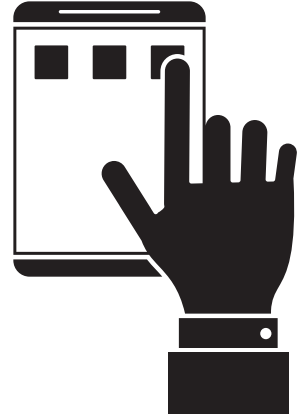


Name: _____

The First Emperor of Mesopotamia

App developers create and test apps that people can use on their phones, computers, and tablets. App developers are highly skilled in coding, which is a type of computer language that tells a computer what to do. They use computer programming languages, such as Python and Java, to create different apps.



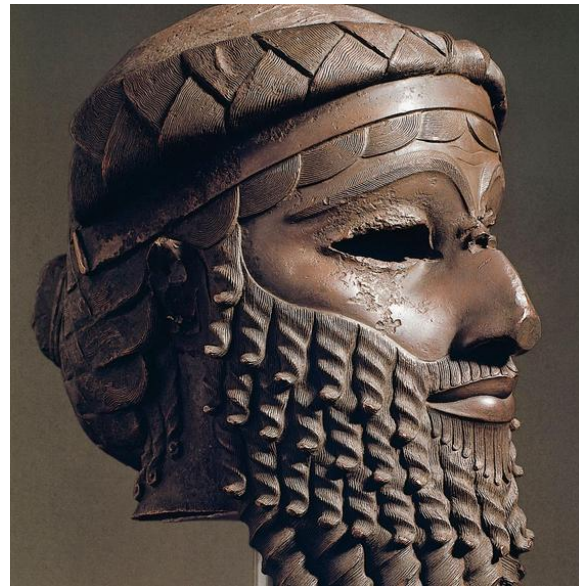
Today, you will imagine you are an app developer who is creating a new app to teach people about Sargon the Great, the first emperor in Mesopotamia. Follow the steps below.

Step 1: Learn about Mesopotamia

Mesopotamia is known as the world's oldest civilization, as well as the world's first empire. An empire is a group of states or countries that are governed by a single ruler, such as an emperor. The first emperor in Mesopotamia was Sargon the Great. The Mesopotamians told epic tales of Sargon's great leadership and ability to build a large empire by conquering surrounding cities and land.

Read about Sargon the Great below. Then, answer the questions.

Before Sargon's reign, the northern and southern parts of Mesopotamia were divided. The northern parts of Mesopotamia were home to the Akkadians and the southern parts were home to the Sumerians. People in these two regions spoke different languages. In addition, both regions were made up of separate city-states. A city-state is an individual city that has its own ruler and local government. The city-states were not unified and would often go to war with each other to gain power of the region. In order for Sargon to gain control of all of Mesopotamia, he needed to conquer the city-states within both regions.



Early Life

Not much is known about Sargon's early life. According to legends, he was born in secret to a mother who was a priestess. Sargon's birth was kept a secret because priestesses were not allowed to have children. Sargon's mother is said to have placed the baby in a basket and set him to float along a river. The baby was eventually found by a gardener who raised him as his own son.

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Becoming a Ruler

Sargon eventually became the cupbearer to the king of Kish. Kish was a city-state in Mesopotamia. A cupbearer is a person who serves wine to the king and also serves as an advisor. Over time, he became a valued member of the royal court. He eventually became a military leader and overthrew the king of Kish. It was during this period that Sargon named himself “Sharru-kin” or “rightful king.” Once he became a ruler, Sargon created a prosperous empire by exerting military, political, and economic control over the empire.

Military Control

Sargon was the first ruler to have a standing army that was ready to defend the empire at all times. His army was trained and ready to fight using weapons, like bows and arrows. His soldiers were also loyal followers, as Sargon fought alongside them and ate meals with them.

Political Control

Under Sargon’s rule, the northern and southern parts of Mesopotamia were united for the first time. Sargon believed unity would maintain order and justice in his empire. He made Akkadian the official language of the empire. He also sent Akkadian governors to rule Sumerian city-states and destroy city walls. It was important for Sargon to tear down these walls and control the city-states so that they would not try to revolt and gain too much power. By lessening language and physical barriers, he promoted unity throughout Mesopotamia.

