

# The First River-Valley Civilizations, 3500 –1500 B.C. E.

## Chapter Overview

The river valley civilizations develop from small farming villages. The civilizations create laws, centralized governments, writing systems, and advanced technologies. The process of trade spreads new ideas to and from these civilizations.

# Agriculture Changes Society

- Agriculture dramatically changed Stone Age societies by providing a larger and more reliable food supply.
- Some people began to live as nomadic pastoralists.
- Others gave up the nomadic lifestyle and formed settlements, pooling their resources.

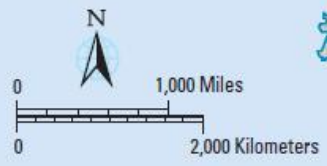
## Early Farming Societies

- Small settlements
- Villages and towns
- Increase in trade
- Societies became more complex
- Social status, male authority
- Religion, megaliths
- Warfare, disease increased

## New Technologies

- New tools and methods
- Animals working in fields
- Grindstones, pestles, pottery
- Wool from sheep for yarn
- Spinning and weaving
- Copper, bronze, tin

- As people began to make items from bronze, the Stone Age gave way to the Bronze Age, which began as early as 3000 BCE in some areas.

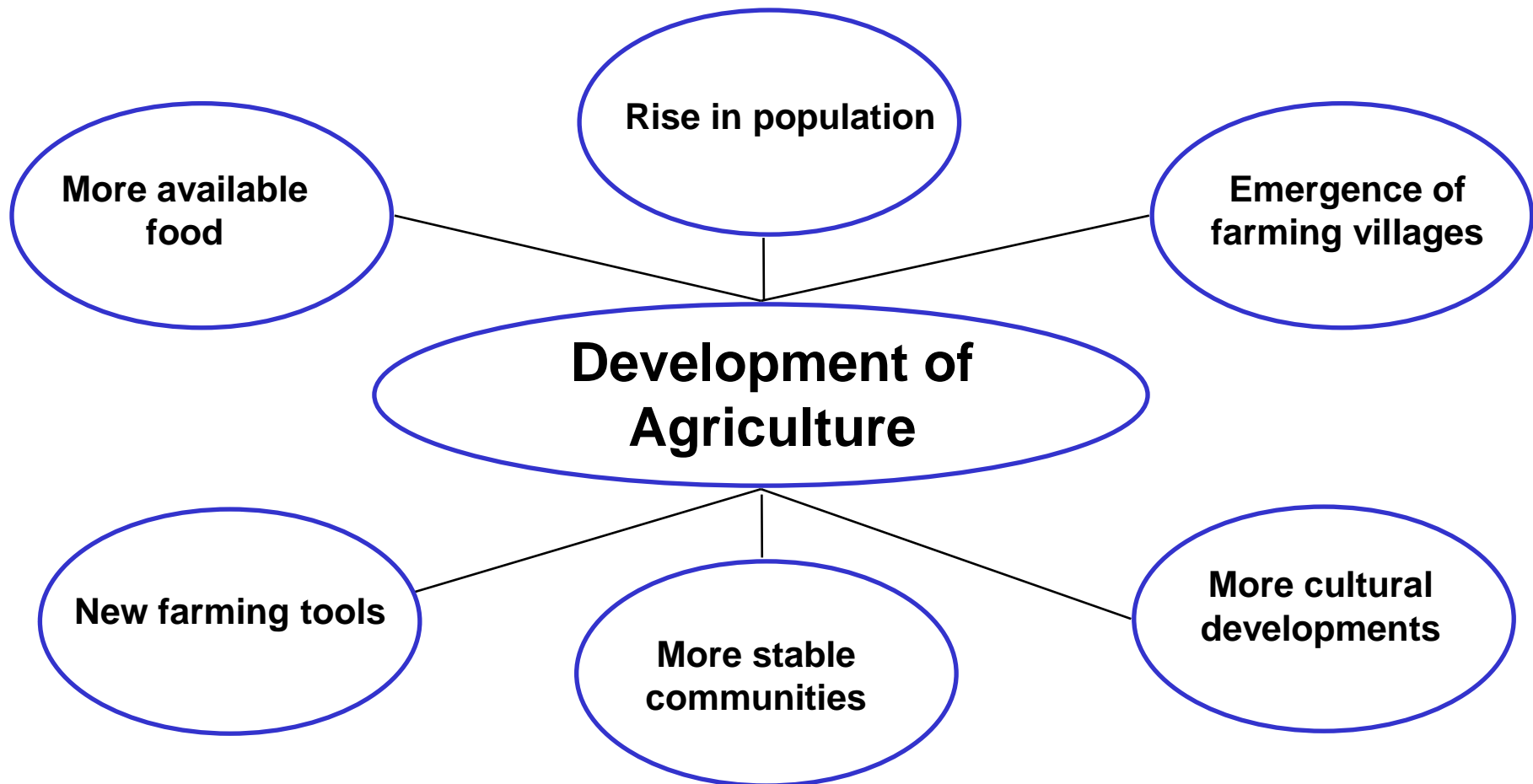


Major crops			
	Bananas		Grapes
	Sorghum		Wheat
	Barley		Olives
	Soybeans		Potato
	Corn		Rice
	Cotton		Agriculture by 5,000 B.C.
	Agriculture by 3,000 B.C.		Agriculture by 2,000 B.C.
	Agriculture by 500 B.C.		

## 2 Humans Try to Control Nature

GRAPH

Effects of the development of agriculture.



# **Foundations of Civilization**

# Agriculture Changes Society

- Agriculture dramatically changed Stone Age societies by providing a larger and more reliable food supply.
- Some people began to live as nomadic pastoralists.
- Others gave up the nomadic lifestyle and formed settlements, pooling their resources.

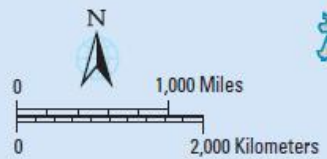
## Early Farming Societies

- Small settlements
- Villages and towns
- Increase in trade
- Societies became more complex
- Social status, male authority
- Religion, megaliths
- Warfare, disease increased

## New Technologies

- New tools and methods
- Animals working in fields
- Grindstones, pestles, pottery
- Wool from sheep for yarn
- Spinning and weaving
- Copper, bronze, tin

- As people began to make items from bronze, the Stone Age gave way to the Bronze Age, which began as early as 3000 BCE in some areas.



Major crops			
	Bananas		Grapes
	Sorghum		Wheat
	Barley		Olives
	Soybeans		Potato
	Corn		Rice
	Cotton		Agriculture by 5,000 B.C.
	Agriculture by 3,000 B.C.		Agriculture by 2,000 B.C.
	Agriculture by 500 B.C.		

# From Villages to Cities

**Advances in farming and changing economies caused villages to grow in size and complexity, and the first cities began to appear.**

## *Advances in Farming*

- **New methods to increase production: irrigation systems**
  - **Networks of canals, ditches**
  - **Link fields to water supply**
  - **Farm more land in drier conditions**
  - **Plant more crops and produce more food**
  - **Surplus, or excess of food**

## *Changing Economies*

- **Fewer people needed to farm**
- **Began to specialize in other jobs**
- **Division of labor**
- **Traditional economy**
  - **Economic decisions based on custom, ritual**
  - **Began to change with development of irrigation**
  - **Trade increases**



## Specialized Workers

- merchants
- soldiers
- priests
- potters
- scribes
- teachers
- metalworkers
- government officials
- farmers
- weavers

## Complex Institutions

- Formal governments with officials and laws
- Priests with both religious and political power
- A rigorous education system for training of scribes

## Record Keeping

- Cuneiform tablets—records of business transactions, historical events, customs, and traditions

# CHARACTERISTICS OF CIVILIZATION in Sumer

## Advanced Cities

- Uruk—population of about 50,000, which doubled in two centuries
- Lagash—population of about 10,000 to 50,000
- Umma—population of about 10,000 to 50,000

## Advanced Technology

- By around 3000 B.C.:
- The wheel, the plow, and the sailboat probably in daily use
  - Bronze weapons and body armor that gave Sumerians a military advantage over their enemies

# Characteristics of Cities

## *Generally larger than villages*

- **First known city was Uruk, in what is now Iraq**
- **Home to 40,000–50,000 people**
- **Covered more than 1,000 acres**

## *Populations more diverse than in villages*

- **Early villages consisted of extended families**
- **Early cities included many unrelated people**

## *More formal organization than in villages*

- **Had defined centers, with temples and marketplaces**
- **Had defined boundaries separating the cities from surrounding villages**
- **Served as centers of trade for surrounding villages**

# The First Civilizations

**The development of cities gave rise to the first civilizations or complex and organized society.**

## ***Characteristics of Early Civilizations***

1. **Developed cities**
2. **Organized government**
3. **Formalized religion**
4. **Specialization of labor: farmers, engineers, soldiers, artisans**
5. **Social classes**
6. **Record keeping or writing**
7. **Art and architecture**

**The first civilizations grew up independently along fertile river valleys where enough food could be produced to support a growing population.**

EUROPE

ASIA




- China, 3950–1000 B.C.
- Mesopotamia, 3500–1600 B.C.
- Ancient Egypt, 3000–2000 B.C.
- Indus Valley, 2500–1700 B.C.

AFRICA

# PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY



 Mesopotamia 3500 BCE

# **What was the relationship between job specialization and the development of social classes in early civilizations?**

**Answer(s):** The increased wealth of urban societies brought about job specialization. As people specialized, social classes developed. Rulers, nobles, warriors, and priests made up the highest social and economic class. In the middle were traders and merchants. Artisans and farmers formed the lower classes. In many societies, slaves were at the very bottom of the class system.

# Change in Civilizations

Once early civilizations developed, they continued to change over time. Some changes weakened civilizations, while others strengthened them and led to growth and expansion.

## Environmental Influences

- Dependence on farming
- Forces of nature
- Need for resources, such as metals, stone, and timber
- Expanded trade for scarce resources

## Spread of People and Ideas

- Movement of people
- New languages, customs
- Cultural diffusion
- Advances spread from one civilization to another

## Expansion and Warfare

- Conflicts over land and resources
- Civilizations expanded
- Some civilizations developed into states and kingdoms

# The First River-Valley Civilizations, 3500–1500 B.C. E.

## Time Line

**3000 B.C. E.** City-states form in Sumer, Mesopotamia.

**2300 B.C. E.** Sargon established first known empire in Sumer, Mesopotamia.

**1792 B.C. E.** Hammurabi develops code of laws for Babylonian Empire.

**3500 B.C. E.**

**2660 B.C. E.** Egypt's Old Kingdom develops.

**1550 B.C. E.** Indus Valley civilization declines.

**1500 B.C. E.**



# 1 Mesopotamia

MAP

- How did the first cities emerge?
- What are the basic features of civilizations?
- How do cultures spread and change?

# 1 Mesopotamia

## MAP

Farmers began cultivating lands along river valleys and producing **surplus**, or extra, food.

Surpluses helped populations expand.

As populations grew, some villages swelled into cities.

# 1 Mesopotamia

MAP

**A civilization is a complex, highly organized social order. Historians distinguish eight basic features found in most early civilizations:**

**1. Cities**

**2. Well-organized central governments**

**3. Complex religions**

**4. Job specialization**

**5. Social classes**

**6. Arts and architecture**

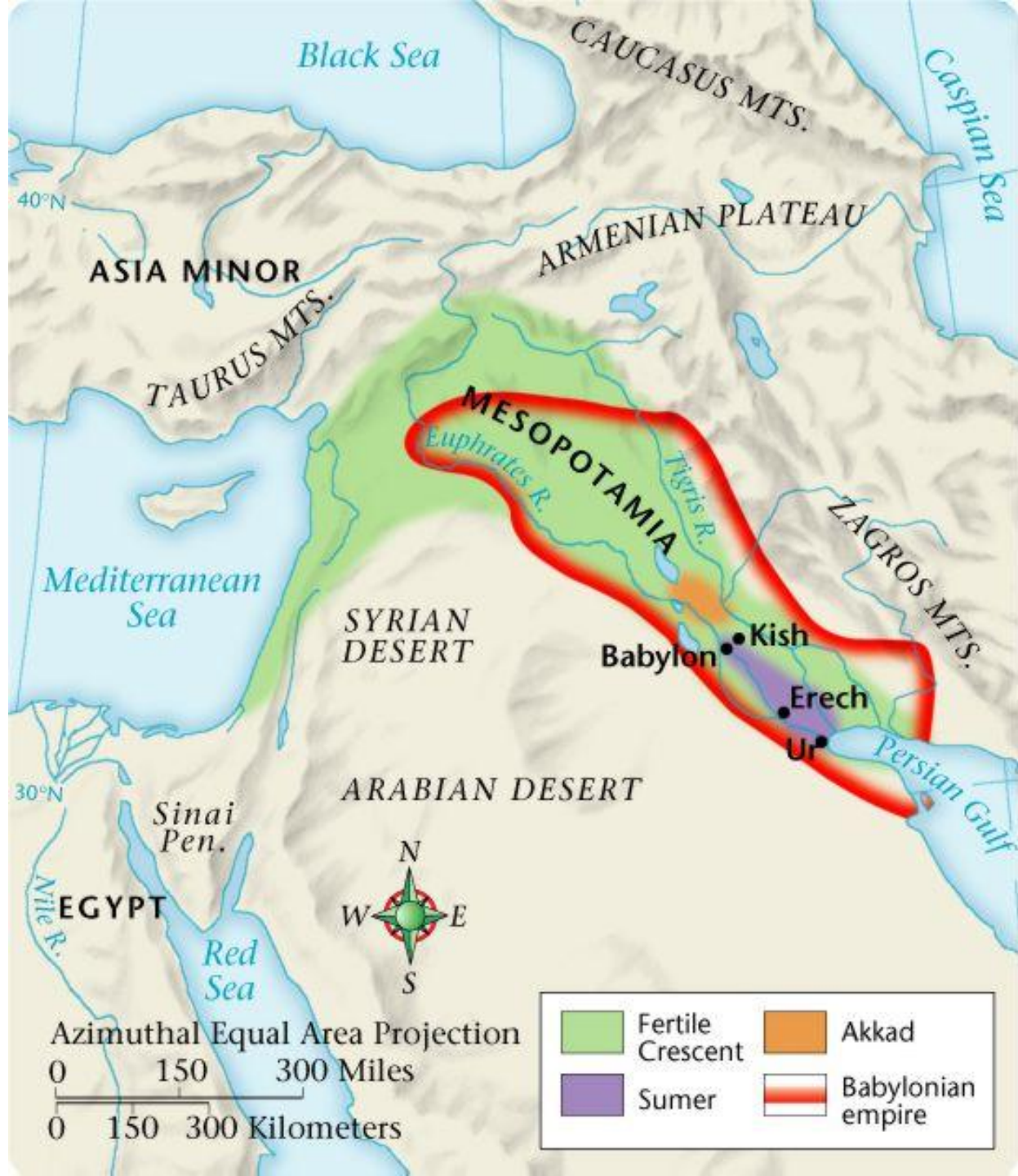
**7. Public works**

**8. Writing/Record Keeping**





# Indo-European Migrations: 4m-2m



The Middle East: “The Crossroads of Three Continents”



Azimuthal Equal Area Projection  
 0 150 300 Miles  
 0 150 300 Kilometers

	Fertile Crescent		Akkad
	Sumer		Babylonian empire

# 1 Mesopotamia

## GOVERNMENT

- City-states with hereditary rulers.
- Ruler led army in war and enforced laws. Priest assisted the king.
- Complex government with scribes to collect taxes and keep records.

## SOCIAL STRUCTURE

- Each state had distinct social hierarchy, or system of ranks.
- Most people were peasant farmers.
- Women had legal rights; some engaged in trade and owned property.

## RELIGION

- Worshiped many Gods.
- Believed gods controlled every aspect of life.
- Saw afterlife as a grim place.
- To keep the gods happy, each city built a ziggurat, or pyramid temple.



## **Ziggurat of Ur-Nammu, ca. 2100 B.C.E.**

Built at Ur by King Ur-Nammu for the Sumerian moon-god, Nanna, an exterior made of fine bricks baked in a kiln encloses a sun-dried mud brick core. Three ramps on the first level converge to form a stairway to the second level. The function of ziggurats is not known.
















# 1 Mesopotamia

[MAP](#)

## Advances in Learning

- Developed **cuneiform**, believed to be the earliest form of writing.
- Developed basic algebra and geometry. (Unit of 60)
- Made accurate calendars, essential to a farming society.
- Made the first wheeled vehicles.



	MEANING	PICTOGRAPH	IDEOGRAM	PHONETIC SIGN
<b>A</b>	Star			
<b>B</b>	Woman			
<b>C</b>	Mountain			
<b>D</b>	Slave woman			
<b>E</b>	Water In			

Sumerian Writing

# Sumerian Writing

# 1 Mesopotamia

MAP

## Invaders, Traders, and Empire Builders

A series of strong rulers united the lands of the Fertile Crescent into well organized empires.

Again and again, nomadic warriors invaded the rich cities of the Fertile Crescent. Some looted and burned the cities. Others stayed to rule them.

2300 B.C. E. –Sargon, the ruler of Akkad, conquered Sumer and built the first known empire.

1790 B.C. E.–Hammurabi, King of Babylon, united the Babylonian empire.

# 1 Mesopotamia

[MAP](#)

## The Code of Hammurabi

Hammurabi's code was the first attempt by a ruler to **codify**, or arrange and set down in writing, all of the laws that would govern a state.

One section codified **criminal law**, the branch of law that deals with offenses against others, such as robbery and murder.

Another section codified **civil law**, the branch that deals with private rights and matters, such as business contracts, taxes, and property inheritance.



