The Akkadians and Ur III
Target

- Identify and describe the leaders, cities, contributions of the Akkadian and Ur-III civilizations
Newcomers to Mesopotamia

- The Akkadians
- Herders who slowly moved into Mesopotamia
- During this time period, people distinguished themselves as either Sumerian or Akkadian
The World’s First Conqueror

- Sargon I
- Common citizen
- Overthrew the ruler of Kish and became King
- Adopted Sumerian weapons (bronze)
- Adopted Sumerian military formations
Sargon I con’t

- 2350 B.C. He and his Akkadian troops conquered the Sumerian city-states
- World’s First Empire
- How did Sargon treat the conquered people?
- Why?
Sargon's grandson

- Naramsin
- Consolidated and expanded the empire
- Sargon was “king of Kish”
- Naramsin was “king of the four quarters of the earth”
- “Stele of Victory” depicted his military victories
The Akkadians

- Mostly non-violent
- The most powerful group in Mesopotamia
- Lived in harmony with the other groups
- Problems did not come about until the Assyrians came on the scene
The Rise of the Akkadians

Factors:

1. Better weapons - Bronze
2. Complex military strategies
3. United the Fertile Crescent
4. Accepted tributes from the Sumerians
   - In return, the Sumerians were allowed to continue their traditions and religions

In the end, the Sumerian’s never resisted Sargon’s rule!
Contributions of the Sumerians

- The Akkadians learned the following from the Sumerians
  - 1. Refinements in Irrigation
  - 2. Sumerian system of writing
  - 3. Adopted Sumerian Language
  - 4. Bronze weapons
  - 5. Military formations
Contributions of the Akkadians

- 1. Taxation (tributes)
- 2. Additions to the Sumerian religion (additional gods, etc.)

But….the Akkadians civilization would eventually disappear.

Why???????
The Third Dynasty of Ur

- In 2200 B.C. the Gutians invaded Mesopotamia
- Fierce, harsh rulers
- 2112 B.C. Ur-Nammu, governor of Ur, revolted
- Succeeded in driving them out
- Established the Third Dynasty of Ur or Ur III (he is listed as the 3rd monarch in the Sumerian list of kings)
Ur-Nammu’s contributions

- The city of Sumer flourishes
- The “Sumerian renaissance”
- Sumer is highly developed and prosperous
Sumer’s contributions

1. Literature was written
2. Ziggurats were repaired
3. More elaborate ziggurats were built
   - Ur-Nammu’s ziggurat to the moon god
Sumer’s contributions con’t

4. primitive code of laws (no records exist)

5. bureaucracy was established
   - He appointed officials to carry out the details of the government

A time of peace existed....until
The End of Ur III

- Ur-Nammu dies
- Kingdom is ruled by three of his successors
- Ur III then faces famine
- Faces invasion by the Amorites
Identify and describe the leaders, cities, contributions of the Akkadian and Ur-III civilizations