Coasts and Kingdoms

Trace how three Southwest Asian societies grew and became connected.

SS24.7.11 "Trace the development and growth of societies in Southwest Asia, including the Assyrians, Phoenicians, and Persian Empire."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB In each paragraph, underline a time clue and circle one action that helped a society extend its reach. Draw arrows between paragraphs to show which later empires gained control of earlier societies' cities or lands.

Who Controlled the Coast?

1. Along the eastern Mediterranean coast, Phoenician cities such as Tyre and Sidon grew after about 1200 BCE. Each city governed itself, but their sailors traveled far for timber, purple dye, and other goods. To reach more markets, Phoenicians set up trading posts around the Mediterranean. Their merchants used an alphabet with symbols for sounds, which made writing trade records simpler than using hundreds of signs. Other peoples adapted this alphabet. Phoenician ships carried goods and ideas across the sea, even as stronger inland kingdoms began demanding tribute from some coastal cities.

2. By the 800s BCE, Assyrian rulers in northern Mesopotamia were building an empire through conquest. Their armies used iron weapons, siege machines, and organized supply lines to take cities across Southwest Asia. Governors collected taxes in conquered lands, while roads and messengers helped kings send orders across long distances. Assyrian kings also forced some conquered people to move, a harsh policy that weakened local resistance. The empire reached the Mediterranean coast and demanded tribute from Phoenician cities. In 612 BCE, enemies captured the Assyrian capital, Nineveh, and the empire soon collapsed.

3. In the 500s BCE, Persian rulers built an empire that stretched across Southwest Asia. Cyrus the Great conquered Babylon in 539 BCE, bringing lands once ruled by Assyria under Persian control. Persian kings divided the empire into provinces run by governors and used roads and messengers to link distant regions. Unlike Assyrian kings, Persian rulers often let subject peoples keep local religions and customs, though they still collected taxes. Phoenician coastal cities became part of the empire and supplied ships for Persian fleets.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did Phoenician trading posts and their alphabet help Phoenician influence spread?

2. How did Assyria's growth change the relationship between its rulers and Phoenician cities?

3. What was one way both Assyrian and Persian rulers controlled large territories, and what was one difference in their methods?

4. After Assyria fell, how did the Persian Empire bring former Assyrian lands and Phoenician cities into one state?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine a museum display with three objects: a Phoenician trade record, an Assyrian tribute order, and a Persian governor's message. Write a five-sentence label that connects the objects in time, explains how each society extended its reach, and describes one change in rule.

ANSWER KEY

Coasts and Kingdoms

GRADE 7 · SS24.7.11

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

In each paragraph, underline a time clue and circle one action that helped a society extend its reach. Draw arrows between paragraphs to show which later empires gained control of earlier societies' cities or lands. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did Phoenician trading posts and their alphabet help Phoenician influence spread?	**Trading posts helped Phoenicians reach more markets, and other peoples adapted the alphabet used by their merchants.**
2	How did Assyria's growth change the relationship between its rulers and Phoenician cities?	**Assyrian conquests reached the Mediterranean coast, and Assyrian rulers demanded tribute from Phoenician cities.**
3	What was one way both Assyrian and Persian rulers controlled large territories, and what was one difference in their methods?	**Both used governors and collected taxes. Assyrian kings forced some conquered people to move, while Persian rulers often allowed subject peoples to keep local customs.**
4	After Assyria fell, how did the Persian Empire bring former Assyrian lands and Phoenician cities into one state?	**Persia gained lands once ruled by Assyria after Cyrus conquered Babylon. Phoenician cities became part of the Persian Empire and supplied ships for its fleets.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A Phoenician trade record represents coastal cities whose sailors built trading posts after about 1200 BCE. An Assyrian tribute order shows how conquest later brought Phoenician cities under an inland empire. Assyrian rulers used armies and governors to expand and control their lands. A Persian governor's message represents the empire that gained former Assyrian lands and received ships from Phoenician cities. Persian governors still collected taxes, but Persian rulers often allowed local customs, while Assyrian kings had forced some conquered people to move.

Accept other accurate methods of expansion and control from the passage. The museum label should connect all three societies in time and identify a supported change in rule.