## Law Code of Hammurabi

The principal collection of laws in ancient Mesopotamia was the code of Hammurabi, the Babylonian ruler. Unearthed by French archaeologists in 1901-1902, this stele contained the code, which Hammurabi

# 1 Mesopotamia

MAP

## Warfare and the Spread of Ideas

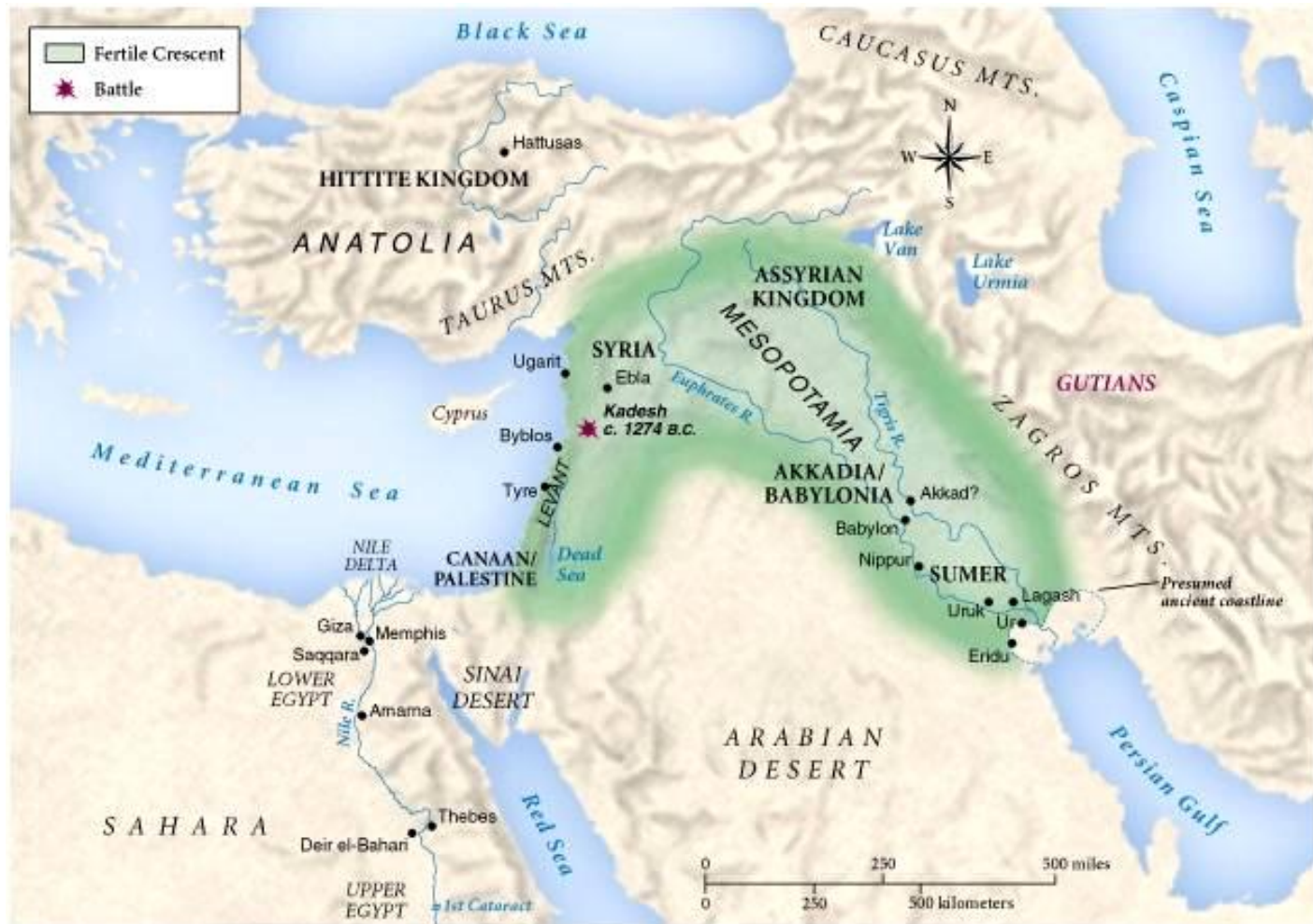
- Conquerors brought ideas and technologies to the conquered region. For example, when the Hittites conquered Mesopotamia, they brought the skill of ironworking to that region.
- When the conquerors were in turn conquered, they moved elsewhere, spreading their ideas and technologies.  
For example, when the Hittite empire was itself conquered, Hittite ironworkers migrated to other regions and spread the secret of iron making across Asia, Africa, and Europe.

# Indo-European Migrations: 4m-2m



The Middle East: “The Crossroads of Three Continents”

# The Ancient Fertile Crescent Area



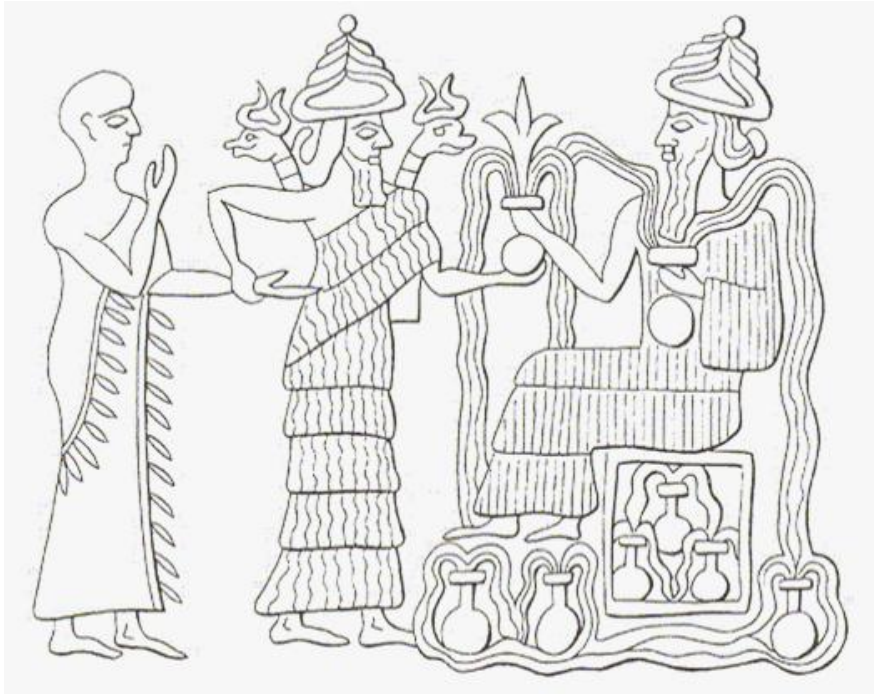
The Middle East: “The Cradle of Civilization”

# Sumerians

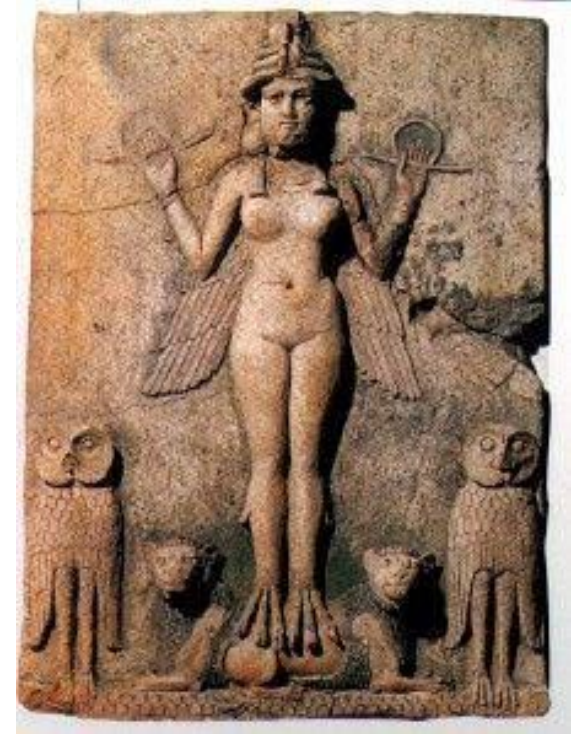




# Sumerian Religion - Polytheistic



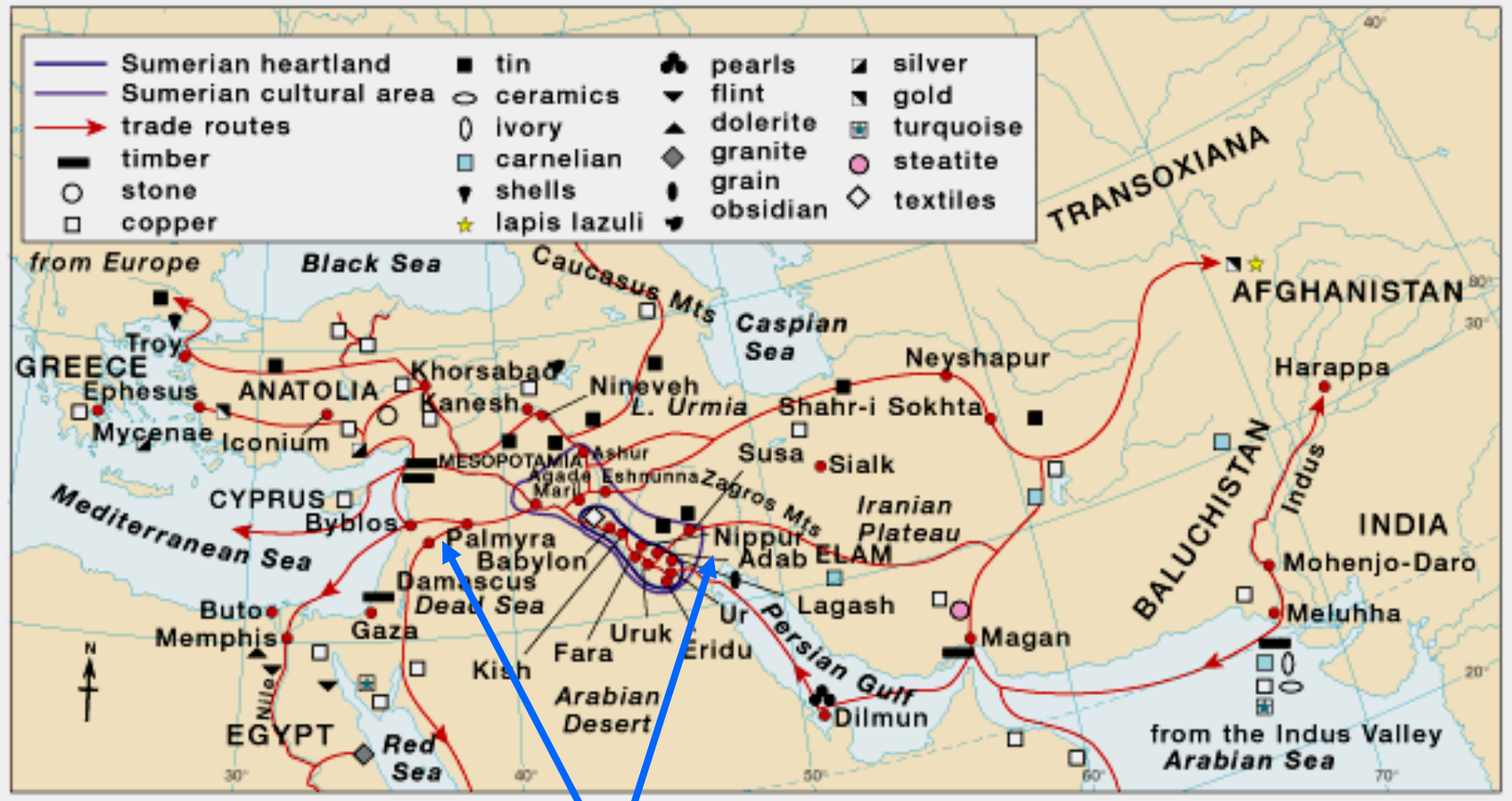
Enki



Innana

Anthropomorphic Gods

# Mesopotamian Trade
















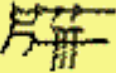




“The Cuneiform World”

# Cuneiform: “Wedge-Shaped” Writing

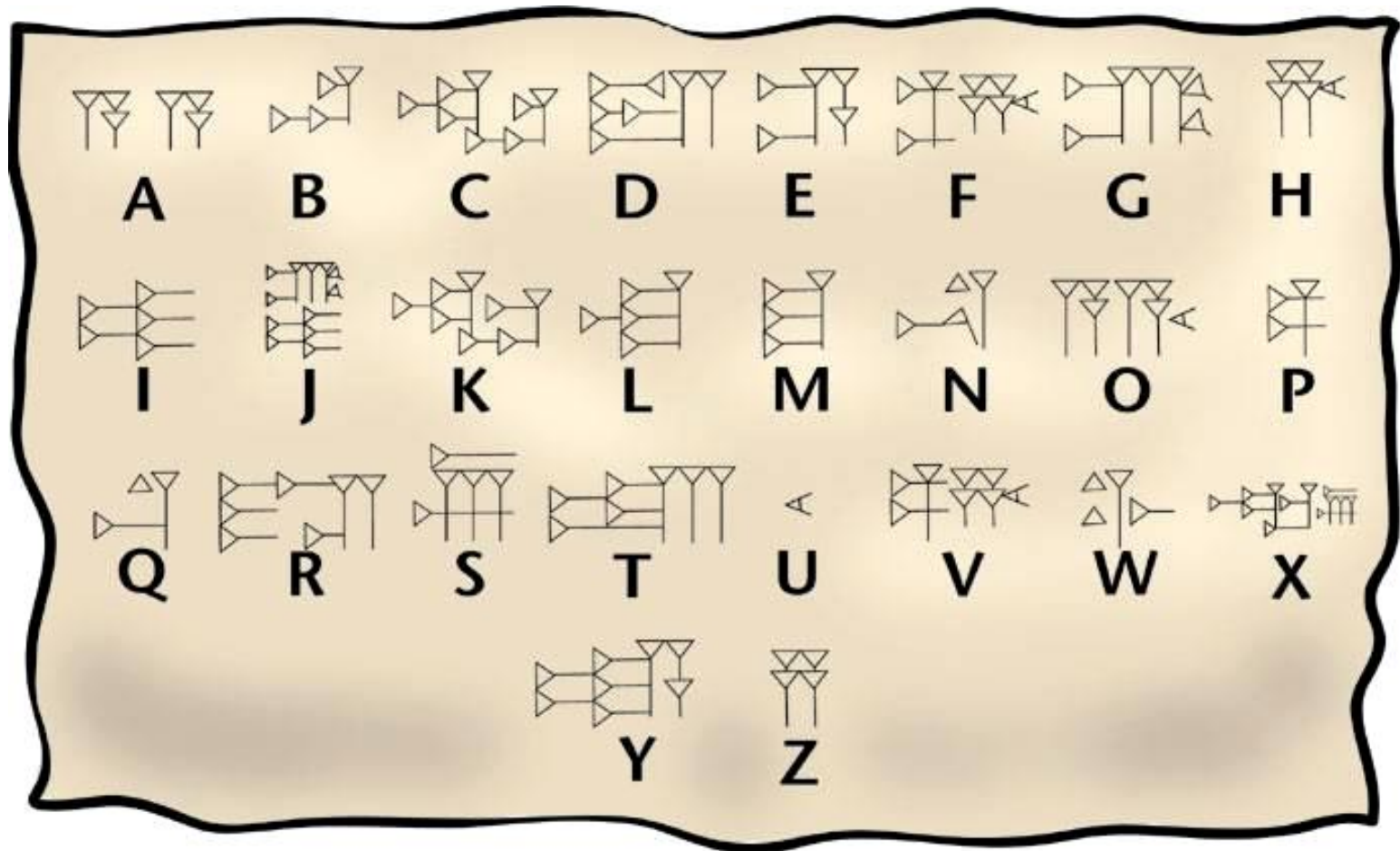


# Cuneiform Writing

## Development of Cuneiform, 3000 B.C.–600 B.C.

	Meaning of Pictograph					
	Ear of Barley	Head and Body of Man	Fish	Bird	Bowl of Food	Stream of Water
Pictographs c. 3000 B.C.						
Rotated Position Pictographs c. 2800 B.C.						
Cuneiform Signs c. 600 B.C.						

# Deciphering Cuneiform



# Sumerian Scribes



“Tablet House”



