

# RIVER VALLEY CIVILIZATIONS

**Mrs. Oloya**

CIVILIZATION

# VOCABULARY

Make vocabulary cards for the following words:

Culture: a way of life

Civilization: complex cultures where large #s of ppl share common elements

Urbanization: population moves into cities

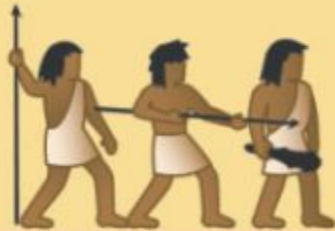
Specialization of Labor: individuals began to specialize in different types of jobs. It was no longer necessary for one individual to learn how to do every kind of work

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# HOW DID CIVILIZATIONS START?

## The Peopling of the World

### Hunting-Gathering Bands



### Growth of Villages



### Rise of Cities



#### SOCIAL ORGANIZATION

Beginning about **2 million B.C.**

Beginning about **8000 B.C.**

Beginning about **3000 B.C.**

#### KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- Invention of tools
- Mastery over fire
- Development of language
- Creation of art

- Breakthroughs in farming technology
- Development of agriculture
- Domestication of animals
- Food surpluses

- Specialized workers
- Record keeping
- Complex institutions
- Advanced technology

# WHAT IS A CIVILIZATION?

- Culture: way of life
- Civilization: complex culture where large numbers of people share common elements
  - Basic Characteristics: cities, government, religion, social structure, writing, art

LOCATION

# VOCABULARY

Make vocabulary cards for the following words:

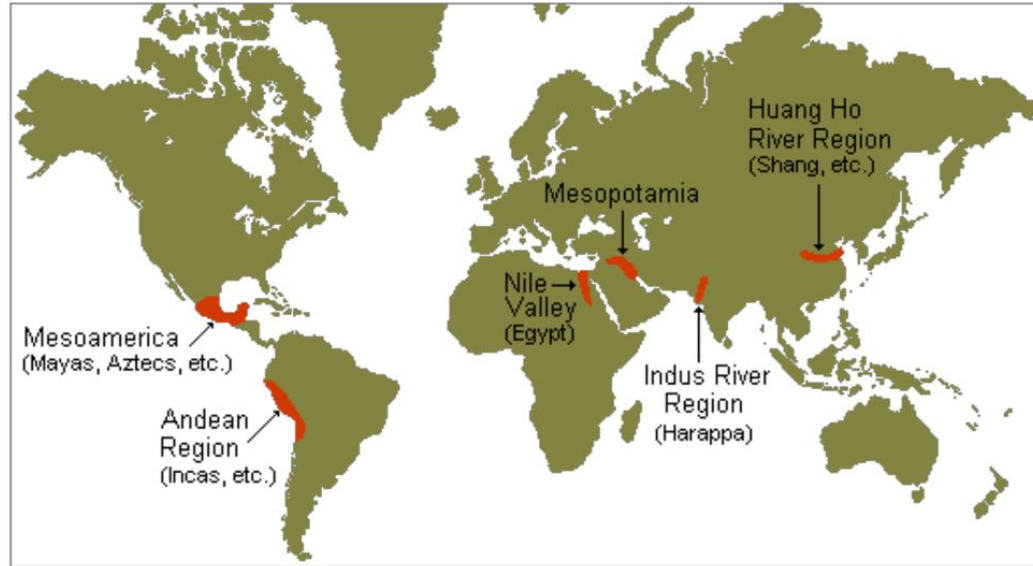
**River Valley:** low lying areas of land that surround a river and are good for farming

**Fertile:** capable of producing a large amount of vegetation or crops

**Silt:** mud or clay or small rocks deposited by a river or lake, filled with nutrients for growing crops

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# Emergence of River Valley Civilizations



MAJOR RIVER VALLEY CIVILIZATIONS (MAP)



# WHY RIVER VALLEYS?

- First civilizations on the banks of rivers AKA river valleys
  - Steady supply of drinking water
  - Land fertile for growing crops (silt)
  - Goods and people could be transported easily (trade)
  - Fish and hunt the animals that came to drink water
  - Protection against enemies
  - Bathing



Rivers tie smaller communities together and tend to unify them, allowing faster and more efficient transportation of governing officials and soldiers for defense and policing,

# HOW DID THEY CONTROL THE WATER?

- Irrigation: the supply of water to land or crops to help growth, typically by means of channels
- Cisterns: a tank for storing rain water
- Dams: a barrier that holds back water and raises its level, the resulting reservoir being used as a water supply
- Drainage ditch: a ditch that excess water drains into
- Reservoir: a large natural or artificial lake used as a source of water supply



MESOPOTAMIA

# VOCABULARY

Make vocabulary cards for the following words:

Polytheistic: belief in many gods

Theocracy: king chosen to rule by the gods

City State: a city with political and economic control over the surrounding countryside

Barter and Trade: trading goods or services without using money

Cuneiform: writing system using stylus to make impressions into clay

Ziggurats: Temples built atop large stepped towers

# MESOPOTAMIA: "THE LAND BETWEEN THE RIVERS" AKA THE FERTILE CRESCENT

- Rivers: Tigris and Euphrates
  - Mountain rain and melting snow swelled rivers, carried soil to plains--deposited fine soil, or silt, making land fertile, good for crops
- Natural Barriers:
  - Mountains to north
  - Mediterranean Sea to west
  - Persian Gulf to east
  - Arabian Desert to south



