**Ancient History**

**Age of Empires I: *Sargon I***

**Primary Source Activity**

**30 pts.**

**The Legend of Sargon of Akkadê, c. 2300 BC**1. Sargon, the mighty king, king of Akkadê am I,

2. My mother was lowly; my father I did not know;

3. The brother of my father dwelt in the mountain.

4. My city is Azupiranu, which is situated on the bank of the Purattu [Euphrates],

5. My lowly mother conceived me, in secret she brought me forth.

6. She placed me in a basket of reeds, she closed my entrance with bitumen,

7. She cast me upon the rivers which did not overflow me.

8. The river carried me, it brought me to Akki, the irrigator.

9. Akki, the irrigator, in the goodness of his heart lifted me out,

10. Akki, the irrigator, as his own son brought me up;

11. Akki, the irrigator, as his gardener appointed me.

12. When I was a gardener the goddess Ishtar loved me,

13. And for four years I ruled the kingdom.

14. The black-headed peoples I ruled, I governed;

15. Mighty mountains with axes of bronze I destroyed (?).

16. I ascended the upper mountains;

17. I burst through the lower mountains.

18. The country of the sea I besieged three times;

19. Dilmun I captured (?).

20. Unto the great Dur-ilu I went up, I . . . . . . . . .

21 . . . . . . . . . .I altered. . . . . . . . . . . . . . .

22. Whatsoever king shall be exalted after me,

23. . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .

24. Let him rule, let him govern the black-headed peoples;

25. Mighty mountains with axes of bronze let him destroy;

26. Let him ascend the upper mountains,

27. Let him break through the lower mountains;

28. The country of the sea let him besiege three times;

29. Dilmun let him capture;

30. To great Dur-ilu let him go up.

### The Birth of Moses, ca. 1391 B.C.

Exodus 2 - New International Version (NIV)

**2**Now a man of the tribe of Levi married a Levite woman, **2**and she became pregnant and gave birth to a son. When she saw that he was a fine child, she hid him for three months. **3**But when she could hide him no longer, she got a papyrus basket (ark)for him and coated it with tar and pitch. Then she placed the child in it and put it among the reeds along the bank of the Nile. **4**His sister stood at a distance to see what would happen to him.

**5**Then Pharaoh’s daughter went down to the Nile to bathe, and her attendants were walking along the riverbank. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her female slave to get it. **6**She opened it and saw the baby. He was crying, and she felt sorry for him. “This is one of the Hebrew babies,” she said.

**7**Then his sister asked Pharaoh’s daughter, “Shall I go and get one of the Hebrew women to nurse the baby for you?”

**8**“Yes, go,” she answered. So the girl went and got the baby’s mother.**9**Pharaoh’s daughter said to her, “Take this baby and nurse him for me, and I will pay you.” So the woman took the baby and nursed him. **10**When the child grew older, she took him to Pharaoh’s daughter and he became her son. She named him Moses (Hebrew means *to draw out*),saying, “I drew him out of the water.”

### Moses Flees to Midian

**11**One day, after Moses had grown up, he went out to where his own people were and watched them at their hard labor. He saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one of his own people. **12**Looking this way and that and seeing no one, he killed the Egyptian and hid him in the sand. **13**The next day he went out and saw two Hebrews fighting. He asked the one in the wrong, “Why are you hitting your fellow Hebrew?”

**14**The man said, “Who made you ruler and judge over us? Are you thinking of killing me as you killed the Egyptian?” Then Moses was afraid and thought, “What I did must have become known.”

**15**When Pharaoh heard of this, he tried to kill Moses, but Moses fled from Pharaoh and went to live in Midian, where he sat down by a well. **16**Now a priest of Midian had seven daughters, and they came to draw water and fill the troughs to water their father’s flock. **17**Some shepherds came along and drove them away, but Moses got up and came to their rescue and watered their flock.

**18**When the girls returned to Reuel their father, he asked them, “Why have you returned so early today?”

**19**They answered, “An Egyptian rescued us from the shepherds. He even drew water for us and watered the flock.”

**20**“And where is he?” Reuel asked his daughters. “Why did you leave him? Invite him to have something to eat.”

**21**Moses agreed to stay with the man, who gave his daughter Zipporah to Moses in marriage. **22**Zipporah gave birth to a son, and Moses named him Gershom (Hebrew for a *foreigner there*),saying, “I have become a foreigner in a foreign land.”

**23**During that long period, the king of Egypt died. The Israelites groaned in their slavery and cried out, and their cry for help because of their slavery went up to God. **24**God heard their groaning and he remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac and with Jacob. **25**So God looked on the Israelites and was concerned about them.

Short Discussion:

1. What are the similarities and differences between the two stories? Describe at least two and use specific examples from the text for each.
2. Why might this birth myth be used for both of these famous leaders? Explain using the circumstances inherit in the myth.