

Mesopotamia:
Land Between the
Rivers



Mesopotamia

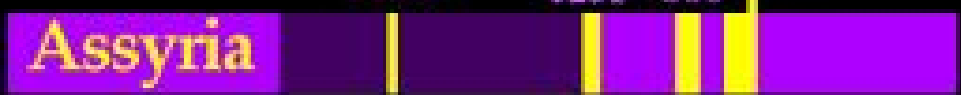
The many people of Mesopotamia

1. **Sumerians** (ancient Sumer's city-states)
(3000 B.C. - 1800 B.C.)
2. **Babylonians** (Babylonian Empire)
(1800 B.C. - 1200 B.C.)
3. **Assyrians** (Assyrian Empire)
(1200 B.C. - 539 B.C.)
4. **Persians** (Persian Empire)
(539 B.C. - 330 B.C.)



Akkadians before 3000
2112 Gutian Invasion
2200 Amorites
1595 Hittites sack Babylon
1200 Arameans
1159 Elamite Invasion
750 Chaldean Invasion
613 Medes

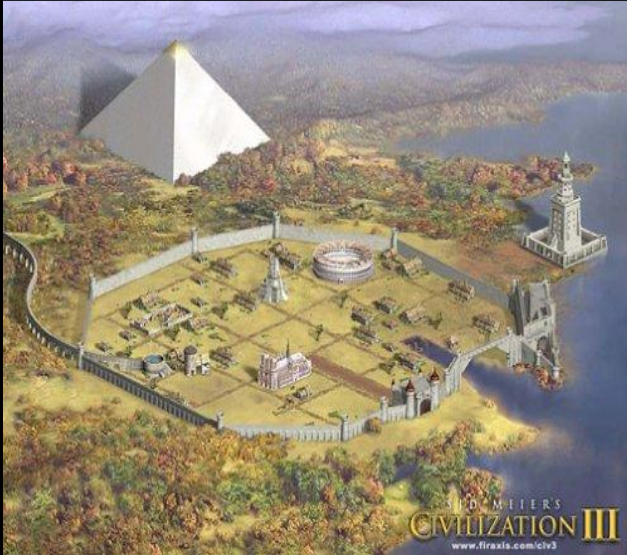
Persian Empire
525



5000 4000 3000 2000 1000 A.D.
Thousands of Years B.C.

WHAT IS A CIVILIZATION?

HOW IS THE
LOCATION OF A
CIVILIZATION
DETERMINED?



- A civilization is a group of people living and working together for the purpose of creating an **organized** society.
- A civilization has **8** features that make it a strong AND successful civilization.
 - **CITIES** WITHIN THE CIVILIZATION
 - **GOVERNMENT & LAWS**
 - **WRITING**
 - **DIVISION OF LABOR**
 - **SOCIAL CLASSES**
 - **PUBLIC BUILDINGS/STRUCTURES**
 - **RELIGION**
 - **ART**
- The location of all civilizations is determined by the **resources** of the land

FINDING THE PERFECT

WHY WAS MESOPOTAMIA THE PERFECT LOCATION?



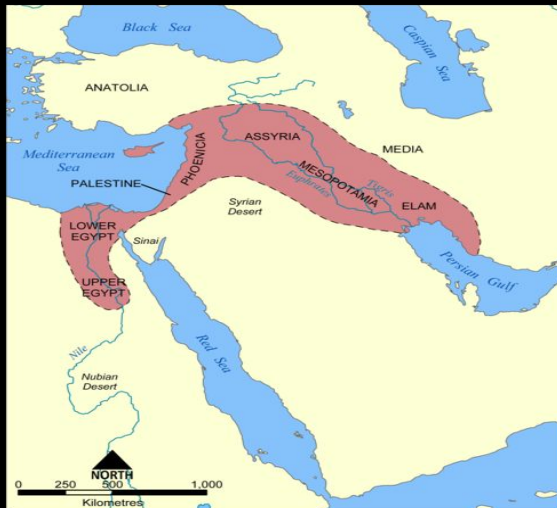
- Early humans were traveling the world to find the best location to settle **permanently**
- They found a place in a region called the **Fertile Crescent**.
- Mesopotamia is known as the land between **two** rivers.
- It was the perfect location because it offered rich **fertile** land that was perfect for farming
 - **Think: How does farming create permanent settlement?**

GEOGRAPHY OF MESOPOTAMIA

WHAT WERE
THE TWO
MOST
IMPORTANT
PHYSICAL
FEATURES?