# CITY FEATURES, BUILDING MATERIALS, ARCHITECTURE

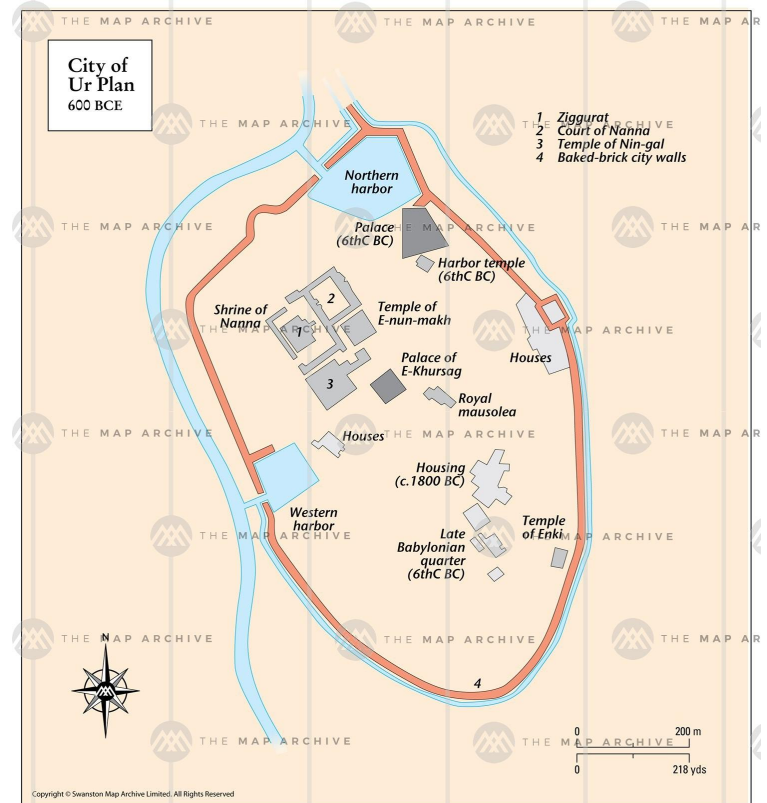
- Sumer was made up of independent city-states in east Mesopotamia
- As Sumerian cities grew, they gained control over the surrounding countryside, becoming city-states



# CITY FEATURES, BUILDING MATERIALS, ARCHITECTURE

- Sumerians had little stone or wood for building, so they relied on mud bricks for walls and buildings
- They invented the arch and the dome, and built large brick buildings

\*\* Play video from textbook.



# INTERACTION WITH ENVIRONMENT

- Annual flood unpredictable
  - Built dams and levees to hold back floodwaters
- Drought (period without enough rain and snowfall) lowered river levels
  - Irrigation canals carried water from rivers to fields





# RELIGIOUS BELIEFS, RITUALS

- Religion provided answers to questions about life and the universe
- Polytheistic: a belief in many gods
- Ziggurats were the most important buildings
- Temple priests and priestesses held a great deal of power
- Kings were believed to derive their power from deities (theocracy)
- Human beings in general were considered inferior and had to serve and obey the gods



# SOCIAL STRUCTURE

- The three major social groups were nobles, commoners, and slaves
  - Nobles: royalty and priests
  - Commoners: farmers and craftspeople
  - Slaves: worked mainly for the royalty and temple priests and were used primarily for building projects, craftwork, and farming
- Rulers: theocratic government was believed to be established by divine authority

## Sumerian Social Order

<u>Title</u>	<u>Description</u>
king	Believed the gods gave them the right to rule
priests	Gave up working & lived of the offerings of the people- given large tracts of land to rent out to farmers for financial support
Skilled craftspeople	Crafters with specific skills that are in high need
merchants	People who buy & sell goods to the public
Traders *huge <u>impact</u> on Sumer	Travel to far away places to trade gold, silver, copper, lumber, & precious stones
Farmers	Grow crops- working class
Laborers	People who do manual labor-ex. Build bricks and structures- working class
Slaves	People bought and sold to me laborers for the wealthy- lowest social class

# ECONOMY

- Economy based on farming, barter, trade and industry
  - Farming was the primary economic activity
  - Sumerians traded woolen textiles (fabric and cloth), pottery, dried fish, wheat, and metal goods for copper, tin, and timber



# WRITING

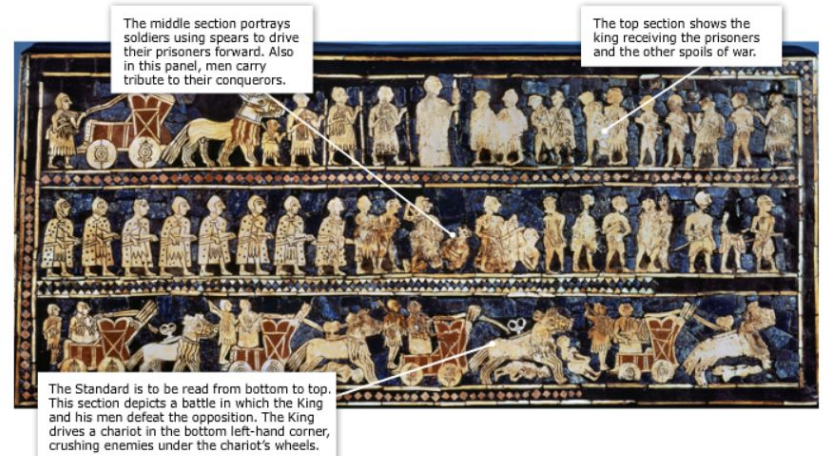
- Created a cuneiform system of writing
  - Uses stylus to make impressions into clay
  - Dried by baking in sun
- Originally developed to record transactions
- Could pass on info, learning, beliefs, and stories



