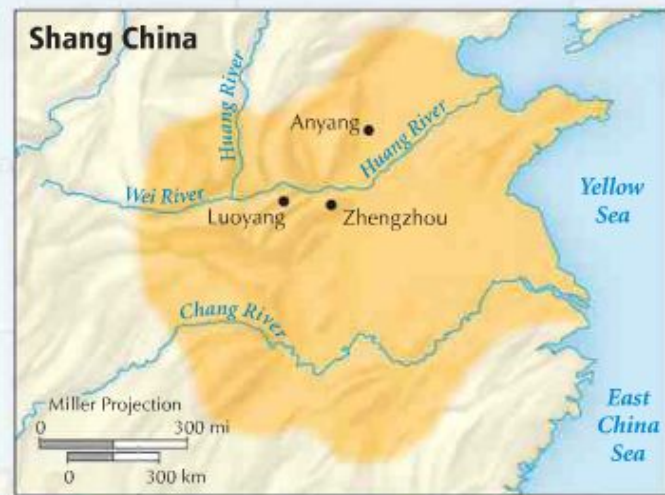
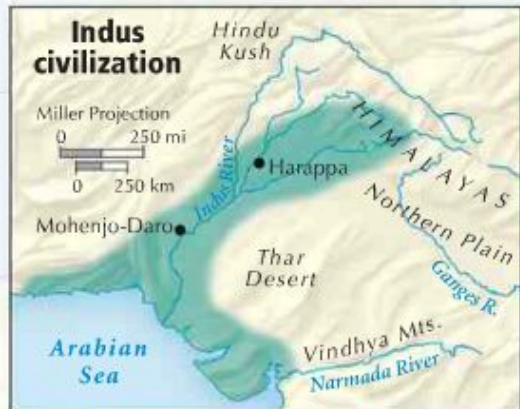


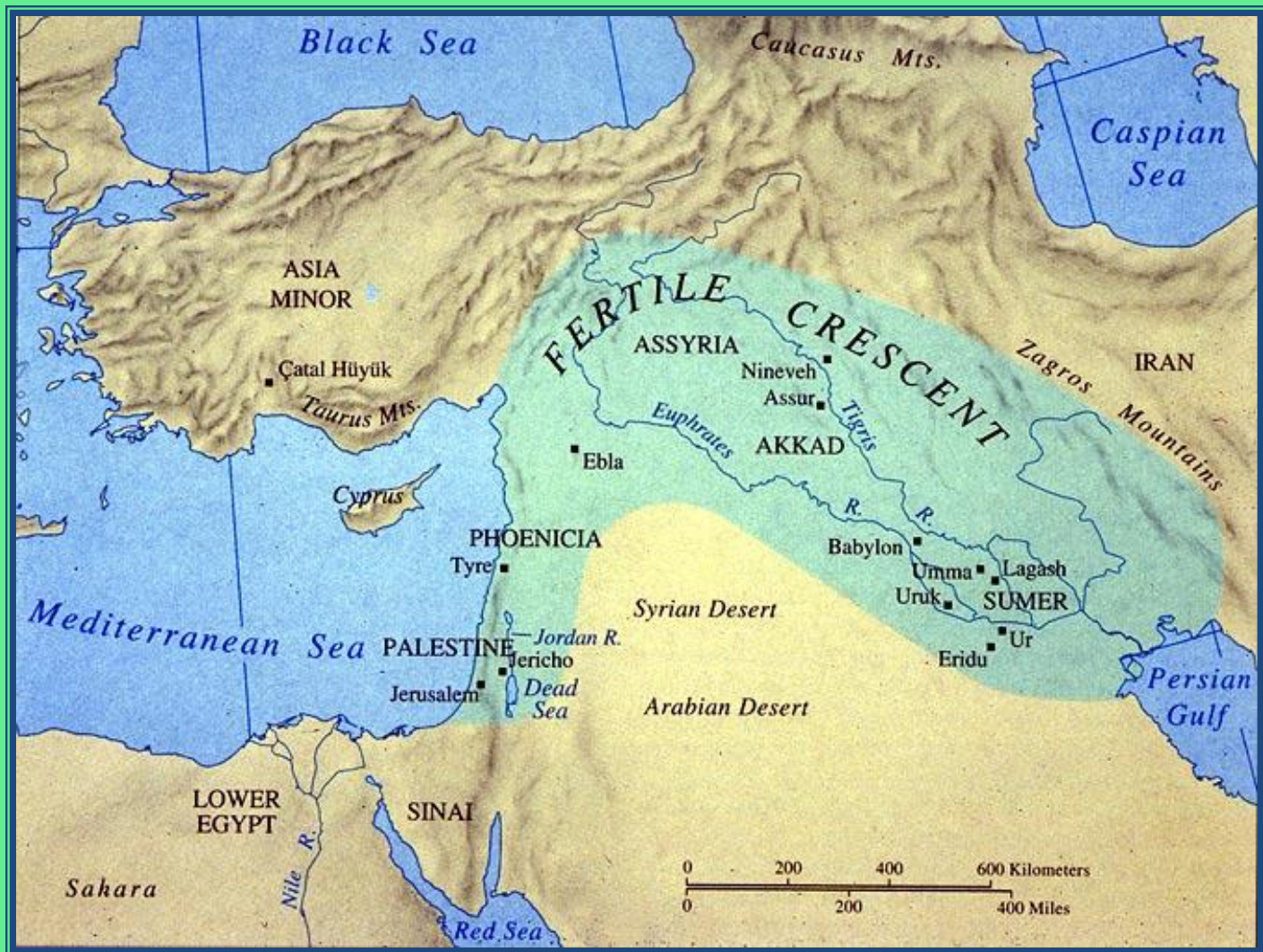
Unit 1: Early Civilizations



Why were river valleys important?

- **Farming** - large amounts of people could be fed, fertile soil for a variety of crops, irrigation systems could be developed to water the crops
- **Trade** - goods and ideas could move from place to place
- **Cities** - grew in these valleys and became the centers of civilizations

Civilization Arose in the Fertile Crescent (also called Mesopotamia)



Geography of Mesopotamia

- Means “Land Between the Rivers” (Tigris & Euphrates Rivers)
- This area became a crossroads where people and ideas met. (**Cultural Diffusion**)
- Referred to as the **Fertile Crescent** *known for its rich fertile soil & wheat fields



The fertile crescent

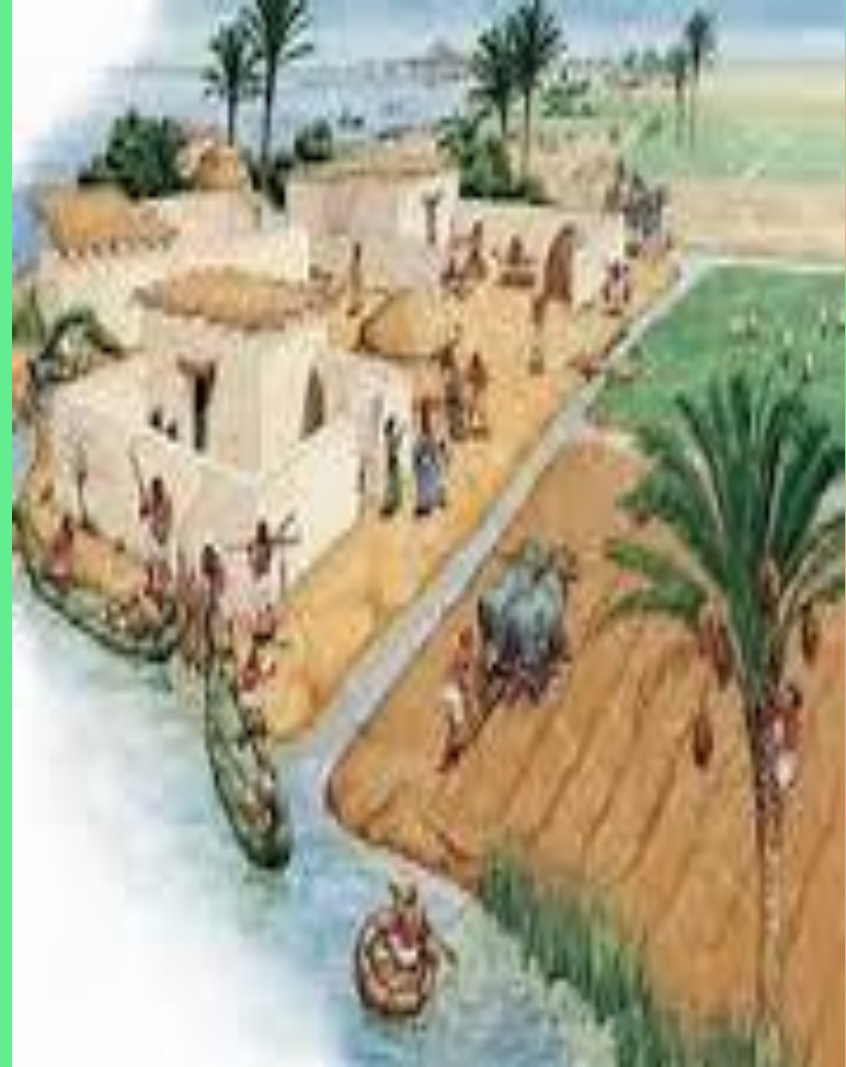
- In the spring, the **rivers** often **flooded**, leaving behind **rich soil for farming**.
- Problem - **flooding was very unpredictable**. It might flood one year, but not the next. Every year, farmers worried about their crops.
- Sumerians (people from the city-state of Sumer in Mesopotamia) grew crops such as:
 - **Barley**, which was used to make flour and bread.

