

Ancient River Valley Civs



What do the River Valley Civs have in common?

GEOGRAPHY: settled near rivers; located along a similar line of latitude and therefore had a similar climate

POL: rulers had divine power; gained right to rule from a sun god; cities

ECO: agrarian based; access to water allowed for food surpluses; job specialization; traditional economy

REL: Polytheistic; religion created to promote divine intervention to control the forces of nature and afterlife; sun god and river god were main gods

SOC: since there was job specialization there was a social class system that had a true hierarchy with rulers and priest ranking high

INT: writing systems; pottery and metallurgy; domestication of animals; irrigation systems

ARTS: pottery, art as a reflection of culture; art typically seen in religion

ANCIENT MESOPOTAMIA

Oldest known
civilization

Cradle of Human
Civilization

Old Testament

Ziggurat (right)

Hanging gardens



Geography of Mesopotamia



❖ Located in the Middle East where modern day Iraq is

This civ rose in the valleys between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers;

relatively flat

Some say this Fertile Crescent was the real Garden of Eden.

In Greek, Mesopotamia means the land between 2 rivers.



Modern day location-IRAO

Political

Organized into city-states;
WHY??

decentralized

Sumer and Ur were a couple
of early cities

Babylon became popular
because of Hammurabi's
Code... Why significant?



