

# The Fertile Crescent



# Key Concepts

- How did Geography of the region affect human development?
- What cultural and scientific achievements make the Fertile Crescent important?
- Who were the People who conquered this region, how did they change the culture?



# Why would Ancient people settle around the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers?





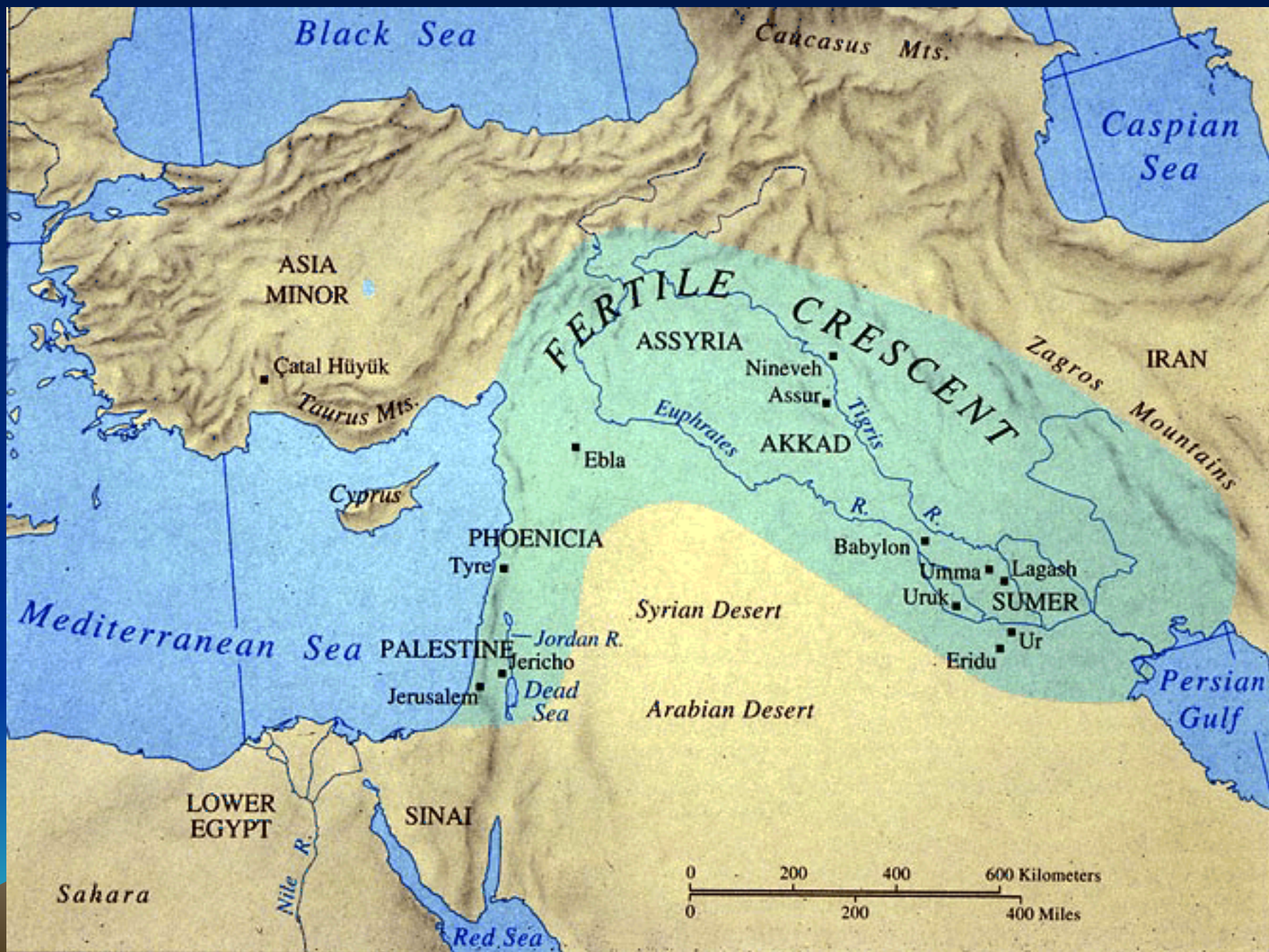
# Geography of the Fertile Crescent



- Taurus and Zagros mountains to the north and east
- Syrian desert to the south
- Tigris and Euphrates Rivers
  - Mesopotamia= the land between the rivers
  - Very unpredictable floods
  - Allow transportation
  - Fishing
  - Rich silt allows growth of crops in dry environment







# What is Civilization?

- In order for advanced civilization a society must have...