- **Dates**



Irrigation

- Over time, the farmers learned to build **dams** & **channels** to **control** the seasonal **floods**.
- built **walls**, **waterways**, and **ditches** to bring water to their fields.
- **This way of watering crops is called irrigation.** Irrigation allowed the farmers to grow plenty of food and support a large population.



History of Mesopotamia

- Over the centuries, many different people lived in this area creating a collection of independent city-states
- Sumer- southern part (3500-2000 BCE)
- Akkad- northern part (2340 – 2180 BCE)
- Babylonia- these two regions were unified (1830-1500 BCE and 650-500 BCE)
- Assyria- Assyrian Empire (1100 -612 BCE)

SUMER



- One of the first villages to emerge was Sumer around 3000 B.C.E.
- Used earth and water to make clay bricks for their homes
- **City-States** emerged including Ur, Uruk, and Eridu. They established areas of cultural relevance, protection, and trade
 - conquered other city-states in order to control the land & water

Sumerian Religion:

- **Polytheistic** (belief in many gods)
- Built ziggurats (pyramids) to keep gods happy
- They believed that their gods were a lot like them except they were immortal and all-powerful.



- **Afterlife: BAD Place**
 - Sumerians believed that their souls went to “the land of no return,” a gloomy place between the earth’s crust & the ancient sea.

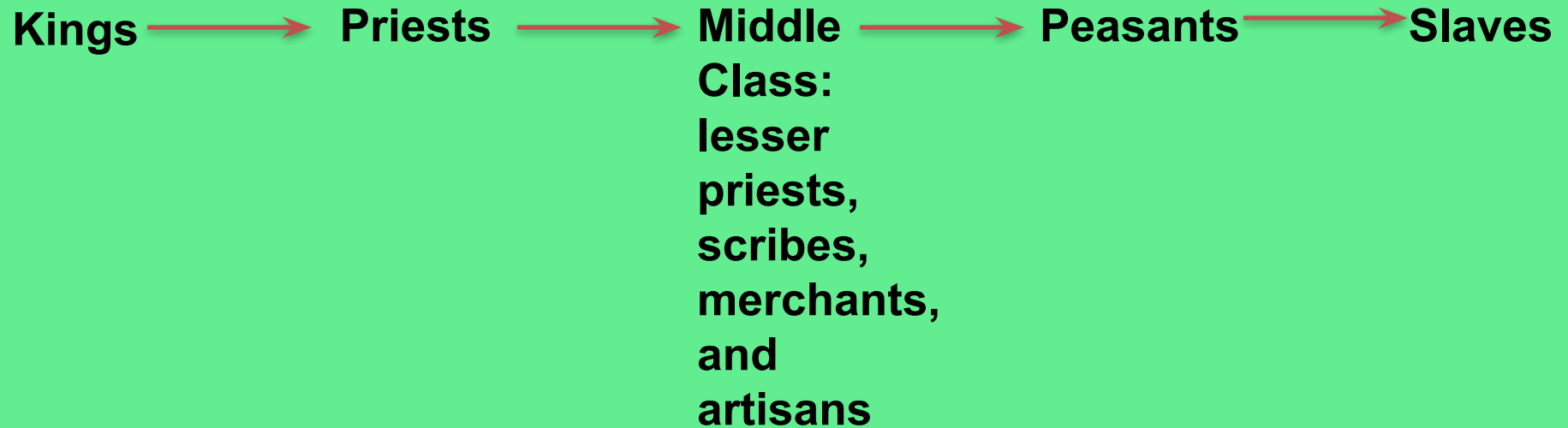


Gov't in Sumerian City-States?



- Sumerians began by choosing a strong warrior to lead them into battle. These leaders eventually became kings. Kings became hereditary (passed down from father to son).
- Kings were responsible for maintaining city walls and irrigation systems, enforce laws, and provide protection

SOCIAL CLASSES IN SUMER

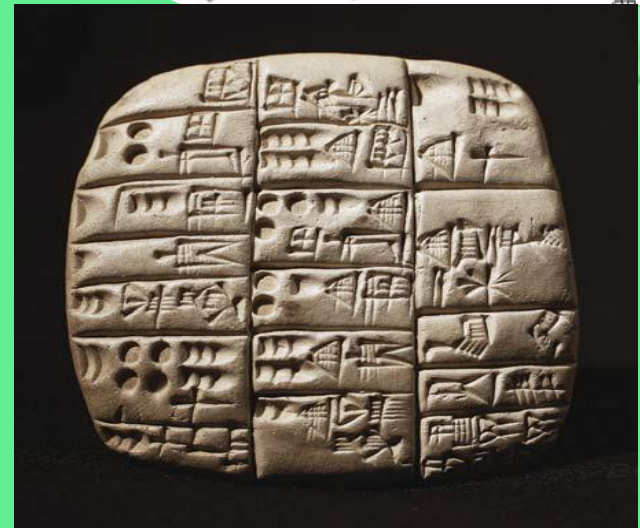


Women: In early Sumerian rule, women were held in high regard as evidence of a mother-goddess. As city-states emerged men gained more power and wealth, women became more dependent on men. Women continued to have legal rights.














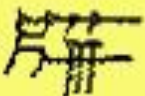




Click on the link to learn about job specialization in ancient Mesopotamia [Job Specialization](#)

Sumerian Achievements

- Contributions:
 - Developed math and astronomy (60 min, 360° circle)
 - Created a number system
 - Created an accurate calendar
 - Believed that the first wheeled vehicle was invented in Mesopotamia
 - Used a reed pen to make marks on clay tablets (**cuneiform**)



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.						

Invaders



The First Empire Builders

- Around 2300 B.C.E., Sargon, the ruler of Akkad, invaded and conquered the Sumerians
- Sargon build the first empire known to history



Hammurabi

- Around 1790 B.C.E. Hammurabi (King of Babylon) – brought much of Mesopotamia under his control
 - He established a set of codes for the land

Importance of Hammurabi's Code:

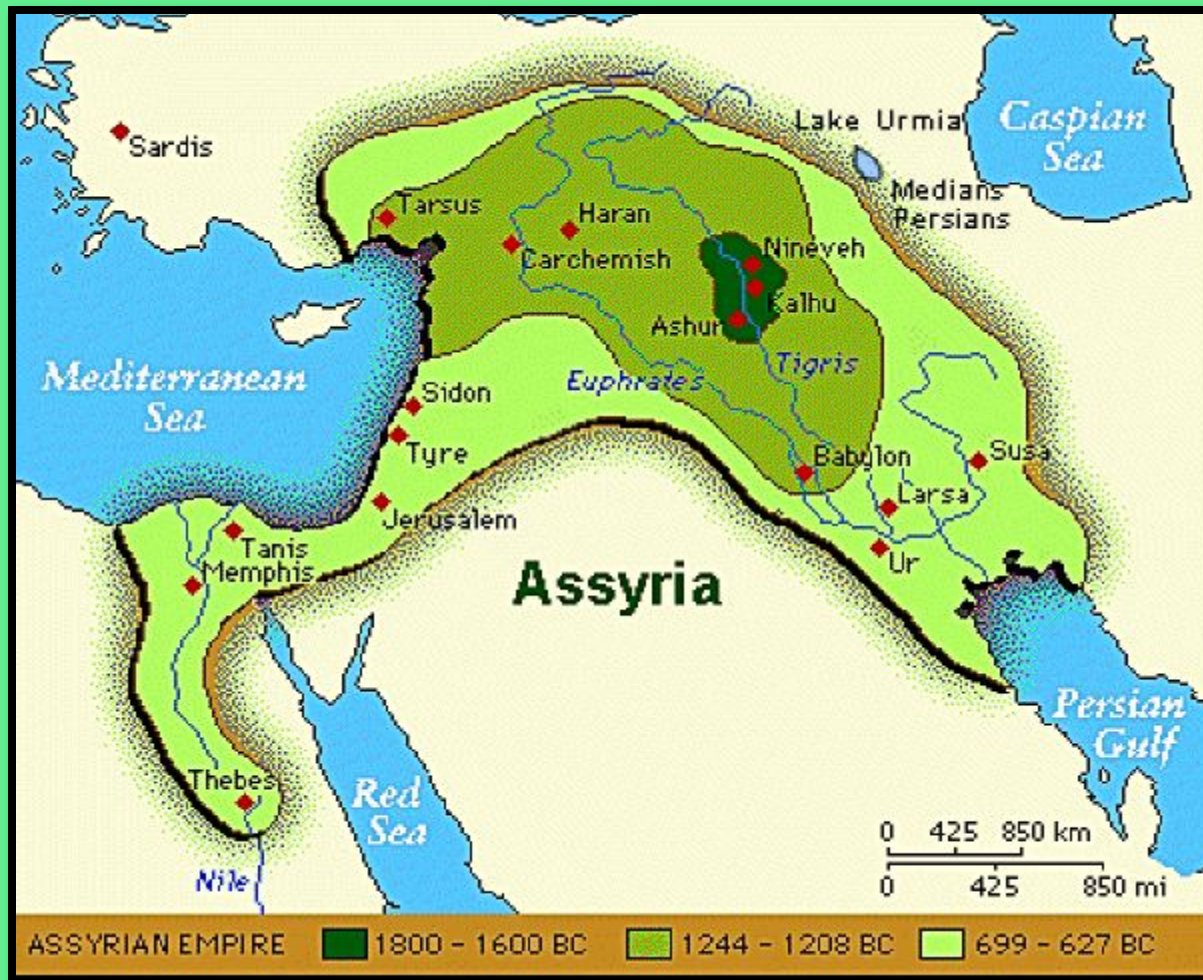
- Purpose was to *“To cause justice to prevail in the land, to destroy the wicked & evil, and to prevent the strong from oppressing the weak...to enlighten the land and to further the welfare of the people.”*
- 3 Fundamental Principles:
 - a. Retaliation to punish crimes. (ex. Eye for an Eye)
 - b. Punishment (Double Standards existed between social classes).
 - c. Gov't had a responsibility for what occurred in society.

Assyrians

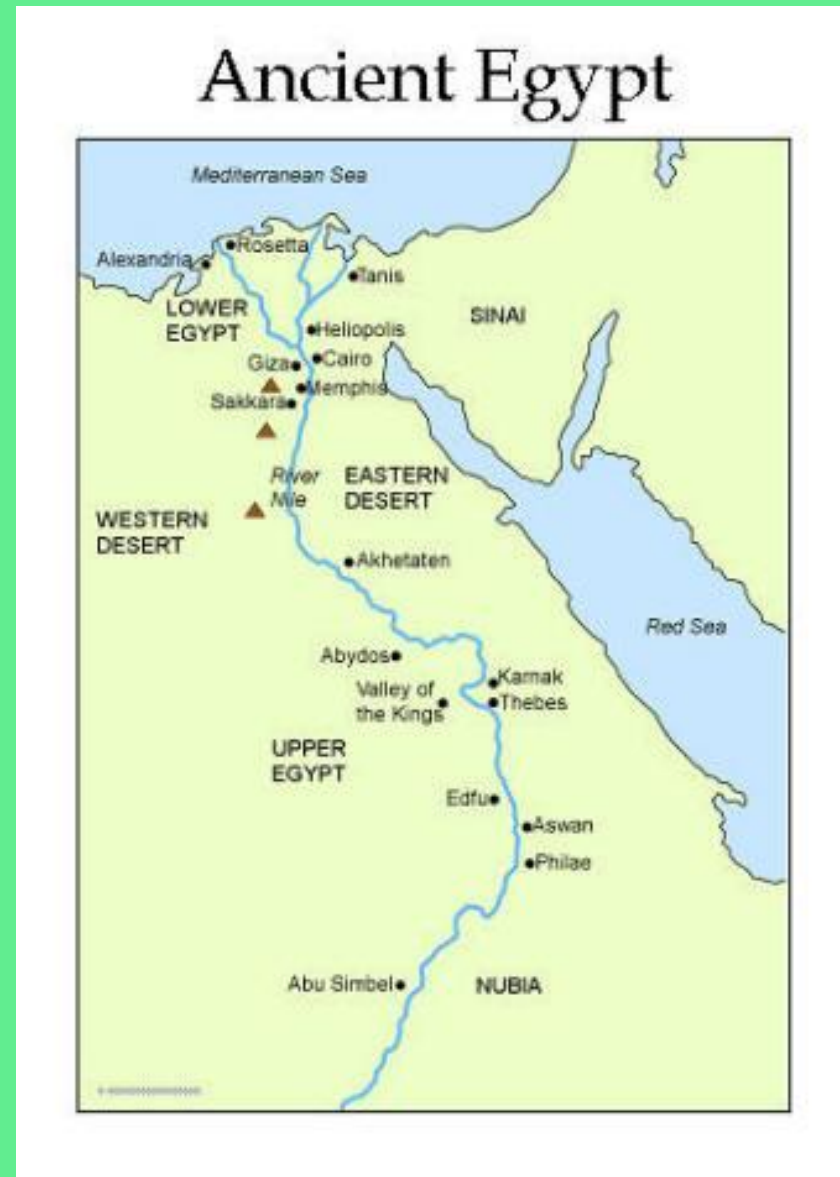
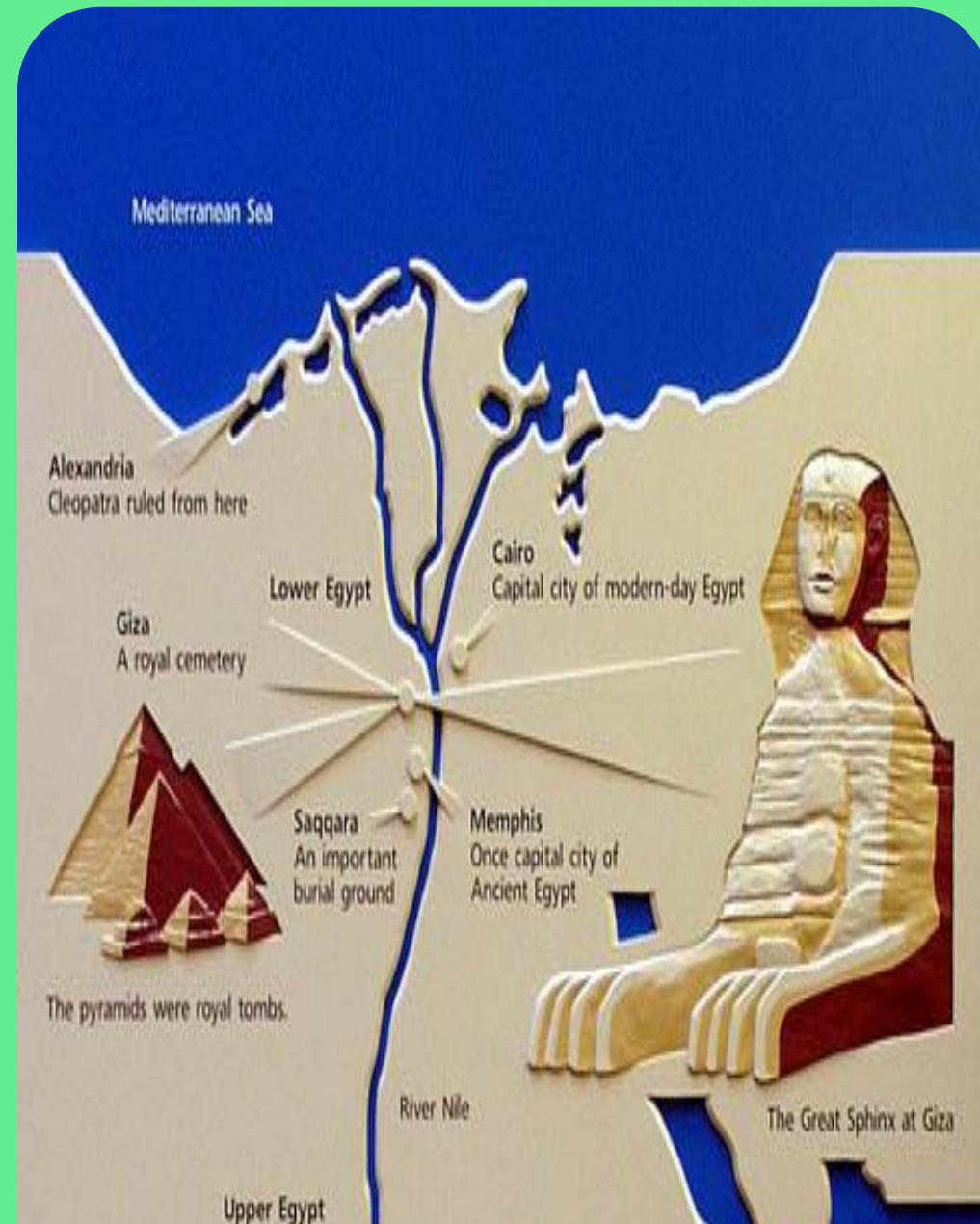
- 10th century BCE (900s BCE), Assyria emerged as dominant force in the north
- City of **Assur**- became important trading and political center
- After Hammurabi's death, Babylon fell apart and kings of Assur controlled more of surrounding area and came to dominate
- Made conquered lands pay **taxes** (food, animals, metals or timber)
- Rule by fear as kings were first to have a **permanent** army made up of professional soldiers (estimated 200,000 men)
 - Used the chariot in battle
 - First to use Cavalry (soldiers on horseback)