Hammurabi's Code



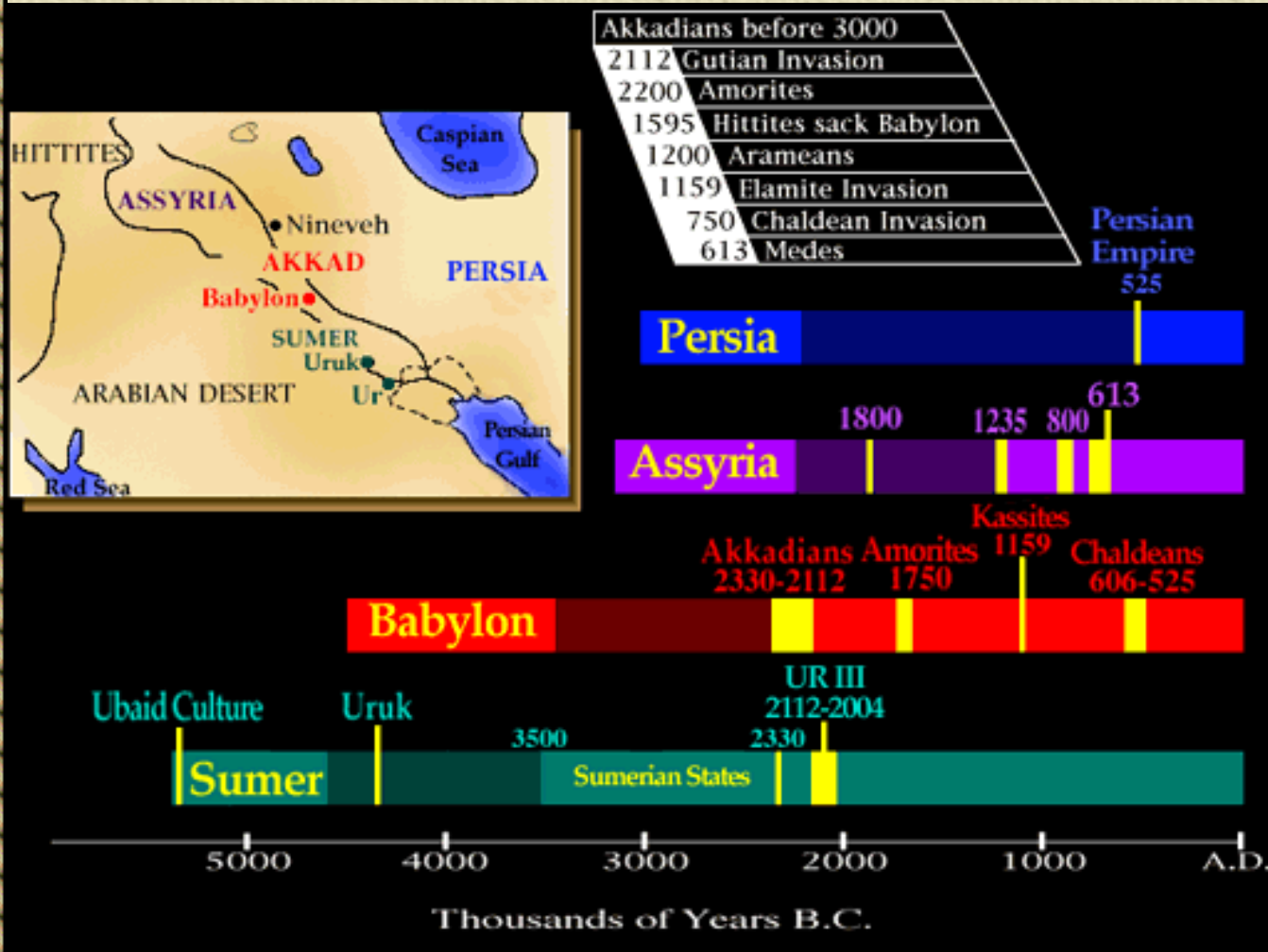
1st written law code

Why is a written law code important?

Crime and punishment were laid out in writing

Did treat people of different socio-economic status differently

Political: What was the earliest kingdom in Mesopotamia? The second?



Early Mesopotamia used city-state organization; Babylon would start out as a city-state and then conquest surrounding territories and become an empire. The Assyrian would take them over and then the Persians would take them over.

Economic



Map Showing
interaction of the Early
River Valley
Civilizations

Agrarian based as well as widespread use of domesticated animals; what were some examples?

trade with the Egyptians and the Indus Valley civilizations.

How would historians be able to determine that?

What could trade between rival city-states help ensure?

Religion

Farmlands were considered sacred

Priests organized work teams

Gods seen as human forms that depicted forces of nature

The first monotheistic religion was developed in Mesopotamia

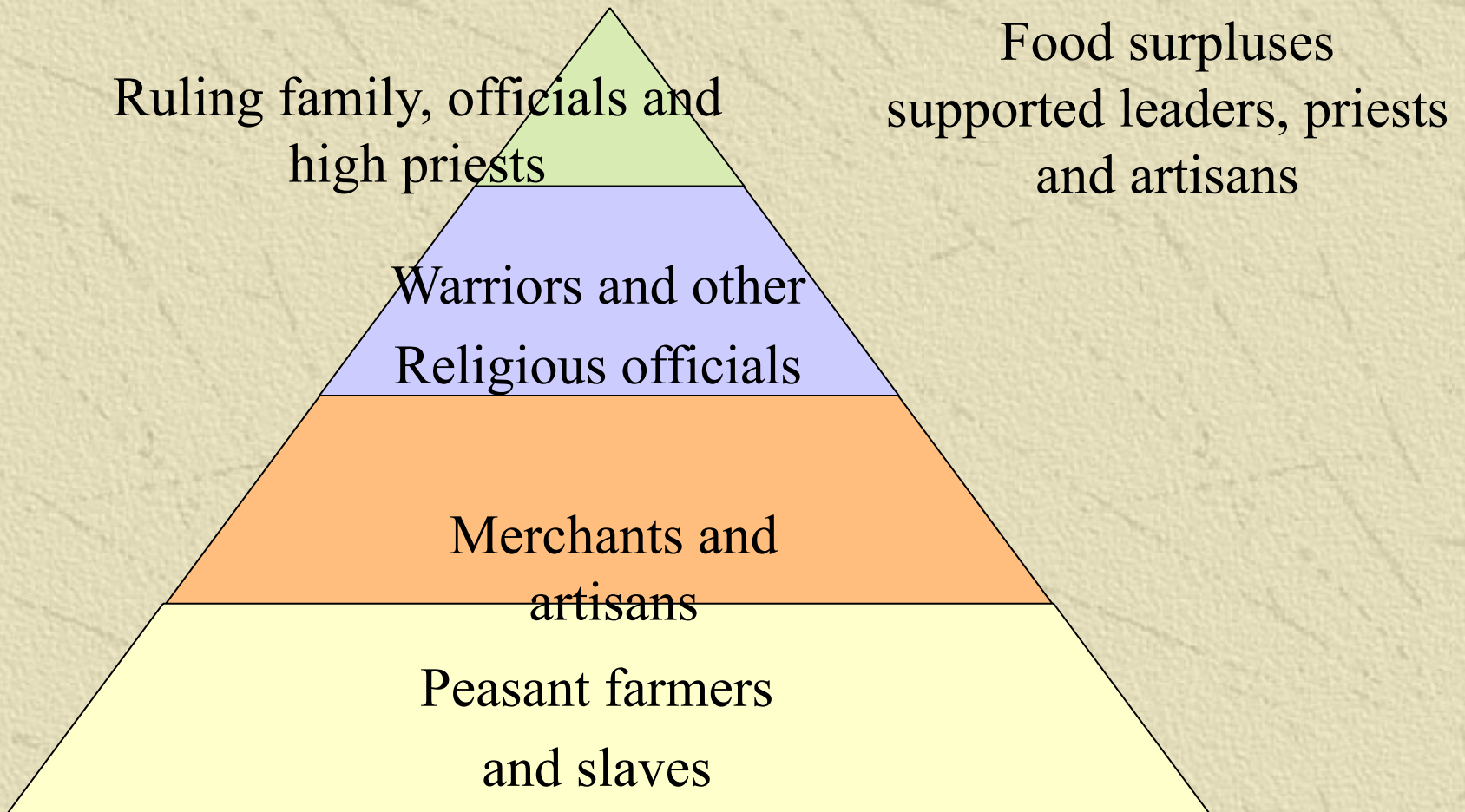
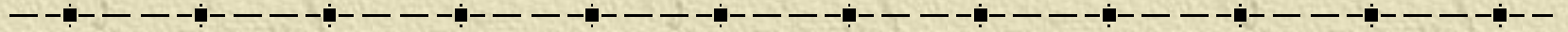
Hebrews; a Semitic people believed that there God was an all powerful; origins of Judaism