# Sumerian Cylinder Seals

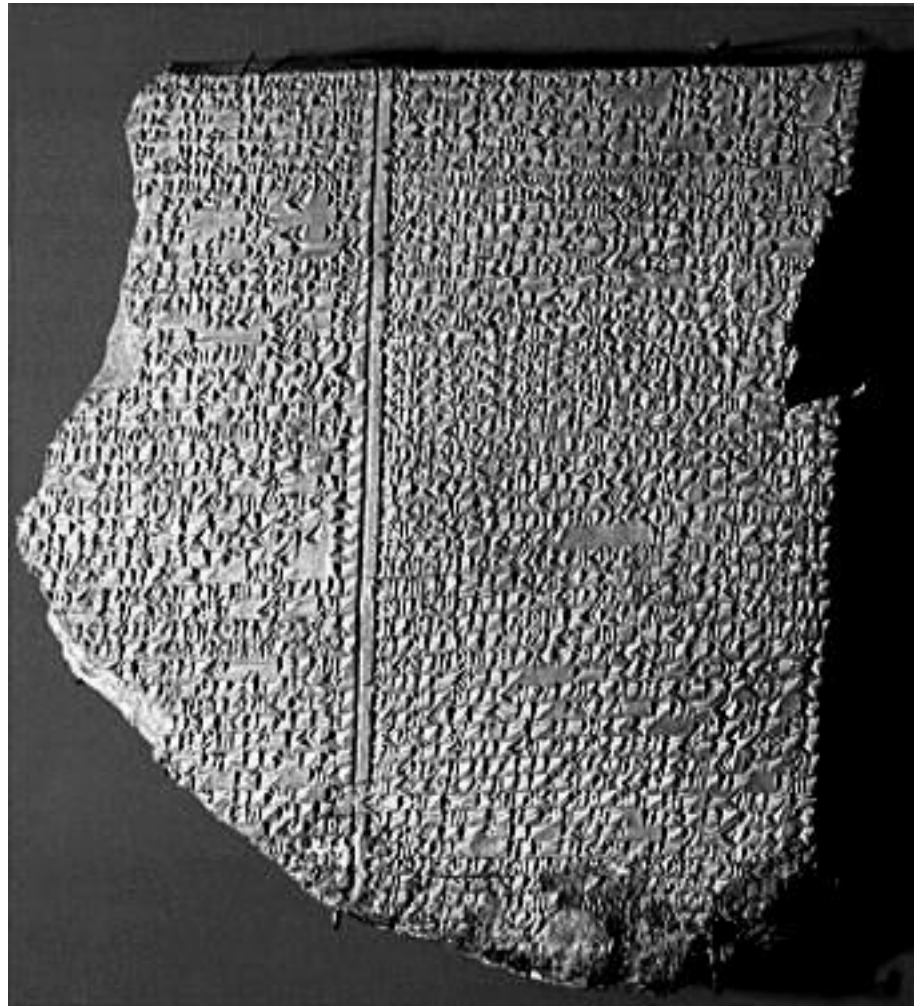


# Gilgamesh



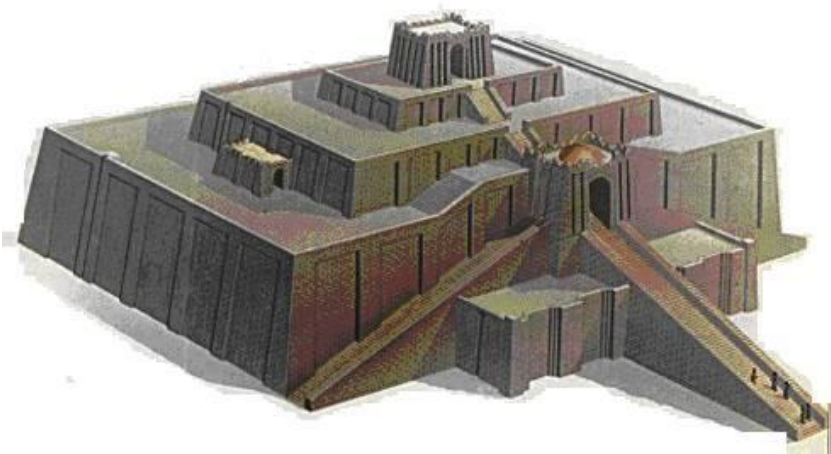


# Gilgamesh Epic Tablet: Flood Story

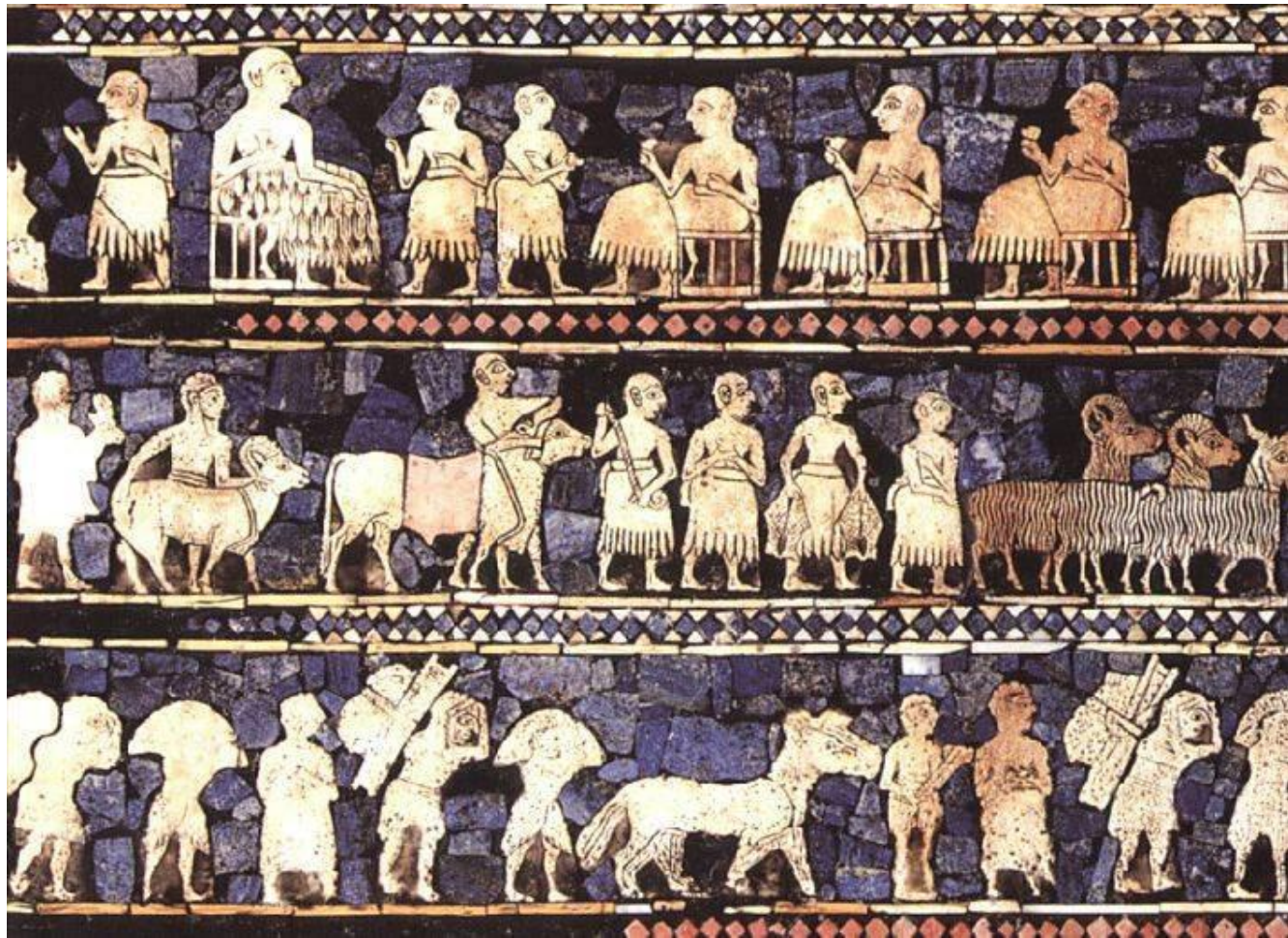


# Ziggurat at Ur

- Temple
- “Mountain of the Gods”



# The Royal Standard of Ur



# Mesopotamian Harp



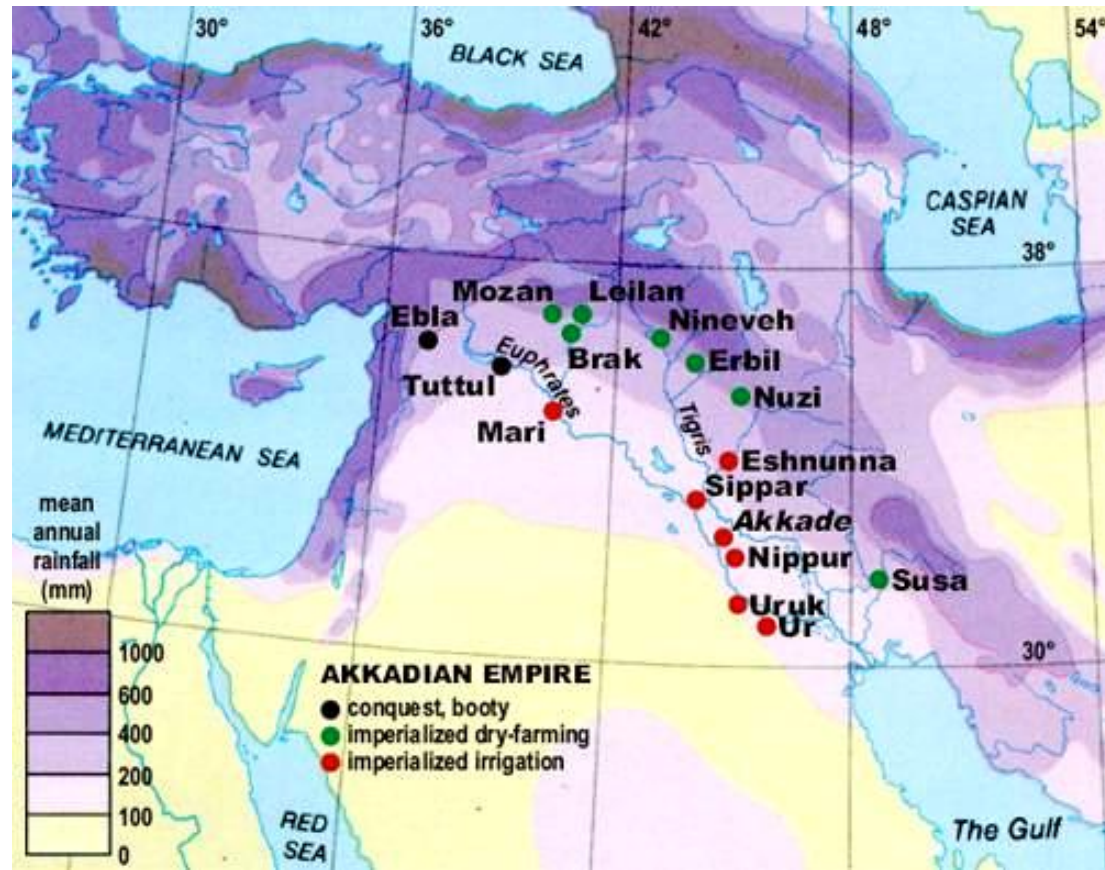
# Board Game From Ur



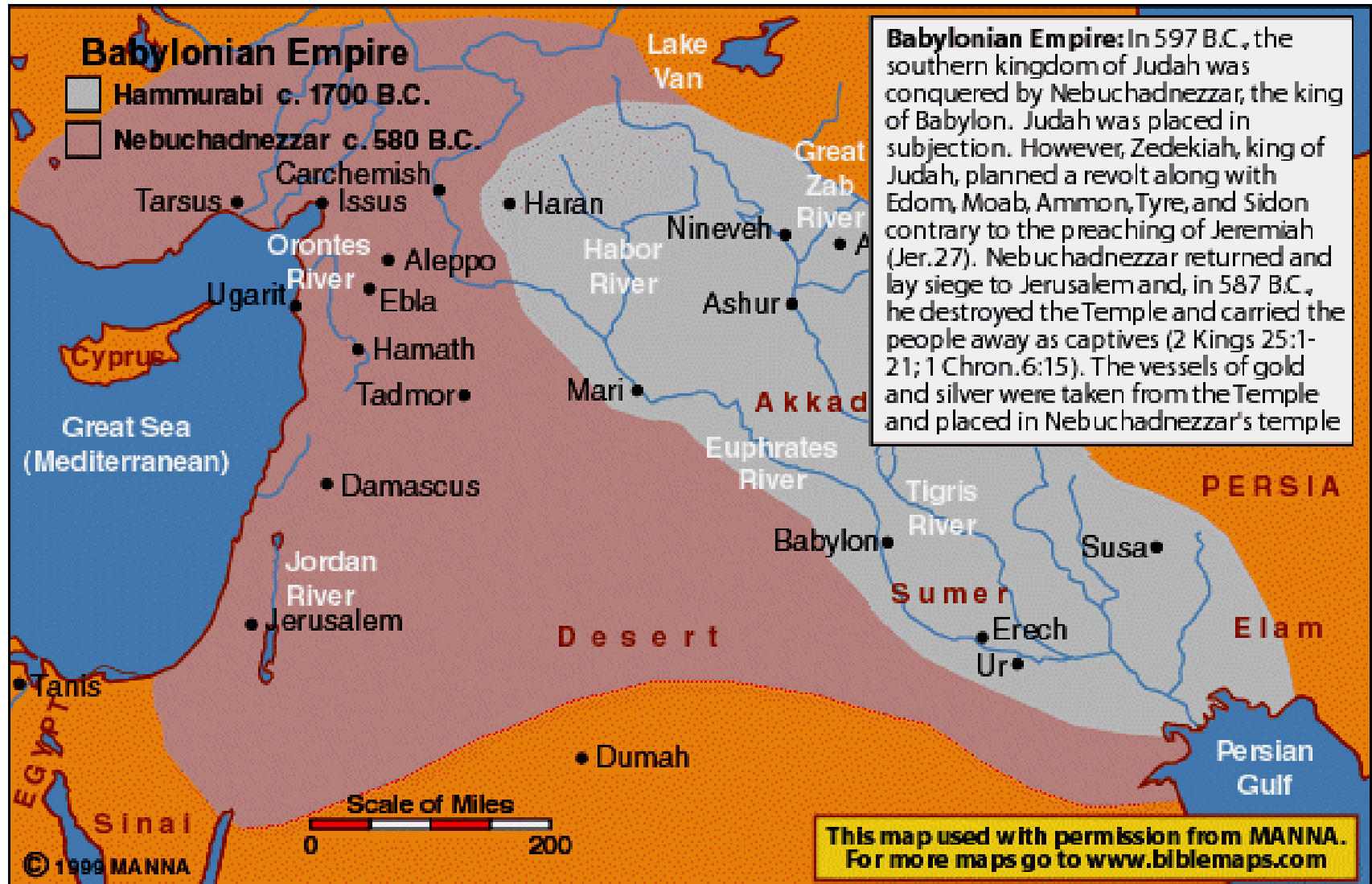
# Sophisticated Metallurgy Skills at Ur



# Sargon of Akkad: The World's First Empire [Akkadians]



# The Babylonian Empires





# Hammurabi's Code

[r. 1792-1750 B. C. E.]



# Hammurabi, the Judge



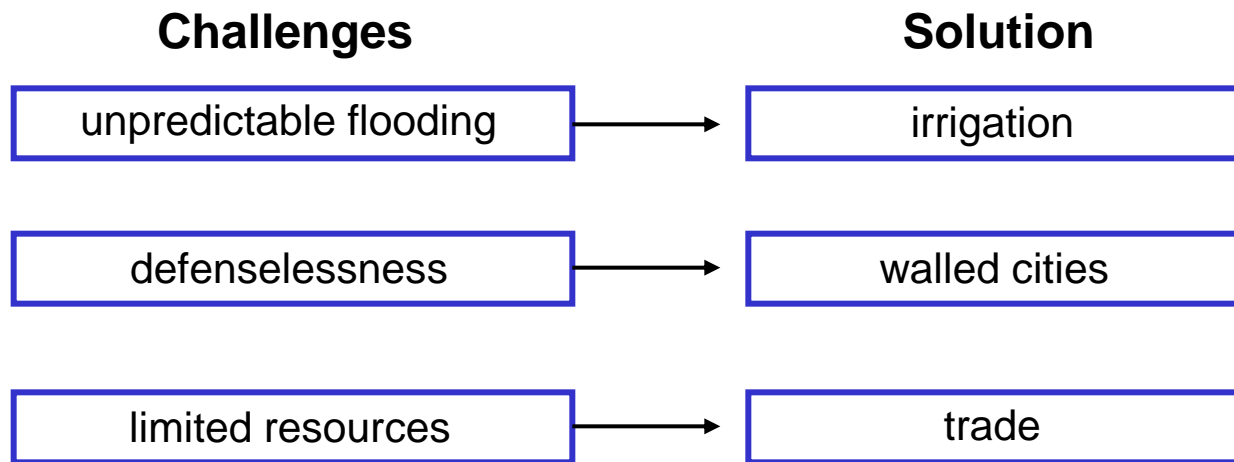
# Babylonian Math



# Babylonian Numbers

1		11		21		31		41		51	
2		12		22		32		42		52	
3		13		23		33		43		53	
4		14		24		34		44		54	
5		15		25		35		45		55	
6		16		26		36		46		56	
7		17		27		37		47		57	
8		18		28		38		48		58	
9		19		29		39		49		59	
10		20		30		40		50			

# **Environmental challenges the Sumerians faced and their solutions to these challenges.**





## Mesopotamian Cylinder Seal

Seals indicated the identity of an individual and were impressed into wet clay or wax to “sign” legal documents or to mark ownership of an object. This seal, produced in the period of the Akkadian Empire, depicts Ea (second from right), the god of underground waters, symbolized by the stream with fish emanating from his shoulders; Ishtar, whose attributes of fertility and war are indicated by the date cluster in her hand and the pointed weapons showing above her wings; and the sun-god Shamash, cutting his way out of the mountains with a jagged knife, an evocation of sunrise.



## Kassite cylinder seal

The Kassites entered Babylonia from the north around 1600 B.C.E. and, with the help of the Hittites, gained control of the region. They provided the land with 300 years of peace and prosperity. This cylinder seal of King Burnaburiash shows a supplicant at worship. The dog in the foreground represents the goddess Giula. The animals above the king and supplicant serve as symbols of fertility and are linked to the gods.



**Bull from Ishtar Gate, Babylon**  
Bull from Ishtar Gate, Babylon





## The Royal Standard of Ur

This mosaic from around 2500 B.C.E., made of inlaid shells and limestone, was found in a royal tomb. It depicts various aspects of life in the Mesopotamian city-state of Ur. The bottom panel shows a four-wheeled battle wagon drawn by a horse-like animal. The middle panel features soldiers wearing armor and helmets. The top panel shows war prisoners being brought before the king.





## **Bull's Head from Sumerian Lyre**

This bull's head is part of the soundbox of a wooden harp. The harp, made in Sumeria around 2600 B.C.E., is covered with gold and lapis lazuli and reflects the popularity of music in Mesopotamian society.

# Gudea



- King Gudea was one of the powerful kings responsible for the creation of public works and temples created in honor of Sumerian deities in the Sumerian city-state of Lagash. This statue bears an inscription that describes a temple dedicated to the goddess Geshtin-anna.



**Male and Female Statuettes**  
Early Dynastic Period, Mesopotamia.



## **Overview of Early City of Uruk**

This photo shows the ruins of one of the earliest Mesopotamian cities, a rich source of art objects and fine architecture,. The best-known King of Uruk was the legendary Gilgamesh.



## Overview of Ur


This photograph gives a good idea of the size and complexity of Ur, one of the most powerful cities in Mesopotamia (present Iraq). In the lower right-hand corner stands the massive ziggurat of Ummammu.




## Ziggurat

The ziggurat is a stepped tower that dominated the landscape of the Sumerian city. Surrounded by a walled enclosure, it stood as a monument to the gods. Monumental stairs led to the top, where sacrifices were offered for the welfare of the community.

The City of Ur



Aerial photograph of Ur taken in 1930.



The photograph above shows how the temple mound looked after Leonard Woolley excavated it during the 1920s and 1930s. Click here to see how high the Ziggurat was in 3000 B.C.

[Original Structure](#)

Move your cursor over the image. [Show All](#)

'View Show' to play video

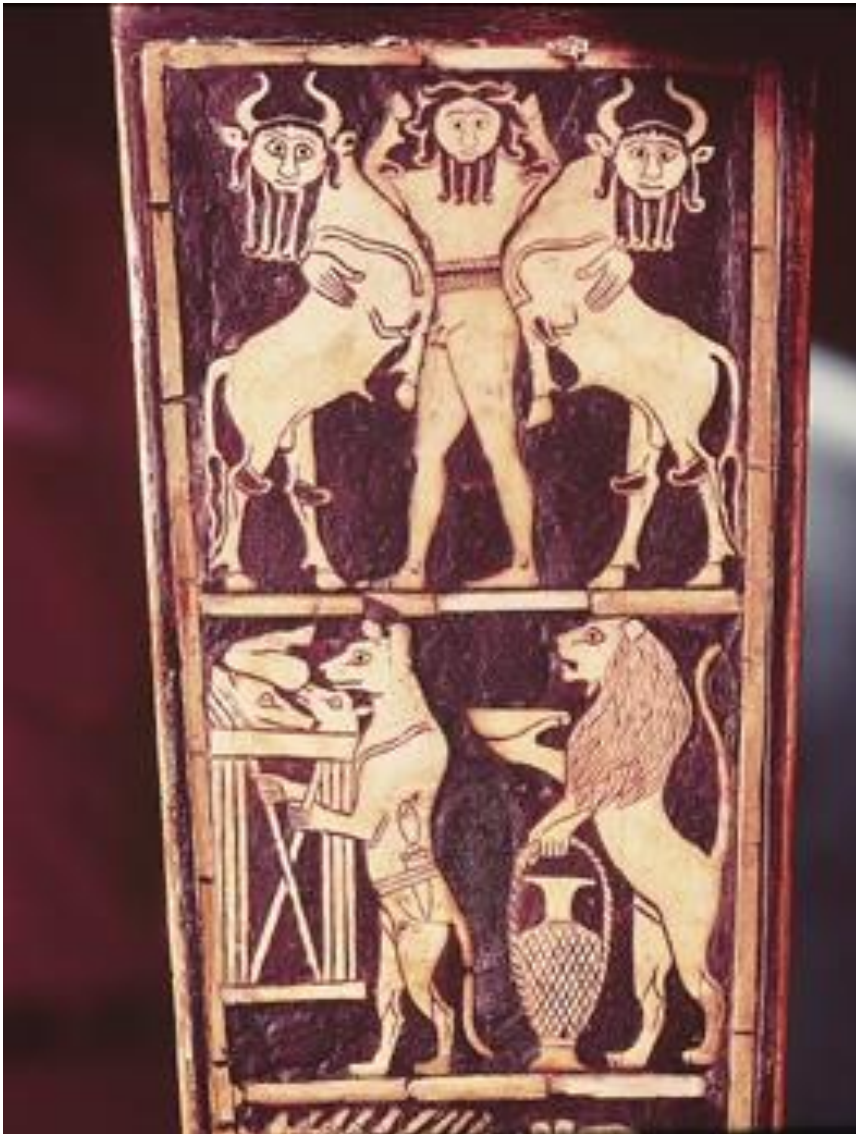
## The City of Ur

Once located at the mouth of the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers on the Persian Gulf, the city of Ur was the greatest of ancient Mesopotamia and a center of political and religious life in the region. Central to the culture of the city were the Temple of Nanna, their moon god, and Ur's ziggurat, a pyramid-like religious and administrative structure. Excavated in the 1920s and 30s by British archaeologist Charles Leonard Woolley, a likely representation of the ziggurat is shown here.





