Section 4, great empires also arose in China and dominated that region.

### MAIN IDEA

#### Comparing

**B** What ideas and world view did Zoroastrianism share with other religions?

### SECTION

## 3

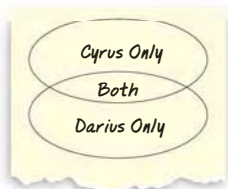
### ASSESSMENT

**TERMS & NAMES** 1. For each term or name, write a sentence explaining its significance.

- Cyrus
- Cambyses
- Darius
- satrap
- Royal Road
- Zoroaster

#### USING YOUR NOTES

2. Which of the differences between Cyrus and Darius do you consider most important? Why?



#### MAIN IDEAS

3. How did Cyrus treat the peoples he conquered?
4. What methods and tools did Darius use to hold together his empire?
5. What did Zoroaster teach?

#### CRITICAL THINKING & WRITING

6. **MAKING INFERENCES** What do the words that appeared on Cyrus's tomb suggest about his character?
7. **DRAWING CONCLUSIONS** How did the Royal Road help Darius maintain control over his people?
8. **DEVELOPING HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE** What events led to the development of Zoroastrianism?
9. **WRITING ACTIVITY** **EMPIRE BUILDING** Write an **expository essay** explaining how Darius's methods of administration gave stability to the Persian Empire. In your essay, consider such topics as the structure of the empire, the policy of tolerance, and the role of the satrap.

#### INTEGRATED TECHNOLOGY INTERNET ACTIVITY

Use the Internet to find information on modern Zoroastrianism. Create a **chart** to present your findings.

**INTERNET KEYWORD**  
Zoroastrianism



# The Unification of China

## MAIN IDEA

**RELIGIOUS AND ETHICAL SYSTEMS** The social disorder of the warring states contributed to the development of three Chinese ethical systems.

## WHY IT MATTERS NOW

The people, events, and ideas that shaped China’s early history continue to influence China’s role in today’s world.

## TERMS & NAMES

- Confucius
- filial piety
- bureaucracy
- Daoism
- Legalism
- *I Ching*
- yin and yang
- Qin Dynasty
- Shi Huangdi
- autocracy

**SETTING THE STAGE** The Zhou Dynasty, as you read in Chapter 2, lasted for at least eight centuries, from approximately 1027 to 256 B.C. For the first 300 years of their long reign, the Zhou kings controlled a large empire, including both eastern and western lands. Local rulers reported to the king, who had the ultimate power. By the latter years of the Zhou Dynasty, the lords of dependent territories began to think of themselves as independent kings. Their almost constant conflict, which is known as “the warring states period,” led to the decline of the Zhou Dynasty.

### TAKING NOTES

#### Recognizing Effects

Use a web to indicate how the chaos of the warring states affected the philosophy, politics, and cities of China.



## Confucius and the Social Order

Toward the end of the Zhou Dynasty, China moved away from its ancient values of social order, harmony, and respect for authority. Chinese scholars and philosophers developed different solutions to restore these values.

**Confucius Urges Harmony** China’s most influential scholar was **Confucius** (kuhn•FYOO•shuhs). Born in 551 B.C., Confucius lived in a time when the Zhou Dynasty was in decline. He led a scholarly life, studying and teaching history, music, and moral character.

Confucius was born at a time of crisis and violence in China. He had a deep desire to restore the order and moral living of earlier times to his society. Confucius believed that social order, harmony, and good government could be restored in China if society were organized around five basic relationships. These were the relationships between: (1) ruler and subject, (2) father and son, (3) husband and wife, (4) older brother and younger brother, and (5) friend and friend. A code of proper conduct regulated each of these relationships. For example, rulers should practice kindness and virtuous living. In return, subjects should be loyal and law-abiding.

Three of Confucius’s five relationships were based upon the family. Confucius stressed that children should practice **filial piety**, or respect for their parents and ancestors. Filial piety, according to Confucius, meant devoting oneself to one’s parents during their lifetimes. It also required honoring their memories after death through the performance of certain rituals.

In the following passage, Confucius—the “Master”—expresses his thoughts on the concept:

#### PRIMARY SOURCE

Ziyou [a disciple of Confucius] asked about filial piety. The Master said: “Nowadays people think they are dutiful sons when they feed their parents. Yet they also feed their dogs and horses. Unless there is respect, where is the difference?”