Ziggurats

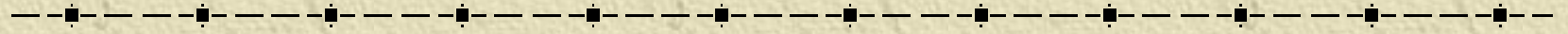


Purpose?

Social



Intellectual



Writing system was Cuneiform...why significant?

Beer making → currency, and bride price

Algebra and geometry

First wheeled vehicles

The Hittites made iron...how would that help society?

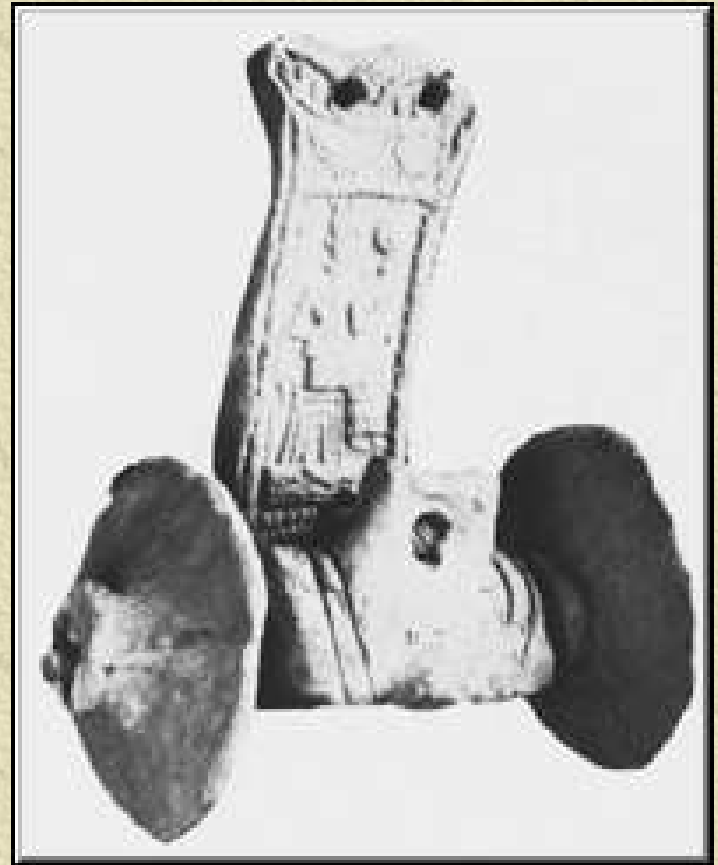
Coined money

Sumerians invented the wheel!

The wheel was invented by
6000 BCE!

It helped military, farming
and trade.

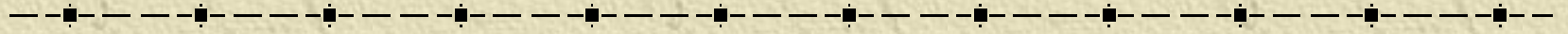
At right, this is made of
wood.




cuneiform writing



ARTS



What did you get?