- Made superior weapons of bronze and **iron**
- iron changed lifestyles in Mesopotamia in weapons and in daily life
 - ex. replaced wooden wheels and applied to horse drawn chariots
- Assyrian Empire collapsed by late 7th century BCE



Ancient Egypt



Reading Activity

Hymn to the Nile

—Praise to thee, O Nile, that issues from the earth and comes to nourish Egypt ... That waters the meadows, that nourishes all cattle, that gives drinks to desert places ... Lord of fish, that makes the water fowl go upstream ... That makes barley and creates wheat, so that he may cause temples to keep festivities. ... He that makes trees according to every wish.

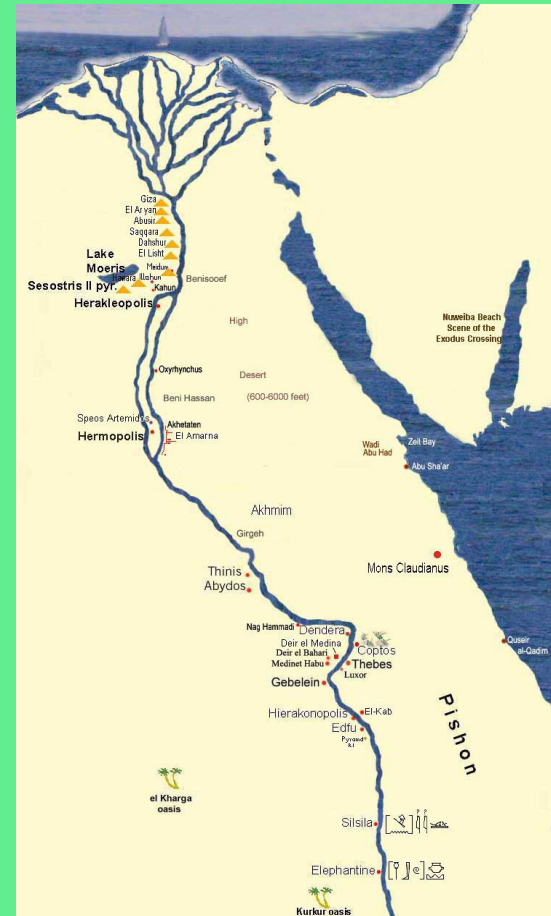
—Excerpt from the —Hymn of the Nile

Ancient Egypt



Geography

- Located in NE Africa along the Nile River and in the middle of the Sahara desert
- Fertile soil because yearly floods irrigated the land & deposited a rich layer of silt
- Egyptians built irrigation systems to store water for the dry season
- Nile River=trade route
- Mediterranean=trade route with other cultures



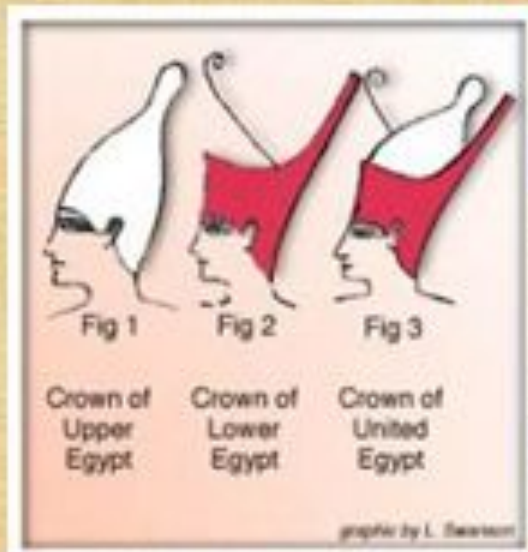
Ancient Egypt



Government

- History of ancient Egypt is divided into 3 time periods: Old Kingdom, Middle Kingdom, & the New Kingdom
- Power passed from one dynasty to another (ruling family)
- Egyptian Kings during the Old Kingdom were call pharaohs

Unification



- Early Egypt was divided into two kingdoms
 - Upper Egypt
 - Lower Egypt
- Egypt was united in 3100 BCE by Menes
 - Made Memphis the capital
 - Established the first dynasty



Ancient Egypt



Government Continued

- Pharaohs ran a strong organized central state
- Pharaohs were both gov't & religious leaders
- Pharaohs were believed to be Gods & they held absolute power, therefore the government would be considered a **theocracy** (Gov't ruled by a religious leader)
- Pharaohs in the Old Kingdom preserved justice and order in society



Some Famous Egyptian Pharaohs



Tutankhamon
1336-1327 B. C. E.



Ramses II
1279-1212 B. C. E.

Thutmose III
1504-1450 B. C. E.



Ancient Egypt



Pyramids

- Bodies were preserved & buried within the tombs of the pyramids so that the deceased would live for eternity (belief in afterlife)
- Thousands of farmers & slaves built the pyramids when it was not planting or harvesting season
- Millions of bricks were carried up steps since they did not have iron tools or wheeled vehicles

Ancient Egypt



Religion

- Beliefs about Gods, values, and the afterlife impacted the daily lives of Ancient Egyptians
- Everything we know about Ancient Egypt's religion we know from hieroglyphics inside the tombs
- Egyptians believed divine forces ruled their world and the afterlife

Ancient Egypt

Religion Continued

- Chief God of Egypt was the Sun God (Re, pronounced Ray) ...get it sun **rays**
- Osiris= god of underworld, god of the Nile
- Isis=goddess of womanly virtue

- Egyptians believed each soul had to pass a test to win eternal life
- Egyptians believed the afterlife would be like life on earth so they buried the dead with everything they would need for eternity



Egyptian Religion

- Built temples and obelisks to honor the gods
 - Tall, thin pillar with a pyramid shaped top



