Akkadian Dynasty
Head of an Akkadian ruler
from Ninevah (modern Kuyunjik) Iraq
ca. 2,250-2,200 B.C.E.
copper
14 3/8 in. high
Figure 2-14 Votive disk of Enheduanna, from Ur (modern Tell Muqayyar), Iraq, ca. 2300 – 2275 BCE. Alabaster, diameter 10”. University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, Philadelphia
Victory stele of Naram-Sin
from Susa, Iran
ca. 2,254-2,218 B.C.E.
sandstone
79 in. high
Horned Helmet of Divinity
Victory stele of Naram-Sin

from Susa, Iran

c. 2,254-2,218 B.C.E.
sandstone
79 in. high
Ziggurat of King Ur-nammu, Ur, ca. 2100 BCE
Ziggurat of Ur-nammu, Ur, ca. 2100 BCE (photo from 1920)
Temple Area, Ur
Ziggurat

at Ur (modern Tell Muqayyar) Iraq

ca. 2,100 B.C.E.
mud brick
Ziggurat of Ur-nammu, ca. 2100 BCE (reconstructed)
U.S. Soldiers Climbing Urnammu Ziggurat, 2010
Gudea
Figure 2-16 Seated statue of Gudea holding temple plan, from Girsu (modern Telloh), Iraq, ca. 2100 BCE. Diorite, 2’ 5” high. Louvre, Paris.
Temple Plans - detail
Neo-Sumerian Dynasty soon fell to Elamites. Mesopotamia was then governed as independent city-states for two centuries.
Babylonian King Hammurabi Reestablishes Centralized Government in Mesopotamia
Stele with code of Hammurabi

from Susa, Iran

ca. 1,780 B.C.E.
basalt
88 in. high
Hittite Art
Lion Gate
Hattusa (modern Boghazköy) Turkey
ca. 1400 B.C.E.
Elamite Art
Statue of Queen Napir-Asu

from Susa, Iran

c. 1,350-1,300 B.C.E.
bronze and copper
50 3/4 in. high
Statue of Queen Napir-Asu

from Susa, Iran

c. 1,350-1,300 B.C.E.
bronze and copper
50 3/4 in. high
Assyrian Art
Reconstruction drawing

of the citadel of Sargon II, Dar Sharrukin (modern Khorsabad) Iraq

ca. 720-705 B.C.E.
Reconstruction drawing of the citadel of Sargon II, Dar Sharrukin (modern Khorsabad) Iraq ca. 720-705 B.C.E.
Lamassu (winged human headed bull)
from the citadel of Sargon II, Dar Sharrukin (modern Khorsabad) Iraq
ca. 720-705 B.C.E.
limestone
13 ft. 10 in. high
Ashurbanipal hunting lions

from the North Palace of Ashurbanipal, Ninevah (modern Kuyunjik) Iraq

c. 645-640 B.C.E.
gypsum
approximately 5 ft. high
Ashurbanipal hunting lions
from the North Palace of Ashurbanipal, Ninevah (modern Kuyunjik) Iraq
ca. 645-640 B.C.E.
gypsum
approximately 5 ft. high
Ashurbanipal hunting lions
from the North Palace of Ashurbanipal, Ninevah (modern Kuyunjik) Iraq
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Ashurbanipal hunting lions
from the North Palace of Ashurbanipal, Ninevah (modern Kuyunjik) Iraq
ca. 645-640 B.C.E.
gypsum
approximately 5 ft. high
Assyrian Infantry
Assyrians killing Elamites
Celebrate your victories!!! (make sure everyone knows you won)
Start by stealing their gods!!!
King Jehu Bowing Before Shalmaneser III
Tiglath-pileser III’s Army Spoiling a City
The Assyrians meant business when it came to war!

Some more war scenes:
Wall relief, Assurnasirpal laying siege

Siege Machine
One of Ashurbanipal's inscriptions reads: "I destroyed them, tore down the walls, and burned the towns with fire; I caught the survivors and impaled them on stakes in front of their towns."
Assurbanipal relaxes with head of enemy in a tree!
This guy has a head in a tree in his garden – are you going to mess with him???
Neo-Babylonian Art
Reconstruction of the Temple of Marduk at Babylon

Double Thick Wall
A double fortified wall enclosed the city, protecting it from attack.
Ishtar Gate (restored) from Babylon, Iraq
c. 575 B.C.E.
glazed brick
Ishtar Gate (restored)
details of dragon (Marduk) and bull (Adad)
from Babylon, Iraq
ca. 575 B.C.E.
glazed brick
Ishtar Gate (restored) 
details of lion (Ishtar) 
from Babylon, Iraq 
ca. 575 B.C.E. 
glazed brick
Smaller version in Iraq
Mushhushshu (Sirrush)
The Dragon of the Ishtar Gate
Processional Avenue
Model of Ishtar Gate & Processional Way
Inscription on processional way:
"I am Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon...I paved the road of Babylon with mountain stones for the procession of the mighty lord Marduk. May Marduk, my lord, grant me eternal life!"
The Tower of Babel (Marduk Ziggurat)
The Tower of Babel, oil painting by Pieter Bruegel the Elder, 1563; in the Kunsthistorisches Museum, Vienna.
Temple of Marduk (blue)
MODEL OF ETÉMENANKI ZIGGURAT OF BABYLON (from Babylon Museum)
Persian (Achaemenid) Empire
Apadana: Royal Audience Hall

- Built in Persepolis, capital of Persian Empire ca. 500 BCE
- Built during reign of King Darius and his son and successor King Xerxes (think of the movie “300”)
Palace of Darius I and Xerxes I

Persepolis, Iran

ca. 521-465 B.C.E.
This is what is left of the apadana
Processional Frieze (detail) on the terrace of the Apadana

Palace of Darius I and Xerxes I

Persepolis, Iran

c. 521-465 B.C.E.
8 ft. 4 in. high
Palace of Darius I and Xerxes I
Persepolis, Iran
ca. 521-465 B.C.E.
Palace of Darius I and Xerxes I
Persepolis, Iran
c. 521-465 B.C.E.
Sasanian Empire
(New Persian Empire)
Palace of Shapur I
from Ctesiphon, Iraq
c. 250 C.E.
Palace of Shapur I
from Ctesiphon, Iraq
c.a. 250 C.E.
Triumph of Shapur I over Valerian
from Bishapur, Iraq
ca. 260 C.E.
rock-cut relief
Triumph of Shapur I over Valerian
from Bishapur, Iraq
ca. 260 C.E.
rock-cut relief
Shapur I drachim
ca. 260 C.E.
cast silver coins
Head of Sasanian King (Shapur II?)
from Ctesiphon, Iraq
ca. 350 C.E.
silver with mercury gilding
15 3/4 in. high