That concludes
Mesopotamia.

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Any questions before the quiz on the
next slide?

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Mesopotamia Quiz

Political: What law code was created in the Mesopotamia? Why significant? Why did they need to develop into city-states?

Economic: How did Mesopotamians earn a living?

Geography: Between what 2 rivers did the Fertile Crescent appear?

Social: What type of writing did they use?

ANCIENT EGYPT

Nile River

Mummies

Pharaoh

King Tutankhamen

Hieroglyphics



Mediterranean Sea



er
pt

ber Egypt

Lower Nubia

Political

Egyptians were led by Pharaohs.

They were kings who held **absolute power** who were descents from a god

Political decisions were influenced by religions

Centralized Gov't... WHY?????

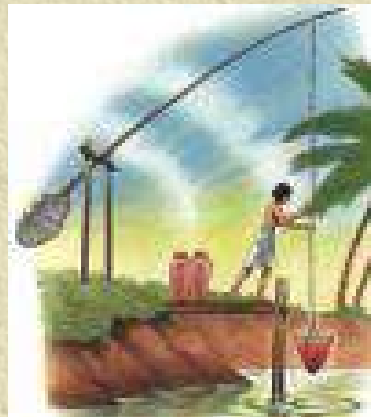
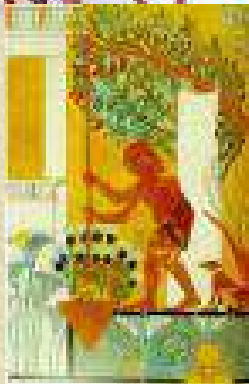
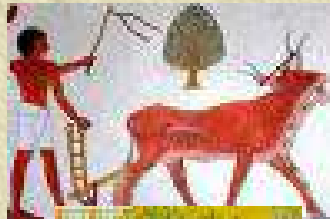
King Tut is the most famous

He came from a dynasty

The image shows the golden death mask of Tutankhamun, an ancient Egyptian pharaoh. The mask is highly detailed, featuring a blue and gold striped nemes (headdress) and a false beard. It is displayed in a museum setting, with blurred figures of people in the background. The mask is the central focus of the image.

Tutankhamen

Economy



- ❖ Raised veggies, grains and animals
- ❖ Egyptians traded up and down the Nile, with Mesopotamians and sometimes with Indus Valley (in modern day Pakistan)

Religion

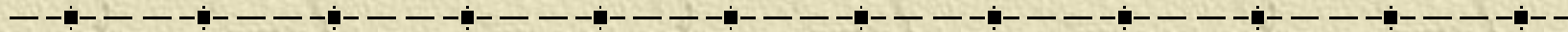
Pyramid building for the afterlife for wealthy

