V. Assyrians

1. Read the article and answer the questions.

The Fall of Babylonia

The Babylonians had dangerous courses, particularly the Hittites from the north They discovered how to get fire but enough to melt iron. This gave them from weapons. The Hitties calculate that yion in 1595 BC, but they were driven our later.

In the Fig.'s Valley around a city Assur a warlike people Assyrians lived and they destroyed the first Habylonian state.

The Assyrant were the most cruel proper of the antient times. Their foot-soldiers and norsemen, often using charlots captured town after town in Mesopotamia and showed no mercy to their captures. Rivid kings were blanded and then burned alive. Men, women and children were beheaded or crucified, flayed alive or turn limb from limb. Even the land was sometimes poisened so that it could not produce crops.

At first the rulers of Babylonk tried to be friendly with the Assyrians and help them in their wars. Then in 689 BC the Assyrians turned against them. The Assyrian sing, Sonnacherth, besieged Babylon for nine months with a large army when finally be broke it.

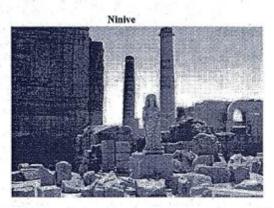
- > What did the Hittites become well-known for ?
- > Describe how cruel the Assyrians were to their captives.
- > Who and when destroyed the first Babylonian state?

3. Read the article and answer the questions.

The Glories of Nineve

There was a more pleasant side to Assyrians rulers. Sennacherib, for example, was very late extent in fairning and engineering. His capital and the greatest art y of Assyria. Nineve, got its water from a 300-metre lang aquaduct. He also introduced corton-growing to Assyria. Another Assyrian conqueror, Assurbanipal improved the army and under his rule the Assyrian Empire reached its greatest extent around 650 BC. He was also interested in education. He collected a fibrary of 22 000 clay tablets written in concitorin. Some of those clay tablets rold the stories of the Creation of the World and the Great Flood. Others were about medicine, science and mathematics. Assurbanipal could hold this large empire together, but his successors could not. The crucities of Assyrian rule provoked revolt after revolt, in 616 BC, the Babylonians to the forces with the Medes and together attacked the Assyrians. Nineve was captured and destroyed by fire in 612 BC. The fire caused that the clay tablets in Assurbanipal's library were backed hard and so survived to be read in recent times. There years later, all Assyria had been captured and never again appeared as an independent power.

- > What achievements did the Assyrian kings reach?
- > Thanks to what do we know more about the Assyrian Empire?



VI. The Second Bybylonian Empire

1. Read the following article and answer the questions.

The Glory of Babylon

After defeating the Assyrians, the Banylonians and Modes split the Assyrian Empire. The Modes took the regist and east and the Banylonians the south and west. For nearly, two thousand years Banylon and been an important city, and especially the reign of king Nehnehadnezar was the most plantous mass listory.

Bubylon stood on the Euphrates where the main made routes of the authority world met. Bubylonian suips traded down the river and along the coast of Arabia and India. Merchant curavars reached deep Persia and Asia Muser. Banylon was a busy centre of trade and commerce.

Bubblen was also a great centre of learning and religion. The pricess seemed to be interested in astronomy. Using their temple towers as observatories, they carefully noted the inexements of the mountain of the changes.

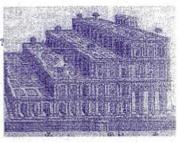
King Nebuchadnezzar was famous for he invaded and conquered Judah, captured and destroyed derivation at took many lews back to Babylon as captives.

During his reign Babylon turned into one of the most beautiful cities in the world. The best description that we have of the city was written by the Greek, Herodotus. The most wenderful part of the city were the famous Hanging Gardens one of the World's. An artificial hill of to race upon terrace was planted with every sort of flower and tree. Water for the p was raised by machinery from the river below. The story goes that Nebuchadnezzar had them made because his new young queen was homesick for the green hills of Persia.

The successors of Nebachadnerzas were not able to protect the empire against the Persians. The Persian king. Cyrus the Great, moved against Babykon after he had conquered the Medes in 549 BC. The last Babykonian king. Nabonidus, was alsoliked by many of his people. So it came as no supprise that Cyrus was greated by cheering crowls waving date ballow which he led his army into Babykon in 539 BC. By 300 BC the main trade routes no longer passed through the city and it began to decay and the buildings turned to rules. The glery of Babykon came again during the reign of Alexander the Great.

- > How was the Assyrian Empire divided after its fall?
- > What was Babylon famous for?
- > Why is the name of the king Nebuchadnezar mentioned in the Bible?
- > What was Herodotus famous for?

- > What is bizzare about the Hanging Gardens?
- > Who was the last Babylonian Emperor?



> Who defeated Babylon, when and why?