Ancient Egypt



Mummification

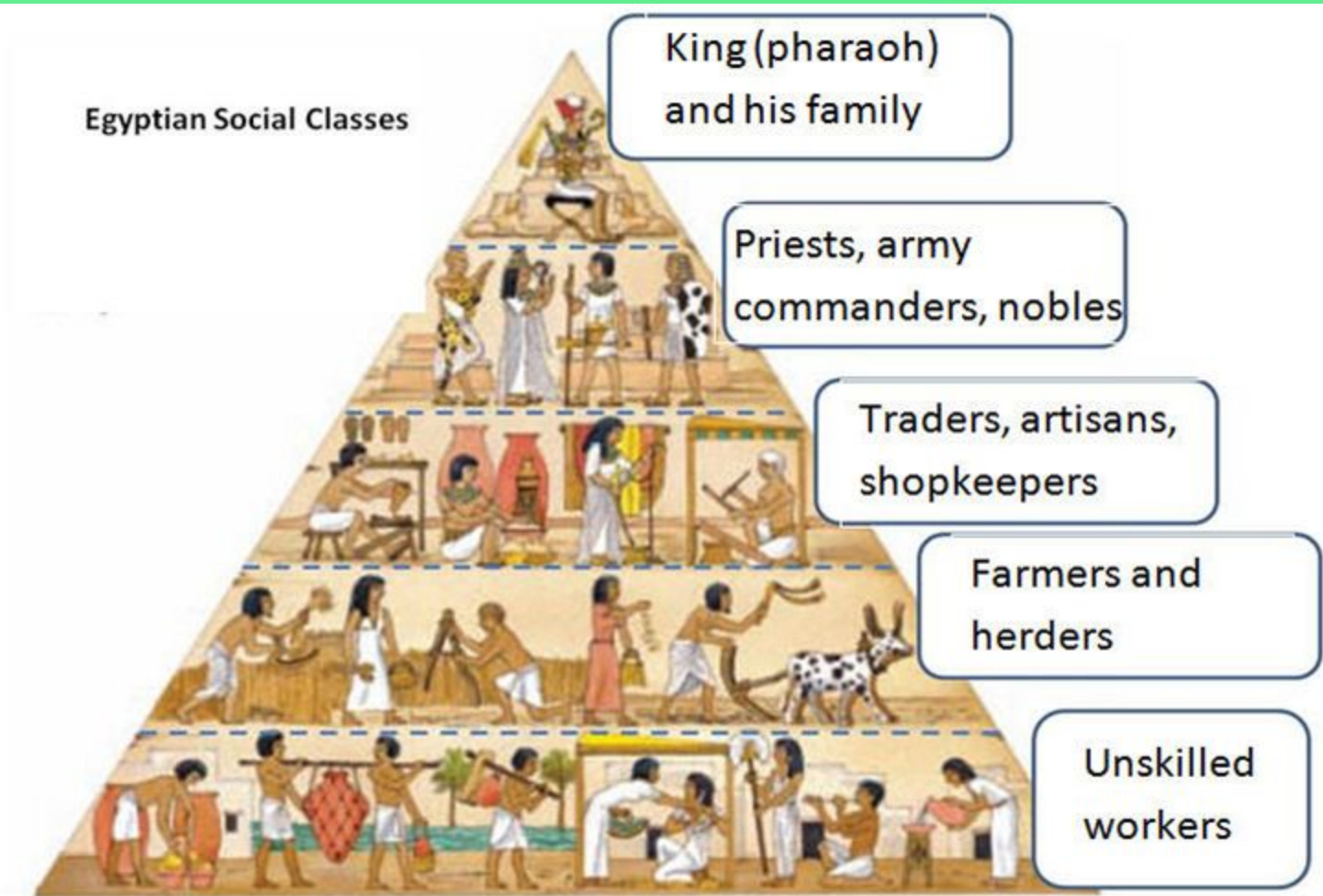
- Preserving dead bodies by embalming them and wrapping them in cloth

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1JqIAD7dn->

E



Ancient Egypt- Social Structure



Class system was hierarchal

- People with most power at the top
- Least power on the bottom

Job Specialization in Ancient Egypt

Click on the link to learn about jobs in Ancient Egypt

[Job Specialization](#)

Ancient Egypt



Egyptian Contributions

- Developed writing: hieroglyphics
- Hieroglyphics were written by scribes into stones
- Created a paper like writing material called papyrus
- Developed a calendar w/ 12 months & 30 days a month
- Developed geometry
- Advancements in medicine – diagnosing illnesses & finding cures



The **Rosetta Stone** is the key to understanding the thousands of surviving records of ancient Egypt. Created in 200 B.C., it was rediscovered in 1799 A.D. and deciphered by 1821. The writing at the top is in hieroglyphics. The writing in the middle is in a form used by modern Arabs and Egyptians, and the bottom language is Greek. Once it was realized that each passage was the same, it became possible to determine the meaning of the hieroglyphics.

Hieroglyphics “Alphabet”

24 “letters” + 700 phonetic symbols

A E O  vulture	G  stand for a jar	K (C)  basket	S (C)  folded cloth
A  forearm	H  shelter	L (R)  mouth	SH  lake or pool
B  foot	H  rope	M  owl	T  loaf of bread
CH  hobble rope	I Y  flowering reed	N  water	TH  unknown
D  hand	J (G)  cobra	O U W  quail chick	TH  cow's belly
F PH V  horned viper	K (C)  hill	P  stool	Z  door bolt

ANCIENT INDIA

Indus River Valley Civilization

Geography:

-India is a **subcontinent** (lg. landmass that sticks out from the rest of the continent)

-Himalayas & Hindu Kush Mts. to the north= natural border limiting contact w/ other lands

*steep passages through the mountains did allow for migration & invaders throughout the centuries

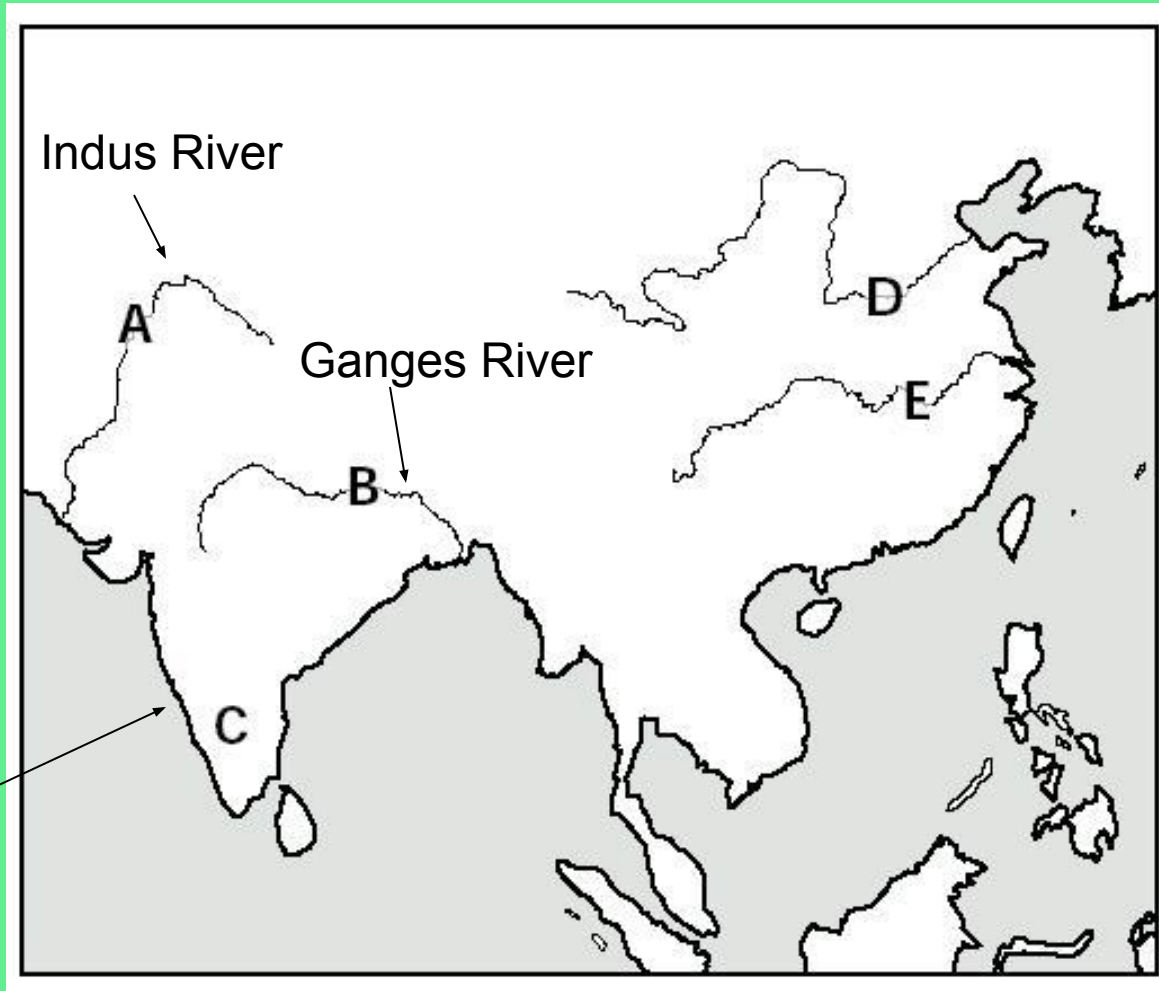
-3 major rivers: Indus, Ganges, & Brahmaputra