Beer and just about everything else was put in the tombs

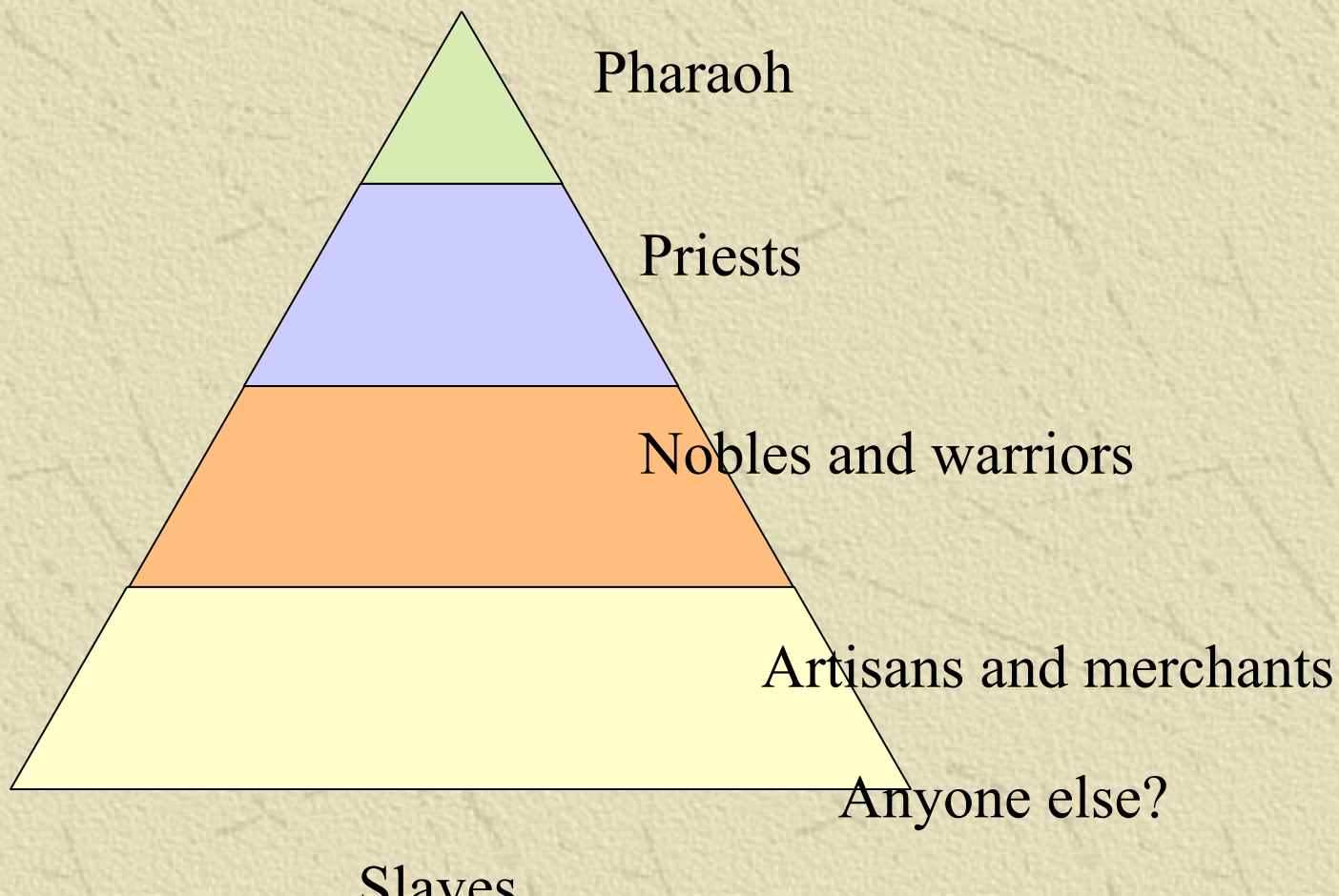
Most sophisticated of all the polytheistic systems during the period



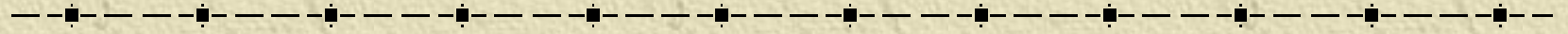
Social



Grain surpluses given to Pharaohs and priests



Intellectual



Hieroglyphics

Pyramids

Mummies

Advanced medical knowledge

Irrigation, but why not as worrisome as other
civs?

Pyramids



These are the Giza pyramids,
the most famous.

Pyramids were tombs for the
kings.

These were built around
3500 B.C.E.

How old are they?

What can we gather from
these structures?

Mummies

Egyptians who could afford to do so would have themselves mummified.

They believed in a better afterlife if their body was preserved.

Even their pets went with them to the afterlife



Egyptians wrote in hieroglyphics



Diffused from cuneiform



That concludes Egypt.

Any questions before the quiz on the next slide?

Egypt Quiz

1. **Geography** What river is the basis for Egyptian civilization?
2. **Political** What is an Egyptian ruler called?
3. **Intellectual** What writing system did Egyptians use?
4. **Intellectual** What impact to mummification have on their learning?

Geography: What modern day countries is the Indus Valley civ in?



Indus was located on the subcontinent of India located in what is now modern day Northern Indian and Pakistan

