**Sargon of Akkad**

Examining Mesopotamian Empires

From: Sites of Encounter: Empires, Ann Sourn, 2012

**History Standards: 6.2.3**

Understand the relationship between religion and the social and political order in Mesopotamia and Egypt.

**CCSS Standards: Reading, Grade 6-8**

1. Cite specific textual evidence to support analysis of primary and secondary sources.

2. Determine the central ideas or information of a primary or secondary source; provide an accurate summary of the source distinct from prior knowledge or opinions.

4. Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including vocabulary specific to domains related to history/social studies.

**Guiding Question:**

How did Sargon of Akkad rule his empire?

**Overview of Lesson:**

**Context:** Students are already familiar with the Mesopotamian region, previously learning about the Sumerian civilization. This would follow an introduction to the various empires of Mesopotamia so that students understand vocabulary like “Akkad” and “Babylon.”

**Objective:** Students will show understanding of empire by making a bubble map with at least 3 descriptions of empire, using evidence from the primary source text to support their claims.

**Primary Source:** Excerpt from “Chronicles of Early Kings,” often referred to ABC 20 (Assyrian and Babylonian Chronicles) translated by A.K. Grayson and published in 1975, found at http://www.livius.org/cg-cm/chronicles/abc20/kings.html. This reading is attached.

**Product:** Make a bubble map with at least three branches. For each branch, write a description of Sargonʼs rule. Be sure to include evidence from the text to support your claim (include the line number).

**Extension Ideas:** After this thinking map has been made, you could have students do a number of writing activities. For example, students could write a paragraph answering the question: How did Sargon of Akkad rule his empire? You could also have students write a journal from the perspective of a conquered person to describe their experience under Sargonʼs rule.

**Excerpt from “Chronicle of Early Kings”**

**Introduction:** The “Chronicle of Early Kings**”** is a text from ancient Babylonia, an empire that ruled Mesopotamia many years after Sargon. Although it claims to offer information about the oldest period and the Old-Babylonian empire, it was probably written much later. This chronicle was written on the first of two tablets; the line numbering has been added to help modern readers.

*Source: Translation adapted from A.K. Grayson in Assyrian and Babylonian Chronicles published in 1975.*

**1** Sargon, king of Agade [Akkad], came to power during the reign of Ištar and

**2** he had neither rival nor equal. His splendor, over the lands

**3** it diffused [spread]. He crossed the sea in the east.

**4** In the eleventh year he conquered the western land to its farthest point.

**5** He brought it under one authority. He set up his statues there

**6** and ferried the west's booty [treasures] across on barges.

**7** He stationed his court officials at intervals of five double hours and

**8** ruled in unity the tribes of the lands.

**9** He marched to Kazallu and turned Kazallu into a ruin heap,

**10** so that there was not even a perch for a bird left.

**11** Afterwards, in his old age, all of the lands rebelled again and

**12** surrounded him in Agade. Sargon went out to fight and brought about their defeat.

**13** He overthrew them and overpowered their extensive army.

**14** Afterwards, Subartu attacked Sargon in full force and called him to arms.

**15** Sargon set an ambush and completely defeated them.

**16** He overpowered their extensive army

**17** and sent their possessions into Akkad.

**18** He dug up the dirt of the pit of Babylon and

**19** made a counterpart of Babylon next to Agade.

**20** Because the wrong he had done [to Babylon] the great lord Marduk [a Babylonian god] became angry and wiped out his family by famine.

**21** From east to west, the subjects rebelled against him

**22** and Marduk afflicted him with insomnia.