Economic Control

Sargon also promoted trade throughout Mesopotamia and with other parts of the world. During his reign, Mesopotamian merchants established trading relationships with people in India. They traded Mesopotamian olive oil, leather, and wool for Indian pearls, copper, and ivory. Sargon collected taxes from the merchants and used the money to pay his army. He also provided financial support for artists and writers. Many people wrote about Sargon’s military conquests and made sculptures that portrayed him as a great warrior.

The Legacy of Sargon

Sargon ruled the empire for almost fifty years. At the height of the empire’s power, Sargon’s empire stretched from the Mediterranean Coast in the west to what is now the country of Iran and the Persian Gulf to the east. After his death, his family continued to rule the Mesopotamian empire. However, they were unable to keep the empire safe from invaders. In 2154 BCE, the empire collapsed. Nonetheless, Sargon’s legacy lived on for many years and inspired many emperors who tried to follow in his footsteps.



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Answer the questions using complete sentences.

1. What was one way Sargon kept control of all city-states in Mesopotamia?

2. Do you think it was important for people in Mesopotamia to speak the same language? Why or why not?

3. Do you think Sargon was a bold and fearless leader? Explain your reasoning.

4. What items did Mesopotamian and Indian merchants trade with one another?

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First Emperor of Mesopotamia

Step 2: Design an App

It is your job to design an app called “Building Sargon’s Legacy.” The app will allow users to act as Sargon the Great and make decisions on what will make the Mesopotamian empire flourish. Today, you will design the wireframe for the app. A wireframe includes a series of images and words that show what the app will look like once it is built. Complete the three sections below to create your wireframe.

Section 1

In the first section of the app, users will create a text message conversation between Sargon the Great and another person. You will create an example text message conversation to show users. The text message should be written in present tense, meaning the conversation should talk about events as if they are current, not as if they happened thousands of years ago. Fill out the information below.

Description of the person that Sargon is texting (e.g., soldier, friend, enemy):

Choose a purpose of the conversation from the list below.



Discuss military techniques



Intimidate an enemy



Set up a time to go to lunch

Other (Another idea you have)

