

Sargon the Great



Tick the **true** statements in these questions. Answer the final question using the information you have gathered.

1. How do we know about the rule of Sargon the Great?

There is a wealth of written evidence about Sargon the Great, which was written during his lifetime.

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There is no written evidence from his lifetime. People passed down Sargon the Great's story from generation to generation.

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2. Why did Sargon the Great want to rule ancient Sumer?

The Akkadians had always learned from the Sumerians because they were an advanced civilisation. Sargon did not want to watch Sumer grow. He wanted to rule over the country himself.

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The Akkadians were jealous of ancient Sumer. They wanted to destroy the city states and take wealth and slaves for themselves.

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3. Why was ancient Sumer weak under the rule of Lugalzaggisi?

The city states of Sumer were battling for water, land and independence. There was a divide between the rich and the poor.

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People were hungry and too weak to fight.

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4. Why did people want to follow Sargon the Great's leadership?

People were scared of him and were worried that he would kill them if they did not follow his orders.

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He aligned himself with the ordinary people and called himself 'the rightful king'. People liked the fact that he was from a humble background.

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5. How did Sargon the Great create a united empire?

He created strict rules and punished anybody who did not follow them.

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He made everybody speak the same language, tore down city walls, built roads between cities and sent Akkadian officials to bring order and justice to the city states.

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6. Why did he become known as Sargon the Great?

He was the first person in the world to rule over an empire. He expanded trade links and crushed rebellions against his rule. The arts and the military also flourished. His empire lasted for 200 years after his death.

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He demanded that everybody called him Sargon the Great because he had become incredibly powerful. He killed many of his enemies and made sure that people were not able to challenge him.

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7. Was Sargon the Great a successful ruler?

