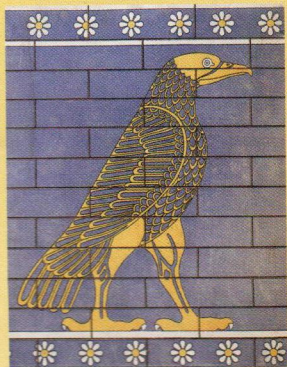


CITIES AND PALACES

Asshur was the capital city of Assyria for more than a thousand years. But when the later Assyrian kings created the second empire around 900BC, they made grand new cities or enlarged old ones to celebrate their achievements. Excavations at these cities have revealed many amazing finds, some of which are shown here.



This is a reconstruction, based on finds, of the decoration in the palace at Nineveh.

CAPITAL CITIES

Ashurnasirpal II, who ruled Assyria from 883 to 859BC, was one of the great kings who built the new Assyrian empire. He had magnificent new palaces and temples built on the east bank of the river Tigris, at Kalhu (now called Nimrud). When the building was finished, Ashurnasirpal moved there with all his staff.

This statue of Ashurnasirpal II was found in Kalhu, the new capital he created for the Assyrian empire.



MOVING ON

In 717BC, Sargon II founded his own new city at a place now called Khorsabad. Then Sennacherib, who was king from 704 to 681BC, enlarged Nineveh, making it his most important city.

KING OF THE UNIVERSE

The king had supreme power in Assyria. His subjects addressed him as 'King of the Universe'. The name Ashurnasirpal means 'the god Ashur is protector of the heir'. The Assyrian kings all took names like this, to show that they were close to the gods. It was the king's job to build temples and perform religious rituals.



INTERNET LINK

For links to websites where you can explore Nimrud Palace and see treasures from its royal tombs, go to www.usborne-quicklinks.com

