

History of Ancient Empires

WARS / CRUSADERS



Sumerian phalanx formation on fragment of victory stele

Archery: The Assyrians and Babylonians extensively used the bow and arrow; the Old Testament has multiple references to archery as a skill identified with the ancient Hebrews.

1728-1686: Hammurabi

1531: Looting and burning of Babylon by the king of the Hittites, Mursilis I.

1480: Battle of Meggido

1275 BC: Battle of Kadesh

1200 BC: Reign of Sea Peoples

CULTURE / RELIGION

- "Cradle of civilization" - transition from hunting and gathering communities to agriculture and settlement.
- First pottery
- Tribal families settle down in villages



Pottery of Halaf

- Climatic change, water gets more important
- Humid areas near rivers (Euphrat, Tigris, Nile) get important for the development of high crops
- Cities as new centers of trade
- Nucleus of cultural identity
- Social stratification and decreasing egalitarianism



Wheel: A depiction of ox-drawn carts on the Sumerian "battle standard of Ur" (circa 2500 BC)

- Egypt: Animal gods and solar deity
- Akkadian empire: Saragon I. is political ruler and also head of religious figure
- Assur: chief deity of the city, name of city and empire



Codex Hammurabi: Talion law code, "Eye for an eye": For example, if a person caused the death of another person's child, the killer's own child would be put to death



Battle of Kadesh. The Battle of Kadesh took place between the forces of the Egyptian Empire under Ramesses II and the Hittite Empire under Muwatalli II at the city of Kadesh. (1275 BC)

SCIENCE / TECHNOLOGY

- Neolithic Revolution, origin of agriculture
- Storage of crops, nomads start to settle down
- Domestication of plants and animals
- Use of copper



Sumerian clay sickle

- First irrigation systems
- Development of high crops
- Protective structures: embankments, ditches, drainage
- Invention of the wheel ca. 3600 BC
- Cuneiform script (Keilschrift)



Cuneiform script

- Bronze Age: use of bronze for tools and weapons
- Egyptians: use of Hieroglyphics
- Calendar system using 365 days, beginning mid of July (Nile flood)

- Mercenary: Pharaoh Rameses II used 11,000 mercenaries during his battles
- New weapon technologies and the use of horse carts in wars

Hammurabi (1728-1686)

- Centralized government
- Taxation
- Give the region stability

Akhenaten, Pharaoh of the Eighteenth dynasty of Egypt (1353-1334). He is especially noted for abandoning traditional Egyptian polytheism and introducing worship centered on the Aton, the god of all Egyptian gods.



CITIES

- Jericho (between 8'000 and 6'000 BC), in the Hebrew Bible as the "City of Palm Trees", was a pre-stage of city states

Catalhöyük



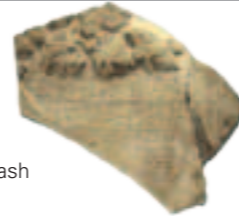
Uruk



Ur



Lagash



Egyptian Pyramid age

- Egypt: Memphis as political Center
- Assur: capital of Assyria
- Old Babylon: largest city in the world
- Washukanni: capital of the Hurrian kingdom

PEOPLE / EMPIRES

Ancient Greece: Helladic Period (2500-1600)

Mycenaean Greece (1600-1150)

Hittites Kingdom (1640-1200)

Sumer (3200-2350)

Akkad (2350-1950)

Babylon (1728-1530)

Mittani empire (1450 - 1350)

Babylonian Kassites (1531 - 1155)

Fertile Crescent

Early agricultures in Mesopotamia / Europe

Old Assyrian Kingdom (1800-1375)

Middle Assyrian Period (1375-1047)

Palestine I (1500-567)

Ancient Egypt: Old Kingdom (2850-2052)

Middle Kingdom (2052-1570)

New Kingdom (1570-715)

neolithic period

bronze age

Iron age

10'000 BC

5'000 BC

2'500 BC

1'500 BC

1'000 BC