- ❑ **MESOPOTAMIA IS LOCATED IN IRAQ**
 - ❑ This is in the middle east
- ❑ **MAJOR PHYSICAL FEATURES:**
 - ❑ **Tigris** river
 - ❑ **Euphrates** River
 - ❑ Fertile crescent
 - ❑ Persian Gulf

- ❑ **MESOPOTAMIAN CIVILIZATION IS PART OF A REGION CALLED THE THE FERTILE CRESCENT**
- ❑ **THE CIVILIZATION WAS BUILT ALONG THE TIGRIS AND EUPHRATES RIVER.**
- ❑ **THE TWO RIVERS WERE KEY TO LIFE AND SUCCESS!**



THE BEGINNING OF

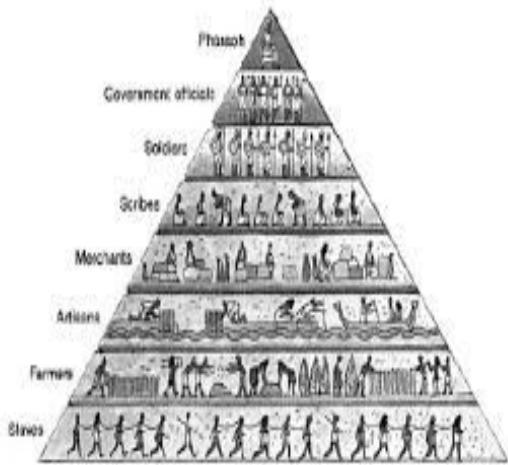
WHAT DID
SETTLERS
HAVE TO DO
IN ORDER TO
FARM IN THE
REGION?



- The rivers flowed from the mountains down to the Persian Gulf.
- Early settlers farmed the land and used **resources** from the land to improve life.
 - timber (wood) → boats
 - metals & stone → tools
- Cities developed along the rivers
- Early settlers had to **irrigate** the land along the banks of the rivers in order for their crops to grow.
 - **REMEMBER: IRRIGATE MEANS TO CONTROL THE WATER OF THE RIVERS**

CREATING ORDER

WHAT ARE THE
TWO
SYSTEMS
THAT CREATED
ORDER IN
MESOPOTAMIA?



Source: Barry K. Bevier et al., *The World Around Us: Eastern Hemisphere*, Macmillan Publishing (adapted)

- DUE TO POPULATION **RISING** IN MESOPOTAMIA IT WAS IMPORTANT TO CREATE ORDER.
- THE FIRST SYSTEM USED TO CREATE ORDER WAS **DIVISION OF LABOR**
 - Every person in the civilization had a different job to create a successful and well rounded civilization
- THE SECOND SYSTEM USED TO CREATE ORDER WAS **SOCIAL HIERARCHY**
 - Every person was then ranked into a rank
 - The rank of a family is determined by the job you had in the civilization.
 - Jobs that were hard labor were always at the bottom of the social pyramid
- **INDEPENDENT EMPIRES** MADE THE LARGE AREA OF MESOPOTAMIA EASIER TO CONTROL
 - Each empire had their own laws, army, gov't, and leaders
 - Often times empires were competitive with each other for control over land inside a civilization

The First Empire

WHAT
3
INVENTIONS
IS
SUMER
KNOWN FOR?