**CONFUCIUS**, *Analects* 2.7

Confucius wanted to reform Chinese society by showing rulers how to govern wisely. Impressed by Confucius’s wisdom, the duke of Lu appointed him minister of justice. According to legend, Confucius so overwhelmed people by his kindness and courtesy that almost overnight, crime vanished from Lu. When the duke’s ways changed, however, Confucius became disillusioned and resigned.

Confucius spent the remainder of his life teaching. His students later collected his words in a book called the *Analects*. A disciple named Mencius (MEHN•shee•uhs) also spread Confucius’s ideas.

**Confucian Ideas About Government** Confucius said that education could transform a humbly born person into a gentleman. In saying this, he laid the groundwork for the creation of a **bureaucracy**, a trained civil service, or those who run the government. According to Confucius, a gentleman had four virtues: “In his private conduct he was courteous, in serving his master he was punctilious [precise], in providing for the needs of the people he gave them even more than their due; in exacting service from the people, he was just.” Education became critically important to career advancement in the bureaucracy.

Confucianism was never a religion, but it was an ethical system, a system based on accepted principles of right and wrong. It became the foundation for Chinese government and social order. In addition, the ideas of Confucius spread beyond China and influenced civilizations throughout East Asia.

## Other Ethical Systems

In addition to Confucius, other Chinese scholars and philosophers developed ethical systems with very different philosophies. Some stressed the importance of nature, others, the power of government.

**Daoists Seek Harmony** For a Chinese thinker named Laozi (low•dzuh), who may have lived during the sixth century B.C., only the natural order was important. The natural order involves relations among all living things. His book *Dao De Jing* (*The Way of Virtue*) expressed Laozi’s belief. He said that a universal force called the Dao (dow), meaning “the Way,” guides all things. Of all the creatures of nature,

## History Makers



### Confucius 551–479 B.C.

Confucius was born to a poor family. As an adult, he earned his living as a teacher. But he longed to put his principles into action by advising political leaders. Finally, at around age 50, Confucius won a

post as minister in his home state. According to legend, he set such a virtuous example that a purse lying in the middle of the street would be untouched for days.

After Confucius resigned his post as minister, he returned to teaching. He considered himself a failure because he had never held high office. Yet Confucius’s ideas have molded Chinese thought for centuries.



### Laozi sixth century B.C.

Although a person named Laozi is credited with being the first philosopher of Daoism, no one knows for sure whether he really existed. Legend has it that Laozi’s mother carried him in her womb for 62 years

and that he was born with white hair and wrinkled skin. Laozi’s followers claimed that he was a contemporary of Confucius.

Unlike Confucius, however, Laozi believed that government should do as little as possible and leave the people alone. Laozi thought that people could do little to influence the outcome of events. Daoism offered communion with nature as an alternative to political chaos.

#### INTEGRATED TECHNOLOGY

**RESEARCH LINKS** For more on Confucius and Laozi, go to **classzone.com**

#### Vocabulary

**legend:** a story handed down from earlier times, especially one believed to be historical

according to Laozi, only humans fail to follow the Dao. They argue about questions of right and wrong, good manners or bad. According to Laozi, such arguments are pointless. In the following, he explains the wisdom of the Dao:

**PRIMARY SOURCE** A

The Dao never does anything,  
yet through it all things are done.

If powerful men and women  
could center themselves in it,  
the whole world would be transformed  
by itself, in its natural rhythms.  
People would be content  
with their simple, everyday lives, in harmony, and free of desire.

When there is no desire,  
all things are at peace.

LAOZI, *Dao De Jing*, Passage 37

**MAIN IDEA**

**Analyzing Primary Sources**

A What do you think is the Daoist attitude toward being a powerful person?

The philosophy of Laozi came to be known as **Daoism**. Its search for knowledge and understanding of nature led Daoism’s followers to pursue scientific studies. Daoists made many important contributions to the sciences of alchemy, astronomy, and medicine.

**Legalists Urge Harsh Rule** In sharp contrast to the followers of Confucius and Laozi was a group of practical political thinkers called the Legalists. They believed that a highly efficient and powerful government was the key to restoring order in society. They got their name from their belief that government should use the law to end civil disorder and restore harmony. Hanfeizi and Li Si were among the founders of **Legalism**.

The Legalists taught that a ruler should provide rich rewards for people who carried out their duties well. Likewise, the disobedient should be harshly punished. In practice, the Legalists stressed punishment more than rewards. For example, anyone caught outside his own village without a travel permit should have his ears or nose chopped off.

