

## Ancient Mesopotamia (Babylonian Empire, 1,800 - 529 B.C.)

### A Short History



The Babylonian Empire rose to power around 1,800 B.C. The empire was located in a region called Mesopotamia. Mesopotamia was an ancient region in the Middle East and was located in today's Iraq, Syria, and Turkey. Babylon had been a city-state in Mesopotamia for a long time. The city became more powerful when **King Hammurabi** seized power. He wanted to rule much more than the city itself and conquered large parts of Mesopotamia.

In 1595 B.C., the Babylonian Empire was defeated by the **Kassites**. They ruled Mesopotamia for 400 years. Following this, the **Assyrians** seized power over Mesopotamia. In 612 B.C., the Babylonians took

control over the region again. The second part of the empire came to be known as the Neo-Babylonian Empire. **King Nebuchadnezzar II** was one of the most successful kings of the new empire. He was a strong military leader and greatly expanded the territory of the region.

Babylon was the economic and cultural center of the empire. It was home to the large temples and flourished in arts, science, music, and mathematics. **The Hanging Gardens** of Babylon were probably the most famous structure in the city. They consisted of many terraces, which were covered with all kinds of trees and plants. The gardens are considered to be one of the Ancient Wonders of the World. Unfortunately, these were destroyed by erosion and wars.



The empire began to decline after Nebuchadnezzar II died in 529 B.C. The Babylonians were defeated by the Persian Empire.



### Code of Hammurabi

Hammurabi was tired of people changing the laws whenever they wanted an advantage, so Hammurabi did something no one before him had ever done. He had all 282 laws written down on stone and clay tablets. To learn more about Hammurabi's brutal approach to justice, go to this link: <http://bit.ly/2b4ztj0>

## Learning Standard(s)

1. I can use inferences to identify the key characteristics of physical environments that affected the development of ancient civilizations.
  - **Inference** is using facts, observations, and logic or reasoning to come to an assumption or conclusion. It is NOT stating the obvious...
    - o *Stating the obvious:* that girl is wearing a fancy dress and carrying a bouquet of flowers
    - o *Inference:* that girl is a flower girl in a wedding
  - It is NOT a prediction, but they are related
2. I can gather and interpret information about how humans adapted to their physical environment in ancient civilizations.

## Essential Question

➔ **How did geography, climate, and other natural factors affect human life in Ancient Mesopotamia?**

- **Geography:** water resources, fertile land, natural resources, defensibility (mountain ranges, oceans, rivers, deserts)
- **Climate:** the weather, hot or cold temperatures, little or plenty of rainfall
- **Natural factors:** earthquakes, tsunamis, volcanic activity, unsustainable human practices that destroyed the land

## Activity

- ➔ After answering the essential question, you should have a good idea about how important geography, climate, and natural factors are in shaping every day life. You should know the good factors that make things easier (*ideal environment*) and the bad factors that make things more difficult for a civilization to grow.
- ➔ **Draw, colour, and label a fake map of an “ideal environment” for your civilization to grow and thrive. Give your civilization a name!**
  - What will the geography look like? Where will your city be located? What will the weather be like? Will it be in a desert or surrounded by mountains?

**Online Resources:** go to [www.madamedy.weebly.com](http://www.madamedy.weebly.com); under “BC GRADE 7,” hover over “Social Studies” then click on “**Ancient Civilizations Links**”



# An Ideal Environment: Ancient

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STATION **1**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

# Examples of Maps