# ART

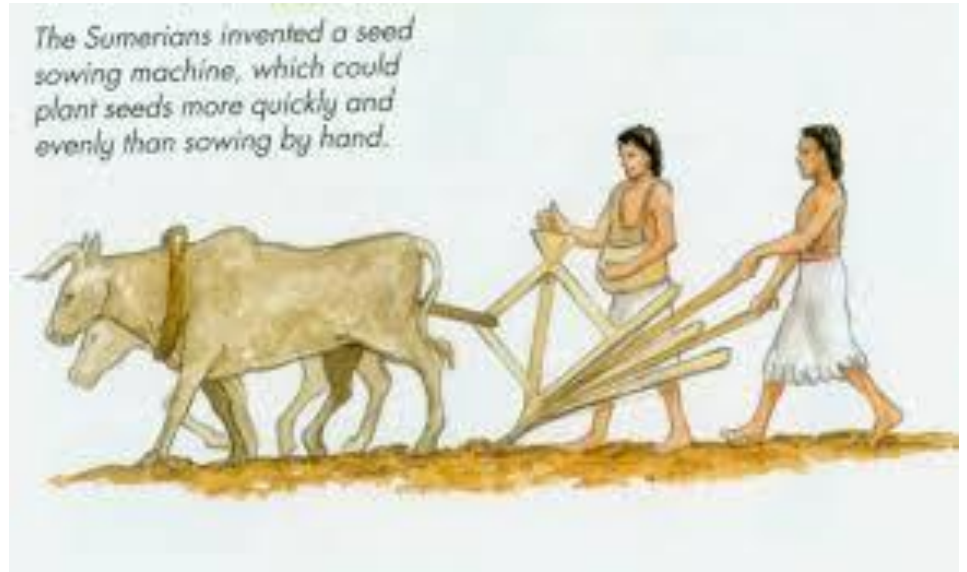
- Epic poems like Gilgamesh
- Fine metalwork
- Elaborate architecture (domes, arches, and ziggurats)
- Woven fabrics like The Standard of Ur

The Standard of Ur was found in a grave in the Royal Cemetery at Ur. The Standard has two main panels titled "War" and "Peace." The "War" panel, shown here, depicts a Sumerian army.



# SCIENCE AND MATH

- The base-60 number system and time-keeping
  - 60 seconds in a minute
  - 60 minutes in an hour
- Geometry to build their walls, buildings, etc.
- Astronomy by charting constellations
- Inventions: the wagon wheel, the sundial, the arch, and bronze



INDUS

# VOCABULARY

Make vocabulary cards for  
the following words:

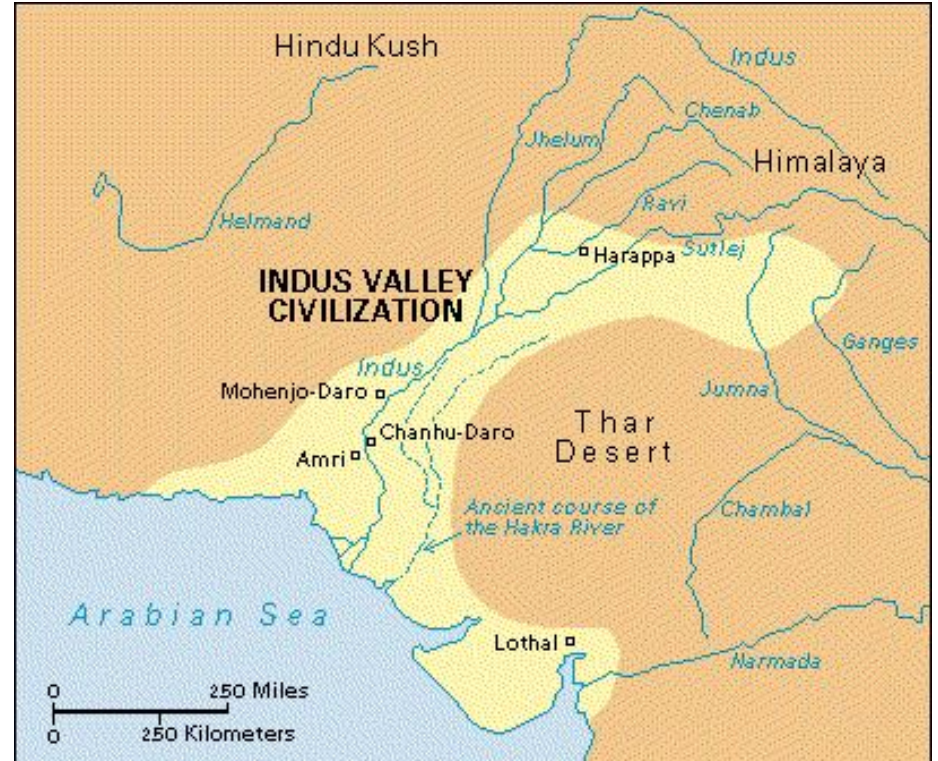
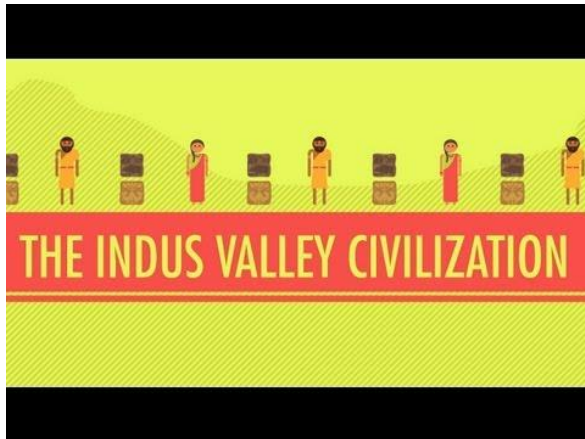
Monsoon: a seasonal wind pattern  
that blows warm, moist air during  
the summer, bringing heavy rains,  
and cold, dry air during the  
winter

