

BABYLON

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Form 10C
Lyceum №4



SOME FACTS ABOUT BABYLON

- ✓ The English *Babylon* comes from Greek *Babylōn* (Βαβυλών)
- ✓ It was a major city of ancient Mesopotamia in the fertile plain between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers. The city was built upon the Euphrates and divided in equal parts along its left and right banks
- ✓ Babylon was the largest city in the world from 1770 to 1670 BC, and again between 612-320 BC. It was the first city to reach a population above 200,000.



REMAINS OF THE CITY INCLUDE:



BABYLON HISTORY

Old Babylonian period

- The First Babylonian Dynasty was established by an Amorite chieftain named Sumu-abum in 1894 BC, who declared independence from the neighboring city-state of Kazallu.
- It was a minor city state, and controlled little surrounding territory, and its first four Amorite rulers did not even assume the title of king of the city.

Assyrian period

- During the rule of the Neo-Assyrian Empire (911–609 BC), Babylonia was under constant Assyrian domination or direct control.

Neo-Babylonian Chaldean Empire

- Babylon eventually escaped Assyrian rule, and in an alliance with Cyaxares, king of the Medes and Persians together with the Scythians and Cimmerians, the Assyrian Empire was finally destroyed between 612 BC and 605 BC. Babylon thus became the capital of the Neo-Babylonian Empire.

Persian conquest (In 539 BC, the Neo-Babylonian Empire fell to Cyrus the Great, king of Persia)

Hellenistic period

- In October of 331 BC, Darius III, the last Achaemenid king of the Persian Empire, was defeated by the forces of the Ancient Macedonian Greek ruler Alexander the Great at the Battle of Gaugamela.

Renewed Persian rule (until after AD 650)

Muslim conquest (In the mid-7th century)

MODERN HISTORY

Hussein regime

- In 1983, Saddam Hussein began rebuilding the city on top of the old ruins. (Consequently, artifacts and other finds may be under the city.) Hussein invested in both restoration and new construction in Babylon, as well as Ninevah, Nimrud, Assur and Hatra, to demonstrate the magnificence of Arab achievement.
- When the Gulf War ended, Hussein wanted to build a modern palace called Saddam Hill over some of the old ruins, in the pyramidal style of a Sumerian ziggurat. In 2003, he intended the construction of a cable car line over Babylon, however plans were halted by the 2003 invasion of Iraq.

Present-day

- Following the invasion of Iraq, the area around Babylon came under the control of US troops, before being handed over to Polish forces in September 2003.
- In May 2009, the provincial government of Babil reopened the site to tourism.



THANK YOU FOR ATTENTION

