

## N2K Week 9 Lesson 1

### Why were the Assyrians' attack on enemy cities successful?

(1) The Assyrians were successful in their attacks on enemy cities because they planned their attacks in stages and because they used engineers and because they used archers and foot soldiers.

(2) Deep water blocked their way when the Assyrian engineers built a bridge out of floating structures, or pontoons, to get across. (3) First, they made the pontoons by tying inflated animal skins together. (4) Then they connected these pontoons to the shore with wooden beams. (5) Finally, they made a raised dirt roadway at both ends so the soldiers could get across.

(6) When the Army got to the city, soldiers dug beneath the city's walls to weaken them. (7) Then, with a lot of courage and careful coordination, the foot soldiers approached just close enough to the city walls to be able to fire their arrows. (8) When their commander signaled, they strung their bows and released a shower of arrows. (9) Meanwhile, another group of troops hammered the cities gates with huge battering rams tipped with iron.

(10) When the city gates finally shattered, the Assyrian soldiers charged through. (11) Once inside the city, the soldiers showed no mercy. (12) They killed or enslaved their victims.

(13) These efficient methods of warfare gave the Assyrians great power. Their empire was at its peak around 650 B.C.