- THE PEOPLE WHO LIVED IN **SUMER** WERE CALLED **sumerians**
- EXISTED FROM 3000-1800 BCE
 - **BCE=BEFORE COMMON ERA**
 - **(THINK NEGATIVE NUMBERS)**
- THE EMPIRE OF SUMER HAD MANY CITIES (COLLECTION OF CITY-STATES)
- BECAME AN EMPIRE AFTER BEING TAKEN OVER BY **sargon**.
 - **THEY SHARED THE SAME CULTURE AND **TRADED** WITH ONE ANOTHER.**
- INVENTIONS SUMER IS KNOWN FOR:
 - **AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY** → **CREATED A **SURPLUS** OF FOOD**
 - **WHEEL** → **PLOW (FARMING) AND CART (TRADING)**
 - **CUNEIFORM** → **FIRST **WRITING** SYSTEM**

THE SECOND EMPIRE

WHAT
2
INVENTIONS
IS
BABYLONIA
KNOWN FOR?

- THE PEOPLE WHO LIVED IN **BABYLON** WERE CALLED BABYLONIANS
- EXISTED FROM 1800-1200 BCE
 - BCE=BEFORE COMMON ERA
 - (THINK NEGATIVE NUMBERS)
- INVENTIONS BABYLONIA IS KNOWN FOR:
 - **CALENDAR** → USED TO KNOW WHEN RIVERS WOULD FLOOD
 - **LAW** → KING HAMMURABI: CLEAR RULES, CLEAR PUNISHMENTS
 - THOUGHT THAT THE LAWS WERE GIVEN TO HAMMURABI BY THE GODS → THIS KEPT PEOPLE FROM REBELLING



THE THIRD EMPIRE

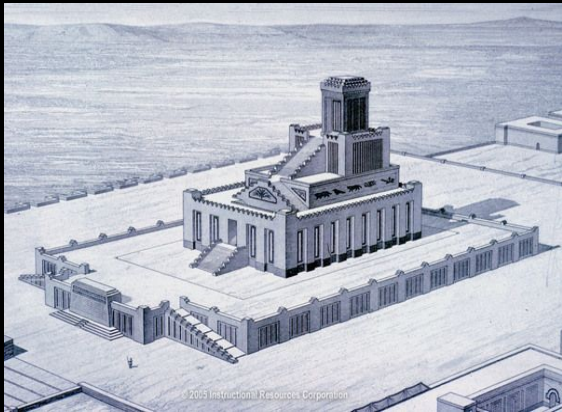
WHAT
2
INVENTIONS
IS ASSYRIA
KNOWN FOR?

- THE PEOPLE WHO LIVED IN **ASSYRIA** WERE CALLED ASSYRIANS
- EXISTED FROM 1200-539 BCE
 - **BCE=BEFORE COMMON ERA**
 - (THINK NEGATIVE NUMBERS)
- THE EMPIRE OF ASSYRIA WERE FIERCE **WARRIORS** WITH MANY WAR STRATEGIES
 - **THEY CONQUERED BABYLONIA AND TOOK CONTROL OF A LARGE PART OF MESOPOTAMIA.**
- INVENTIONS ASSYRIA IS KNOWN FOR:
 - **TRADE**→ USED BOATS TO TRADE GOODS
 - **WAR**→ TRAINED TO TAKE OVER OTHER AREAS EVEN IF THEY HAD WALLS TO PROTECT THEM.