The Legalists believed in controlling ideas as well as actions. They suggested that a ruler burn all writings that might encourage people to criticize government.

Chinese Ethical Systems		
Confucianism	Daoism	Legalism
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social order, harmony, and good government should be based on family relationships.</li> <li>• Respect for parents and elders is important to a well-ordered society.</li> <li>• Education is important both to the welfare of the individual and to society.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The natural order is more important than the social order.</li> <li>• A universal force guides all things.</li> <li>• Human beings should live simply and in harmony with nature.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A highly efficient and powerful government is the key to social order.</li> <li>• Punishments are useful to maintain social order.</li> <li>• Thinkers and their ideas should be strictly controlled by the government.</li> </ul>
<p><b>SKILLBUILDER: Interpreting Charts</b></p> <p>1. <b>Comparing</b> Which of these three systems stresses the importance of government and a well-ordered society?</p> <p>2. <b>Synthesizing</b> Which of these systems seems to be most moderate and balanced? Explain.</p>		

**MAIN IDEA****Summarizing**

**B** How did the Legalists think that a society could be made to run well?

After all, it was for the prince to govern and the people to obey. Eventually, Legalist ideas gained favor with a prince of a new dynasty that replaced the Zhou. That powerful ruler soon brought order to China. **B**

**I Ching and Yin and Yang** People with little interest in the philosophical debates of the Confucians, Daoists, and Legalists found answers to life's questions elsewhere. Some consulted a book of oracles called **I Ching** (also spelled *Yi Jing*) to solve ethical or practical problems. Readers used the book by throwing a set of coins, interpreting the results, and then reading the appropriate oracle, or prediction. The *I Ching* (*The Book of Changes*) helped people to lead a happy life by offering good advice and simple common sense.

Other people turned to the ideas of ancient thinkers, such as the concept of **yin and yang**—two powers that together represented the natural rhythms of life. Yin represents all that is cold, dark, soft, and mysterious. Yang is the opposite—warm, bright, hard, and clear. The symbol of yin and yang is a circle divided into halves, as shown in the emblem to the upper right. The circle represents the harmony of yin and yang. Both forces represent the rhythm of the universe and complement each other. Both the *I Ching* and yin and yang helped Chinese people understand how they fit into the world.



▲ Traditional yin-and-yang symbol

## The Qin Dynasty Unifies China

In the third century B.C., the **Qin Dynasty** (chihn) replaced the Zhou Dynasty. It emerged from the western state of Qin. The ruler who founded the Qin Dynasty employed Legalist ideas to subdue the warring states and unify his country.

**A New Emperor Takes Control** In 221 B.C., after ruling for over 20 years, the Qin ruler assumed the name **Shi Huangdi** (shihwahnge•dee), which means “First Emperor.” The new emperor had begun his reign by halting the internal battles that had sapped China's strength. Next he turned his attention to defeating invaders and crushing resistance within China to his rule. Shi Huangdi's armies attacked the invaders north of the Huang He and south as far as what is now Vietnam. His victories doubled China's size. Shi Huangdi was determined to unify China.

Shi Huangdi acted decisively to crush political opposition at home. To destroy the power of rival warlords, he introduced a policy called “strengthening the trunk and weakening the branches.” He commanded all the noble families to live in the capital city under his suspicious gaze. This policy, according to tradition, uprooted 120,000 noble families. Seizing their land, the emperor carved China into 36 administrative districts. He sent Qin officials to control them.

To prevent criticism, Shi Huangdi and his prime minister, the Legalist philosopher Li Su, murdered hundreds of Confucian scholars. They also ordered “useless” books burned. These books were the works of Confucian thinkers and poets who disagreed with the Legalists. Practical books about medicine and farming, however, were spared. Through measures

▼ Although a tyrant, Shi Huangdi is considered the founder of unified China. The word *Qin* is the origin of *China*.