- Food surplus

- Social structure/division of labor

- Government leadership



- Religion



- Culture (art, music, literature, etc.)



- Technology



- Written language





# Humans create Civilization



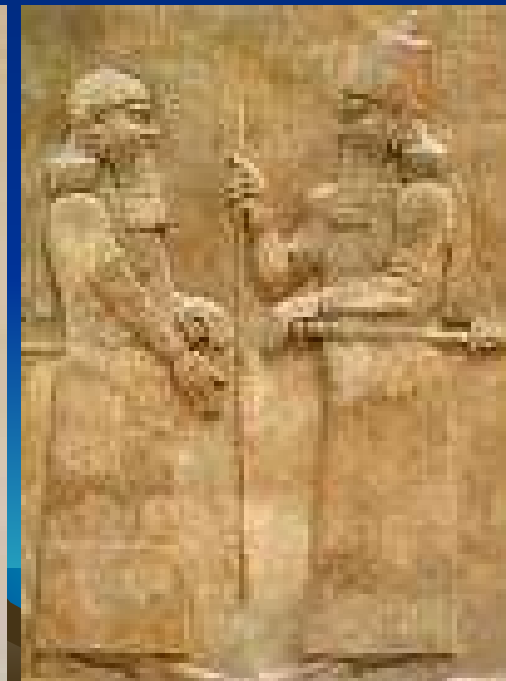
- Controlling the Tigris and Euphrates
  - Humans build **canals** and **levees** to control overflow
  - Used **irrigation** to keep water flowing into fields
- Food **surplus** creates trade and **division of labor**
- Larger cities need government to maintain order





# Sumer

- 2000 BC- Sumer cities have population of more than 100,000 people
- Sumer is made up of many **city-states**
  - Each city is its own kingdom- controls surrounding countryside
- 2300 BC- Sargon invades Sumer and creates the Akkadian Empire





# Sumerian Society



- Government
  - Sargon unites city-states into large empire
    - Creates world's first permanent army
- Religion
  - Polytheistic
    - Each city has a specific God protector (mascot)
    - Priests interpret the will of the Gods
    - Build massive pyramid temples called **ziggurats**



## Society

- Social hierarchy
  - Kings
  - Priests
  - Merchants and skilled workers (artisans)
  - Laborers and farmers
  - Slaves

# Sumerian Achievements

- **Inventors of writing**
  - **Cuneiform**- pictographs written onto clay tablets
    - **Scribes** must learn thousands of symbols
  - Wrote epics about Gods and heroes
    - Epic of Gilgamesh
- **The wheel**
  - Aided transportation and warfare (chariot)
- **The plow**
  - Enhanced crop production= more food
- **Science**
  - Developed a math system based on factors of 60 (our system is based on 10)
    - This is why there are 60 minutes in an hour and 12 months in a year
- **Arts**
  - Massive ziggurats, cylinder seals, and gold jewels



MEANING	OUTLINE CHARACTER, B. C. 3500	ARCHAIC CUNEIFORM, B. C. 2500	ASSYRIAN, B. C. 700	LATE BABYLONIAN, B. C. 500
1. The sun				
2. God, heaven				
3. Mountain				
4. Man				
5. Ox				
6. Fish				



# Empires of Mesopotamia

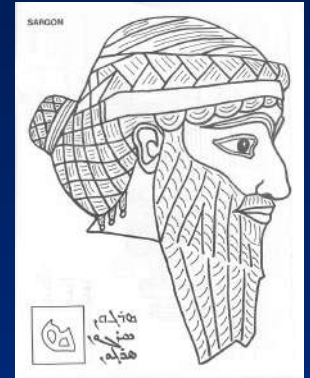
- Empires were created when a single ruler conquers neighboring city-states and unifies them under his command.
- Why would a King of a City-State want to fight his neighbors to control them?