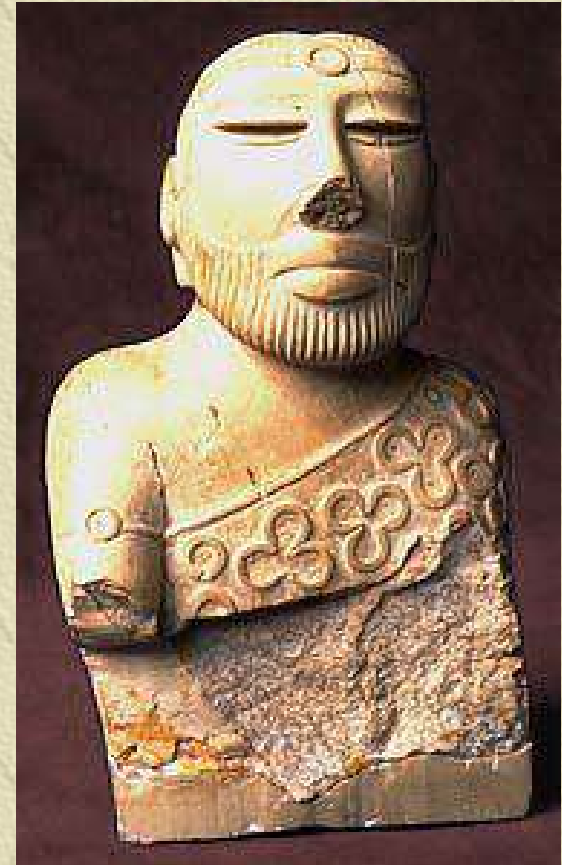
What are monsoons?

How did it affect the Indus?

Indus River Valley

This civ is still mysterious due to the fact that the writing has yet to be deciphered.

The archeological evidence have helped out historians drawn conclusions though Nearly destroyed by Aryan invasions at the end of the River Valley Period



Political/Cities



We do know the cities were sophisticated enough to have brick walls surrounding them for protection against flooding from the Indus River.

Harappa and Mohenjo-Daro, although located on different parts of the Indus were nearly identical in lay-out

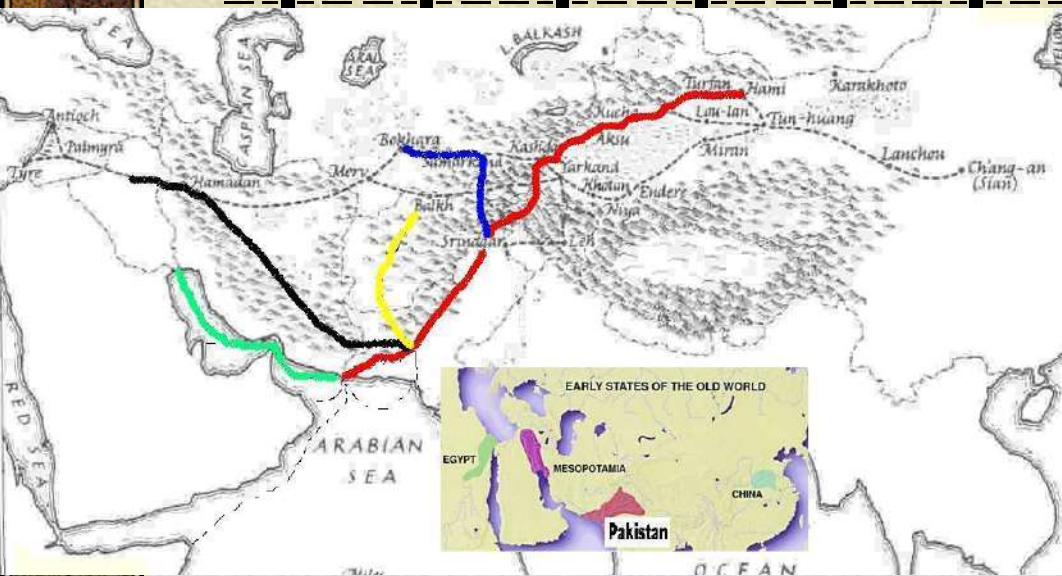
VEY SIMILAR
INFRASTRUCURE

What conclusions, politically, can be drawn then?

Various artifacts found



Indus Economy



Just like the other river valley civs, the Indus river valley people were mostly farmers.

Traditional economy
granaries

They did trade with
Mesopotamians and
Egyptians and perhaps
Northern China

**EXAMPLE: Hittite Iron for
Indus cotton**

Religion

Large figurines were discovered and it was determined that they represented gods/goddesses

Later Aryans, conquered in 1500BCE; set up a caste system and began what would become Hinduism

Social

Since there was job specialization there was a social hierarchy

Most people were farmers

Later, Aryans would bring their own social class putting them on top of society

Intellectual

Tremendous infrastructure: public buildings, baths, granaries, sanitation systems

Houses were made out of bricks which had plumbing and links to the sewer

First civ to grow cotton and weave it into cloth

Had time to make games; origins of dice and chess can be traced back to Indus



That concludes Indus River Valley Civilization.