*most people settled here due to fertile soil for farming

-Much of the land, especially the south, is a **plateau** (raised area of level land) which makes the region arid (hot & dry), unproductive, & sparsely (thinly) populated



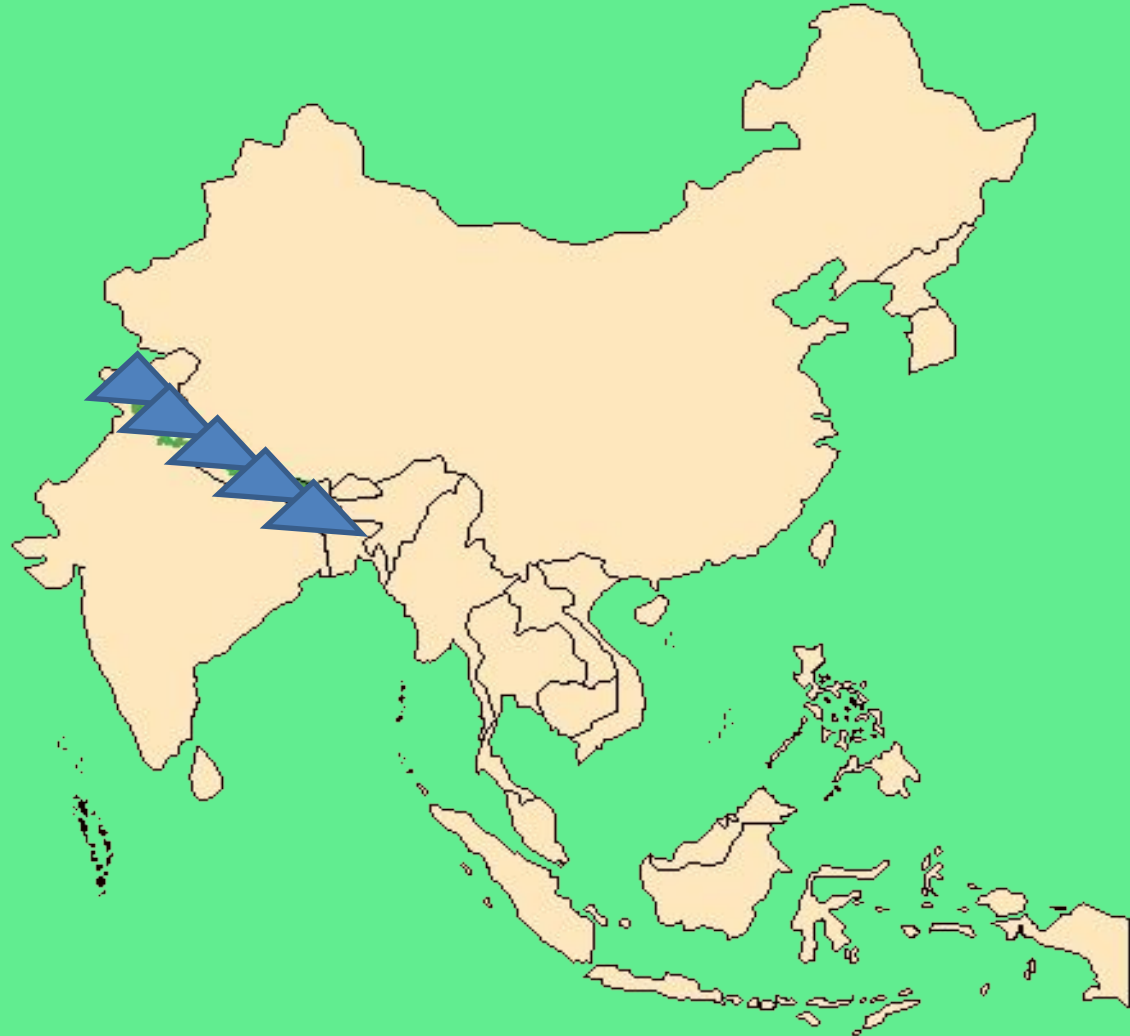
Identification of Geographic Features in India



Peninsula
and/or
Subcontinent

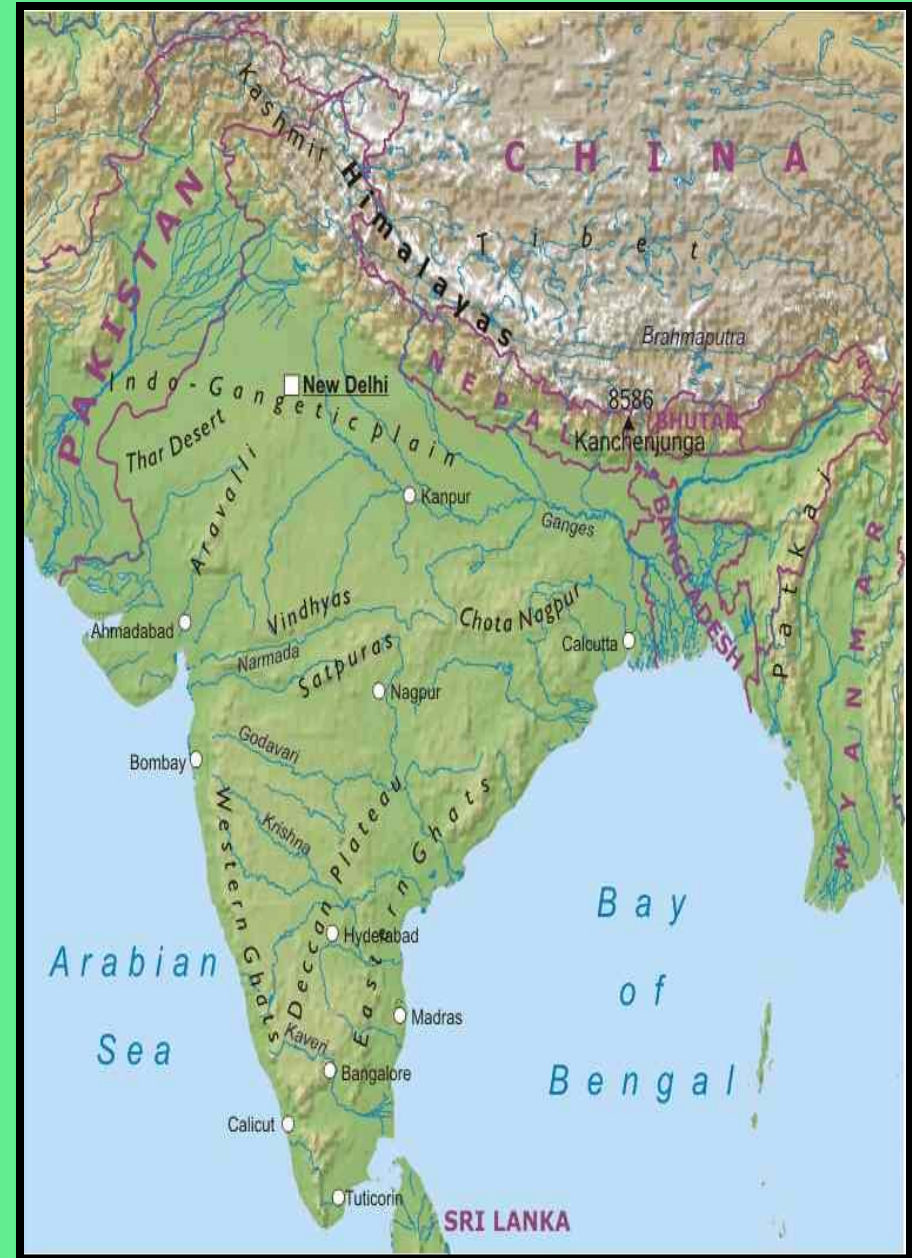
Himalayan Mountains

- This peninsula is surrounded on the north and northwest by huge mountains, the Himalayan Mountains.
- This has often limited India's contact with other cultures. This is known as cultural isolation.
- **You decide!** How would isolation impact the people on Ancient Indus?