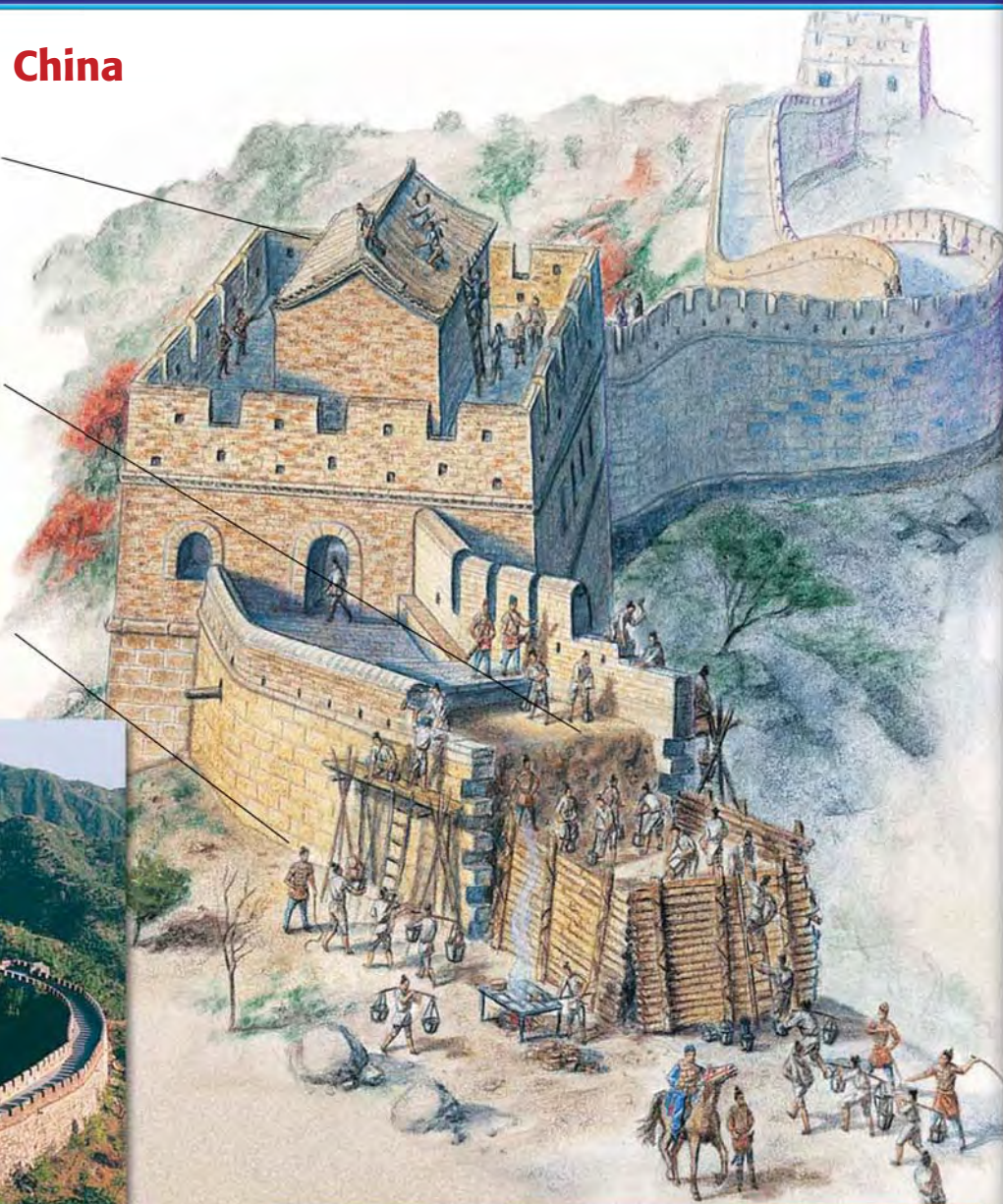


## The Great Wall of China

From the Yellow Sea in the east to the Gobi Desert in the west, the Great Wall twisted like a dragon's tail for thousands of miles. Watch towers rose every 200 to 300 yards along the wall.

In the time of Shi Huangdi, hundreds of thousands of peasants collected, hauled, and dumped millions of tons of stone, dirt, and rubble to fill the core of the Great Wall.

Slabs of cut stone on the outside of the wall enclosed a heap of pebbles and rubble on the inside. Each section of the wall rose to a height of 20 to 25 feet.



Although Shi Huangdi built the earliest unified wall, the wall as it exists today dates from the later Ming Dynasty (1368–1644).

The Qin Dynasty, 221–202 B.C.



### SKILLBUILDER: Interpreting Visual Sources

- 1. Making Inferences** What were the benefits of the watch towers along the wall?
- 2. Drawing Conclusions** What modern structures serve the same purpose as the watch towers?

such as these, Shi Huangdi established an **autocracy**—a government that has unlimited power and uses it in an arbitrary manner.