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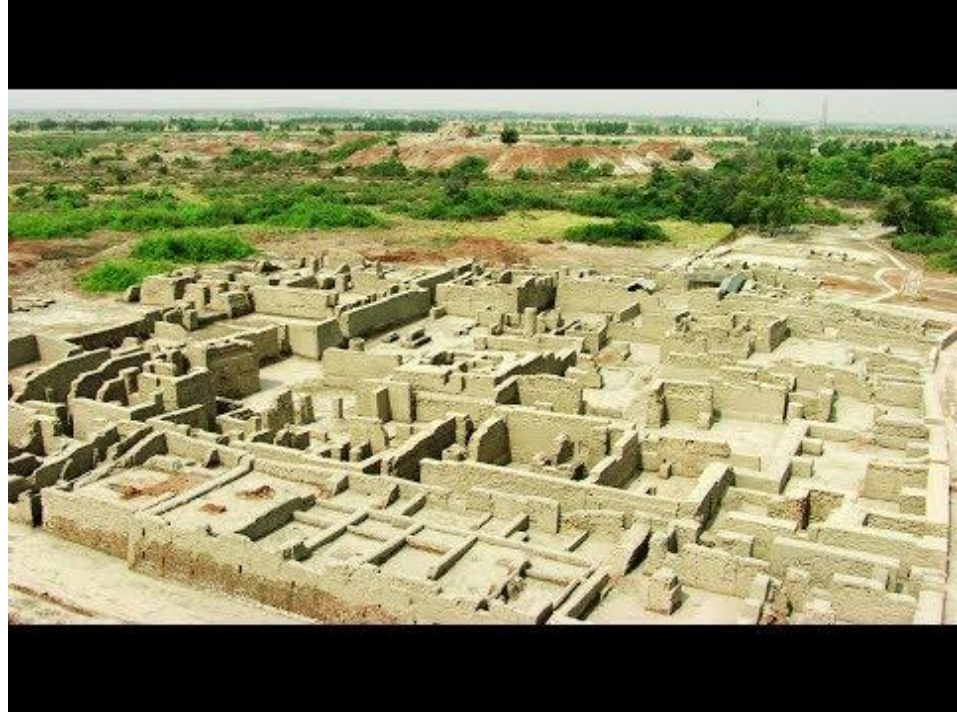
# INDUS RIVER VALLEY

- River(s):
  - Indus River
  - Ganges
- Natural Barriers:
  - Mountains
  - Desert



# CITY FEATURES, BUILDING MATERIALS, ARCHITECTURE

- 1,000+ settlements
- Harappa and Mohenjo Daro
  - All houses the same
  - Streets in grid
  - Public wells
  - Water system
    - Sewers
    - Baths



# INTERACTION WITH ENVIRONMENT

- Flooded 2 times/year
- Monsoons
- Irrigation
- Sewers



# RELIGIOUS BELIEFS, RITUALS

- Polytheistic
- Royal palaces = Temples
- Rulers got help from gods

# SOCIAL STRUCTURE

- Men arranged by job
- Women valued b/c had babies
- Children helped with work, played

# ECONOMY

- Farming
- Traded goods (cotton) and raw materials
  - Seals





# WRITING

- Can't be translated
- Pointed stick and clay
- Seals for trade



# ART

- Figurines
- Pottery
- Jewelry





# SCIENCE AND MATH

- Grid streets
- Sewer systems
  - Baths
  - Waste



Aerial view of the partially excavated Indus Valley city known as Mohenjo-Daro (Mound of the Dead - real name unknown). circa 3,000 B.C.

EGYPT (NILE)

# VOCABULARY

Make vocabulary cards for the following words:

Dynasty: a family of rulers whose right to rule is passed on within the family

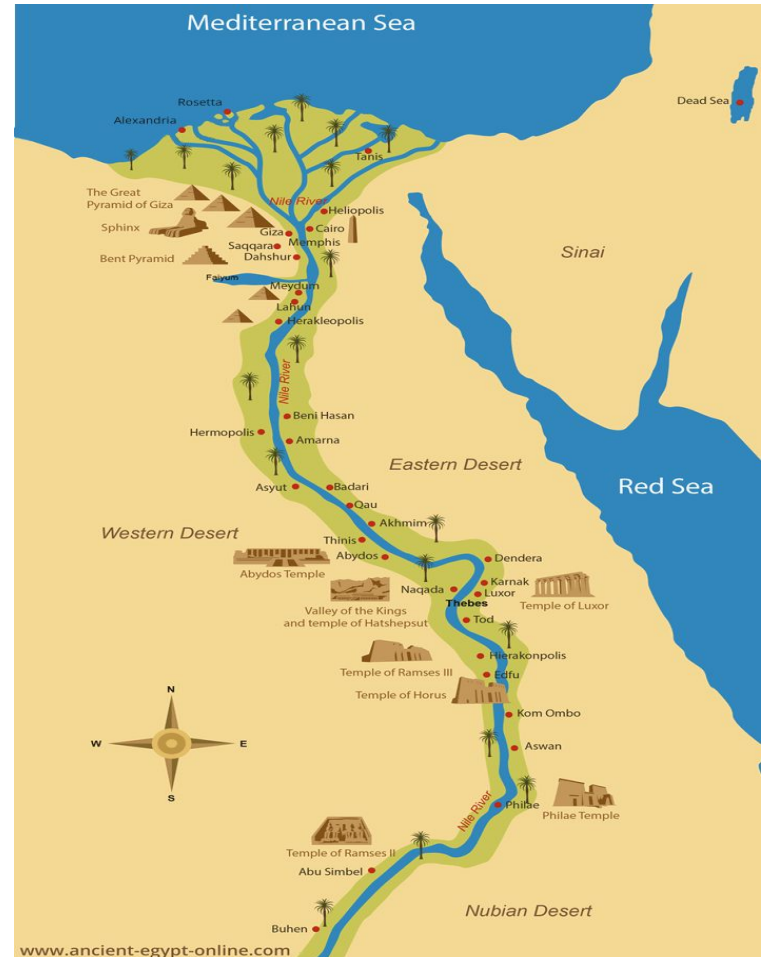
Hieroglyphics: pictures & symbols

Manufacturing: the process of making products, or goods

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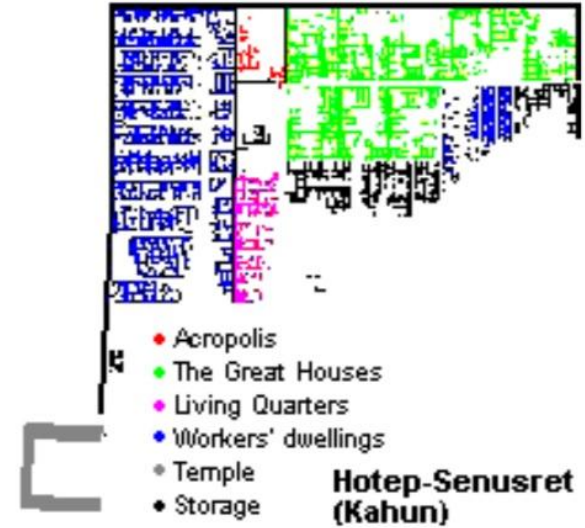
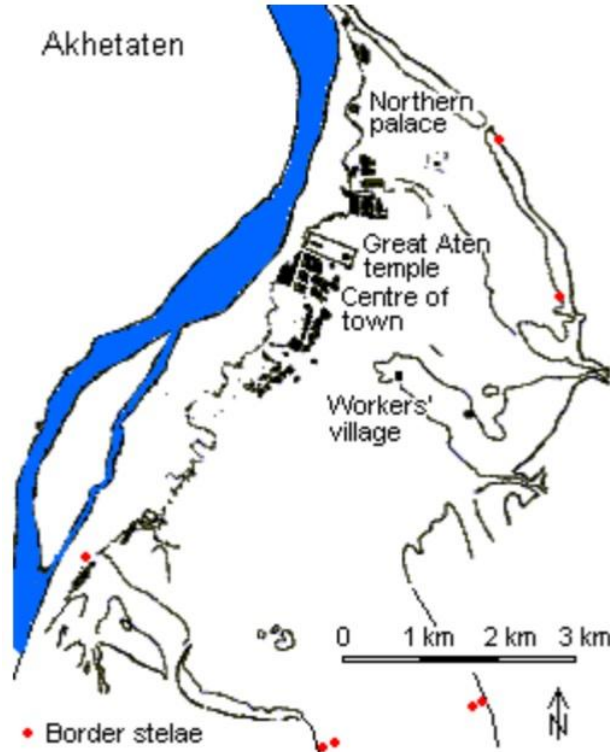
# EGYPT (NILE RIVER VALLEY)

- River(s):
  - Nile
- Natural Barriers:
  - Sea
  - Deserts



# CITY FEATURES, BUILDING MATERIALS, ARCHITECTURE

- Along Nile
- Some walls
- Symmetrical



# INTERACTION WITH ENVIRONMENT

- Irrigation
- Nile flooded 6 months/year
  - Planted after flood

# RELIGIOUS BELIEFS, RITUALS

- Polytheistic
  - Heavenly bodies
  - Forces of nature
- Theocracy
  - Pharaoh = “Son of Ra” (sun god)
  - Mummified in pyramids for afterlife





# SOCIAL STRUCTURE

1. Pharaoh
2. Nobles
3. Scribes & Craftspeople
4. Farmers, Servants, & Slaves

Women: own property/business, priestess, pharaoh

## Egyptian Society

### Pharaoh

The pharaoh ruled Egypt as a god.



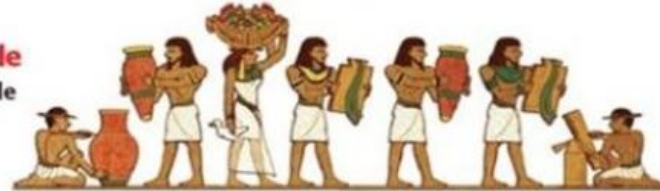
### Nobles

Officials and priests helped run the government and temples.



### Scribes and Craftspeople

Scribes wrote and craftspeople produced goods.