## Gilgamesh (detail of soundbox)



In the Sumerian Epic of Gilgamesh, Gilgamesh--king of Uruk and considered a hero-king and god--and his friend Endiku set out to attain immortality and join the ranks of gods. They attempt wondrous feats against fearsome agents of the gods. This top section of the front panel of this soundbox from a Sumerian harp, found in the tomb of the queen of Ur, depicts Gilgamesh with two man-faced bulls.



## 2 Egypt

### Key Idea

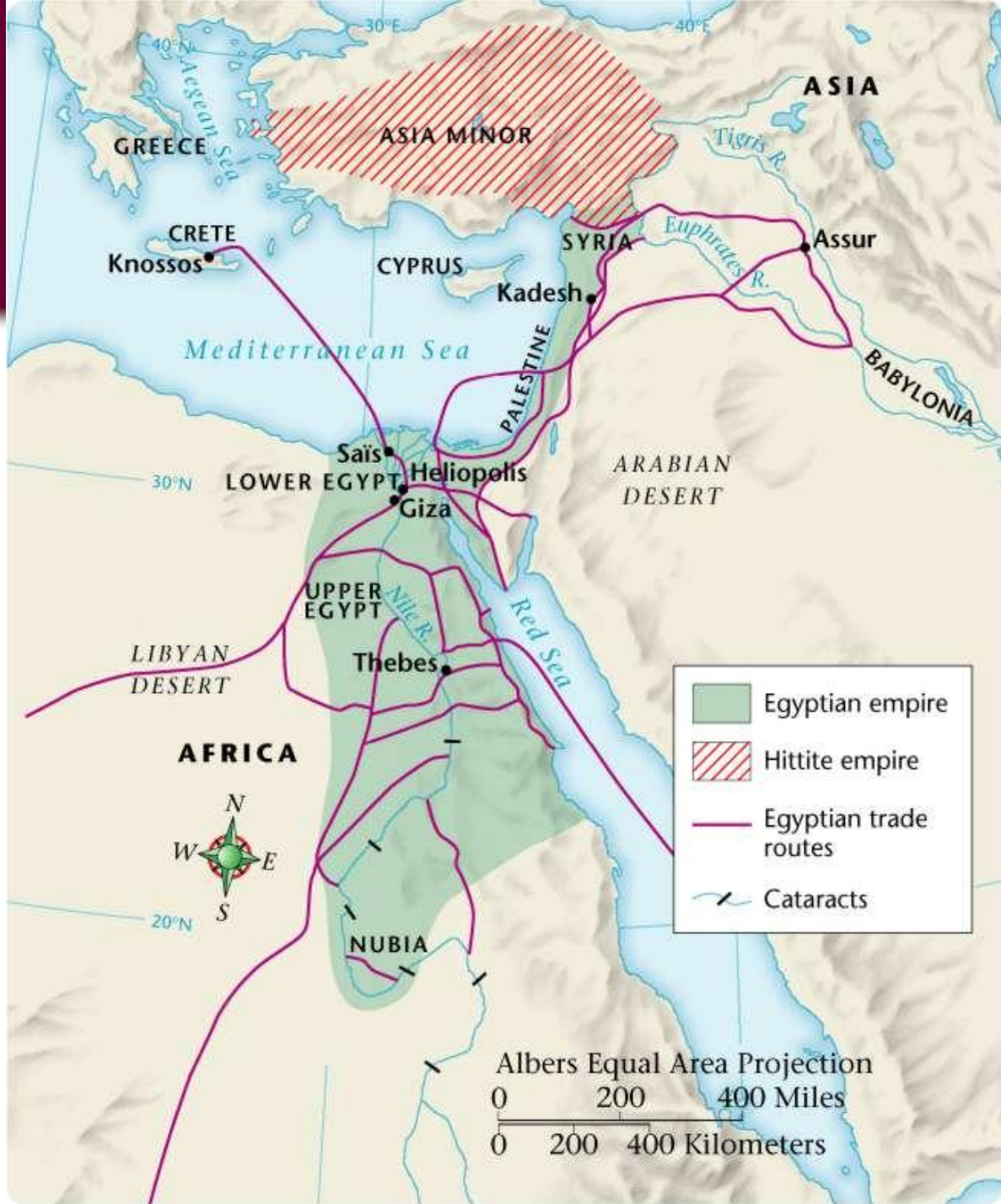
Egyptian civilization develops along the Nile River. Upper and lower Egypt are united into a kingdom and ruled by pharaohs, who are believed to be gods. Egyptian customs for preparing and burying the bodies of the dead include mummification and burying pharaohs in pyramids.

[Overview](#)[Assessment](#)

## 2 Egypt

- How did geography influence ancient Egypt?
- What were the main features and achievements of Egypt's three kingdoms?
- How did trade and warfare affect Egypt and Nubia?

# 2 Egypt



## 2 Egypt

“Egypt is wholly the gift of the Nile.” – Herodotus

People settled and established farming villages along the Nile.

Egyptians depended on annual floods to soak the land and deposit a layer of silt, or rich soil.

Egyptians had to cooperate to control the Nile, building dikes, reservoirs, and irrigation ditches.

Rulers used the Nile to link and unite Upper and Lower Egypt.

The Nile served as a trade route connecting Egypt to Africa, the Middle East, and the Mediterranean world.

## 2 Egypt

OLD KINGDOM	MIDDLE KINGDOM	NEW KINGDOM
<p><b>Pharaohs</b> organized a strong central state, were absolute rulers, and were considered gods.</p> <p>Egyptians built <b>pyramids</b> at Giza.</p> <p>Power struggles, crop failures, and cost of pyramids contributed to the collapse of the Old Kingdom.</p>	<p>Large drainage project created arable farmland.</p> <p>Traders had contacts with Middle East and Crete.</p> <p>Corruption and rebellions were common.</p> <p>Hyksos invaded and occupied the delta region.</p>	<p>Powerful pharaohs created a large empire that reached the Euphrates River.</p> <p>Hatshepsut encouraged trade.</p> <p>Ramses II expanded Egyptian rule to Syria.</p> <p>Egyptian power declined.</p>



# Ancient Egypt and Nubia

The Egyptian and Nubian societies developed along the Nile River. Egypt traded with, and sometimes controlled, the peoples of the Levant on the eastern Mediterranean coast..



## 2 Egypt

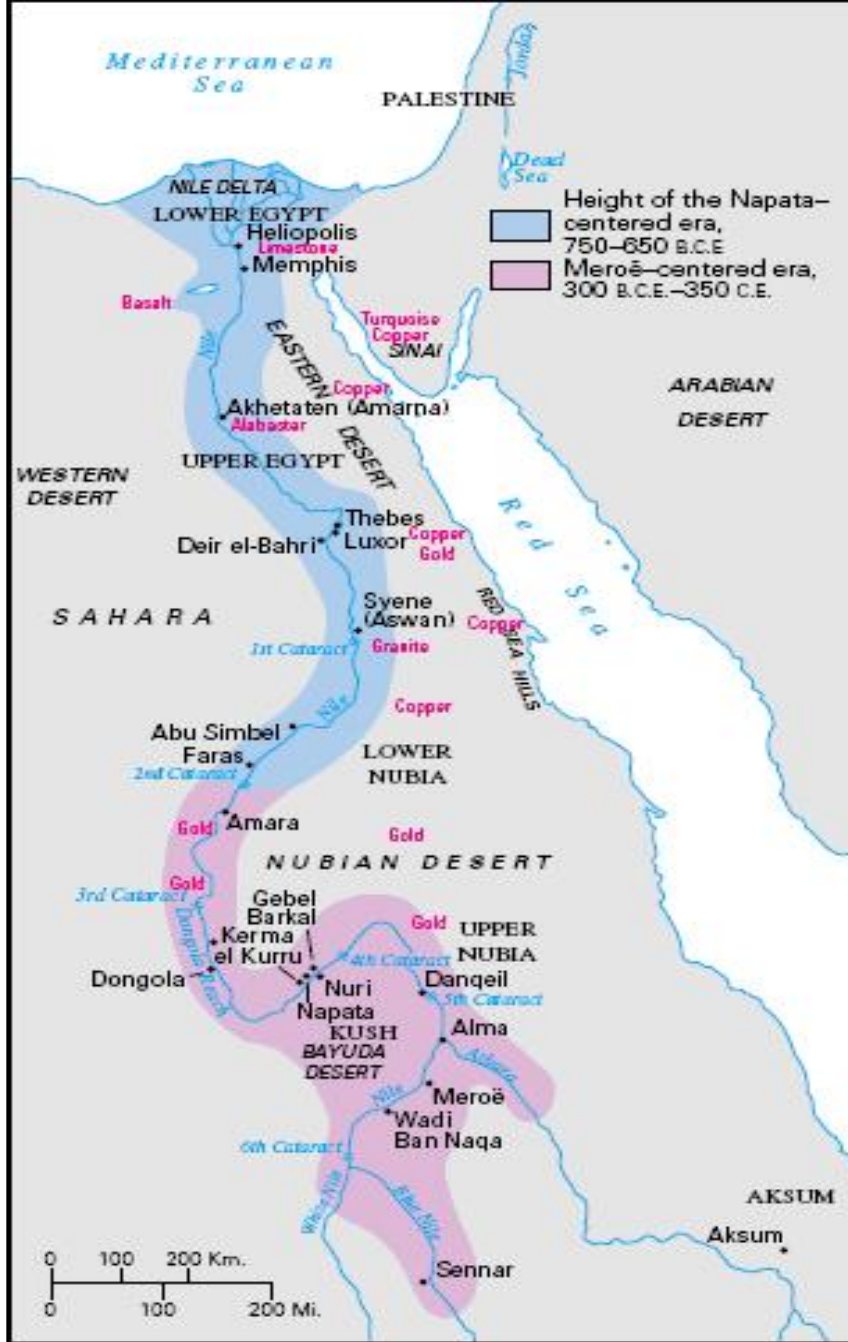
For centuries, Egypt traded or fought with Nubia.

During the New Kingdom, Egypt conquered Nubia.

- Nubians served in Egyptian armies and influenced Egyptian culture.
- Egyptian art from this period shows Nubian soldiers, musicians, or prisoners.

When Egypt declined, Nubia conquered Egypt.

- Nubians did not see themselves as conquerors. They respected Egyptian traditions.



## Ancient Nubia

The land route alongside the Nile River as it flows through Nubia has long served as a corridor connecting sub-Saharan Africa with North Africa. The centuries of Egyptian occupation, as well as time spent in Egypt by Nubian hostages, mercenaries, and merchants, led to a marked Egyptian cultural influence in Nubia.



## 2 Egypt

- How did religious beliefs shape the lives of Egyptians?
- How was Egyptian society organized?
- What advances did Egyptians make in learning and the arts?

## 2 Egypt

- Belief that many gods and goddesses ruled the world and the afterlife.
  - Amon-Re was the sun god.
  - Osiris was the god of the underworld and of the Nile.
  - The pharaoh was believed to be a god as well as a monarch.
- Belief in eternal life after death.
  - Relied on the Book of the Dead to help them through the afterworld.
  - Practiced mummification, the preservation of the body for use in the next life.



## Osiris

Egyptian lord of life and death, powerful and serene, here depicted in his full regalia.



## Egyptian Book of the Dead

Containing litanies, hymns, and other religious texts, the Book of the Dead was written to guide the deceased person safely between this world and the afterlife.

The texts are intimately aligned with the cult of Osiris and also contain references to a Day of Judgment. This scene shows a dead person's appearance before a divine court of judgment. His heart is being weighed in the balance to determine his fate in the afterlife.



## Ra and Horus

The god Ra appears on the left in a form associated with Horus, the falcon-god. The red circle over Ra's head identifies him as the sun-god. In this scene Ra also assumes characteristics of Osiris, god of the underworld. He stands in judgment of the dead woman on the right. She meets the god with respect but without fear, as he will guide her safely to a celestial heaven.

## Akhenaton and Aton



The Pharaoh Amenhotep sought to replace traditional polytheism with the worship of Aton, a single god who was represented with the sun disk. Amenhotep took the name Akhenaton ("It is well with Aton"). This relief shows the king and his wife Nefertiti worshipping Aton.



## 2 Egypt

### Advances in Learning

Developed a form of picture writing called **hieroglyphics**.

Doctors diagnosed and cured illnesses, performed surgery, and developed medicines still used today.

Developed 12-month calendar on which modern calendar is based. Astronomers mapped constellations and charted movement of the planets.

Developed practical geometry. Skilled in design and engineering.

### Advances in the Arts

Statues, paintings, and writings tell us about ancient Egyptian values and attitudes.

Developed painting style that remained unchanged for thousands of years.

Wrote hymns and prayers to the gods, proverbs, love poems, stories of victory in battle, and folk tales.

Built pyramids and other great buildings, such as temple of Ramses II.

## 2 Egypt

### **PHARAOH**

**Earthly leader; considered a god**

### **HIGH PRIESTS AND PRIESTESSES**

**Served gods and goddesses**

### **NOBLES**

**Fought pharaoh's wars**

### **MERCHANTS, SCRIBES, AND ARTISANS**

**Made furniture, jewelry, and fabrics for pharaohs and nobles, and provided for other needs**

### **PEASANT FARMERS AND SLAVES**

**Worked in the fields and served the pharaoh**

## 2 Egypt

### Overview

#### MAIN IDEA

Along the Nile River, civilization emerged in Egypt and became united into a kingdom ruled by pharaohs.

#### WHY IT MATTERS NOW

Many of the monuments built by the Egyptians stand as a testament to their ancient civilization.

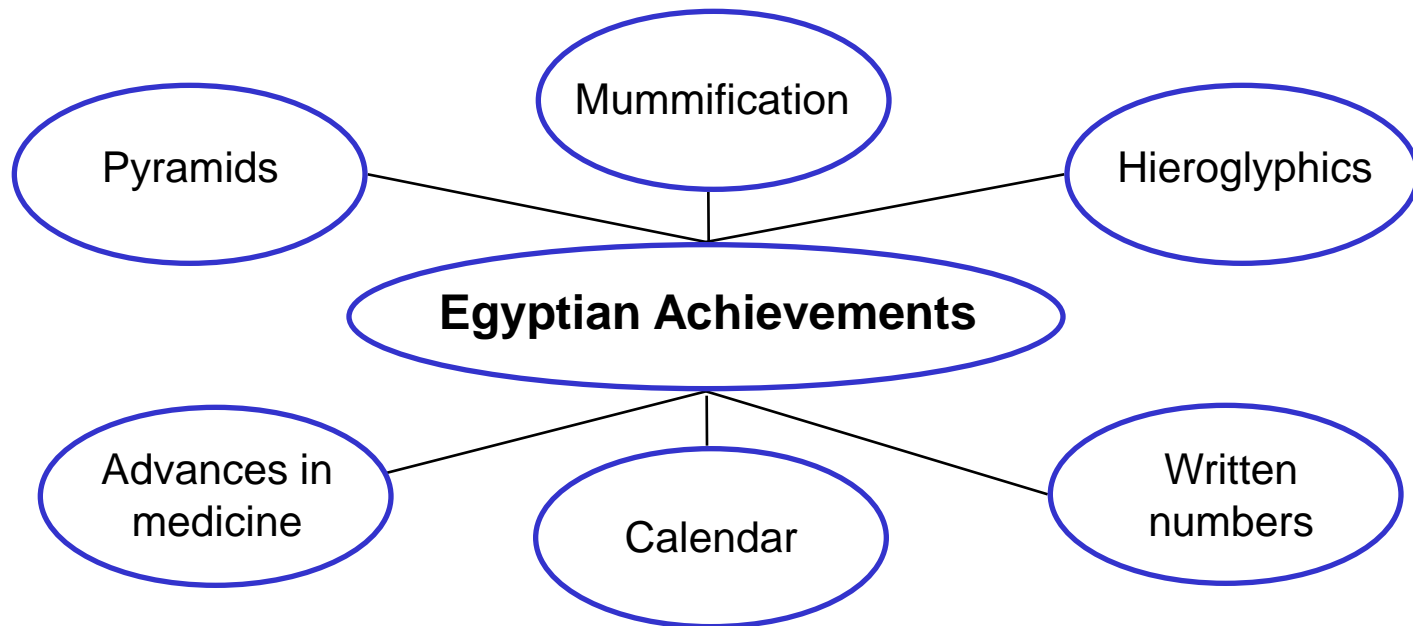
#### TERMS & NAMES

- cataract
- delta
- Menes
- pharaoh
- theocracy
- pyramid
- mummification
- hieroglyphics
- papyrus

## 2 Egypt

### Section 2 Assessment

1. Look at the graphic to help organize your thoughts.  
Give four examples of Egyptian achievements.



*continued . . .*

## 2 Egypt

### Section 2 Assessment

2. Three natural features determined the boundaries of ancient Egyptian civilization: the Nile River, the First Cataract, and the surrounding desert. In your judgment, which of these features was most important to Egypt's history?

#### ANSWER

#### Possible Responses:

- The Nile River—it provided fertile soil, a predictable growing season, and easy transportation within Egypt.
- The First Cataract—it presented an obstacle to trade and communication with peoples on the upper Nile.
- The deserts—they limited outside contact but also prevented invasions.

'View Show' to view and zoom map

## **Ancient Egypt and the Levant**

The unique geography of the Nile Valley left a stamp on ancient Egypt. Fertile soil made Egypt wealthy, and the surrounding desert led to periods of isolation from nearby Africa and Asian cultures.



## Great Pyramid at Giza

Three Egyptian pharaohs from the twenty-sixth century B.C.E. were buried in these magnificent pyramids, which symbolized the power of Old Kingdom Egypt. The rearmost pyramid, built for Pharaoh Cheops, remains the largest all-stone building ever constructed anywhere.