# The First Empire 2300 B.C.E.

- Akkadian Empire
  - SARGON builds strong army and conquers neighbors
    - Destroyed enemy city walls and removed kings not loyal to him
- Collected tribute from conquered people
- Kept Sumer religion and technology

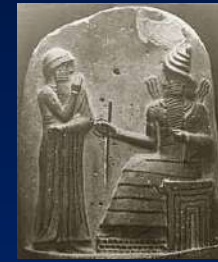


# Akkadian Empire





# Babylon



- 1792 BC- Hammurabi conquers Mesopotamia
  - Rebuilt cities and irrigation, improved tax system, and increased trade
  - Hammurabi's codes
    - “Eye for an Eye, Tooth for a Tooth”
    - First known written collection of laws- 282 total
      - Attempted to maintain order and protect the poor





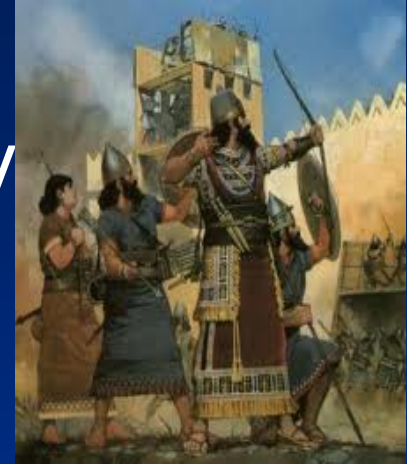


# Hammurabi's Code Highlights

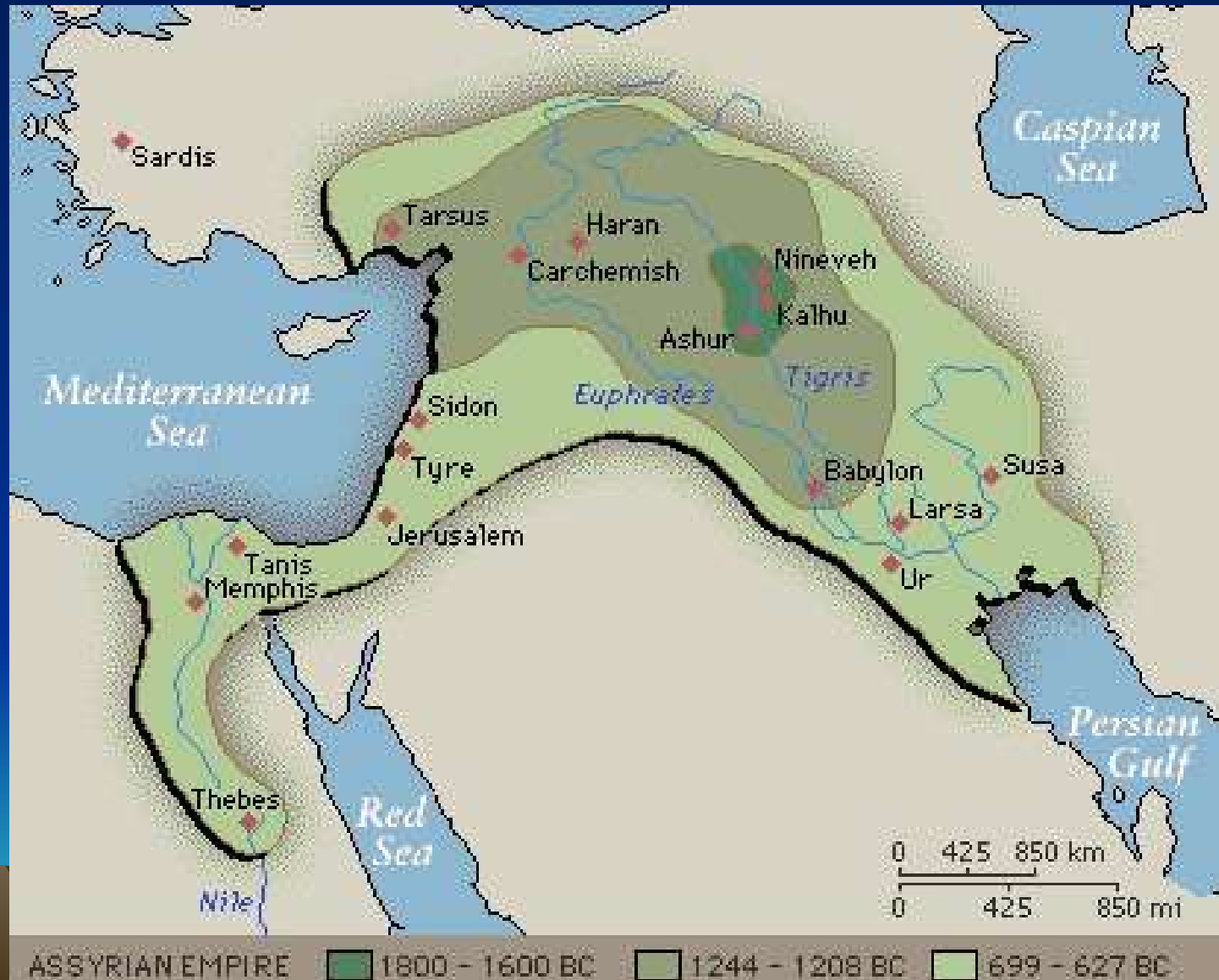
- 25. If fire break out in a house, and some one who comes to put it out cast his eye upon the property of the owner of the house, and take the property of the master of the house, he shall be thrown into that self-same fire.
- 109. If conspirators meet in the house of a tavern-keeper, and these conspirators are not captured and delivered to the court, the tavern-keeper shall be put to death.
- 195. If a son strike his father, his hands shall be cut off
- 206. If during a quarrel one man strike another and wound him, then he shall swear, "I did not injure him wittingly," and pay the physicians.
- 229. If a builder build a house for some one, and does not construct it properly, and the house which he built fall in and kill its owner, then that builder shall be put to death.
- 282. If a slave say to his master: "You are not my master," if they convict him his master shall cut off his ear.

