Name \_\_\_KEY\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_P#\_\_\_\_\_\_HR\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**The First Empires – Section 1-3**

**THE ASSYRIANS p.27**

**MAIN IDEA:** Assyria’s \_military\_\_\_\_\_ power & well-organized \_government\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ helped it build a vast \_empire\_\_\_\_\_\_ in Mesopotamia by 650 B.C.

How were they able to take over Mesopotamia?

they built a large army

Where did the Assyrians set up their new empire?

north near the Tigris River

**WHY WERE THE ASSYRIANS SO STRONG? p.27-28**

they were ferocious warriors with war strategies

first army to use iron weapons – learned from Hittites

army had chariot riders & soldiers on horseback

experts at using weapons – spears, daggers, bows, arrows

army was well organized

 What happened to captured cities? What happened to the people living there?

they set fire to the buildings carrying away goods & people forced people out of city, brought new people in & made them pay heavy taxes

**A WELL-ORGANIZED GOVERNMENT p.28**

Why were roads built? To join all parts of the empire together

*Stations were built on these roads. Who used them and for what?*

* Soldiers protected traders from bandits
* messengers rested & changed horses

**provinces –** political districts

* Kings divided empire into provinces
* officials governed each province
* officials collected taxes & enforced laws

**LIFE IN ASSYRIA p.28**

**EFFECT**

* people began to rebel
* fought over who would be next king
* Chaldeans rebelled & captured Nineveh in 612 B.C.

Assyrians were great…

builders

* built temples & palaces filled with carvings & statues
* built one of the world’s first libraries which held 25,000 stories/songs

Assyrian writing and religious beliefs were similar to….other Mesopotamians (Babylonians)