### Farmers, Servants, and Slaves

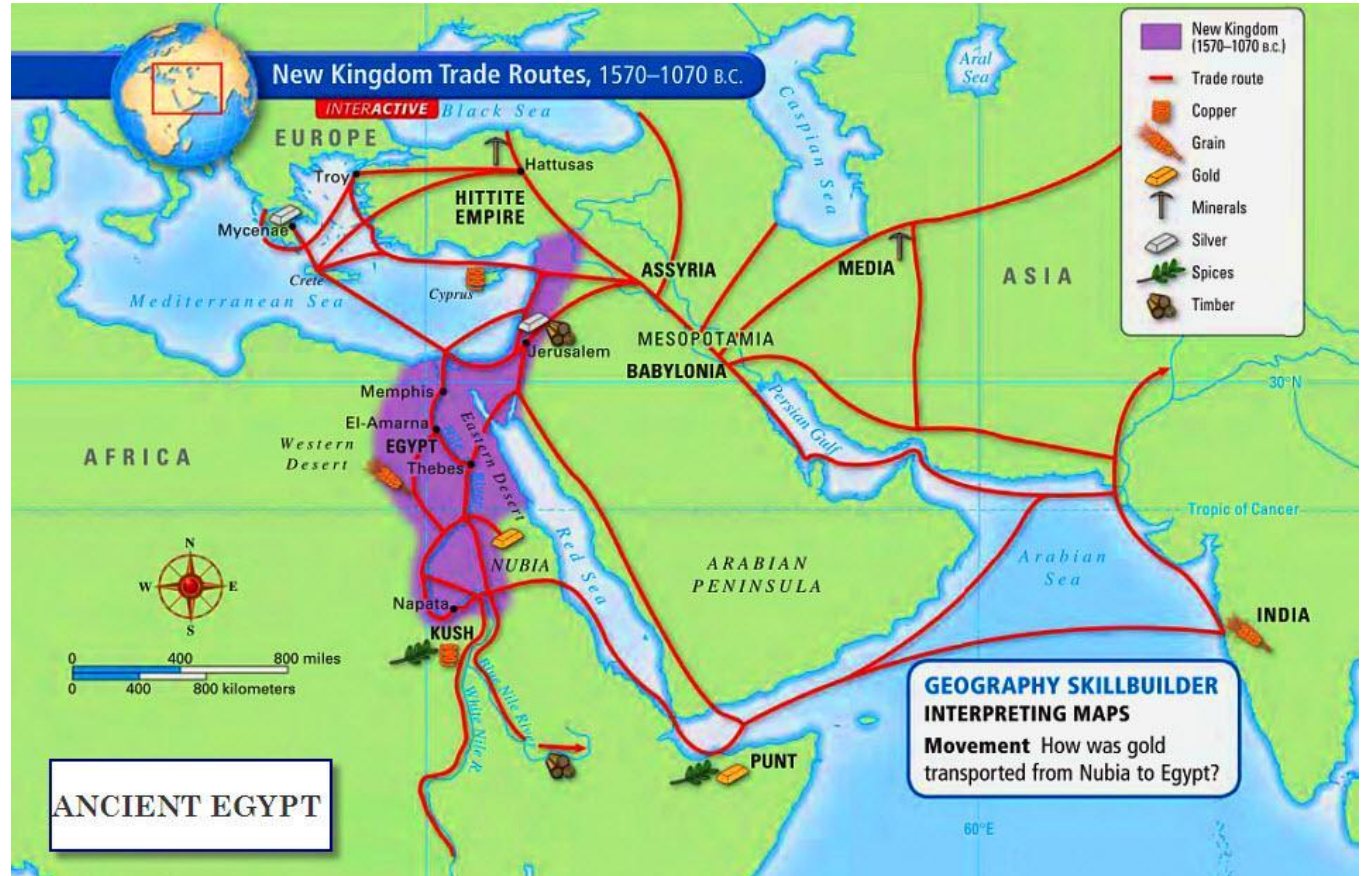
Most Egyptians were farmers. Below them were servants and slaves.





# ECONOMY

- Agriculture
- Manufacturing
- Mining
- Trade
- Slavery
- Taxes



# WRITING

- Hieroglyphics
  - Functional but beautiful



# ART

- Practical purpose
  - Tomb
  - Charms & Amulets
  - Figurines
  - Ceramics





# SCIENCE AND MATH

- Architecture: pyramids, temples, monuments
- Sculpture
- 365 day calendar
- Inventions: chisels, needles



CHINA

# VOCABULARY

Make vocabulary cards for the following words:

Dynastic Cycle: pattern of rise and fall of dynasties

Mandate of Heaven: a good ruler had divine approval

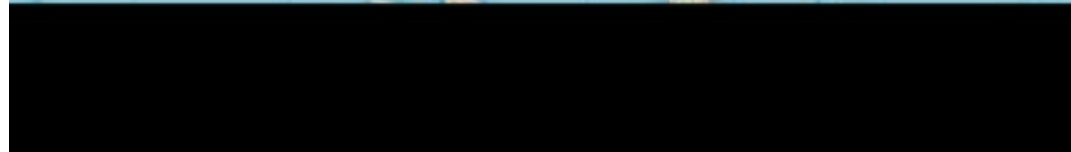
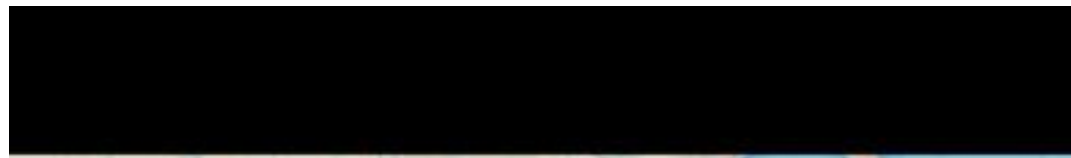
Cultural Diffusion: the spreading out of culture, culture traits, or a cultural pattern from a central point

Filial piety: the duty of family members to subordinate their needs and desires to those of the male head of the family