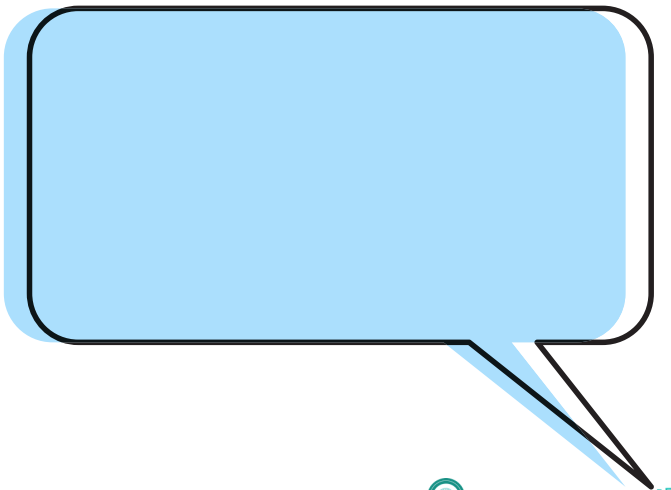
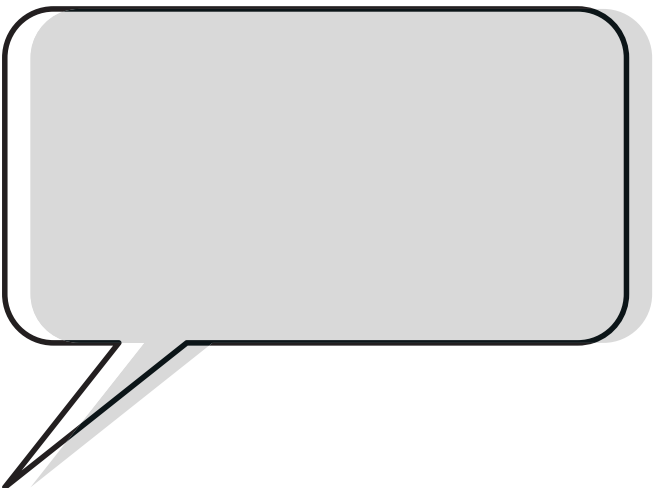
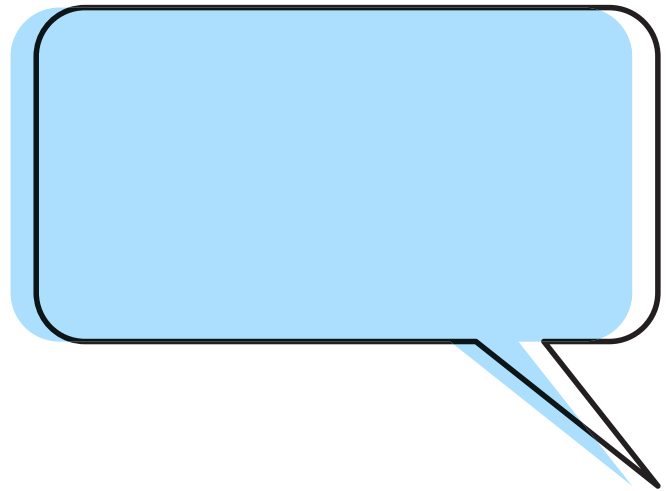
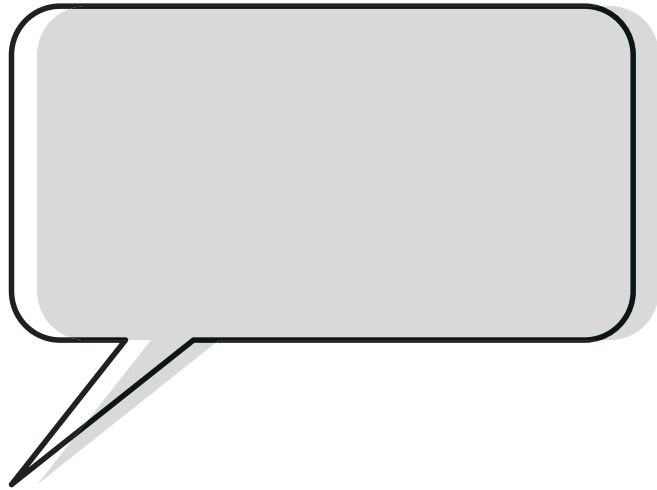
Name: _____

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Choose at least three pieces of information from the passage.

Write down notes below about each piece of information that you will include from the passage.