Get ready for the quiz on the next
slide.

Indus River Quiz

P: Why do we know so little of the power structure in the Indus Valley?

E: How did the Indus make a living?

G: In what modern day country are the settlements of the Indus River Valley civilization?

G: Why did the cities have so many walls?

S: How did the Aryans impact people of the Indus?



ANCIENT CHINA

Began 2000 B.CE.

Silk

Astronomy

River of Sorrows

Oracle Bones



Yellow River Civilization

Geography: Ancient
China was formed
around the Yellow
River...Chinese name?

Huang He

Why called yellow?

River of Sorrows?



Political

Oracle bones helped to keep records and therefore provided evidence of the family that ruled China at this time

The first dynasty was the Shang and they ruled during the River Valley Period.

The Shang family needed help to control the people along the Yellow River. It meandered a lot and was hard for one family to control

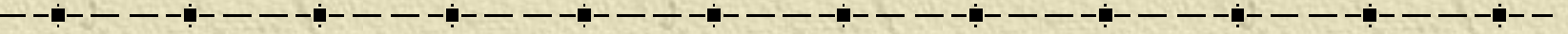
Would this be centralized control or decentralized?

Specifically which type of decentralization?

Feudal

Other dynasties will emerge but later

Economic



Agrarian-based traditional economy with sophisticated irrigation systems that included dams and canals

Job specialization

Religion



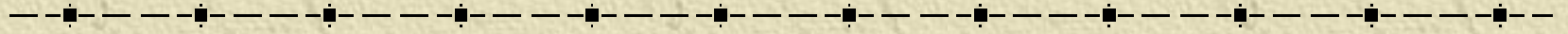
The **oracle bones** are the earliest known significant examples Chinese writing, and contain important complete royal genealogy of the Shang dynasty.