Indus Valley Civilization

- began in Indus River valley about 2500 B.C.E. in present-day Pakistan
- Flourished for about 1,000 yrs. then vanished
- Archeologists do know that it was very large & compared in size to Sumer



Indus Valley Civilization

*two major cities: Harappa & Mohenjo-Daro

- Laid out in a grid pattern, with rectangular blocks larger than modern city blocks
- All houses were built of clay bricks
- Had modern type plumbing, with baths, drains, & water chutes that lead to sewers beneath the streets

*most people were farmers

- grew wheat, barley, melons, & dates
- 1st to cultivate cotton & make cloth from it

*did have contact with others through Indian Ocean

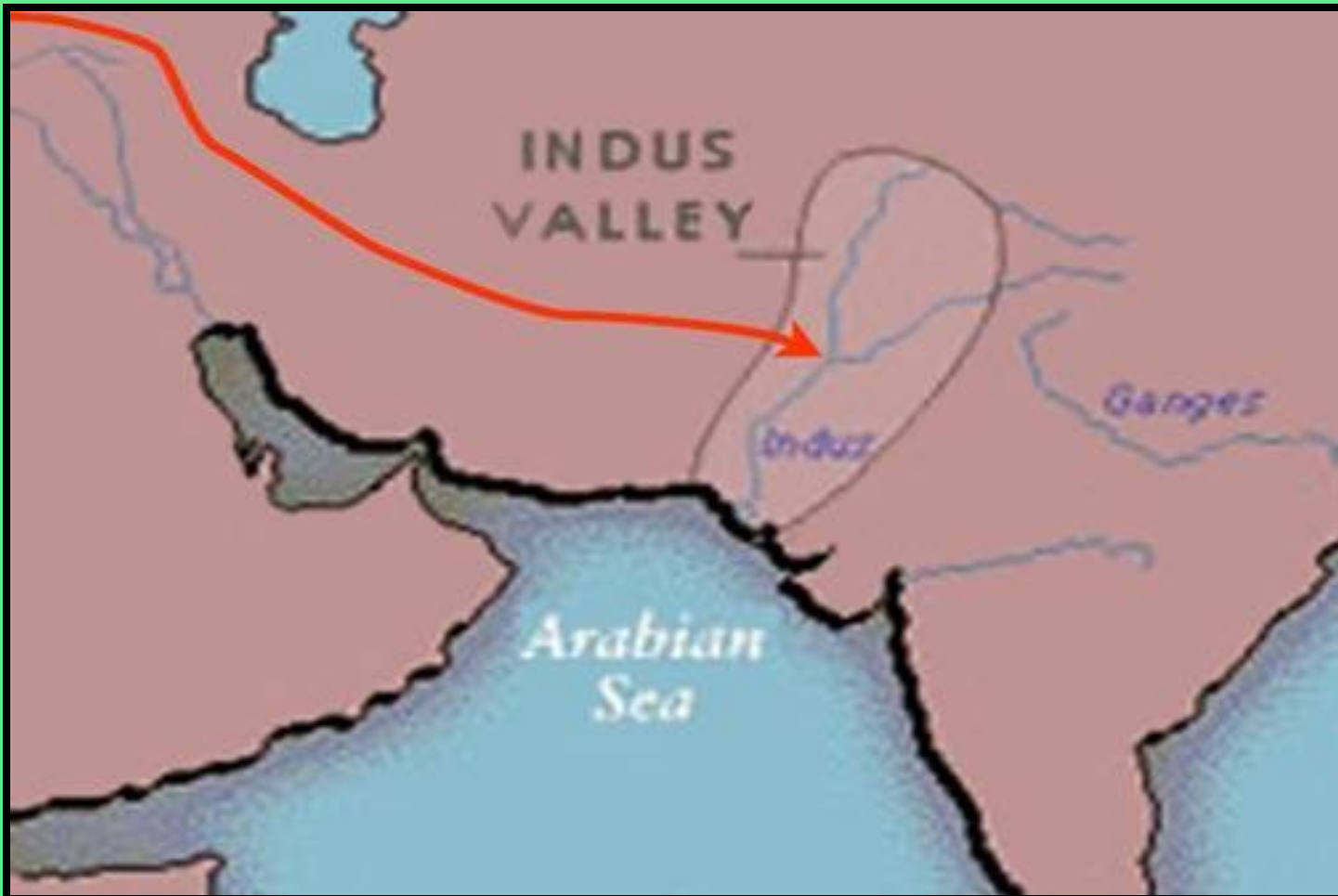
ex. Traded w/ Sumer

*polytheistic

- A mother goddess, the source of creation, was widely honored

Arrival of the Aryans

- Scholars think the downfall happened with the Aryan invasion
- Aryans migrated across Europe to Asia seeking water & pasture for their horses
 - Warlike people that used chariots & bow and arrows



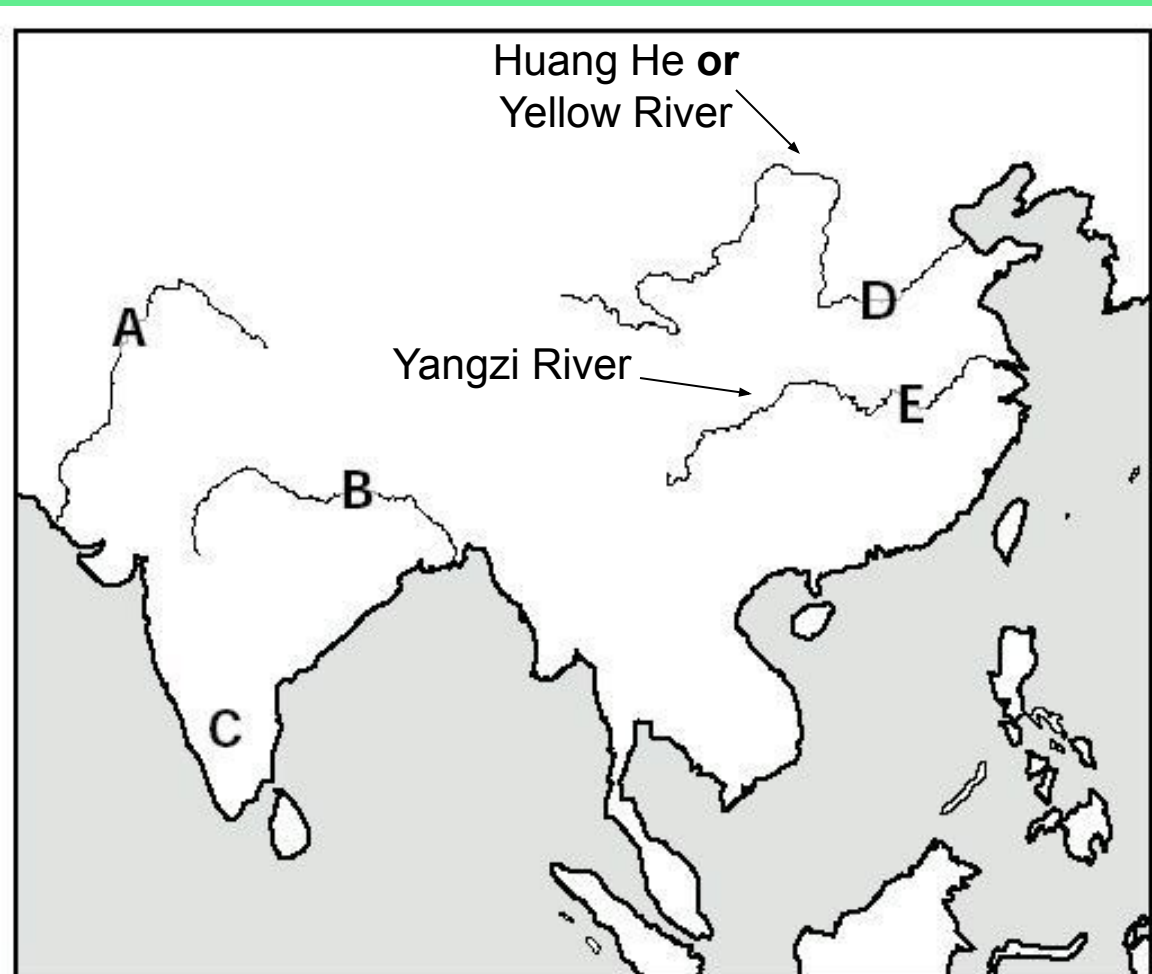
Arrival of the Aryans in the Indus Valley

- Most important contribution:
 - Vedas (collection of prayers, hymns, & other religious teachings)
 - Divided people by occupation, eventually leading to the caste system
 - Brahmins (priests)
 - Kshatriyas (warriors)
 - Vaisyas (herders, farmers, artisans, & merchants)
 - Their ideas of prayers, meditation, & social classes would evolve into the ideas used in the teachings of Buddhism & Hinduism

Ancient China



China's Geographic Features



~ Chinese civilization grew up in the river valley of the Huang He River (a.k.a. the Yellow River) and the Yangzi River.