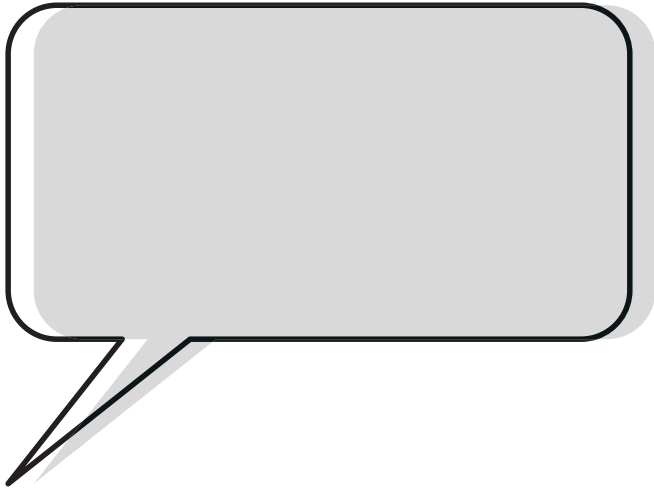
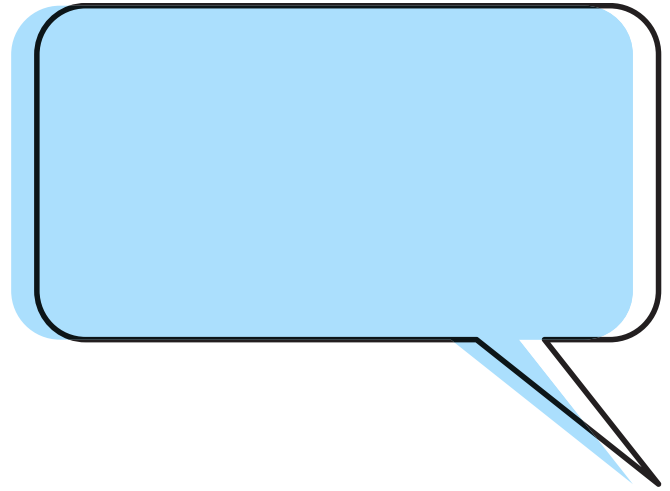
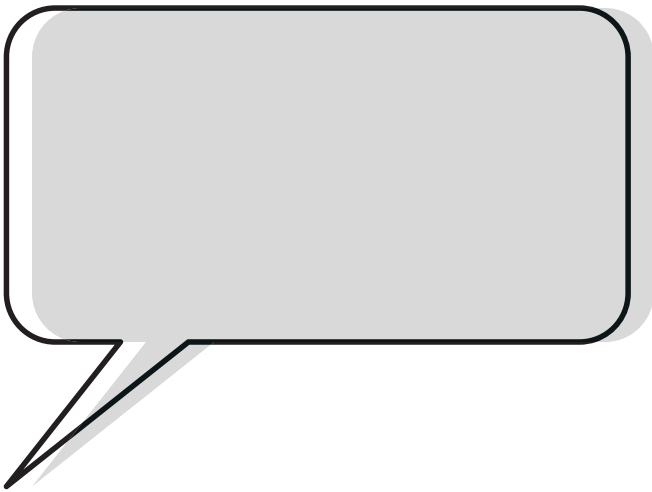
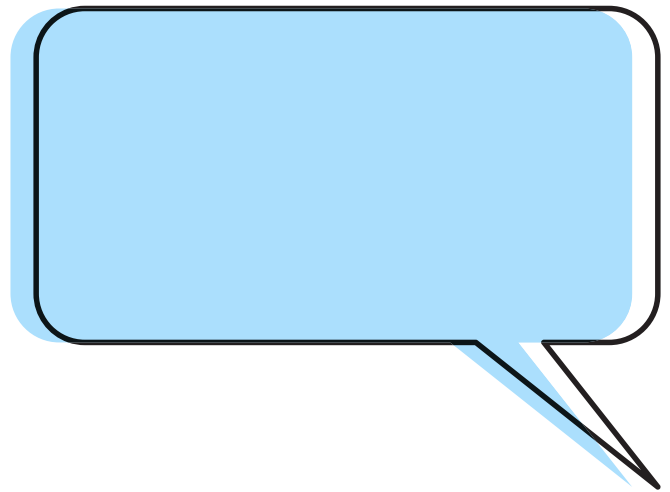
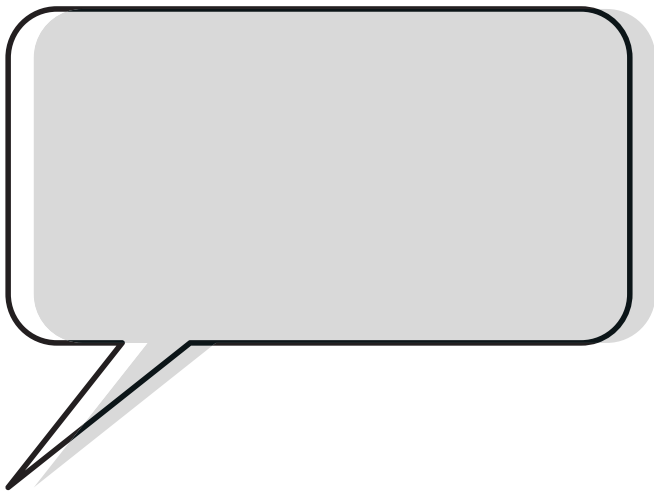
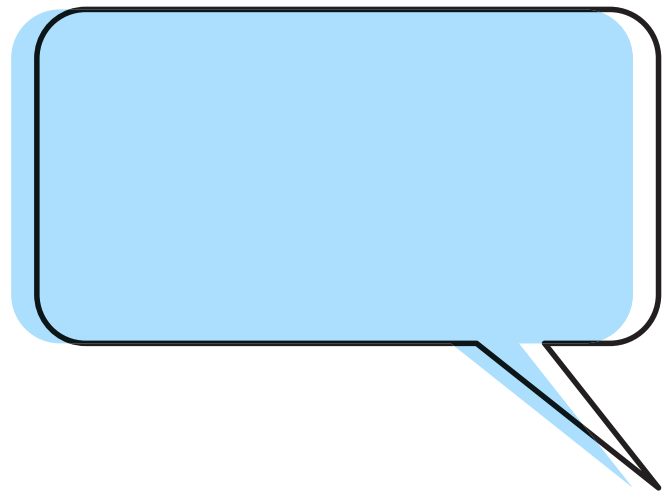
Write your conversation using the template below.