# The Assyrians: 900 B.C.E.

- Use new iron weapons and cruelty to control others
  - Experts at siege warfare
- Built first aqueducts to control water
- Created Bas-relief sculptures of kings and gods
- Empire stretched from Egypt to Persia



# Assyrian Empire





# The Neo-Babylonian Empire

## 605 B.C.E.

- Babylon kings regain control of Mesopotamia
- King Nebuchadnezzar builds massive city walls and the Hanging Gardens
- Achievements
  - Math and astronomy
    - Sundial to tell time
    - Calendar with 7 day weeks and 60 minute hours





# Stop and Think



- The flat, fertile lands of Mesopotamia are a **blessing** to the people who live there because it provides the food and resources necessary for civilization. *Why is this also a **curse** when it comes to protecting the land from invasion?*

- *Think, pair, share*



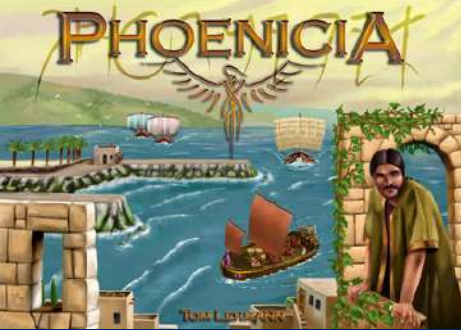
# Mesopotamia Invaders



- Hittites and Kassites- 1595 BC
  - Used superior iron weapons, chariots, and battle tactics to conquer Fertile crescent
- Assyrians- 900 BC
  - Conquer Fertile Crescent and Egypt
  - Taxed lands, created large armies, and built roads
- The Chaldeans- 652 BC
  - Nebuchadnezzar rebuilds cities and revives Sumerian culture
    - Hanging Gardens of Babylon







# The Phoenicians



Greek and Phoenician Colonies and Trade. The Western Mediterranean was first colonized by Phoenicians and Greeks who together controlled trade throughout the region.



- Located outside of Mesopotamia along Mediterranean coast
  - Controlled naval trade along Mediterranean
    - Trade cedar, jewels, glass, and dyes
    - Created coins for trade
  - Built colonies along North Africa and Southern Europe
  - Created an **Alphabet**- better for keeping records and trade agreements





# Modern Mesopotamia

- The US war in Iraq- strained relations with whole region
- Constant fighting between Jews and Muslims in and around Israel
- Oil is the only major industry- billions of dollars for few, many people are extremely poor
  - Situation creates appeal for terrorism