These records confirmed the existence of the Shang dynasty

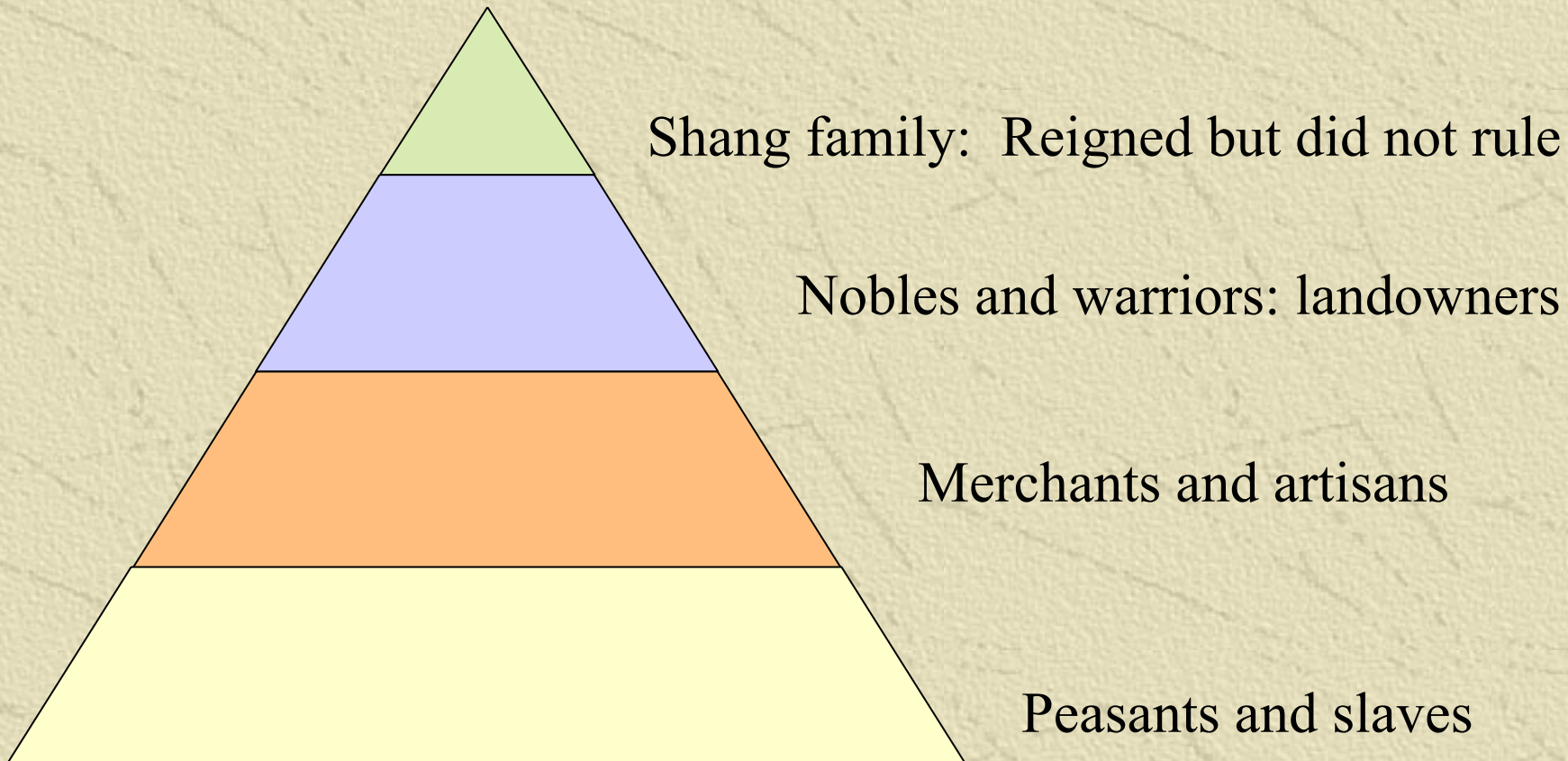
Served religious purposes as well

Polytheistic

Social



Resembled that of other cultures



Intellectual

During the Shang period, the Chinese made remarkable achievements in

- astronomy
- bronzework
- learned to make silk
- developed a complex system of writing



Chinese invented silk



Silk was exotic and expensive, so it was good for trading with the rest of the known world.

It is made from silk worms.

Silk worm





That concludes China.

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Any questions before the quiz on the
next slide?

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Ancient China Quiz

P: What was the dynasty?

E: How did the Chinese earn a living?

G: What river was the earliest Chinese civilization centered around? Other names?

S: What technological advancements did the Chinese have?

Located south of Egyptian civilization

Early culture – 2300-1100BCE

Nubia's location and natural wealth, like gold on a trade route between Egypt and sub-Saharan Africa allowed to rise to become a complex civilization

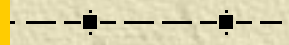
At time, the two – Egypt and Nubia fought for control of resources and as a result, Nubian culture and technology were influenced by Egypt

Evidence indicates that Nubia was even influenced by lands to their south as evidenced by the role of queens

Meroe was a city that was large and impressive with monumental buildings and streets; it was the center of agriculture, trade and metallurgy

Nubia fell c. 300CE due to trade shifting and attacks by desert nomads

The Celtic world



Celtic Europe 1000-50 BCE

Migrations around 500 BCE

An Indo-European people who settled in modern day Germany, Austria, Czech Republic, France, Britain, Ireland

Merged with indigenous peoples to create a unique culture in northern Spain

Due to their wide range of territory, there is no “Celtic Civilization” in terms defined territory

Society

Elite warriors, priest, and commoners

Warriors owned flocks of cattle and sheep giving them wealth and power

Houses built out of wood, clay and straw

Druids were priests and they helped to link the tribes and settle disputes

Women were better off than other civs

Religion was elaborate with more than 400 gods and used nature rather than temples to pray

Early American Civilizations



Migrations out of Asia when there was still a “Land” bridge 16 500 years ago

Olmecs 1300-400 BCE

Located in Southern Central Mexico

They are often regarded as the *Mother Culture* of later Mesoamerican civilizations.

Some researchers say they descended from Asians



Olmec Characteristics

Built the first planned city in Central America.

Used slash and burn to create food surpluses

IRRIGATION - STONE DRAIN SYSTEMS- aqueducts

pyramid-shaped temples

WRITING- hieroglyphics (ORIGINAL)

developed a number system with a zero

accurate calendar

the gigantic stone heads.



Chavin 900 BCE to 200BCE

Located far south of the Olmecs
Did not interact with Olmecs
1st civilization in South America
existing 2,000 years before
Incas

Known as an Andean Civilization
because they are located in the
Andes Mts.

Located near rivers but in
highlands...how would they
created food surpluses then?



Chavin characteristics

Built temples

Cultivated maize, potatoes and
quinoa (super grain)

Domesticated llamas;
used to transport goods
and hair for weaving

Gold metallurgy

