Assessment: Exploring Four Empires of Mesopotamia

Mastering the Content
Select the letter next to the best answer.

1. What was a problem caused by Sumerian city-states’ independence from one another?
   A. They were unable to trade crops with one another.
   B. They did not cooperate to build irrigation systems.
   C. They had very few different natural resources available.
   D. They could not defend themselves against stronger groups. CORRECT

2. The Sumerians were a civilization but not an empire. What feature did the Akkadian, Babylonian, and Assyrian empires have that the Sumerians lacked?
   A. One government ruled several groups. CORRECT
   B. Rulers claimed to get power from the gods.
   C. Many beautiful works of art were produced.
   D. Public works such as irrigation were organized.

3. Which of these leaders of empires came first?
   A. Cyrus
   B. Sargon CORRECT
   C. Hammurabi
   D. Nebuchadnezzar

4. How did the Akkadians get the resources to build up their capital city?
   A. mined precious stones in the mountains
   B. collected tribute from conquered peoples CORRECT
   C. expanded irrigation to grow bigger crops
   D. printed paper money to buy what it needed

5. The Akkadians used stelae to
   A. attack enemy forces.
   B. get water for farming.
   C. record important events. CORRECT
   D. make objects from metal.

6. Which of these did the Akkadians use to gain power over Sumer?
   A. military strategy CORRECT
   B. economic wealth
   C. religious teachings
   D. complex technology
7. For what is Hammurabi best remembered?
   A. a code of laws CORRECT
   B. a style of battle
   C. a hanging garden
   D. a system of canals

8. How was the legal system of Babylon more advanced than that of other societies at that time?
   A. It put an end to slavery.
   B. It used mild punishments.
   C. It gave women some rights. CORRECT
   D. It treated all classes the same.

9. What is the best title for this diagram?
   A. Babylonian Arts
   B. Babylonian Trade CORRECT
   C. Babylonian Products
   D. Babylonian Inventions

10. Which city was the capital of the Assyrian Empire?
    A. Ur
    B. Agad
    C. Babylon
    D. Nineveh CORRECT

11. What was the purpose of Assyrian aqueducts?
    A. to bring water to the city CORRECT
    B. to raise crops in the dry soil
    C. to let boats pass between rivers
    D. to protect the palace from attack

12. The Assyrians use the things on this list mainly to
    
    A. collect taxes.
    B. train soldiers.
    C. destroy crops.
    D. conquer cities. CORRECT

13. Who conquered the land of the Israelites and took many Israelites to Babylon as captives?
    A. Sargon
    B. Marduk
    C. Hammurabi
    D. Nebuchadnezzar CORRECT
14. Why did Nebuchadnezzar build two walls, some towers, and a moat around his capital?
   A. to make farmers stay outside  
   B. to protect the city from attacks  **CORRECT**  
   C. to keep his army from revolting  
   D. to isolate his people from outsiders  

15. The Hanging Gardens of Babylon were a wonder of the ancient world. Where were they planted?
   ![Image of Hanging Gardens of Babylon]  
   A. high on the royal palace  **CORRECT**  
   B. along the irrigation canals  
   C. in the Tigris River marshes  
   D. in front of the imperial prison  

16. A problem that all four Mesopotamian empires had was difficulty in
   A. choosing strong leaders.  
   B. trading with other empires.  
   C. controlling such a large area.  **CORRECT**  
   D. keeping track of their history.
Applying Social Studies Skills

Use the timeline and your knowledge of history to complete the sentences. Write the word or phrase on the line provided.

17. After having been part of a larger empire, the city-states of Mesopotamia may have once again had a period of independence, during approximately the years ____________________ to ____________________.

ANSWER: 2125–2000 B.C.E. (accept any dates that correspond to the period between the Akkadian and the Babylonian empires, as shown on the timeline)

18. A group called the Hittites ruled much of Mesopotamia off and on between 1600 and 1100 B.C.E. The periods of Hittite rule fell between the height of the ____________________ and ____________________ Empires as shown on the timeline.

ANSWER: Students should add the Hittites to the timeline between 1600 and 1100 B.C.E.; Babylonian, Assyrian

19. One battle in a specific year on the timeline marked the end of one empire and the beginning of another. The loser of that battle was the ______________ Empire, and the winner was the ____________________ Empire.

ANSWER: Assyrian; Neo-Babylonian
Exploring the Essential Question: What were the most important achievements of the Mesopotamian empires?

Follow the directions to complete the item below.

20. Below are drawings of four trophies, one for each Mesopotamian empire. At the base of each trophy is a plaque. Fill in the plaque with an important achievement of each empire. Your writing on each plaque should
• be written in one or more complete sentences.
• include the main idea and important details of the achievement.
• show your knowledge of that Mesopotamian empire.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Student completes all four parts of the task. Sentences on plaques are accurate, clearly stated, focused on an important achievement, and supported by details; and demonstrate command of standard English conventions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Student responds to most or all parts of the task, but sentences on plaques may lack details or not be clearly stated.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Student responds to at least one part of the task. Sentences on plaques may contain factual and/or grammatical errors and may lack details.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>