## The "Great Pyramid" of the Pharaoh Khuf

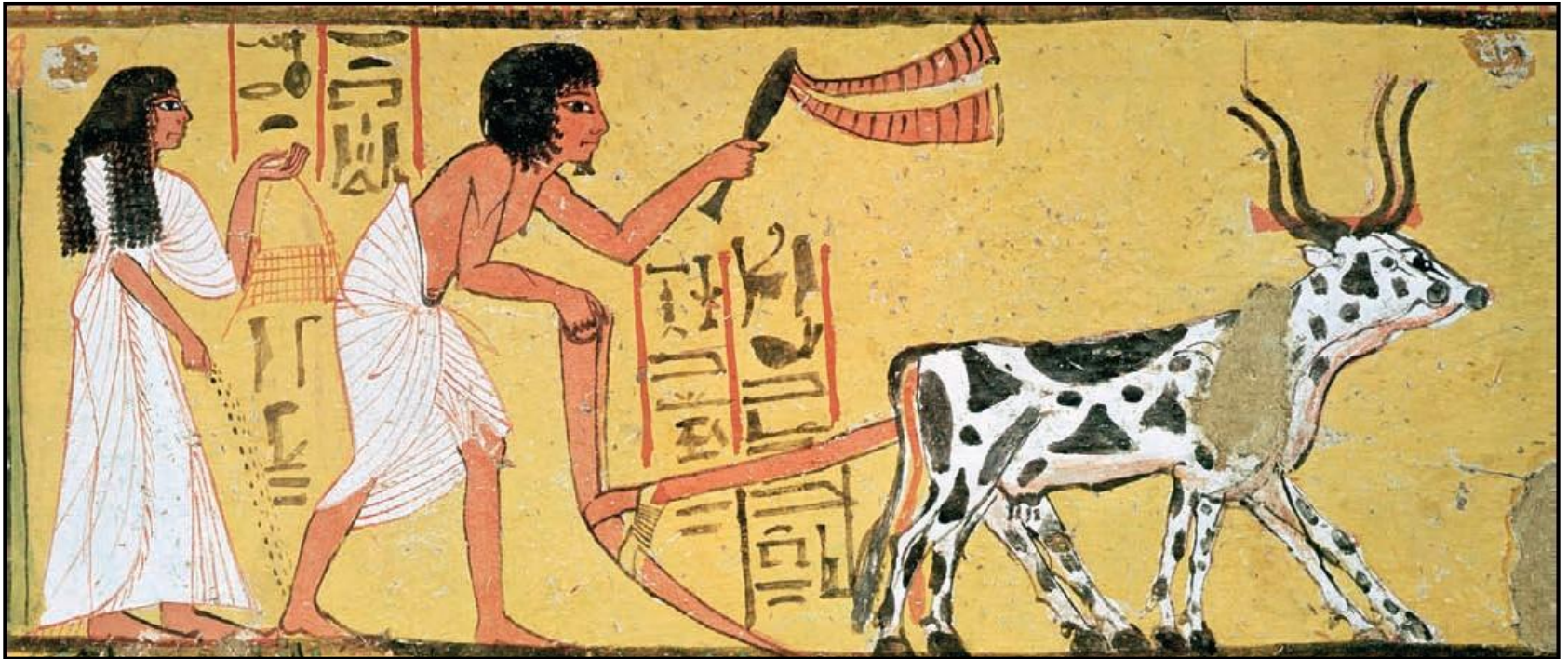
The three largest pyramids were constructed at Giza beginning ca. 2600 B.C.E. The "Great Pyramid" of the pharaoh Khufu, in the center, is 781 feet at the base, 481 feet tall, and contains 2.3 million stone blocks weighing from two to fifteen tons each. The smaller pyramids in the foreground were for other members of the royal family.





## **Akhenaton and Nefertiti**

A relief, ca. 1350 B.C.E., shows Akhenaton and Nefertiti playing with their daughters as they bask in the rays of the sun god Aton. Aton was depicted as a disc whose descending rays terminated in human hands that oversaw the welfare of Egypt. Akhenaton was devoted to the worship of Aton, and determined to make him the main god of Egypt.

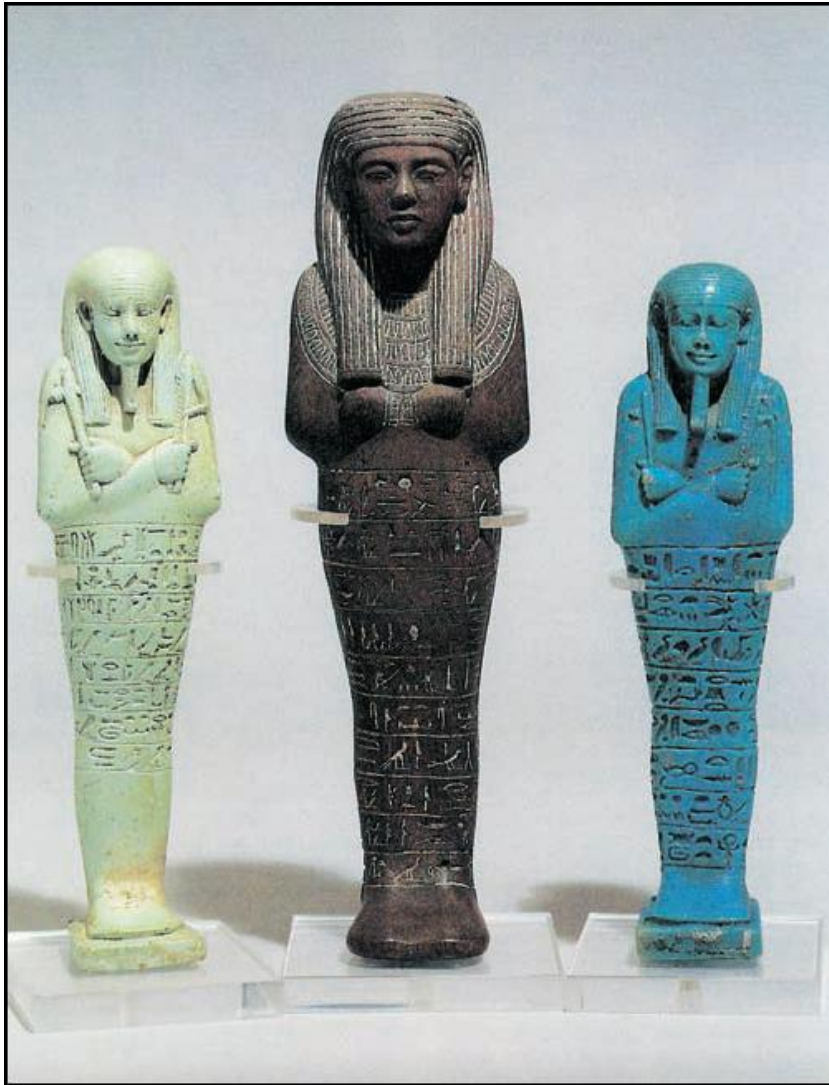


## Egyptian Plowing

Despite Egyptian political defeat, ordinary life went on as usual. Here a farmer and his pair of oxen still plow the field as before. His wife follows behind sowing seeds, preparing for the new harvest.

## Shabti Figurines

The Egyptians believed in an afterlife in which earthly work must go on. They made Shabti figurines that could be called magically to life to do that work for them. The figurines fulfilled in death the tasks that ordinary human beings did in life.





## Two sides of Narmer Palette

This palette comes from Hierakonpolis, the sacred city of the prehistoric kingdom of Upper Egypt. It records the victory (over Delta) of King Narmer, who is shown on one side wearing the crown of Upper Egypt and on the other that of Lower Egypt. This monument commemorates the union of the two halves of Egypt.



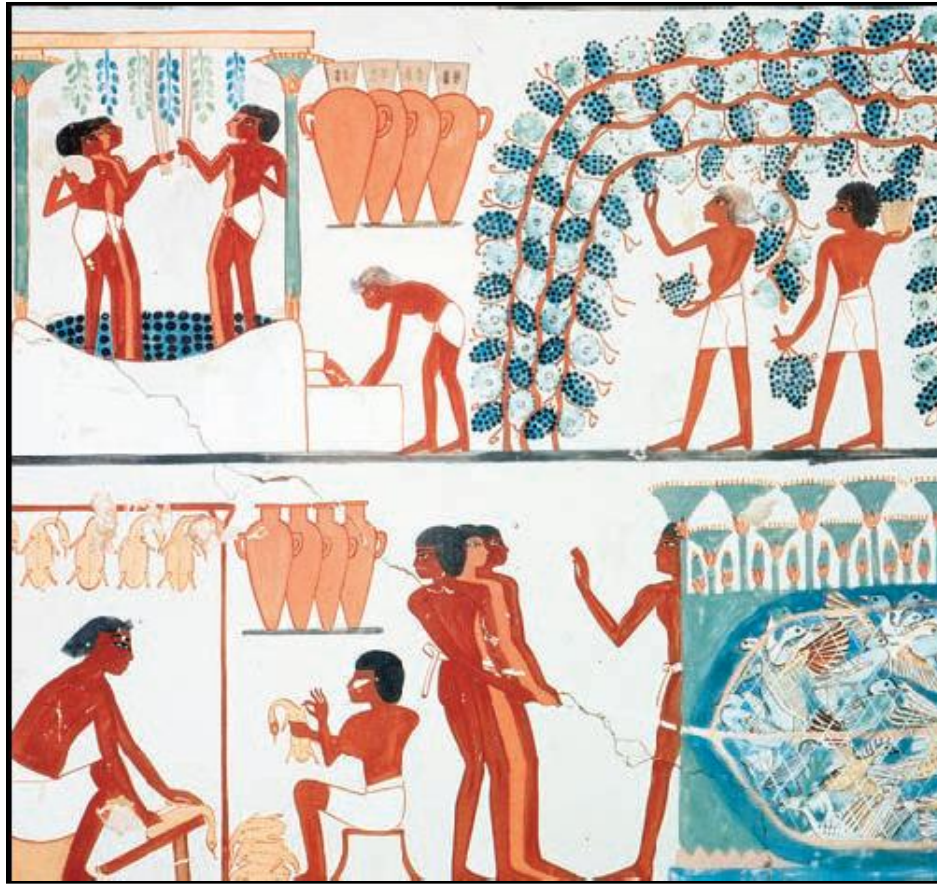
## Measuring and Recording the Egyptian Harvest

This wall painting from a tomb in the city of Thebes shows officials and peasants figuring the size of the annual harvest.



## Egyptian Writing

The essentials of Egyptian writing: a sheet of papyrus, a stylus or pen, an ink well.



## Egyptian Harvest Scene

This cheerful wall painting depicts two aspects of the harvest. Workers at the top right pick bunches of ripe grapes for winemaking. Their colleagues in the center stomp the grapes, and the large pottery jars store the wine.



## Pyramids of Giza

Giza was the burial place of the pharaohs of the Old Kingdom and of their aristocracy, whose smaller rectangular tombs surround the two foremost pyramids. The small pyramid probably belonged to a pharaoh's wife..





## **Nubian Pyramids**

The Nubians adopted many aspects of Egyptian culture and customs. The pyramids shown here are not as magnificent as their Egyptian predecessors, but they served the same purpose of honoring the dead king. Their core was constructed of bricks, which were then covered with stone blocks. At the doors of the pyramids stood monumental gates to the interiors of the tombs.



## **Nubian bringing gifts**

This wall painting in the tomb chapel of Huy at Thebes (ca. 1600 B.C.E.) shows Nubians bringing rings and bags of gold to King Tutankhamen. The other section of this painting depicts the Egyptianized chief Hequanefer, Prince of Miam, and other Nubian chiefs bowing before the Egyptian king.



### **Erich Lessing/Art Resource, NY**

This series of small wooden figures comes from the tomb of Meket Ra at Deir el Bahari (Thebes, ca. 2000 B.C.E.). Scenes of this type were intended to show how rich the occupant of the tomb was and how his wealth procured him offerings even after his death.



**Nefertiti, queen of Egypt.**  
Nefertiti, queen of Egypt.

## Statue of Hatshepsut



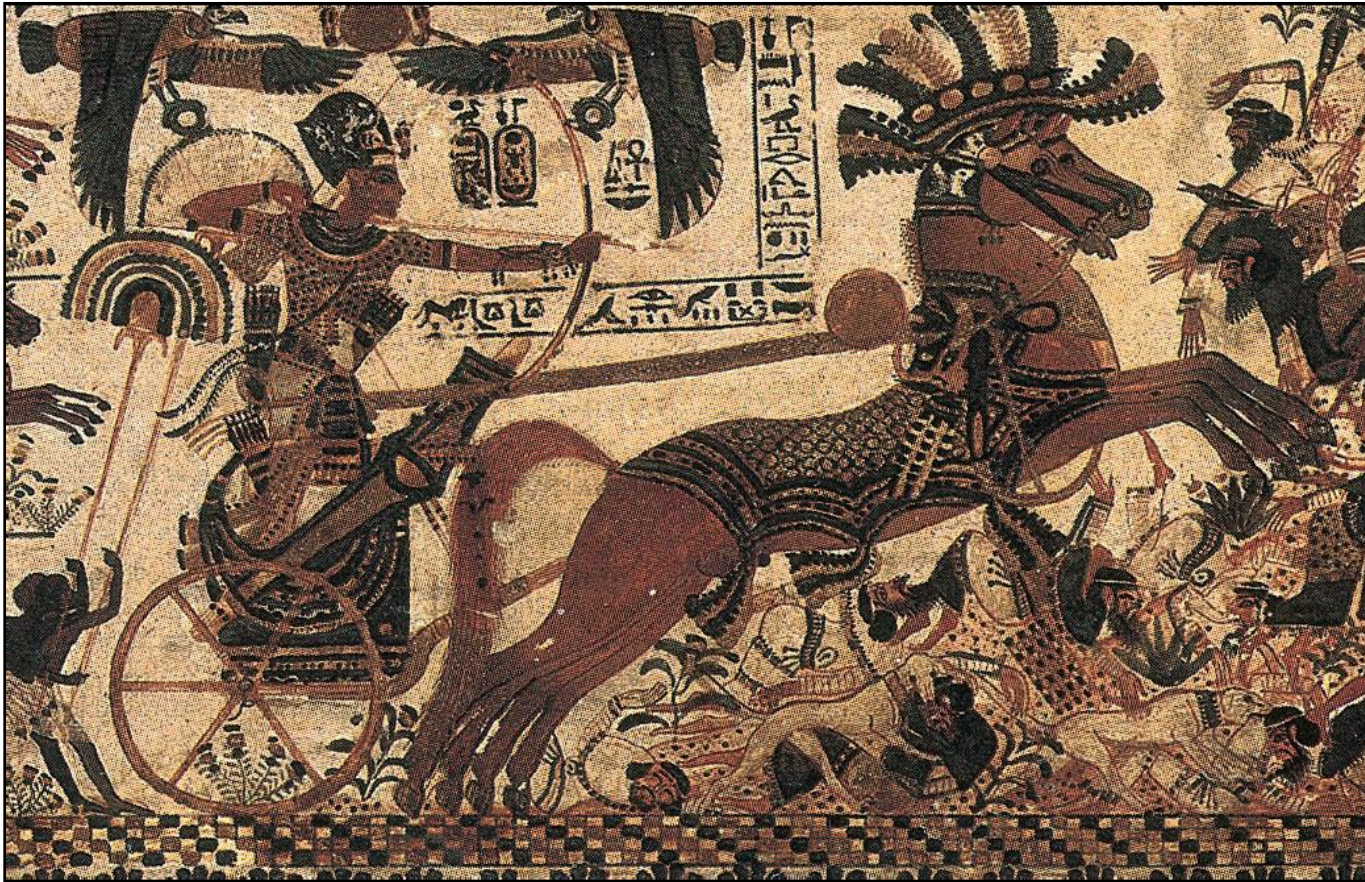
This statue of the pharaoh Hatshepsut is one of the few to depict her as a woman. She is usually shown as a man, complete with beard, which symbolizes royal power. Centuries later the proportions and carving techniques of Egyptian stone sculpture would influence the Greeks.



## Golden coffin of Tutankhamen

Tutankhamen, who died at the age of 18, was a minor king who ruled Egypt from about 1347-1338 B.C.E. Although most Egyptian tombs have been plundered over the years, Tutankhamen's tomb--with all its treasures--was intact when it was discovered. Among the treasures was this solid gold sarcophagus (coffin) of "King Tut," which weighs 250 pounds. The cover of the coffin depicts a handsome youth with delicacy and charm.

## 2 Egypt



## Tutankhamon as Pharaoh

This painted casket depicts the pharaoh as the defender of the kingdom repulsing its invaders. Tutankhamon rides into battle under the signs of the sun-disk and the vulture-goddess, indicating that he and Egypt enjoy the protection of the gods.





# The First River-Valley Civilizations, 3500–1500 B.C. E.

## Time Line

**3000 B.C. E.** City-states form in Sumer, Mesopotamia.

**2300 B.C. E.** Sargon established first known empire in Sumer, Mesopotamia.

**1792 B.C. E.** Hammurabi develops code of laws for Babylonian Empire.

**3500 B.C. E.**

**2660 B.C. E.** Egypt's Old Kingdom develops.

**1550 B.C. E.** Indus Valley civilization declines.

**1500 B.C. E.**

## 3 The Indus Valley Civilization

### Key Idea

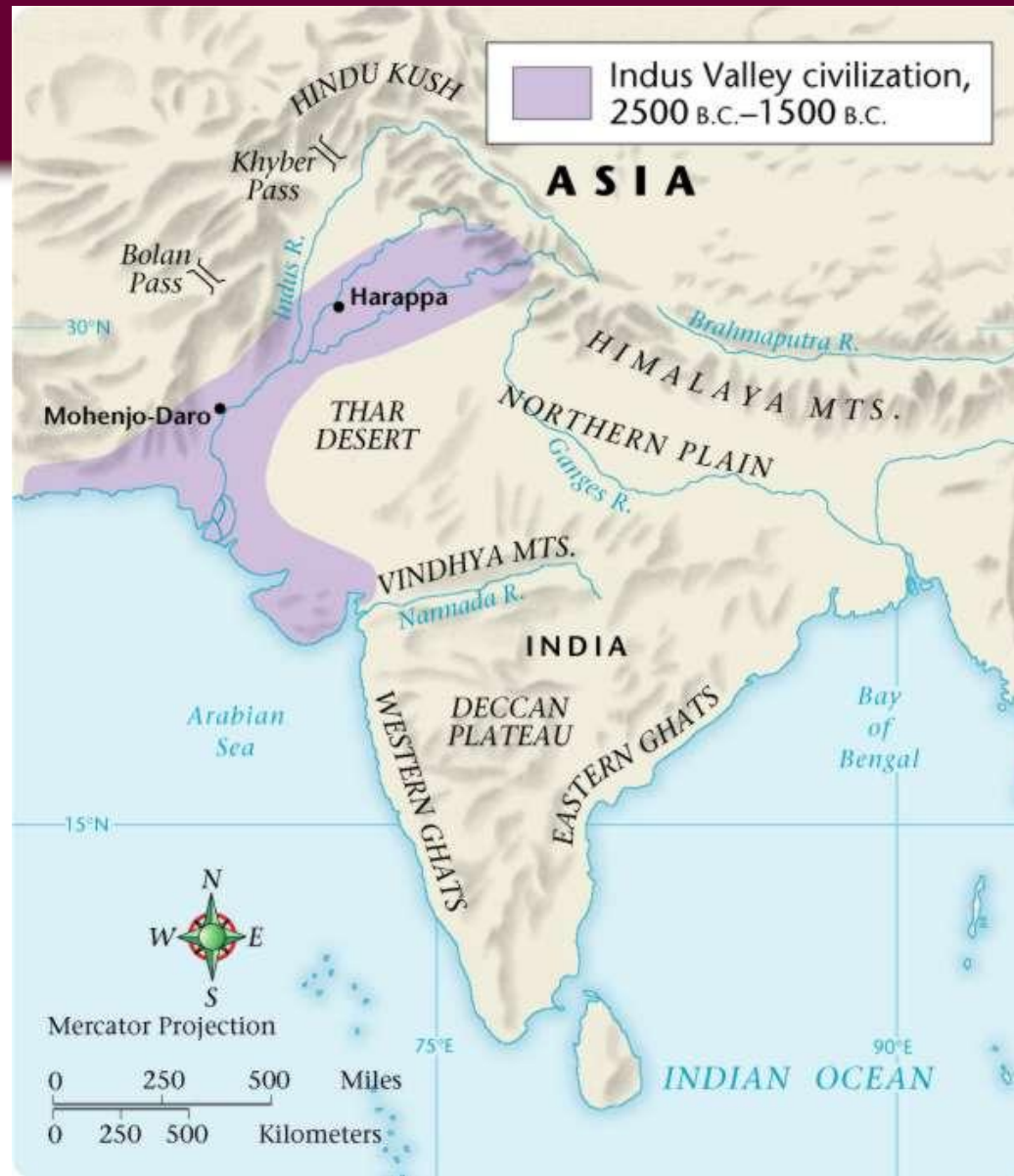
The Indus Valley people build planned cities with sophisticated sewage and plumbing systems. Archaeological evidence suggests the Indus civilization is stable and prosperous. Indus Valley culture ends mysteriously.