Collectivism: group is more important than individual

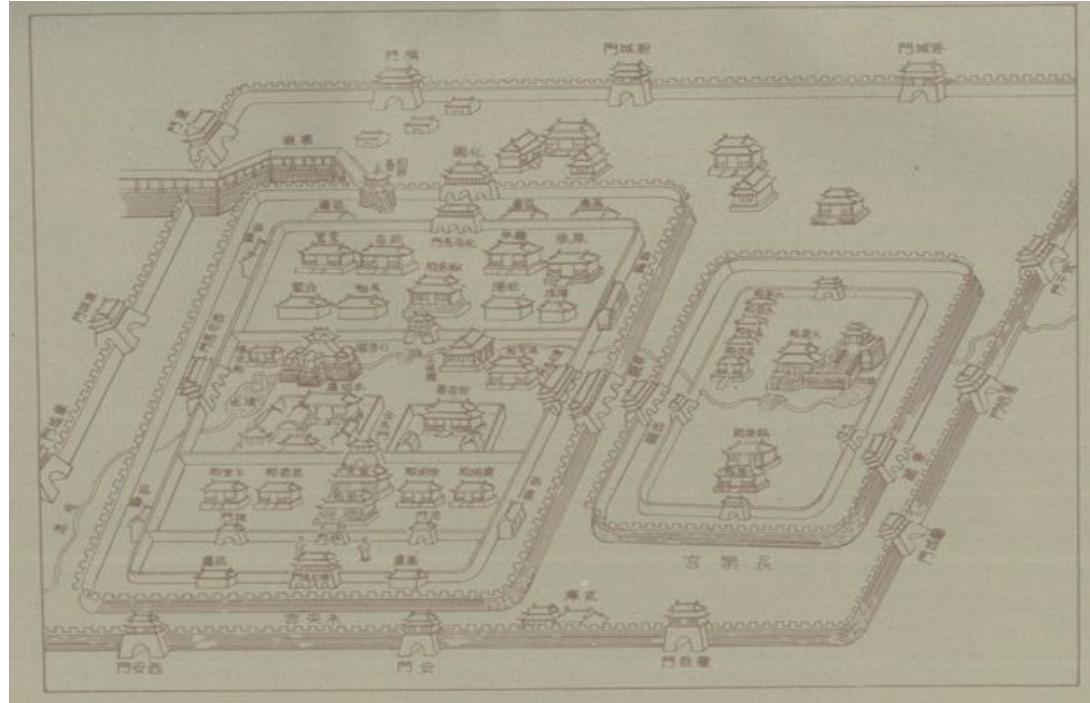
# CHINA

- River(s):
  - Yellow River (Huang He)
  - Yangtze River
- Natural Barriers:
  - Deserts
  - Mountains
  - Sea



# CITY FEATURES, BUILDINGS MATERIALS, ARCHITECTURE

- Walls for protection
- Made of wood





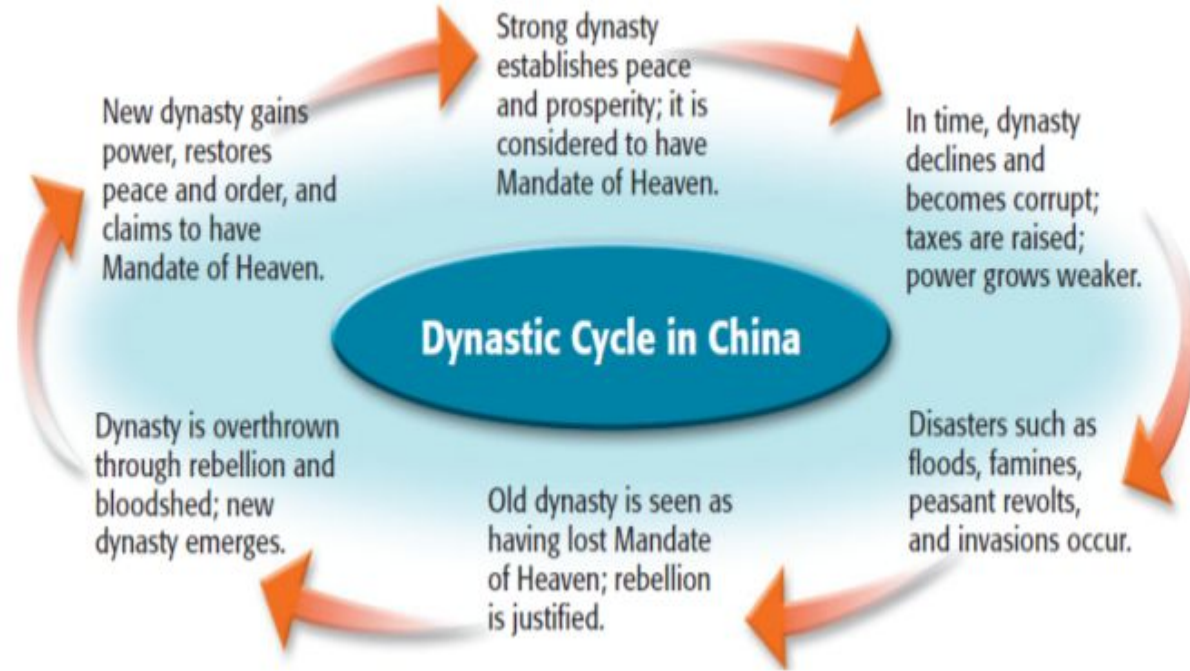
# INTERACTION WITH ENVIRONMENT

- Yellow River flooding called “China’s Sorrow”
- Canals



# RELIGIOUS BELIEFS, RITUALS

- Theocracy:
  - Mandate of Heaven
  - Dynastic Cycle
- Confucius
  - Respect for elders
  - Women obey all males
- Ancestor worship
- Collectivism
- Oracle bones



# SOCIAL STRUCTURE

- Peasants higher than artisans and merchants b/c produced food

Traditional Chinese Family	
<b>Father</b>	Authority rested with the eldest male member of the family. As a result, the father had supreme authority.
<b>Father to son</b>	The relationship between a father and his son was the most important. The elder son took control of the family after the father died.
<b>Husband to wife</b>	This relationship was not as important as the father/son relationship. In fact, a husband could divorce his wife if she failed to have sons.
<b>Elder brother to younger brother</b>	The younger brother should show respect for the elder brother.
<b>Daughter</b>	Daughters were not valued in the Chinese family. Indeed, in some cases, daughters were killed at birth because they were considered to be useless.











# ECONOMY

- Silk
- Trade
  - Silk Road
    - Cultural Diffusion



# WRITING

- Pictograph
  - Ideas, words
  - Lots of characters=  
difficult

	ox	goat, sheep	tree	moon	earth
Ancient symbol					
Modern character					

# ART

- Jade carvings
- Bronze castings
  - \*\*\* Show textbook video





# SCIENCE AND MATH

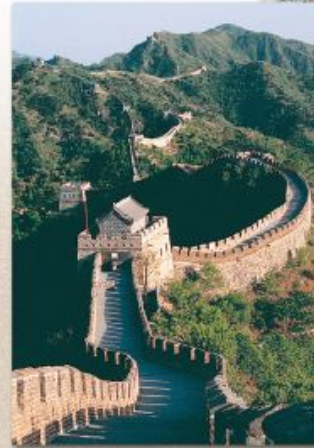
- Iron tools & weapons
- Coins
- Great Wall
- Medicine
  - Acupuncture

## The Great Wall of China

From the Yellow Sea in the east to the Gobi Desert in the west, the Great Wall twisted like a dragon's tail for thousands of miles. Watch towers rose every 200 to 300 yards along the wall.