**A Program of Centralization** Shi Huangdi's sweeping program of centralization included the building of a highway network of more than 4,000 miles. Also, he set the same standards throughout China for writing, law, currency, and weights and measures—even down to the length of cart axles. This last standard made sure that all vehicles could fit into the ruts of China's main roads.

Under Shi Huangdi's rule, irrigation projects increased farm production. Trade blossomed, thanks to the new road system. Trade pushed a new class of merchants into prominence. Despite these social advances, harsh taxes and repressive government made the Qin regime unpopular. Shi Huangdi had unified China at the expense of human freedom. **C**

**Great Wall of China** Scholars hated Shi Huangdi for his book burning. Poor people hated him because they were forced to work on the building of a huge defensive wall. Earlier, Zhou rulers had erected smaller walls to discourage attacks by northern nomads. Shi Huangdi determined to close the gaps and extend the wall almost the length of the empire's border. Enemies would have to gallop halfway to Tibet to get around it.

The Great Wall of China arose on the backs of hundreds of thousands of peasants. The wall builders worked neither for wages nor for love of empire. They faced a terrible choice: work on the wall or die. Many of the laborers worked on the wall and died anyway, victims of the crushing labor or the harsh winter weather.

**The Fall of the Qin** The Qin Dynasty lasted only a short time. Though fully as cruel as his father, Shi Huangdi's son proved less able. Peasants rebelled just three years after the second Qin emperor took office. One of their leaders, a peasant from the land of Han, marched his troops into the capital city. By 202 B.C., the harsh Qin Dynasty gave way to the Han Dynasty, one of the longest in Chinese history.

While the Chinese explored the best ways to govern, ancient Greece also was experimenting with different forms of government, as you will read in Chapter 5.

**MAIN IDEA**  
**Recognizing Effects**

**C** What were the positive and negative effects of Shi Huangdi's rule?

**SECTION 4 ASSESSMENT**

**TERMS & NAMES** 1. For each term or name, write a sentence explaining its significance.  
• Confucius • filial piety • bureaucracy • Daoism • Legalism • *I Ching* • yin and yang • Qin Dynasty • Shi Huangdi • autocracy

**USING YOUR NOTES**  
2. Which aspect of Chinese life was most affected by the chaos created by the warring states?



**MAIN IDEAS**  
3. How did Confucius believe that social order, harmony, and good government could be restored in China?  
4. What did the Legalists see as the key to restoring order?  
5. What measures did Shi Huangdi take to crush political opposition at home?

**CRITICAL THINKING & WRITING**  
6. **HYPOTHESIZING** How would followers of the three philosophical traditions in China react to the idea that "all men are created equal"?  
7. **ANALYZING CAUSES** Why did Shi Huangdi have his critics murdered?  
8. **MAKING INFERENCES** Would a ruler who followed Confucian or Daoist ideas have built the Great Wall? Why or why not?  
9. **WRITING ACTIVITY** **RELIGIOUS AND ETHICAL SYSTEMS**  
Write a **comparison-contrast paragraph** in which you discuss the three Chinese ethical systems.

**CONNECT TO TODAY** **PREPARING AN ORAL REPORT**  
Research to find out about the Great Wall today. Prepare an **oral report** in which you explain what the Great Wall looks like today and what it is used for.



# Chapter 4 Assessment

## TERMS & NAMES

For each term or name below, briefly explain its connection to the history of the first age of empires between 1570 and 200 B.C.

1. Ramses II
2. Kush
3. Assyria
4. Ashurbanipal
5. Cyrus
6. Royal Road
7. Zoroaster
8. Confucius
9. Daoism
10. Shi Huangdi

## MAIN IDEAS

### The Egyptian and Nubian Empires Section 1 (pages 89–94)

11. How did the Kushites treat Egyptian culture after they conquered Egypt?
12. When did Kush experience a golden age?

### The Assyrian Empire Section 2 (pages 95–98)

13. How did Assyria acquire its empire?
14. What were the positive achievements of the Assyrian Empire?

### The Persian Empire Section 3 (pages 99–103)

15. What is Cyrus's enduring legacy?
16. How far did Darius extend the Persian Empire?

### The Unification of China Section 4 (pages 104–109)

17. Around what five basic relationships did Confucius believe society should be organized?
18. Why did Shi Huangdi have the Great Wall built?