[Overview](#)[Assessment](#)

### 3 The Indus Valley Civilization

- How has geography influenced India?
- How has archaeology provided clues about Indus Valley civilization?
- What theories do scholars hold about the decline of Indus Valley civilization?

# 3 The Indus Valley Civilization





## **Mohenjo Daro**

Mohenjo-daro, in southern Pakistan, was one of the best-known cities of the Harappan--or Indus--civilization. It was a planned city, built of fired mud bricks. Its streets were straight, and covered drainpipes were installed to carry away waste. From sites like this we know that the early Indian political elite had the power and technical expertise to organize large, coordinated building projects.

### 3 The Indus Valley Civilization

The Indus Valley is located on the **subcontinent** of India.

The mountains in the north limited contact with other lands and helped India to develop a distinct culture.

The subcontinent is divided into three major zones: northern plain, Deccan, and coastal plains.

The rivers of India, particularly the Ganges, are considered sacred.

The **monsoon**, or seasonal wind, is a defining feature of Indian life.

The earliest Indian civilization flourished for about 1,000 years, then vanished without a trace. Archaeologists have only recently begun to uncover evidence of these early people, whose civilization included the following characteristics:

Well-organized government

Modern plumbing and sewer system

Carefully planned cities

Most people were farmers

First people to cultivate cotton

Covered largest area of any civilization until the rise of Persia 1,000 years later

Traded with distant lands, including Sumer

Polytheistic; honored mother goddess; worship of sacred animals influenced the later **veneration** of cattle



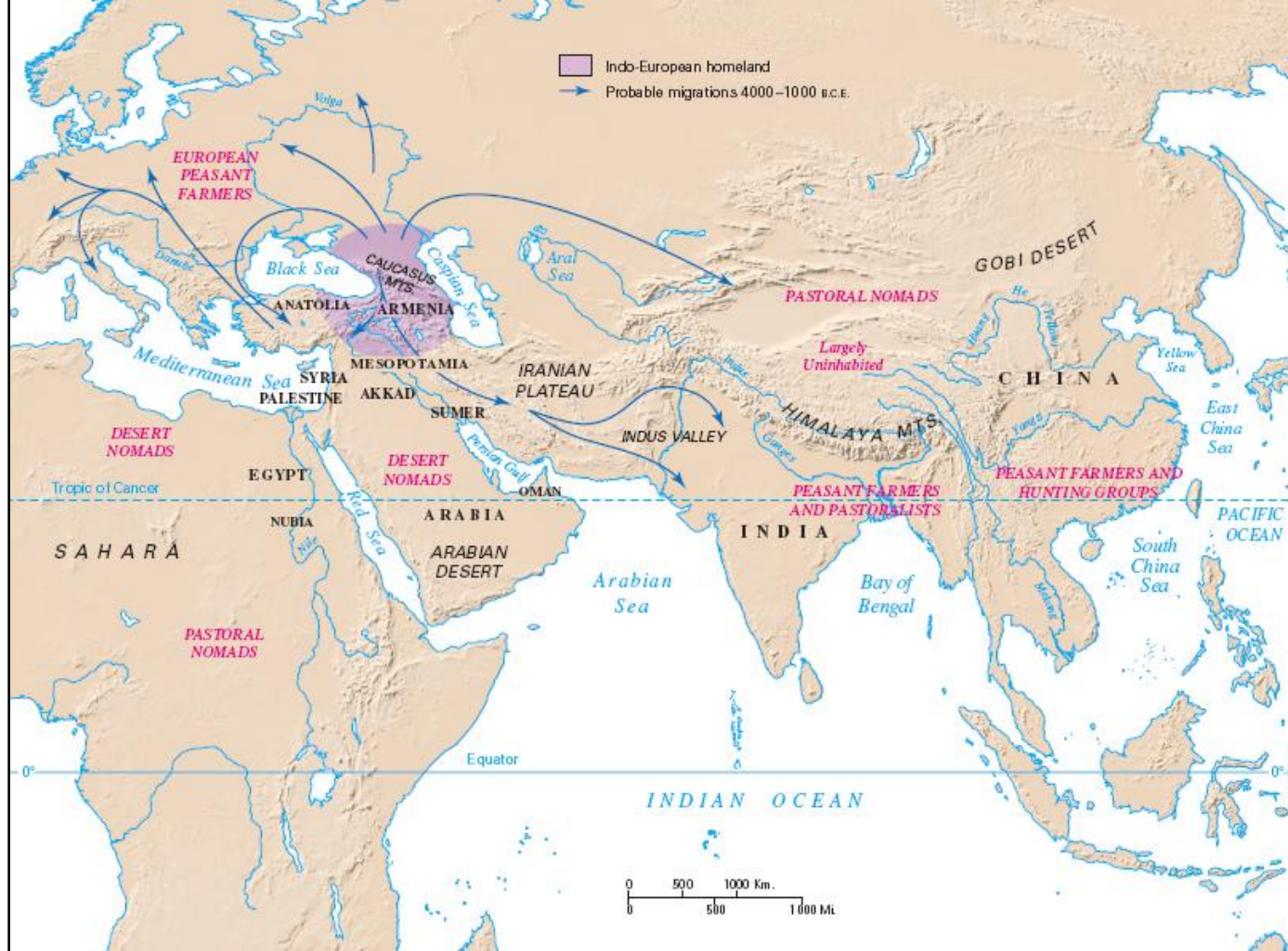
### 3 The Indus Valley Civilization

No one knows for certain why the cities were abandoned and forgotten. Scholars have proposed a number of theories:

- Too many trees were cut down.
- A devastating earthquake destroyed the region.
- A volcanic eruption caused the Indus to flood the city.
- Aryan invaders overran the region.

### 3 The Indus Valley Civilization

- What were the main characteristics of Aryan civilization in India?
- How did expansion lead to changes in Aryan civilization?
- What do ancient Indian epics reveal about Aryan life?



## The Indo-European Migrations and Eurasian Pastoralism

Some societies, especially in parts of Africa and Asia, adapted to environmental contexts by developing a pastoral, or animal herding, economy. One large pastoral group, the Indo-Europeans, eventually expanded from their home area into Europe, southwestern Asia, Central Asia, and India.



The Aryans destroyed and looted the civilization of the Indus Valley and built a new Indian civilization, which reflected the following characteristics:

Nomadic warriors

Built no cities and left no statues

Felt superior to the people they conquered

Polytheistic

Religious teachings from the Vedas

People born into **castes**, or social groups, which they couldn't change



Expansion led to change in Aryan civilization because they

- mingled with the people they conquered ;
- gave up their nomadic ways and settled into villages to farm and breed cattle;
- learned such skills as iron making and developed crafts of their own;
- fought to control trade and territory;
- moved toward the idea of a single spiritual power;
- some **raj**as, or tribal chiefs, became hereditary rulers;
- developed the written language of Sanskrit.



### 3 The Indus Valley Civilization

**Two great epic poems, the *Mahabharata* and the *Ramayana*, tell us about Aryan life and values.**

The *Mahabharata* celebrates battle and reflects important Indian beliefs about the immortality of the soul.

The *Ramayana* celebrates a daring and adventurous hero and portrays the ideal woman as loyal and obedient to her husband.



Harappan jewelry

Among the small objects found in the Indus Valley are these pieces of jewelry--made of gold and precious stones--which give some insight into the daily life of the time.



## Figurine from Mohenjo-daro

This small stone figure from Mohenjo-daro is thought to depict a priest-king. The man's beard is carefully trimmed and his upper lip shaved. The headband and armband have circular ornaments, probably once filled with colored paste. His robe with its trefoil designs was probably also filled with colors to suggest the fabric more vividly.





## Harappan Seal

The seal from Mohenjo-Daro features a humped bull. The writing at the top has yet to be deciphered.

# 3 The Indus Valley Civilization

## Overview

### TERMS & NAMES

- subcontinent
- monsoon

### MAIN IDEA

The first Indian civilization built well-planned cities on the banks of the Indus River.

### WHY IT MATTERS NOW

The culture of India today has its roots in the civilization of the early Indus cities.

## 3 The Indus Valley Civilization

### Section 3 Assessment

1. Look at the graphic to help organize your thoughts. List the environmental conditions faced by the people of the Indus Valley. For each one, explain whether the condition was a benefit or a drawback.

Environmental Condition	Benefit or Drawback
monsoons	(-) too little rain (-) too much rain
floods	(+) spread deposits of rich soil over wide area (-) unpredictable
high mountains	(+) natural barrier helped protect against invasion
large desert	(+) natural barrier helped protect against invasion

*continued . . .*

## 3 The Indus Valley Civilization

### Section 3 Assessment

2. What evidence has led historians to the following beliefs about Indus civilization?
- (a) The cities were run by a strong central government.
  - (b) Indus people carried on trade with Sumer.
  - (c) Society was generally peaceful and stable.

#### ANSWER

- (a) Planned cities, uniform buildings, sanitation systems
- (b) Indus seals found in Mesopotamia
- (c) Uniform housing, children's toys, few weapons

## 4 River Dynasties in China

### Key Idea

Ancient Chinese civilization is ruled by powerful family dynasties. Just rulers are believed to have divine approval. In Chinese culture, family is central to society and religion. Improvements are made in technology and trade. Feudalism is established.

[Overview](#)[Assessment](#)

## 4 River Dynasties in China

### Overview

#### MAIN IDEA

The early rulers introduced ideas about government and society that shaped Chinese civilization.

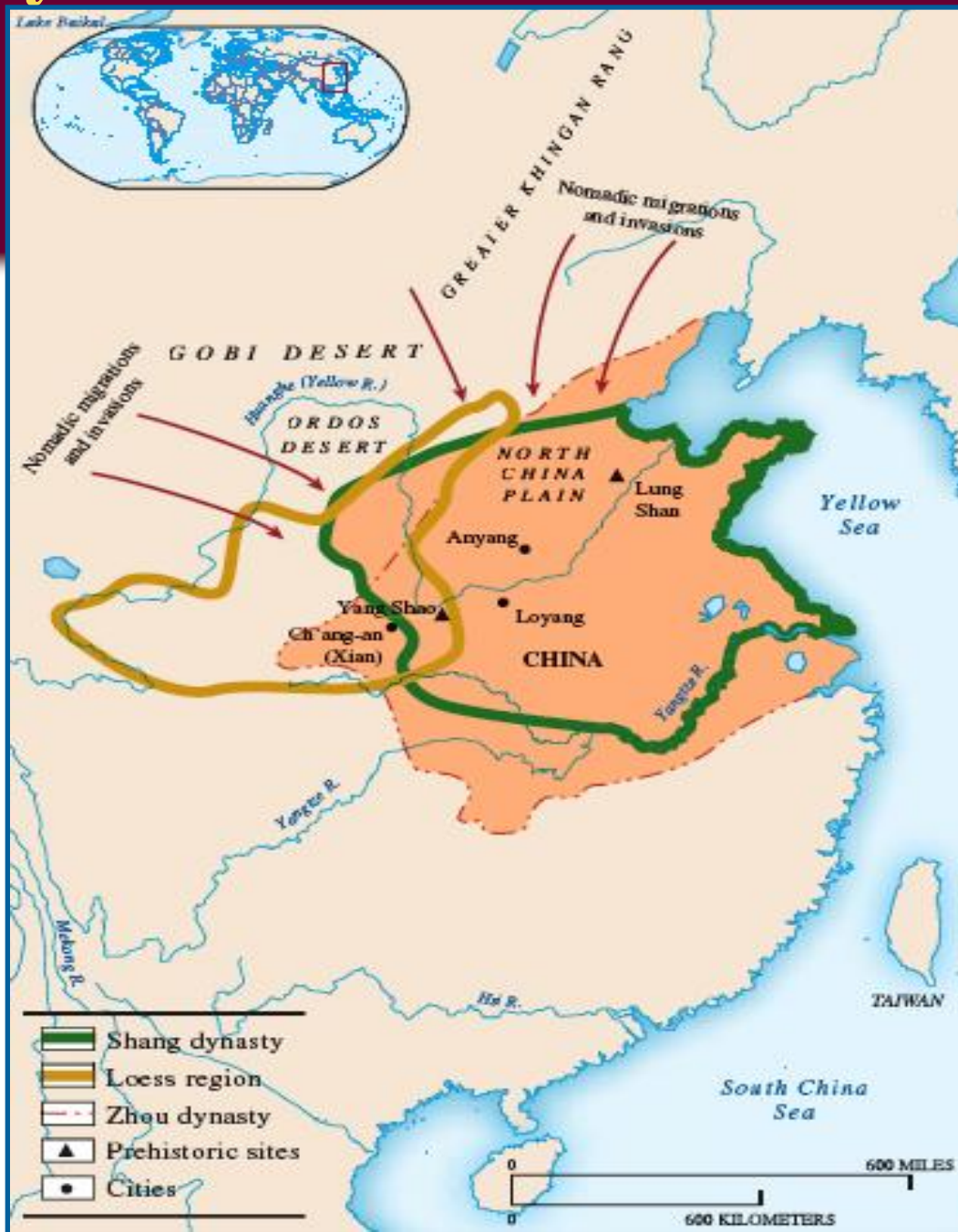
#### WHY IT MATTERS NOW

The culture that took root during ancient times still affects Chinese ways of life today.

#### TERMS & NAMES

- loess
- oracle bone
- Mandate of Heaven
- dynastic cycle
- feudalism

# River Dynasties in China



## 4 River Dynasties in China

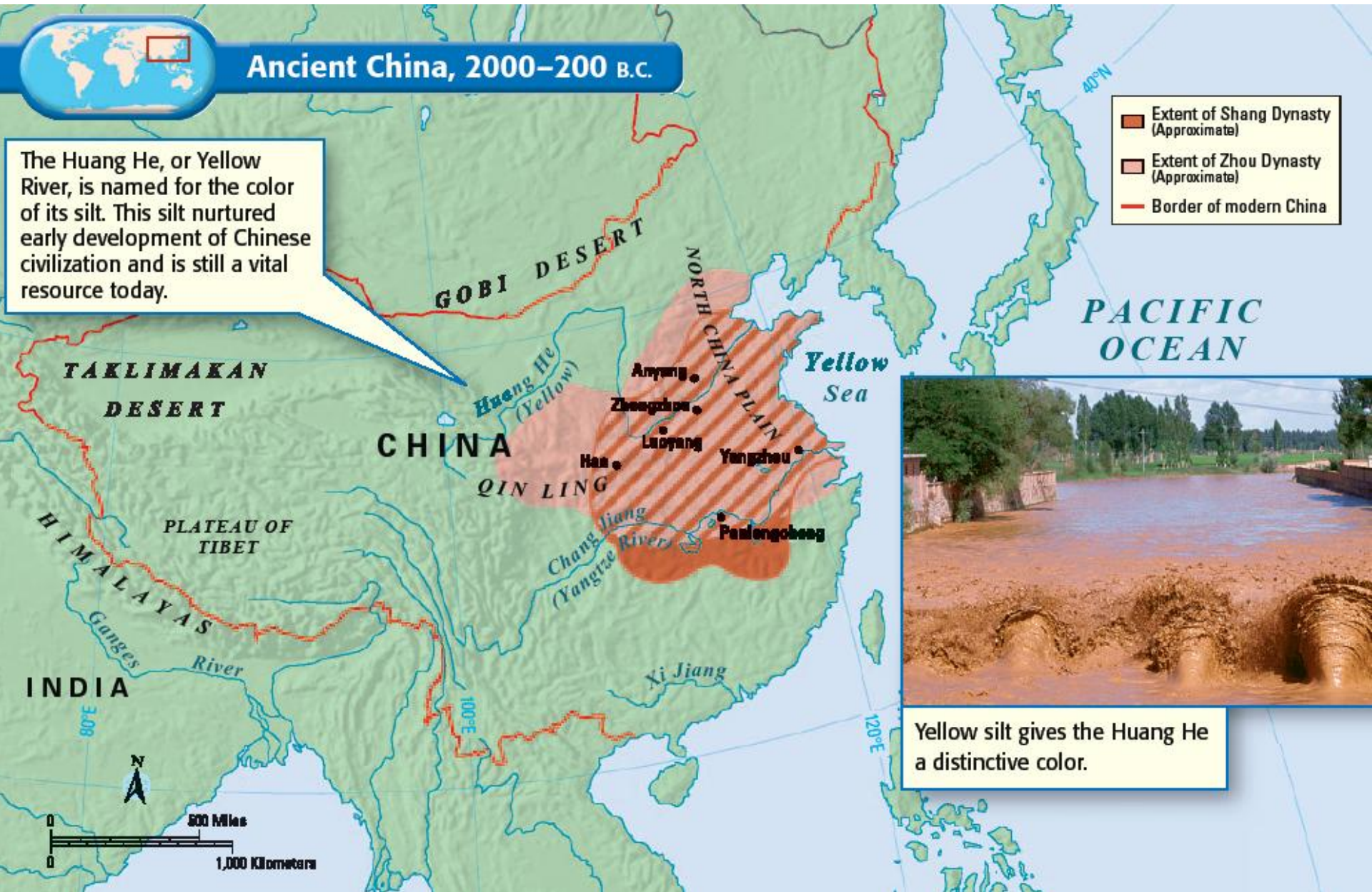
- How did geography influence early Chinese civilization?
- How did Chinese culture take shape under the Shang and the Zhou?
- What were key cultural achievements in early China?



## Ancient China, 2000–200 B.C.

The Huang He, or Yellow River, is named for the color of its silt. This silt nurtured early development of Chinese civilization and is still a vital resource today.

- Extent of Shang Dynasty (Approximate)
- Extent of Zhou Dynasty (Approximate)
- Border of modern China



Yellow silt gives the Huang He a distinctive color.

## 4 River Dynasties in China

China was the most isolated of the civilizations studied thus far.

Long distances and physical barriers separated China from Egypt, the Middle East, and India.

Isolation contributed to the Chinese belief that China was the center of the earth and the only civilization.

As in Egypt and Mesopotamia, Chinese civilization began in a river valley, the Huang He.

**According to legend, the first Chinese dynasty, the Xia (shyah) Dynasty, emerged about 2000 B.C.E. Its leader was an engineer and mathematician named Yu. His flood control and irrigation projects helped tame the Huang He and its tributaries so that settlements could grow. The legend of Yu reflects the level of technology of a society making the transition to civilization.**

**About the time the civilizations of Mesopotamia, Egypt, and the Indus Valley fell to outside invaders, a people called the Shang rose to power in northern China. The Shang Dynasty lasted from around 1650 B.C.E. to 1027 B.C.E. It was the first family of Chinese rulers to leave written records. The Shang kings built elaborate palaces and tombs that have been uncovered by archaeologists. The artifacts reveal much about Shang society.**

**Shang Dynasty**  
**(1650 B.C.E–1027 B.C.E)**

• Gained control of corner of northern China along Huang He.

• Drove off nomads from northern steppes and deserts.

• Held complex religious beliefs (Oracle Bones).

