**Assyrians**

**Warriors:**

* The Assyrians also lived in the land between two rivers.
* Their home was in northern Mesopotamia towards the mountains. They were famous traders.
* The Assyrians were always at war with somebody. Their warriors were fierce, and soon conquered many other people. They tried to conquer the southern regions of Mesopotamia, with an eye especially on controlling [Babylonia](http://mesopotamia.mrdonn.org/babylon.html), but their revolts were put down. They were much more successful attacking and conquering the people to the east and west.

**Religion:**

* Their religion was similar to that of Sumer and Babylon. They worshiped many of the same gods.
* The Assyrians also built towns. In each town, they built huge buildings. Each building was decorated with huge demons to protect the building and the town from evil influences.
* The ancient Assyrians buried their dead with a few of their favourite possessions, like weapons, drinking cups, and other small personal items. The poor would dig a hole somewhere and bury their dead at home. The rich would build a room just for the burial.

**The Assyrians Conquer Babylon**

* Around 1200 BCE, the Assyrians finally conquered Babylon. Babylon was the greatest city of the age. Rather than take over the city for their own use, the Assyrians levelled it.
* They hated the Babylonians. Before they destroyed the town, they forced all the people to move to various places in Assyria. They moved them around, different people in different places, so that once conquered, people would find it difficult to revolt.
* After they levelled the city, the Assyrians began to worry. What if Marduk, the great god, thought they were attacking *him*? They worried and worried, and finally decided to rebuild the city, so that Marduk would not punish them for destroying a city built in his honor.
* They really had no use for the city. They rebuilt Babylon, but left it an empty city. Eventually, people found the empty city and moved in. Babylon rose again.