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# The Hittites

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# Early History

- Little known about them until archaeological discoveries of early 20<sup>th</sup> century
- Migrated to Asia Minor (modern Turkey) from northern Europe circa 3000 B.C.E.



# First Hittite Empire

- 1900 B.C.E.
- Empire stretched from Aegean Sea to Euphrates River



# Second Hittite Empire

- 1500-1200 B.C.E.
- Included Asia Minor, Palestine, and Syria
- Decline and fall
  - Continuous warfare with Egypt
  - 1200 B.C.E. – conquered by northern barbarians
  - Eventually absorbed by Assyria



# Economy

- **Link between Mesopotamia and western Asia**
- **Had monopoly on Armenian and European metals for hundreds of years**
- **Developed iron for tools and weapons**
- **Wealth from trade of gold, iron, lead, and silver**
- **Trade shown in numerous excavated clay tablets**

# Government

- Ruled by a king
- Heavily fortified city walls
- Written laws show Babylonian influence



# Art

- Crude
- Stone lions at city entrances
- Carvings of animals and warriors



# Review Questions

- **Where was the Hittite empire located?**
- **What major contribution did the Hittites make to military warfare and world civilization?**
- **Describe the decline and fall of the Hittite empire.**
- **Describe Hittite art.**