In the time of Shi Huangdi, hundreds of thousands of peasants collected, hauled, and dumped millions of tons of stone, dirt, and rubble to fill the core of the Great Wall.

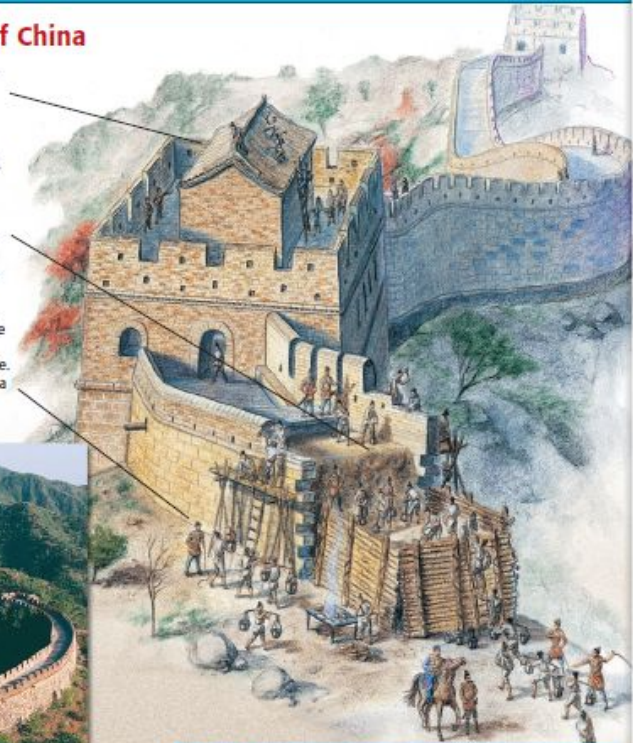
Slabs of cut stone on the outside of the wall enclosed a heap of pebbles and rubble on the inside. Each section of the wall rose to a height of 20 to 25 feet.



Although Shi Huangdi built the earliest unified wall, the wall as it exists today dates from the later Ming Dynasty (1368–1644).

### SKILLBUILDER: Interpreting Visual Sources

- 1. Making Inferences** What were the benefits of the watch towers along the wall?
- 2. Drawing Conclusions** What modern structures serve the same purpose as the watch towers?



### The Qin Dynasty, 221–202 B.C.



MESOAMERICA



# MESOAMERICA: THE OLMEC PEOPLE

- Location:
  - Mexican states of Tabasco and Veracruz
- River(s):
  - 3 different rivers
- Natural Barriers:
  - Dense, thick jungle
  - Mountains near Gulf of Mexico



# CITY FEATURES, BUILDINGS MATERIALS, ARCHITECTURE

- Cities:
  - For ceremonies
- Villages:
  - People's homes:  
lean-to and  
storage pit for  
root vegetables
  - Gardens



# INTERACTION WITH ENVIRONMENT

- Cleared fields using slash and burn (farming method that involves the cutting and burning of plants in a forest or woodland to create a field)
- Maize, beans, squash, sweet potatoes, cotton



# RELIGIOUS BELIEFS, RITUALS

- Ritual bloodletting:
  - Purposely cutting the body to release blood, usually to communicate with gods
- 8 different androgynous (possessing male and female characteristics) gods
- Represented nature
  - Maize God
  - Rain Spirit
  - Shark Monster



# SOCIAL STRUCTURE

- Gods
- Shamans (religious leader) and Rulers
- Commoners: laborers and workers



# ECONOMY

- Trade:
  - Jade
  - obsidian






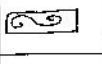


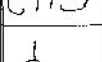
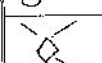



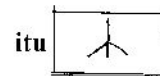
# WRITING

- Symbols

## The Olmec Signs

An ancient American Writing System

Ngbe	
Nde	
Nde-Po	
Fa Po	
Yo Pol li	
Su Po	
Fa Kuku	
Po gbe	
Tu fa be	
ita	
Ngbe Po	



# ART

- Figurines:
  - Jade, clay, basalt, greenstone
- Huge stone heads carved from volcanic rock
  - 20 ton statue of rulers





# SCIENCE AND MATH

- Got rubber from trees for tools and balls for games



The Ball

Rubber strips wound around the skulls made large hollow balls that bounced high

NON RIVER VALLEY PEOPLE

# VOCABULARY

Make vocabulary cards for the following words:

Pastoral Nomads: people who domesticated animals but follows them as they migrate

Empire: group of states or countries under a single supreme authority

Monotheistic: belief in one God

Prophet: teachers, voice of God on Earth

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# NOMADIC PEOPLE

- Lived outside Mesopotamia and Egypt
- Hunting, gathering, herding, sometimes farming
- Traders
  - New technology



# THE PHOENICIANS

- Trade empire
  - Built ships
  - Colonies in Mediterranean Sea and Britain
- Alphabet
  - 22 letters to spell words
  - Passed to Greeks (changed)
  - Passed to Romans (changed)
  - Basis for our alphabet



# THE ISRAELITES

- Religion: Judaism
  - Christianity
  - Islam
  - Hebrew Bible aka Old Testament
  - Monotheistic
- Covenant
  - God will protect them
  - They will follow the Torah (10 Commandments)
    - Future laws
- Prophet



# THE MINOANS

- Island of Crete
- Trade
  - Pottery
  - Gold and silver jewelry
- Myth about labyrinth and minotaur

