



HISTORY ENGLISH (1)

I. WATCHING

The **Assyrian Empire** rose to power through military strength, strict organization and effective administration. It became one of the most powerful empires of the ancient world, but internal conflicts and external attacks eventually led to its fall. It is also remembered for the great **Library of Ashurbanipal at Nineveh**, which preserved thousands of clay tablets containing literature, science and historical records.

No.	YouTube Videos	Duration
1	TED-Ed: The rise and fall of the Assyrian Empire - Marian H Feldman https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7pa54hWROpQ	5:16

II. SLOW READING (CHOIR PRACTICE)

USEFUL VOCABULARY

- **Nineveh** – an ancient city in today's northern Iraq
- **Ashurbanipal** – an Assyrian king who created a great library
- **ancient Near East** – the region where early civilizations developed
- **British Museum** – the place where many tablets are kept today
- **library** – a place where texts and knowledge are collected
- **scrolls** – rolled sheets used for writing in the past
- **clay tablets** – flat pieces of clay used for writing
- **Cuneiform** – a writing system made of wedge-shaped symbols
- **wedge-shaped symbols** – small marks pressed into clay
- **archive** – a large collection of important documents
- **Epic of Gilgamesh** – one of the oldest known stories in the world
- **flood story** – a story about a great flood
- **Noah's Ark** – a biblical flood story similar to Gilgamesh
- **baked** – hardened by heat
- **preserved** – kept safe from damage
- **war booty** – items taken during war
- **legacy (implied)** – what the past leaves to the future
- **archaeologists** – people who study the past by digging up objects
- **excavation / digging** – uncovering ancient objects from the ground
- **treasure trove** – a rich and valuable collection



https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Library_of_Ashurbanipal

III. READING 1: NARRATION STYLE (WITH A MICROPHONE)

THE GREATEST LIBRARY IN THE WORLD

Imagine a library older than the pyramids... and full of secrets!

In the ancient city of **Nineveh** (in today's northern Iraq), a king named **Ashurbanipal**, who ruled more than **2,600 years ago**, created what might be the **world's first great library**. But this wasn't just a room full of scrolls like we picture today. Instead, he filled huge rooms with **clay tablets covered in cuneiform writing**, tiny wedge-shaped symbols pressed into clay.

1. Why this library is legendary

- It contained **over 30,000 clay documents**, making it one of the most massive archives of the ancient world.
- The tablets included everything from **stories, prayers and legends** to **scientific observations, medicine, history and magic** - kind of like a mix between a literature club, a science lab and a history archive!
- Among these was part of the **Epic of Gilgamesh**, one of the **oldest known epic poems in the world**, featuring a flood story very similar to Noah's ark.

2. How it was discovered

In the mid-1800s, British archaeologists digging at Nineveh uncovered these dusty, broken tablets buried under ancient palace ruins. At first, they were just piles of fragments, but once scholars began to translate the writing, they unlocked **stories and knowledge from a civilization long forgotten**. In other words, *this wasn't just a king's collection, it was the Google of the ancient world!* A remarkable treasure trove of stories and knowledge that connects us directly to people who lived thousands of years ago.

3. More than just books

Ashurbanipal wasn't just a warrior king; he prided himself on being *educated*. He collected tablets from all over the empire (sometimes even taking them as war booty!) and made Nineveh a center of learning.



4. Why it matters today

Because of this library, historians know **so much about the ancient Near East**, from how people thought and lived to what they believed about gods, fate and the Universe. Many of these tablets now sit in the **British Museum**, where people continue to study them.

Cuneiform writing



<https://www.dreamstime.com/stock-image-cuneiform-writing-image14998801>

IV. EXTENSIVE READING (IF TIME ALLOWS/AT HOME)

No.	Articles	Duration
1	National Geographic History https://on.natgeo.com/4sXae5Y	10:00

V. CHAIN READING: NARRATION STYLE (PASS THE MICROPHONE)

EASY LEARNING: THE WORLD'S FIRST SUPER LIBRARY

A. Where are we?

In the ancient city of **Nineveh** (in today's Iraq), over **2,600 years ago**, there was a library like no other.

B. Who built it?

A powerful and surprisingly book-loving king named **Ashurbanipal**.
Unlike most rulers of his time, he could **read and write**, and he was proud of it!

C. What made this library special?

This wasn't a quiet room with shelves and books. Instead, it was filled with:

- **Clay tablets** (instead of paper)
- Written in **Cuneiform** (tiny wedge-shaped signs)
- Over **30,000 texts!**

Think of it as the **Google + Wikipedia + Netflix** of the ancient world.



D. What was inside?

The tablets talked about **everything** people cared about:

- History & kings
- Science, astronomy & medicine
- Magic spells & prayers
- Myths and legends

One famous text found there is the **Epic of Gilgamesh**, one of the **oldest stories ever written**, including a great flood story!

E. Plot twist: How was it saved?

Nineveh was destroyed by enemies.

Fire burned the palace ... but the heat **baked the clay tablets**, making them harder and preserving them for thousands of years!

SOMETIMES, DISASTERS CAN SAVE HISTORY.

F. How did we find it?

In the **1800s**, archaeologists dug up broken tablets from the ruins.

Today, many are kept in the **British Museum**, where experts are still decoding them.

G. Why does this matter to us?

Because of this library, we can still hear the **voices of ancient people**:

- what they feared
- what they believed
- what they dreamed about

It proves that humans have **always loved stories, knowledge and meaning**, just like we do today.

H. Fun fact to remember

The world's first great library wasn't made of paper, it was made of **clay, curiosity and courage**.

VI. CONSOLIDATION: KAHoot QUIZ (8 questions)

King Ashurbanipal was a powerful and ruthless ruler of the Neo-Assyrian Empire in the 7th century BC. Besides being a fierce warrior, he created one of the **greatest libraries in the ancient world** at Nineveh. Discovered in 1850, this library contained **over 30,000 clay tablets**, helping historians understand daily life in Assyria and its connections with neighboring cultures.



No.	KAHOOT	Duration
1	The World's First Super Library (Ancient Assyria) https://createkahootit/share/the-worlds-first-super-library-ancient-assyria/1611c90ed6d0-4996-bfc4-68ecb011ba35	10:00

VII. FOLLOW-UP: YOUR WRITING TASK

1. If you were building **a library for the future**, what **three books** would you save for people 3,000 years from now? Motivate your answer.
2. If **future humans** discovered **your phone** in 3,000 years, what would it tell them about our world?