Name: _____

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Continue the conversation below.

A large, gray, rounded rectangular speech bubble with a black outline and a small tail pointing towards the bottom left.A large, light blue, rounded rectangular speech bubble with a black outline and a small tail pointing towards the bottom right.A large, gray, rounded rectangular speech bubble with a black outline and a small tail pointing towards the bottom left.A large, light blue, rounded rectangular speech bubble with a black outline and a small tail pointing towards the bottom right.A large, gray, rounded rectangular speech bubble with a black outline and a small tail pointing towards the bottom left.A large, light blue, rounded rectangular speech bubble with a black outline and a small tail pointing towards the bottom right.

Name: _____

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Section 2

In the next section of the app, users will come up with four apps that Sargon could have had on his smartphone. These apps can be fictional or can be real apps that people use today, like Instagram. Users will also need to explain why Sargon has each app. Then, users will draw an app icon for each app. An app icon has a small symbol or words on it.

Create a set of example apps that users will see. If you need help getting started, think about the following:

- What apps would Sargon use for entertainment?
- What apps would Sargon use to help him travel?
- What apps would Sargon use to find food or places to stay on his journey?
- What apps would Sargon use to help him decide what kingdoms to conquer next?
- What apps would Sargon use to get advice on how to be a powerful leader?

1) Name of App: _____

What the app does:

Why Sargon downloaded the app:

App Icon:

2) Name of App: _____

What the app does:

Why Sargon downloaded the app:

App Icon:

Name: _____

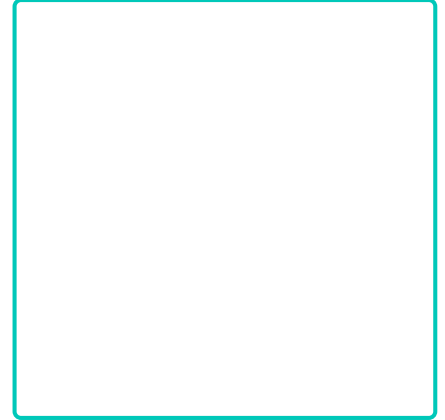
First Emperor of Mesopotamia

3) Name of App: _____

What the app does:

Why Sargon downloaded the app:

App Icon:

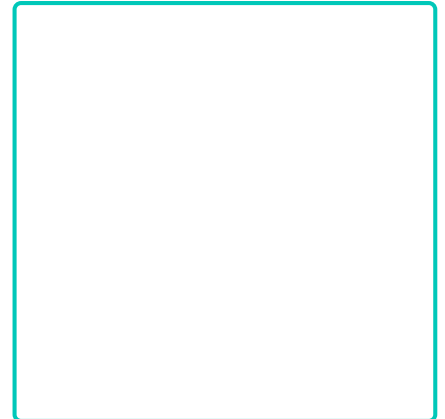


4) Name of App: _____

What the app does:

Why Sargon downloaded the app:

App Icon:



Name: _____

First Emperor of Mesopotamia

Section 3

In the third section of the app, users will pretend to be Sargon and send out an email to soldiers before conquering a Sumerian city-state. The email is meant to provide soldiers with the logistics of the battle and also get them pumped up to defeat the enemy. Your email must be written in real time, meaning it should talk about events as if they are current, not as if they happened thousands of years ago.

Create a sample email in the space below to show users. Your email should include the following:

- The name of the battle they are getting ready to fight (pick one from the passage you read)
- The name of who they are battling against and why.
- Words of encouragement to get them excited to go into battle.

New message

To

Subject

Send

A | 