

Mesopotamia:  
**Land** Between the  
Rivers



**Mesopotamia**

# 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 **5** features that make it a strong AND successful civilization.
  - **ADVANCED CITIES**
  - **SPECIALIZED WORKERS**
  - **COMPLEX INSTITUTIONS**
  - **RECORD KEEPING**
  - **ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY**
- The location of all civilizations is determined by the **resources** of the land

# FINDING THE PERFECT LOCATION

## 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 settlements?

# 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

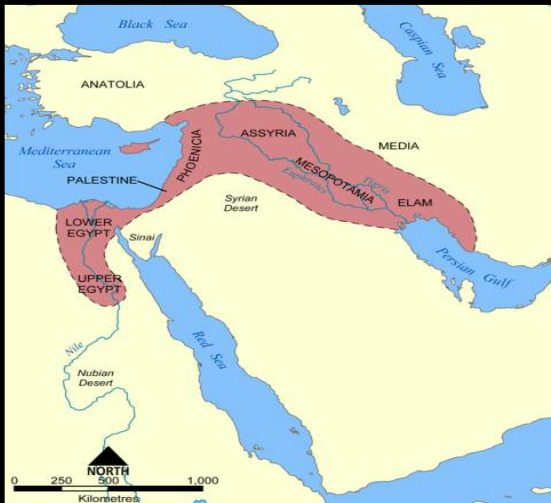
◆ Fertile crescent

◆ Persian Gulf

→ **MESOPOTAMIA 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 AGRICULTURE

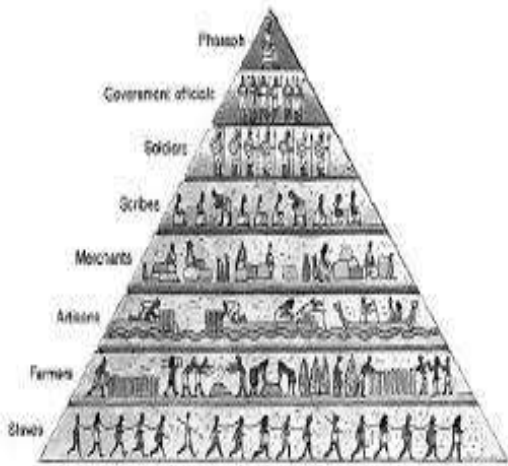
WHAT DID  
SETTLERS  
HAVE TO DO  
IN ORDER TO  
FARM IN THE  
REGION?



- 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?



- 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. THE EMPIRE WAS CALLED THE AKKADIAN EMPIRE
- EXISTED FROM 2300-1200 BCE
  - **BCE=BEFORE COMMON ERA**
    - (THINK NEGATIVE NUMBERS)
- THE EMPIRE OF SUMER HAD MANY CITIES
  - 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 1800-1100 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 900-600 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



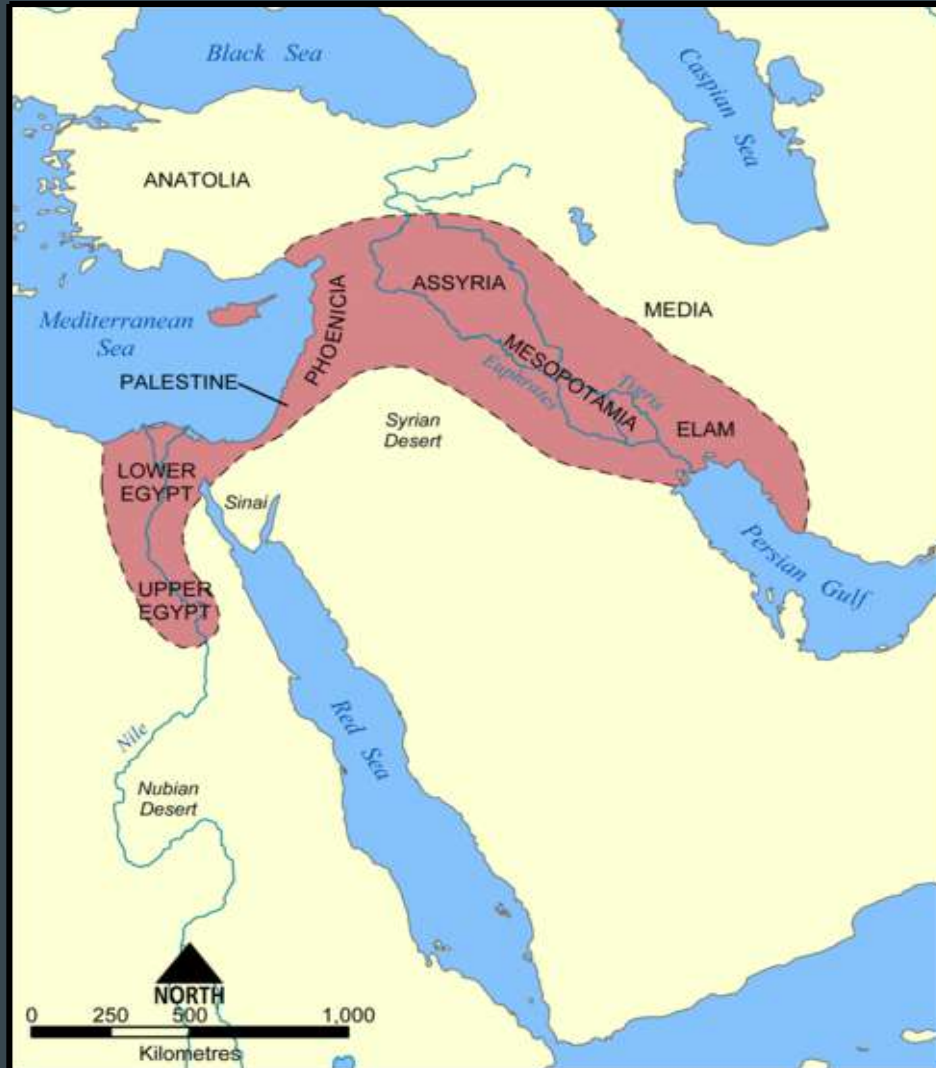
# RELIGION IN MESOPOTAMIA

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?

1. What body of water do the rivers flow into?

3. What sea is located to the west of the rivers?

3. What is the area called that is shown by the color pink?