• Developed written language used by all Chinese people.

**Zhou Dynasty**  
**(1027 B.C.E.–256 B.C.E.)**

• Overthrew the Shang.

• Promoted idea of Mandate of Heaven.

• Set up feudal state (King, Lords, Lesser Lords, etc).

• Economy/commerce grew (coin money).

• Canals, roads, cast iron (weapons & farm tools)

• Population increased.

## Chinese Writing

The earliest writing systems in the world—including Chinese, Sumerian, and Egyptian—developed from pictographs, or simplified drawings of objects. The writing system used in China today is directly related

to the pictographic writing found on Shang oracle bones. As you can see in the chart below, the ancient pictographs can still be recognized in many modern Chinese characters.

	ox	goat, sheep	tree	moon	earth	water	field	heaven	to pray
Ancient symbol									
Modern character	牛	羊	木	月	土	水	田	天	祝

## Dynastic Cycle in China

```
graph TD; A["New dynasty gains power, restores peace and order, and claims to have Mandate of Heaven."] --> B["Strong dynasty establishes peace and prosperity; it is considered to have Mandate of Heaven."]; B --> C["In time, dynasty declines and becomes corrupt; taxes are raised; power grows weaker."]; C --> D["Disasters such as floods, famines, peasant revolts, and invasions occur."]; D --> E["Old dynasty is seen as having lost Mandate of Heaven; rebellion is justified."]; E --> F["Dynasty is overthrown through rebellion and bloodshed; new dynasty emerges."]; F --> A;
```

New dynasty gains power, restores peace and order, and claims to have Mandate of Heaven.

Strong dynasty establishes peace and prosperity; it is considered to have Mandate of Heaven.

In time, dynasty declines and becomes corrupt; taxes are raised; power grows weaker.

Dynasty is overthrown through rebellion and bloodshed; new dynasty emerges.

Old dynasty is seen as having lost Mandate of Heaven; rebellion is justified.

Disasters such as floods, famines, peasant revolts, and invasions occur.

## 4 River Dynasties in China

**The Chinese made progress in many areas during the Shang and Zhou periods.**

- **Discovered how to make silk thread. Silk became China's most valuable export. Trade route to the Middle East became known as Silk Road.**
- **Made the first books from wood or bamboo.**
- **Studied the movement of planets and recorded eclipses of the sun.**
- **Developed accurate calendar with 365 1/4 days.**
- **Made remarkable achievements in the art of bronze making.**

# “T’ien Ming”

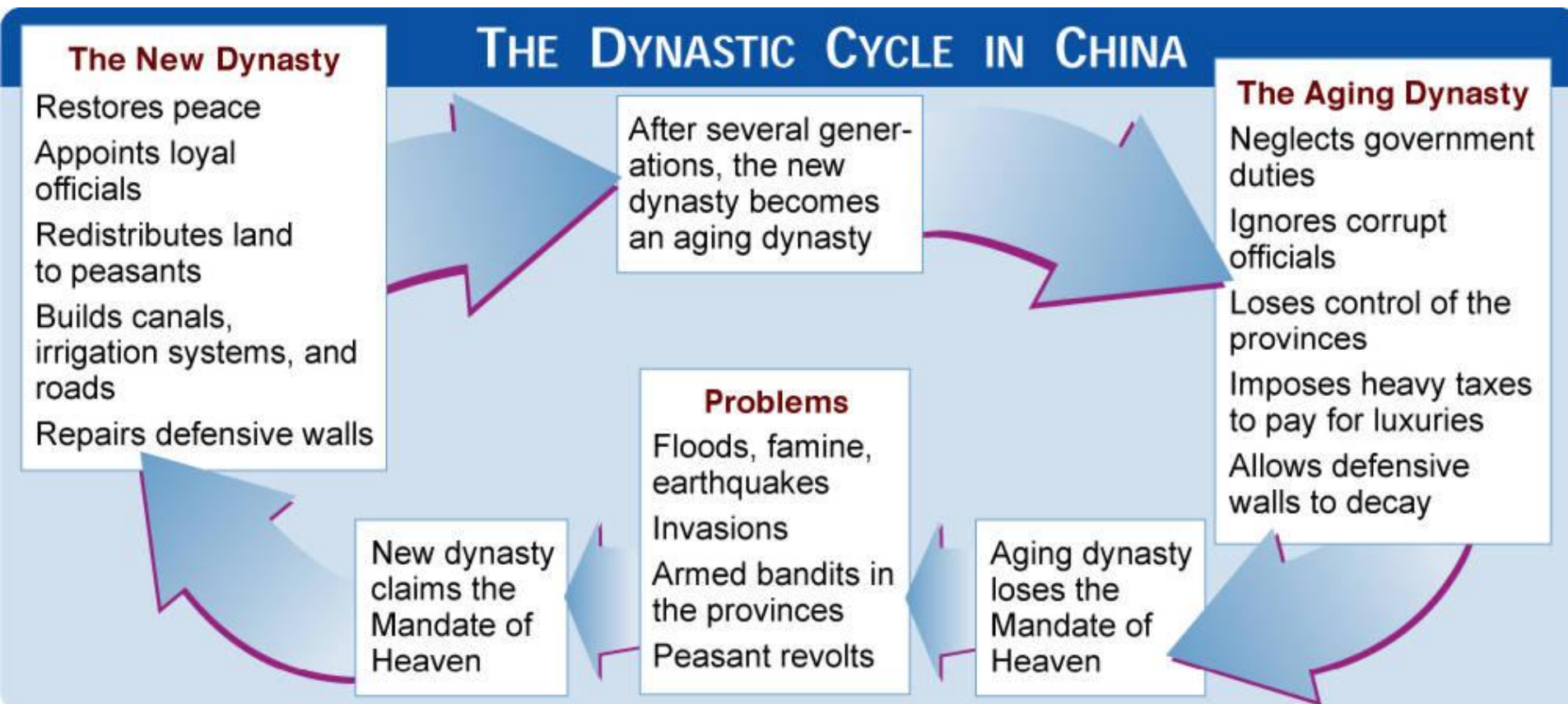
## The Mandate of Heaven

1. The leader must lead by ability and virtue.
2. The dynasty's leadership must be justified by succeeding generations.
3. The mandate could be revoked by negligence and abuse; the will of the people was important.



## 4 River Dynasties in China

The **dynastic cycle** refers to the rise and fall of dynasties.



## 4 River Dynasties in China

### Major developments in the early Chinese dynasties.



**Ancient**

**China**

**Neolithic**

**China**

# “Peking Man”

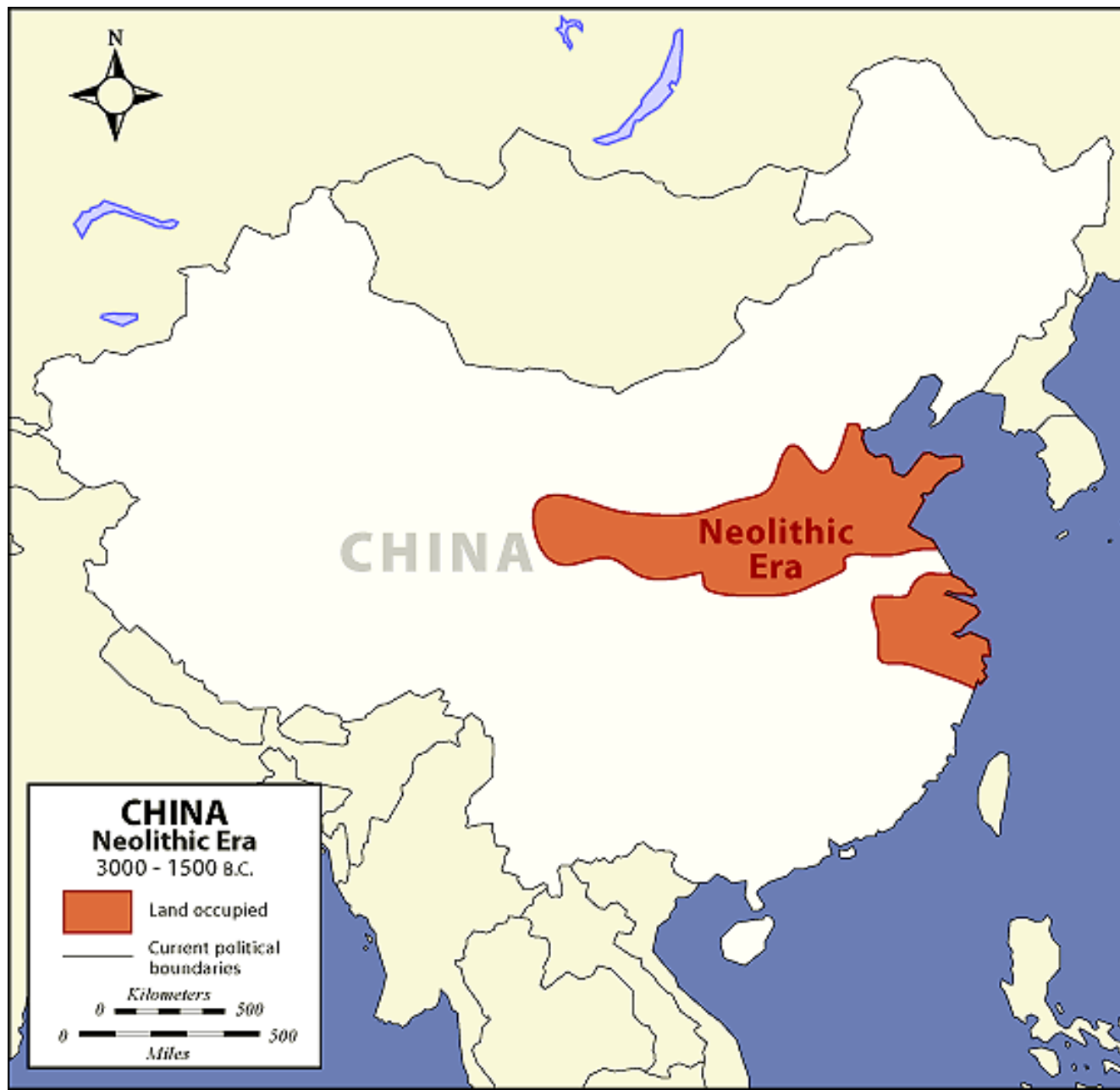
(750,000 – 500,000 BCE)



*Sinanthropus  
pekinensis*



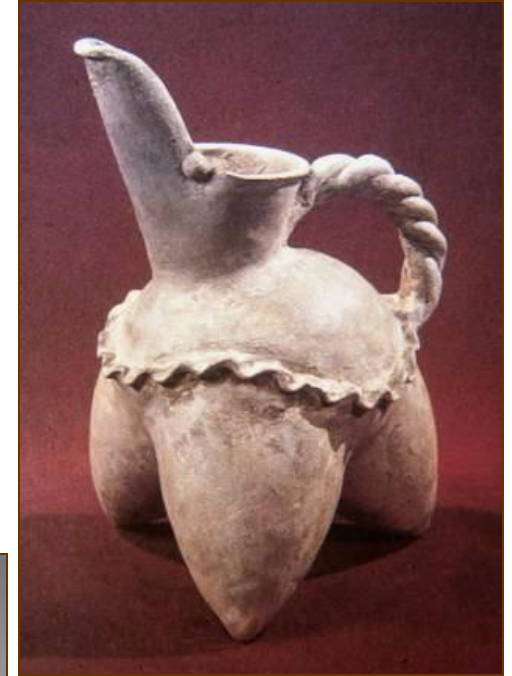
# Yellow River Civilization



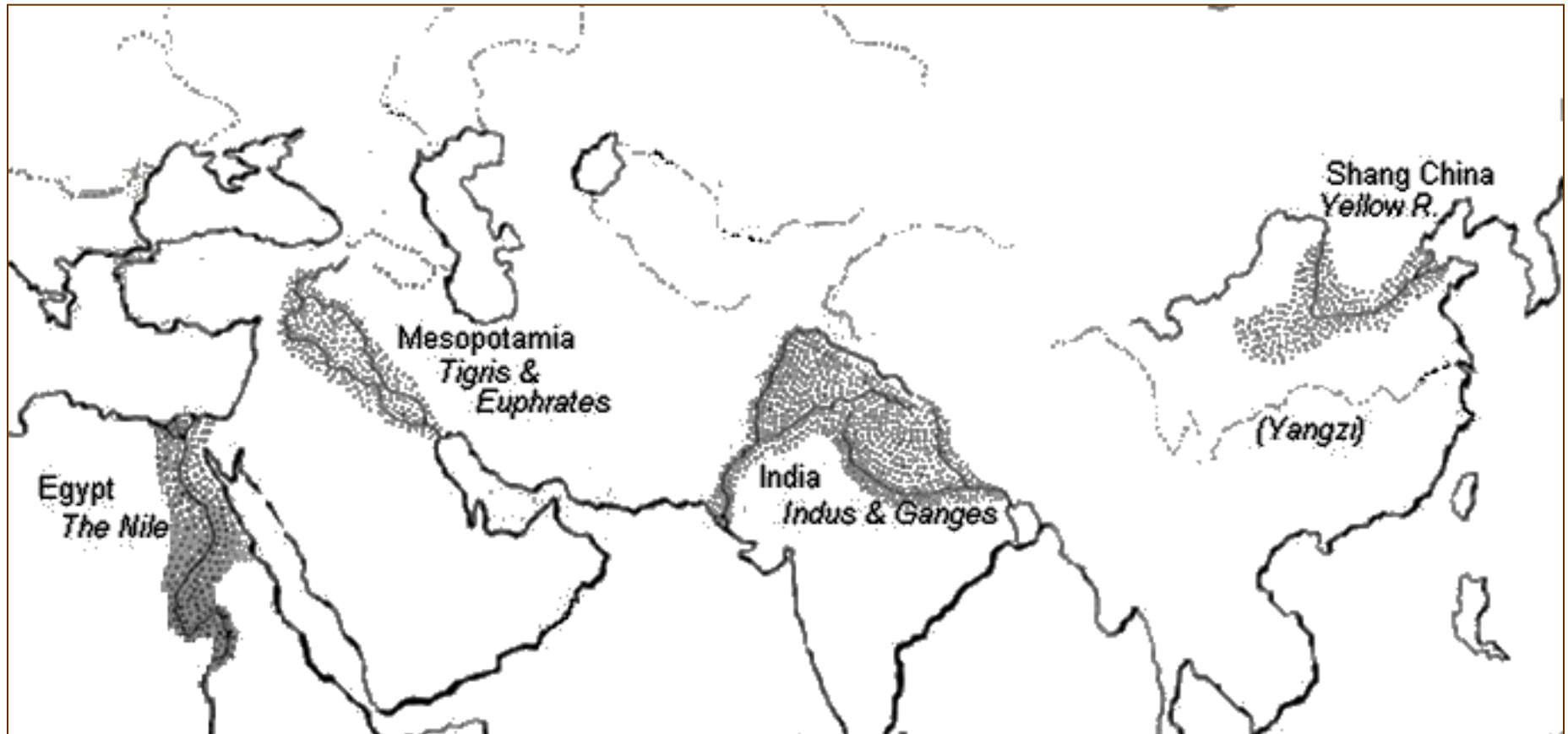
# Neolithic Pottery



3000 BCE to  
2000 BCE



# The 4 Old-World River Valley Cultures





# Pan-Gu: Mythical Creator of the Universe



# “Chung Kuo” (The “Middle Kingdom”)



# Hsia Dynasty

2205-1027 BCE

# Yu, the Great – Founder

# of the Hsia



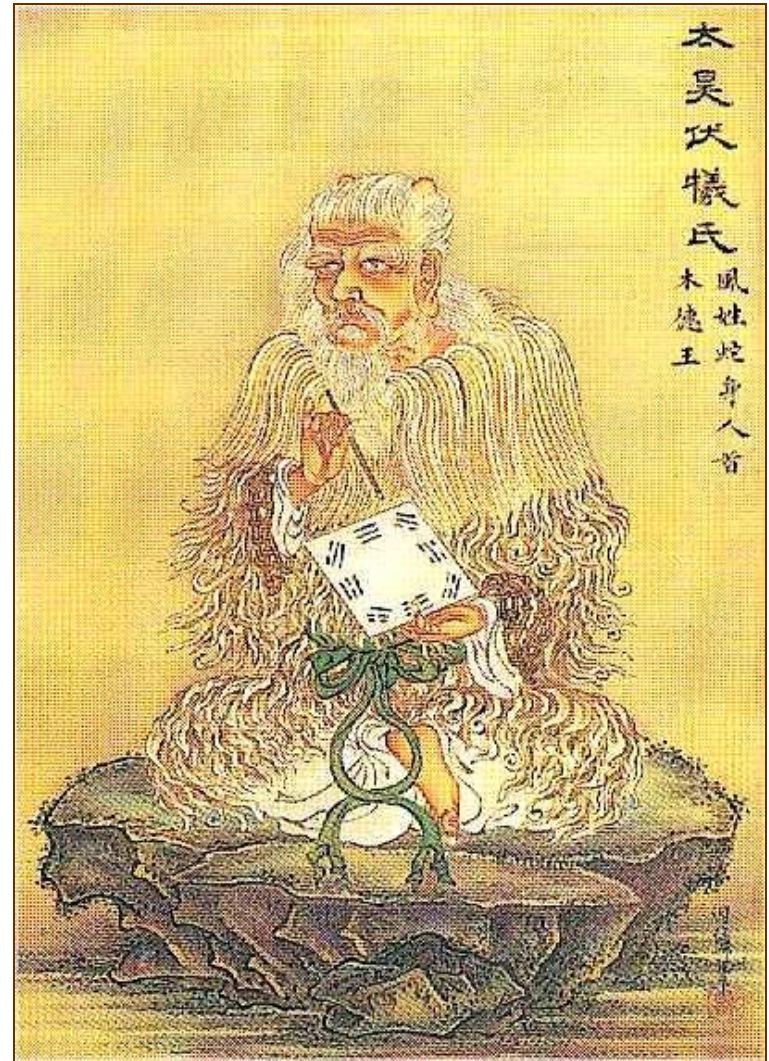
# “Huangdi” – Emperor



- The “Yellow Emperor.”
- Legend has it that he ruled for over 100 years.
- Associated with the invention of wheeled vehicles, ships, armor, pottery, and silk-making.

# Emperor Fuxi

- Mythical Hsia ruler.
- Taught the Chinese how to read and write, according to legend.



