Task #1

**Directions:** A student is writing a report for Social Studies class about ancient Mesopotamia. Read the draft of his or her introduction and conclusion and complete the task that follows.

As the civilization of Sumer weakened, in its place, the Babylonians took over. In ancient times, it was the custom for each city to select one god as their special protector, or patron. The Babylonians selected their most important god off all, Marduk, to be the patron god of Babylon. Since Babylon was built in honor of Marduk, it had to be the greatest city in the world. And indeed, it probably was.

In ancient times, visiting the city of Babylon would have been quite the experience. Whether it be from the wonderful homes in the city, the buzz from the various businesses, or the views of the different large building projects, Babylon always entertained those who visited the city. It is safe to say that in ancient Mesopotamia Babylon was the equivalent of the large cities around the world today.

The student took these notes about Babylon from credible sources:

- Homes had three stories with flat roofs
- Rooftops were flat and used for many different things
- Trading and farming were the two businesses that made the city successful
- Merchants (traders) would write down their agreements with neighboring settlements
- One of the most impressive sites was the avenue that led into the city, called Procession Avenue
- People cooked and slept on their roofs
- One of the Seven Wonders of the ancient world, called the Hanging Gardens, was in Babylon
- The government kept a close watch on the trading business
- Huge brick animals were positioned along both sides of Procession Avenue for decoration
- Priests were the ones who led a lot of the trading
- The Hanging Gardens were perhaps the first roof garden
- Some roofs had a shady resting area. This arbor grew grapes on it as well to provide food
- On the Hanging Gardens, the tops of trees could be glimpsed from a great distance, making it look like the garden was hanging in the air from afar
- Priests would sometimes use their temples as places to trade their goods
- Procession Avenue passed under the elaborate Ishtar Gates, which were designed with dragons
- The Hanging Gardens were 75 feet high
- Some of the fancier roofs were designed with four walls for privacy
- There were flowers, fruit trees, and waterfalls throughout the Hanging Gardens
- Babylon had a 300 foot high Ziggurat in the cities center.

On the next page of line paper, write one or two body paragraphs using appropriate details from the student’s notes to explain the ancient city of Babylon without repeating ideas presented in the first and last paragraphs.
The Assyrians lived in northern Mesopotamia, towards the Caucasus Mountains. They had their own language and their own lifestyle. Their religion was similar to that of Sumer, and then Babylonia, and they worshiped many of the same gods. The Assyrian capital city was Nineveh.

Because so many of the scenes painted on their ceramics and carved on their reliefs show pictures of military camp life, we know a lot about daily life in the military camps. The Assyrians were always at war with somebody. This was expensive. Taxes were terrible in ancient Assyria. But their geographic expansion was impressive. They advanced quickly in art and sculpture, which they created to tell their stories of battles and to honor their war heroes.

The Assyrians were the first group in Mesopotamia to master ironworking (after the Hittites). They used this metal, which was stronger than bronze, to make their weapons. They had iron on their chariots, helmets, spears, and swords. Because their weapons were stronger than their neighbors’, they were able to conquer many people. When their enemies tried to hide inside the walls of their city, the Assyrians used a tower on wheels with men shooting arrows from the top. The tower was pushed up to the walls of the city. While men shot arrows at the defenders of the wall, other men inside the tower worked a battering ram. The battering ram would hit the wall with such force that a hole was created. The Assyrians could then rush through the new hole and attack the city. This is widely believed to be the first siege tower in history.

The Assyrian Empire lasted for about 600 years. Around 600BCE, before the people of ancient Mesopotamia were absorbed into the great Persian Empire, the last Assyrian king started a project. He began collecting a library of clay tablets of all the literature of ancient Sumer, Babylonia, and Assyria. No one knows how many tablets he actually collected, but, when discovered in modern times, over 30,000 tablets still remained in the great library in his capital city of Nineveh. These tablets are our single most important source of knowledge about ancient Mesopotamia.

Question 1 – List two reasons why the Assyrians were able to defeat so many of their enemies:

Question 2 – How were the Assyrians able to afford to go to war so often with neighboring settlements?

Question 3 – Where do get most of our information about ancient Mesopotamia?
Task #4

**Directions:** Match each statement below with the group that it fits with. You may use each group more than once (or not at all)! You will need to use your “Sumerian Achievements” and “Late Peoples” Note Guides to match the answers.

_____ 1. Invented the wheel
_____ 2. Their king built the Hanging Gardens of Babylon
_____ 3. Their king, Hammurabi, came up with a Code of Laws
_____ 4. Invented an alphabet that English was based on
_____ 5. Invented Cuneiform
_____ 6. Expert sailors
_____ 7. Invented the Chariot
_____ 8. Set up the world’s first library
_____ 9. The first to master ironworking
_____ 10. Invented a 12-month calendar
_____ 11. Conquered the Babylonians
_____ 12. Lived on the Mediterranean Sea
_____ 13. Conquered the Hittites
_____ 14. The first civilization in Mesopotamia

A. Mesopotamians
B. Babylonians
C. Chaldeans
D. Sumerians
E. Assyrians
F. Hittites
G. Phoenicians