Nubia

Nubia and Egypt were neighbors in constant contact—they were trading partners, rivals, colonies, or conquerors. From the 4000 BC onward, Nubia gave rise to kingdoms and empires that maintained trade links between the north and inner Africa. Nubia also had many mines and industries, which supplied gold and one of the largest iron production centers in Africa!

Egypt

The lush banks of the Nile River gave rise to the long-lasting civilization of ancient Egypt. Farmers used the rich mud deposits during the annual flooding to grow their crops, while the river itself provided transportation. The surrounding deserts were rich in stone and mineral resources. Although the ancient Egyptian culture can be traced back thousands of years, the beginning of the Pharaonic Period is commonly dated to the union of Upper and Lower Egypt around 3150 BC. After the conquest of Alexander the Great in 332 BC, Egypt was under Greek, Roman, and Byzantine rule until the Islamic conquest of AD 642.

Left: Map of Egypt

Right: Pyramid of Khafre and the Sphinx in Giza, Egypt
Ramesses II

Ramesses ruled over Egypt from 1279–1213 BC, during the 19th dynasty (1292–1190 BC). He was the second longest ruler in Egyptian history, and known for his battles and building programs, including the many colossal statues he built of himself.

King overtaking a fortress

The Temple of Beit El-Wali is an ancient Egyptian temple build by Ramesses II in Nubia. This relief is located within the entrance hall on the north wall of the temple; it shows Ramesses II and one of his sons attacking a Syrian fortress.
Assyrian Empire Scavenger Hunt

Watch this video about the Assyrian Empire here, then use this scavenger hunt to explore related artifacts from the OI Museum.

How to search for objects:
1. Go to oi-idb.uchicago.edu.
2. Type or copy and paste the registration number for the object (Example: A150545).
3. Check the box “Images Only.”
4. Press Submit.

At the beginning of the video, we see two large lamassus similar to the OI’s famous lamassu. Less well-known is this fragment of a lamassu crown in the OI Museum. Where was it found in Khorsabad? A150545

Assyria is famous for its successful and merciless conquests. Assyrians also created images of ferocious warriors, although we now think that some of those pictures may be exaggerated. What fearsome scene is shown in this relief? A27855

The Assyrian Empire’s administration was run by a complex system of courtiers, or government officials. This relief from King Sargon II's palace shows courtiers on their way to greet the king. What is it made from? A7366
The video mentions reliefs from Assyrian palaces showing scenes of conquest. What is shown in this relief from King Sargon II’s palace? **A11256**

Ashurbanipal created a library of ancient literary works from Babylonia. What language is this Old Babylonian fragment of the tale of Gilgamesh written in? **A22007**

Ashurbanipal was one of the final rulers of Assyria. Where was this fragment of a prism with an inscription about Ashurbanipal found? **A8110**

In the video, the Ishtar Gate is shown to represent Babylonia. The famous striding lions at the OI were part of the processional way leading to the gate. What is this lion made from? **A7482**
Ol Mad Libs: King Sargon II’s *Lamassu*

King Sargon II’s *lamassu* is missing some words from its inscription! Fill in the blanks below without reading the text, then read your creation out loud!

_________ of Sargon, __________ appointed by __________, priest of Ashur, location job name

_________ king, king of the __________, king of Assyria, king of the four adjective noun

_________ of the world, favorite of the __________ gods; who provides noun (plural) adjective

_________ for the destitute; who abolished __________ for Der and brought noun (plural) noun

_________ to its __________ people.

noun adjective

Most __________ of all princes, the king, who since the day he became ruler, adjective

has had no equal and has found no one superior to him in __________ or noun

battle; who has smashed all __________ like clay pots and has imposed reins noun (plural)
on the four quarters of the world and has sent __________ to govern over noun (plural) them.

With my __________ knowledge and wide __________, which the gods made adjective noun
greater than that of my royal __________, and in accordance with my family member plural

personal wishes, I built a __________ and named it Fort Sargon. In it I had location

_________ constructed for the gods and there I settled the peoples noun (plural)
of lands I had __________.

verb (past tense)

The great gods who inhabit heaven and __________ and the gods who location

_________ in this city have granted me the lasting gift of building this city verb

and growing __________ here.

adjective
The Real Inscription

Check out this simplified translation of the real inscription on our lamassu! This text was written on the back of the lamassu, which would have been placed up against a wall in the palace of King Sargon II. This hidden writing was meant to be read by the gods of Assyria!

What message do you think King Sargon II was trying to send to the gods?

Palace of Sargon, ruler appointed by Enlil, priest of Ashur, mighty king, king of the world, king of Assyria, king of the four quarters of the world, favorite of the great gods; who provides food for the destitute; who abolished forced labor for Der and brought rest to its weary people.

Most powerful of all princes, the king, who since the day he became ruler, has had no equal and has found no one superior to him in war or battle; who has smashed all lands like clay pots and has imposed reins on the four quarters of the world and has sent officials to govern over them.

With my broad knowledge and wide intelligence, which the gods made greater than that of my royal forefathers, and in accordance with my personal wishes, I built a city and named it Fort Sargon. In it I had shrines artistically constructed for the gods and there I settled the peoples of lands I had conquered.

The great gods who inhabit heaven and earth and the gods who dwell in this city have granted me the lasting gift of building this city and growing old here.