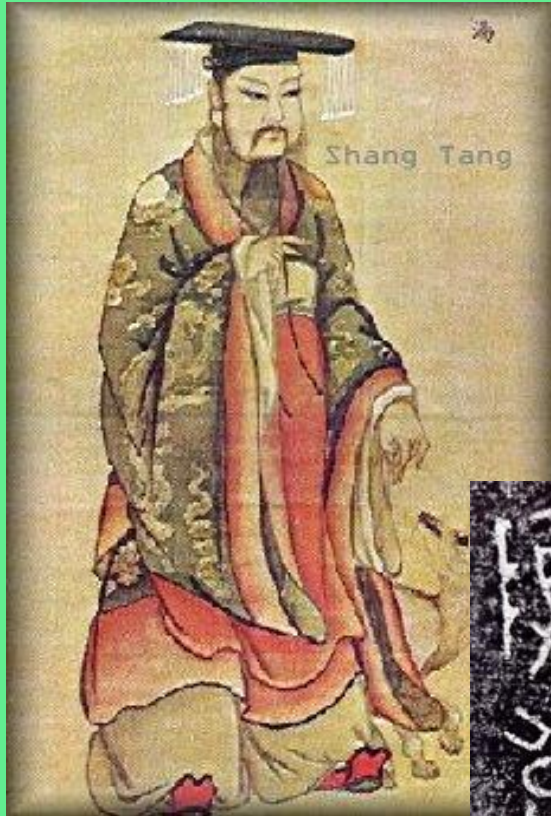
-The mountains, deserts, jungles and other geographic features have isolated Chinese culture.

Ex. Himalayan Mountains to the SW and the Gobi Desert to the North

-Having little contact with others , the Chinese believed their culture was the center of the earth. (ethnocentrism)



Shang Dynasty



- About 1650 BC, the Shang gained control of northern China. Ruling families began to gain control, similar to small kingdoms.
- The Shang set up the 1st dynasty.
- Gov't was a **monarchy** where a king ruled
- **Dynastic Cycle**: *A series of rulers from a family*

Social Structure

- **Ancient China had a strict social class divided by nobles & peasants, men and women**
- The ancient civilization was much like others with nobility owning the land
- merchants and craftspeople trading and living in the cities
- large population of peasants living in surrounding villages.

Polytheistic Peoples

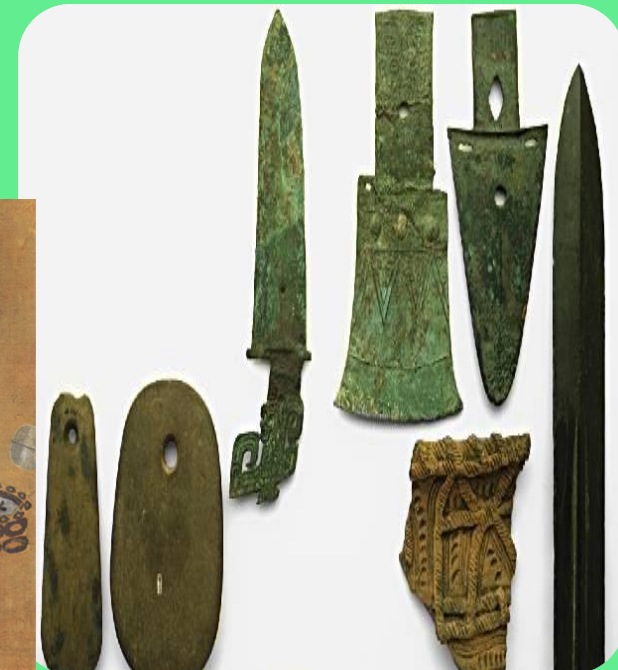
- Early Chinese people were **polytheistic**, and prayed to many Gods and nature spirits.
- They also looked to dead relatives to help them in daily life and to help them please the Gods. (**filial piety or ancestor worship**)
- Priests wrote on **oracle bones** and then heated the bones to interpret the cracks. Priests then marked their interpretations on the bones or shells



Achievements

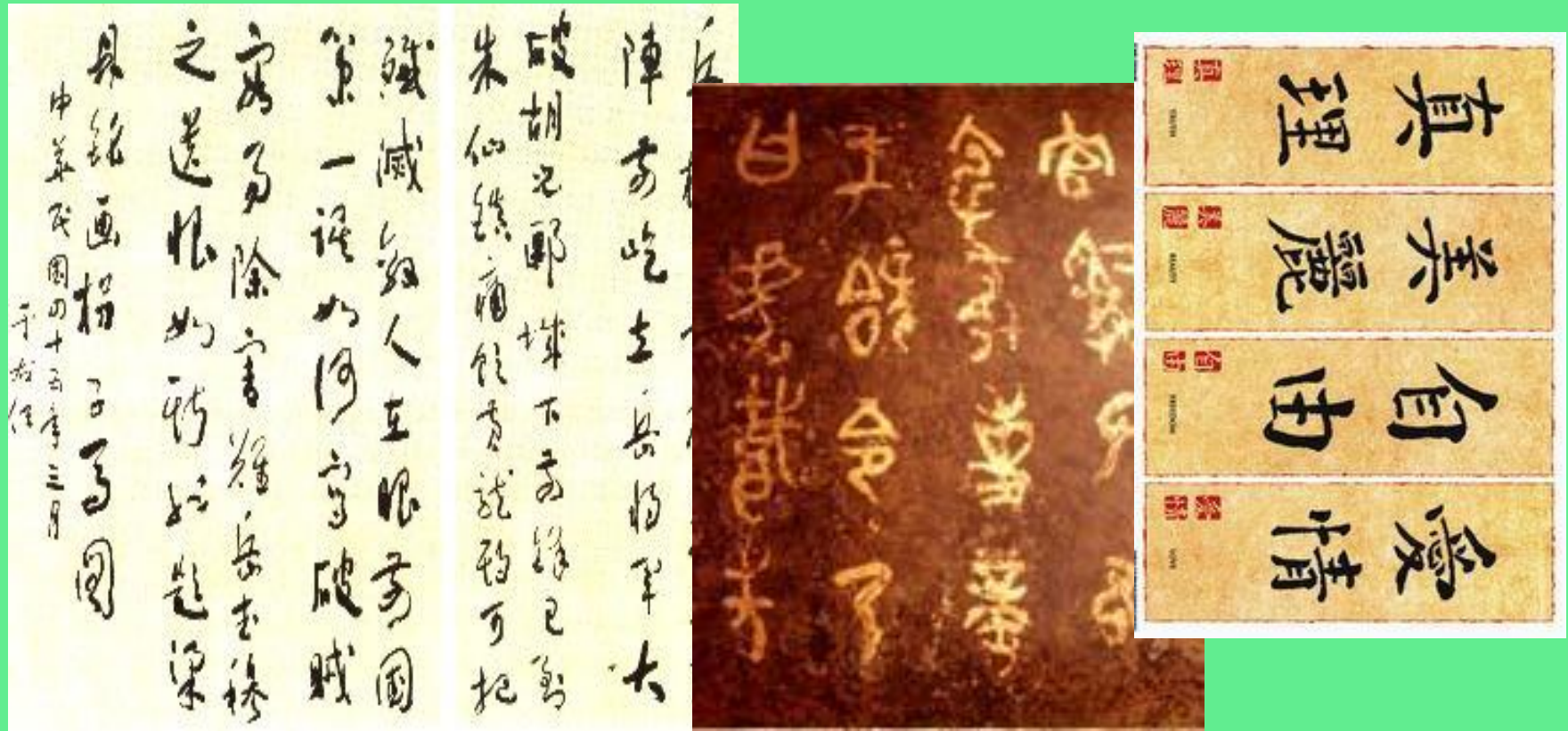
Chinese produced many innovations:

- Roads & canals= trade and agriculture
- Iron and Bronze was
 - used to create **weapons such as daggers, axes and swords**
- Shang learned how to spin thread from the silkworms' cocoon to create **silk clothing**



Early Writing System

- The Chinese civilizations made achievements in early writing systems that include both pictographs and ideographs and is known as one of the earliest writing systems.



Economic System

- Mostly based on **farming** and **trading**
- Crops included millet & rice
- Domesticated animals (pigs, chickens, horses)
- Artisans worked to create objects from bones, ivory, and jade
- Artisans created pottery