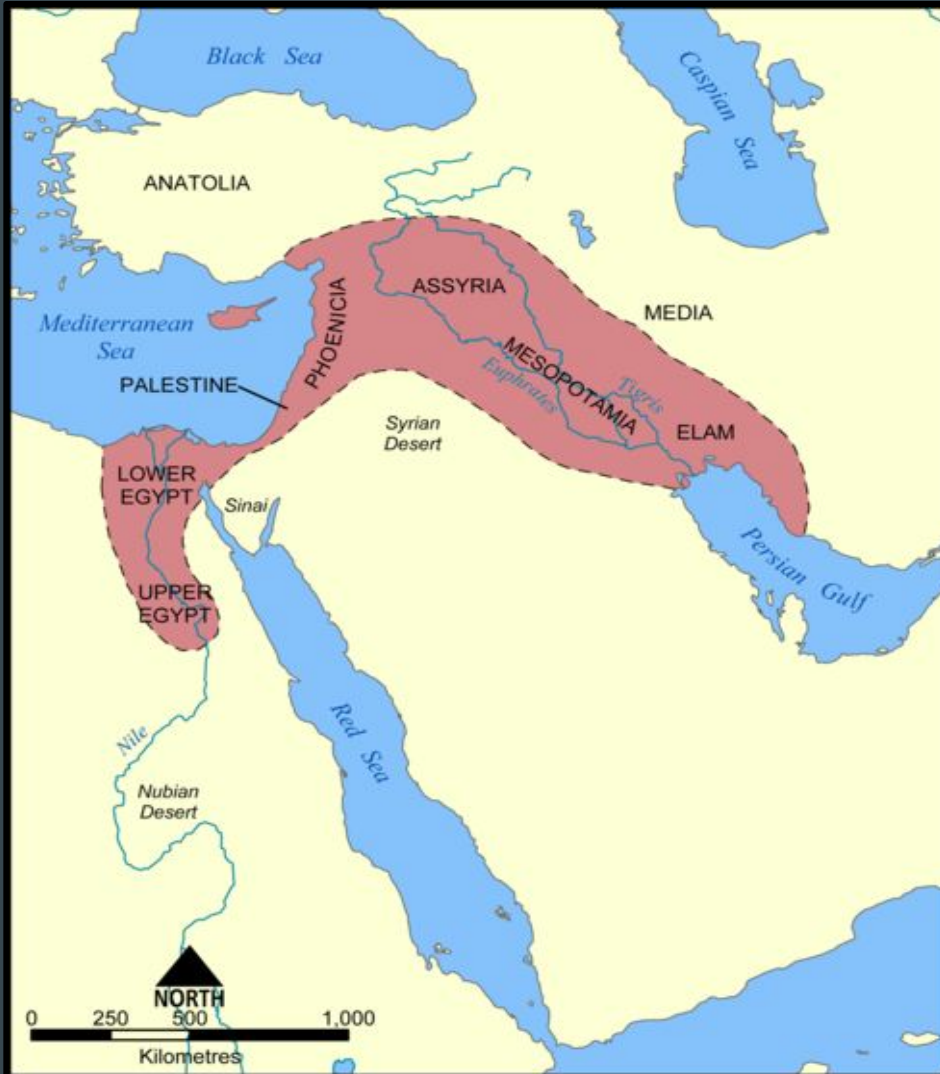
RELIGION IN MESOPOTAMIA

HOW WERE
THE
GODS/
GODDESSES
IMPORTANT?



- THE PEOPLE WHO LIVED IN MESOPOTAMIA WERE **POLYTHEISTIC**
- EACH EMPIRE HAD A ZIGGURAT IN THE CENTER OF THEIR LAND.
 - USED FOR MANY REASONS:
 - **RELIGIOUS** CEREMONIES
 - SCHOOL TO TEACH CUNEIFORM WRITING
 - OFFICIAL MEETINGS WITH THE KINGS
- EACH EMPIRE WAS **CONNECTED** BY THEIR **RELIGION**:
 - IT IS THOUGHT A GOD/GODDESS WAS ASSIGNED AN EMPIRE TO PROTECT
 - THE GODS/GODDESSES WERE IMPORTANT BECAUSE THEY DEALT WITH NATURE & DAILY LIFE

Map Reading: Mesopotamia



1. What two rivers run through the Fertile Crescent?
2. What body of water do the rivers flow into?
3. What sea is located to the west of the rivers?
4. What is the area called that is shown by the color pink?