# Hsia Plaque, 1700 BCE

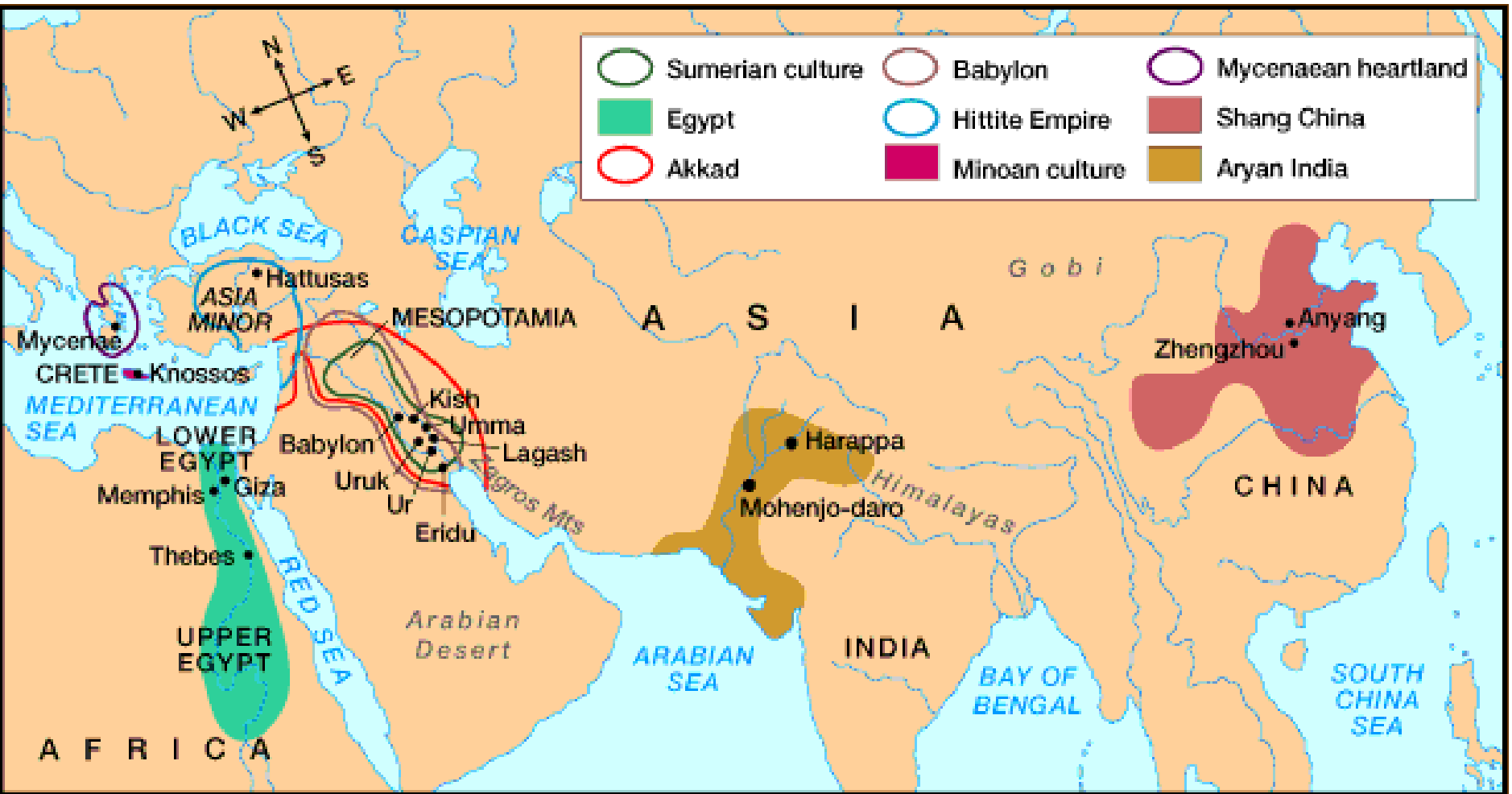


# Shang Dynasty

1766-1027 BCE



# Bronze Age Empires



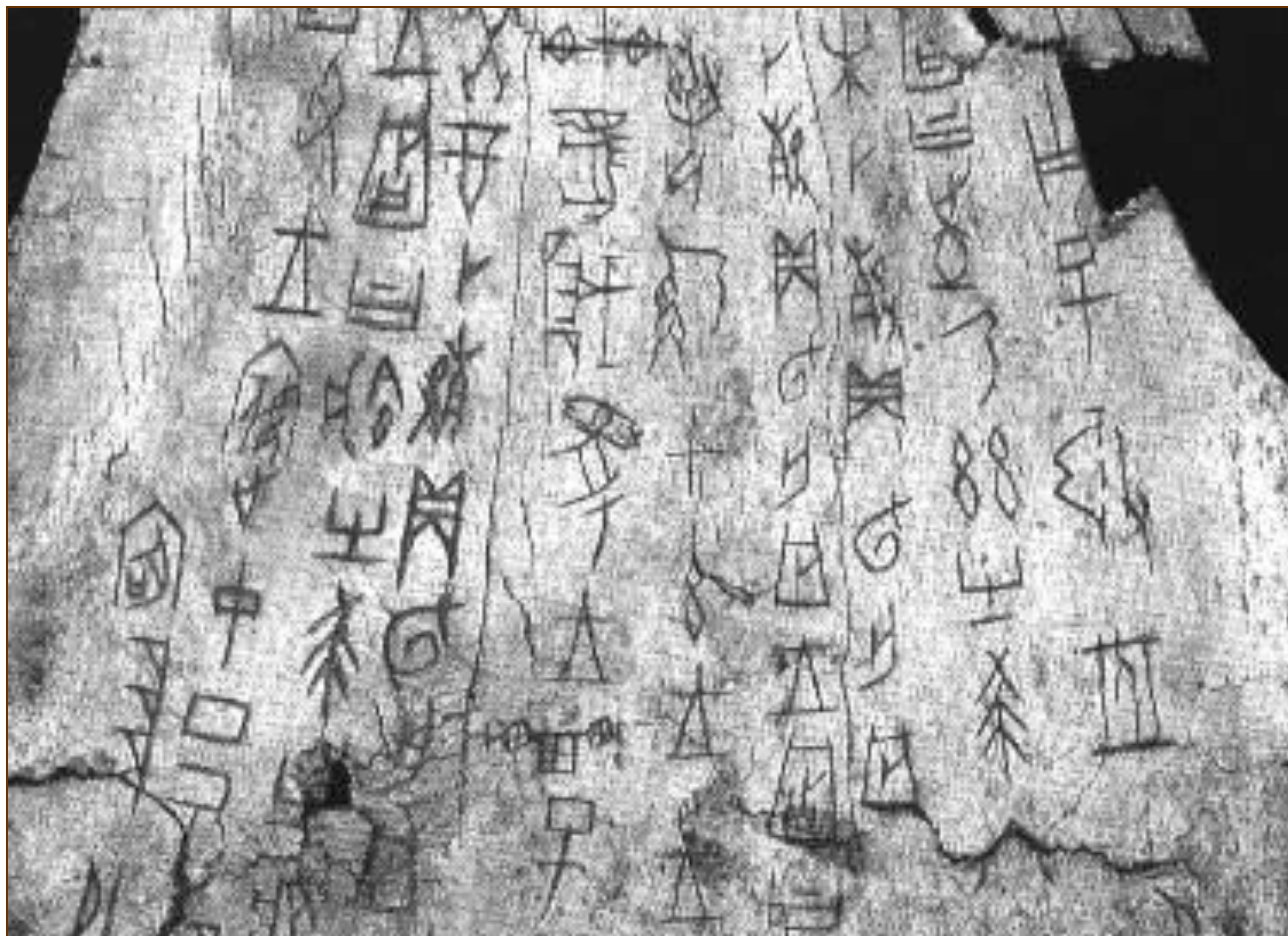
# Shang: 1523-1028 BCE



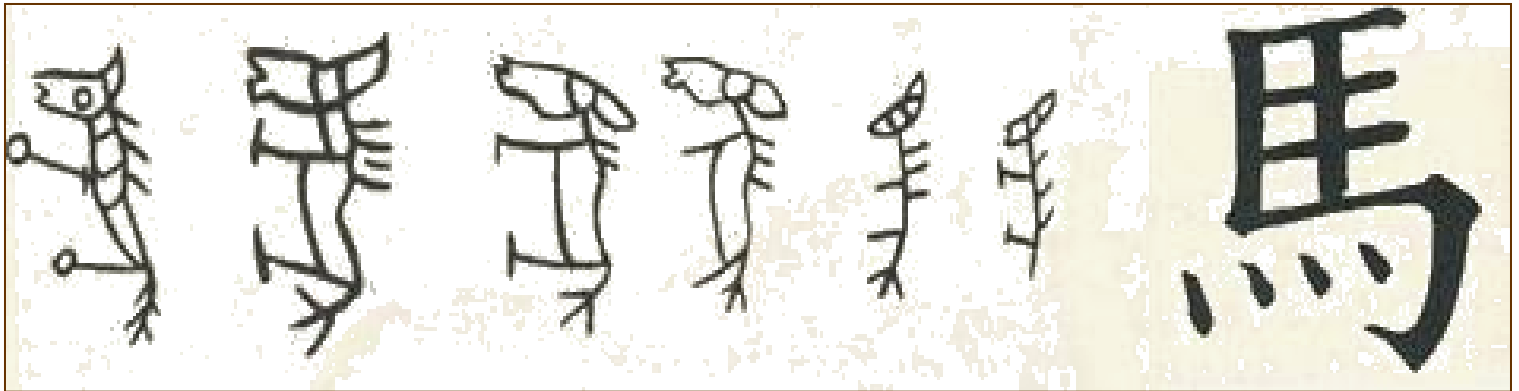
# Oracle Bones



# Oracle Bones Calendar



# The Evolution of Chinese Writing during the Shang



Pictographs → Semantic-Phonetics

**Axe Scepter – 1100 BCE - jade**



**Ceremonial Dagger – 1028 BCE**





**Shang**  
**Urn**

# Shang Bronzes





# Ritual Wine Vessel – bronze, 13c BCE



**Zhou Dynasty**

**1027-256 BCE**

# Western Zhou: 1027-771 BCE



# Eastern Zhou: 771-256 BCE



# Ritual Food Vessel, bronze

11c BCE (Western Zhou)



# Pendant of a Dancer - jade

3c BCE (Eastern Zhou)



**Ritual Wine Vessel - 4c  
bronze, silver, gold, copper**



# Zhou Coins - bronze





# “T’ien Ming”

## The Mandate of Heaven

1. The leader must lead by ability and virtue.
2. The dynasty's leadership must be justified by succeeding generations.
3. The mandate could be revoked by negligence and abuse; the will of the people was important.

**Start here →**

A new dynasty comes to power.

The emperor reforms the govt. & makes it more efficient.

Lives of common people improved; taxes reduced; farming encouraged.

Problems begin (extensive wars, invasions, etc.)

Taxes increase; men forced to work for army. Farming neglected.

Govt. increases spending; corruption.

Droughts, floods, famines occur.

Poor lose respect for govt. They join rebels & attack landlords.

Rebel bands find strong leader who unites them. Attack the emperor.

Emperor is defeated !!

# The Dynastic Cycle



# Origins of World Belief Systems

- Confucianism



Paragons of Filial Piety.  
Painted lacquerware basket.  
Eastern Han Dynasty, c 1st century CE.

# Origins of World Belief Systems

- Daoism



## 4 River Dynasties in China

### Section 4 Assessment

3. Do you think that the Zhou Dynasty's downfall resulted because of their method of control? Why or why not? **THINK ABOUT**

- feudalism
- the large division of rich and poor
- the vast controlled lands
- the noble-king relationship

#### ANSWER

#### Possible Responses:

- Yes—great distance between ruler and ruled, lords were greedy, chaotic warfare
- No—the Zhou ruled successfully for 300 years. Their downfall wasn't because of feudalism but because invaders killed the backbone of the dynasty, the Zhou monarchy.

## 4 River Dynasties in China

### Patterns in Classical China

- Zhou Dynasty (1029–258 B.C.E.)
- height c. 700 B.C.E.
- Yangzi River valley settled
- "Middle Kingdom"
- Mandate of Heaven
- Confucius

# Confucius



551 – 479 B.C.E.

Born in the feudal state of Liu.

Became a teacher and editor of books.



# Major Confucian Principles

*Li* --> Rite, rules, ritual decorum (Binding force of an enduring stable society)

*Ren* --> humaneness, benevolence, humanity

*Shu* --> Reciprocity, empathy






*Do not do unto others what you would not want others to do unto you.*

*Yi* --> Righteousness

*Xiao* --> Filial Piety (Respect your elders!)

---

# 5 Principle Relationships

1. Ruler  Subject
2. Father  Son
3. Husband  Wife
4. Older Brother  Younger Brother
5. Older Friend  Younger Friend

# Organizing Principles

Status

Age

Gender

# Confucian Temple Complex



# The Analects

The single most important Confucian work.

In Chinese, it means “conversation.”

Focus on practicalities of interpersonal relationships and the relationship of the role of rulers and ministers to the conduct of government.

# Sayings from The Analects

*Knowing what he knows and knowing what he doesn't know, is characteristics of the person who knows.*

*Making a mistake and not correcting it, is making another mistake.*

*The superior man blames himself; the inferior man blames others.*

*To go too far is as wrong as to fall short.*

# Stones Engraved with Confucius' Life Stories



# Confucius' Tomb





# Mencius

372 - 289 B.C.E.

Disciple of Confucius.

Starts off with the assumption that “people are basically good.”

If someone does something bad, education, not punishment, is the answer.

- Good people will mend their ways in accordance to their inherent goodness.

# Social Cohesion is Paramount!

The emperor is the example of proper behavior --> “big daddy”

Social relationships are based on “rites” or “rituals.”

Even religious rituals are important for SOCIAL, not religious reasons, acc. to Confucius.

# Lao Zi [Lao-Tzu]



Not sure when he died.

[604 B.C.E. - ?]

His name means  
“Old Master”

Was he Confucius’  
teacher?

# The Dao De Jing

The basic text of Daoism.

In Chinese, it means *The Classic in the Way and Its Power*.

*“Those who speak know nothing:  
Those who know are silent.”  
These words, I am told,  
Were spoken by Laozi.  
If we are to believe that Laozi,  
Was himself one who knew,  
How is it that he wrote a book,  
Of five thousand words?*

# Major Daoist Principles

1. *Dao [Tao]* is the first-cause of the universe. It is a force that flows through all life.
2. A believer's goal is to become one with *Dao*; one with nature. [“The butterfly or the man?” story.]
3. *Wu wei* --> “Let nature take its course.”  
--> “The art of doing nothing.”  
--> “Go with the flow!”
4. Man is unhappy because he lives acc. to man-made laws, customs, & traditions that are contrary to the ways of nature.

# The "Dao" [Tao]



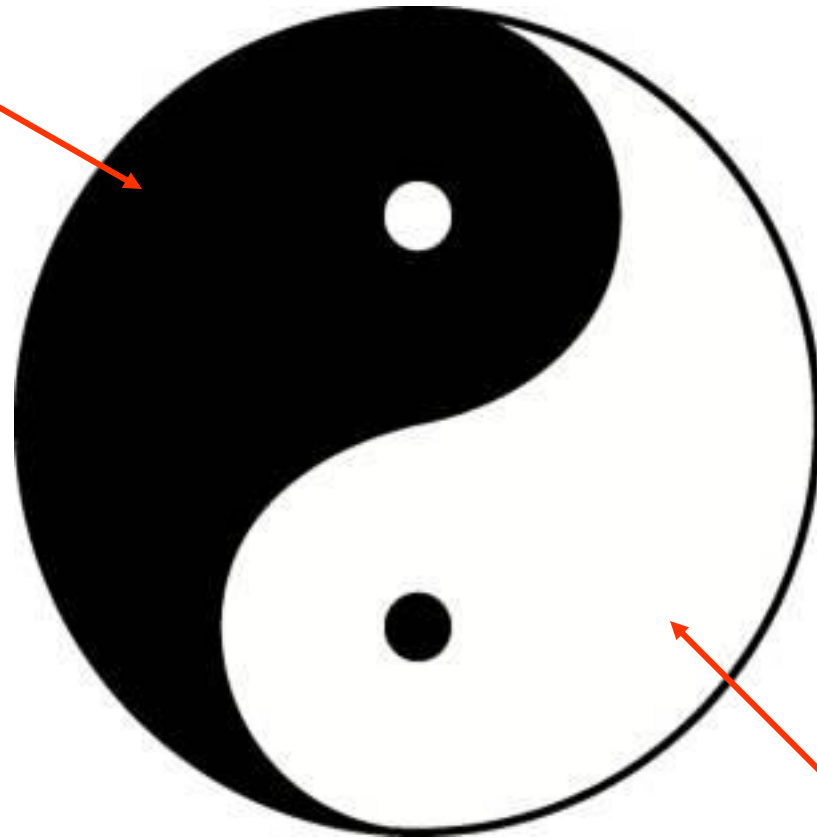
To escape the “social, political, & cultural traps” of life, one must escape by:

1. Rejecting formal knowledge and learning.
2. Relying on the senses and instincts.
3. Discovering the nature and “rhythm” of the universe.
4. Ignoring political and social laws.

# The Universe of Opposites: Find the Balance!

Yin

Feminine  
Passive  
Darkness  
Cold  
Weak  
Earth;  
Moon



Masculine  
Active  
Light  
Warmth  
Strong  
Heaven;  
Sun

Yang

# The Uniqueness of Daoism

*How is a man to live in a world dominated by chaos, suffering, and absurdity??*

**Confucianism** --> Moral order in society.

**Legalism** --> Rule by harsh law & order.

**Daoism** --> Freedom for individuals and less govt. to avoid uniformity and conformity.



# Differences in Cultures

## INDIA

1. Brahmin
2. Kshatriyas
3. Vaishyas
4. Shudras

---

Untouchables

## CHINA

1. Scholar-Gentry
2. Peasants
3. Artisans
4. Merchants

Soldiers

Imperial Nobility

Domestic Slaves

# Environmental Factors Shape River Valley Civilizations

## CAUSE

## EFFECT

People would settle in areas with water and fertile soil for farming.



The earliest civilizations formed in river valleys.

Sumerian villages were located on open plains without natural barriers.



The Sumerians built fortified cities to help villages protect themselves.

The Nile River flowed through upper and lower Egypt.



The Nile River helped unify upper and lower Egypt by creating a transport link.

China's land forms featured mountains and deserts.



Mountains and deserts were barriers to invasion, which led to an enduring Chinese culture.



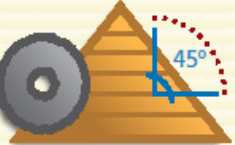
The Indus River linked its civilization to the sea.



Trade developed between the Indus River civilization and outside cultures.

# VISUAL SUMMARY

## Early River Valley Civilizations

	Sumer	Egypt	Indus Valley	China
<b>Environment</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tigris and Euphrates flooding unpredictable</li> <li>No natural barriers</li> <li>Limited natural resources</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nile flooding predictable</li> <li>Natural barriers: deserts</li> <li>Nile an easy transportation link</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Indus flooding unpredictable</li> <li>Natural barriers: mountains, deserts</li> <li>Monsoon winds</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Huang He flooding unpredictable</li> <li>Natural barriers: mountains, deserts</li> <li>Geographically isolated</li> </ul>
<b>Power and Authority</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Independent city-states governed by monarchs</li> <li>City-states united into first empires</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pharaohs rule kingdom as gods</li> <li>Pharaohs built pyramids</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strong centralized government</li> <li>Planned cities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Community and family important</li> <li>Sharp social divisions</li> <li>Mandate of Heaven</li> </ul>
<b>Science and Technology</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cuneiform</li> <li>Irrigation</li> <li>Bronze</li> <li>Wheel, sail, plow</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hieroglyphics</li> <li>Pyramids</li> <li>Mathematics, geometry</li> <li>Medicine</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Writing (not yet deciphered)</li> <li>Cities built on precise grid</li> <li>Plumbing and sewage systems</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Writing</li> <li>Silk</li> <li>Coined money</li> <li>Cast iron</li> </ul>

# 4 River Dynasties in China

[HOME](#)