## CRITICAL THINKING

### 1. USING YOUR NOTES

#### EMPIRE BUILDING

Create a table and list the successes and failures of the leaders discussed in this chapter.

Leader	Successes	Failures
Thutmose III		
Sennacherib		
Cyrus		

### 2. DRAWING CONCLUSIONS

#### RELIGIOUS AND ETHICAL SYSTEMS

Religious and ethical systems in Persia and China arose in response to what similar conditions?

### 3. DEVELOPING HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

How have Cyrus's and Sennacherib's contrasting ruling styles probably affected their legacies?

### 4. RECOGNIZING EFFECTS

#### CULTURAL INTERACTION

What positive results occur when cultures interact? What negative results might there be?

### 5. SYNTHESIZING

What similar purpose was served by the Persians' Royal Road and by the Great Wall of China?

## VISUAL SUMMARY

### First Age of Empires

#### EMPIRE BUILDING

#### Egypt 1570–1075 B.C.

- Pharaohs set up a professional army.
- Pharaohs invaded territories in Africa and Southwest Asia.
- Egypt drew vast wealth from the lands it controlled.

#### Nubia 751 B.C.–A.D. 350

- Nubia and Egypt interacted and spread their culture through trade.
- The kings of Nubia conquered Egypt and maintained the Egyptian way of life.
- Nubia established trade among Africa, Arabia, and India.

#### Assyria 850–612 B.C.

- Assyria used a sophisticated military organization to conquer an empire.
- The empire engaged in brutal treatment of its conquered peoples.
- Kings used harsh taxes to control conquered peoples.

#### Persia 550–330 B.C.

- Persian kings were tolerant.
- Kings permitted a high degree of local self-government.
- The empire was divided into 20 provinces.

#### China 221–202 B.C.

- Ethical systems laid the groundwork for a strong central government.
- The Qin Dynasty defeated invaders, crushed internal resistance, and united China.
- China initiated a sweeping program of centralization.

## STANDARDS-BASED ASSESSMENT

Use the quotation and your knowledge of world history to answer questions 1 and 2.

**Additional Test Practice, pp. S1–S33**

### PRIMARY SOURCE

Guide the people with governmental measures and control or regulate them by the threat of punishment, and the people will try to keep out of jail, but will have no sense of honor or shame. Guide the people by virtue and control or regulate them by *li* [moral rules and customs], and the people will have a sense of honor and respect.

**CONFUCIUS, *Analects* 2.3**

- Which phrase best describes Confucius's belief about human nature and lawful behavior?
  - People are naturally moral and can control their behavior on their own.
  - People are best controlled by fear.
  - People learn good behavior by example.
  - People cannot be controlled by any means.
- Which of the following rulers might have held a similar belief?
  - Shi Huangdi
  - Cyrus
  - King Ashurbanipal
  - Ramses II

Use the relief below depicting King Ashurbanipal and his queen at a garden party and your knowledge of world history to answer question 3.



- What characteristic of the Assyrians does this relief seem to reflect?
  - their love of luxury
  - their military might
  - their administrative organization
  - their love of learning

### INTEGRATED TECHNOLOGY

**TEST PRACTICE** Go to [classzone.com](http://classzone.com)

- Diagnostic tests
- Strategies
- Tutorials
- Additional practice

## ALTERNATIVE ASSESSMENT

### 1. Interact *with* History

Recall your discussion of the question on page 88: "How will the empire help you or harm you?" You thought about the advantages and disadvantages of empire before studying the rise of the first great empires. Now that you've read the chapter, rethink the advantages and disadvantages of empire. Discuss the following questions with a small group:

- Do empires benefit conquered peoples?
- Do empires impose penalties on those they conquer?
- Which outweighs the other—the benefits or the penalties?

### 2. WRITING ABOUT HISTORY

Study page 108, which deals with the Great Wall of China. Imagine that you are one of the workers who built the Great Wall. Write three **journal entries** describing the following:

- the work you carry out on the Great Wall
- your experiences
- your impressions

### INTEGRATED TECHNOLOGY

#### Creating a Web Site

Create a Web site on the first empires for a museum exhibit. Choose one of these empires to research: Assyria, Kush, Persia, or Qin. Consider including:

- art, artifacts, and maps
- a description of the empire with dates, location, and rulers
- information on major events and conflicts
- the rise and fall of the empire
- a discussion of the empire's legacy
- a list of Web sites used in your research