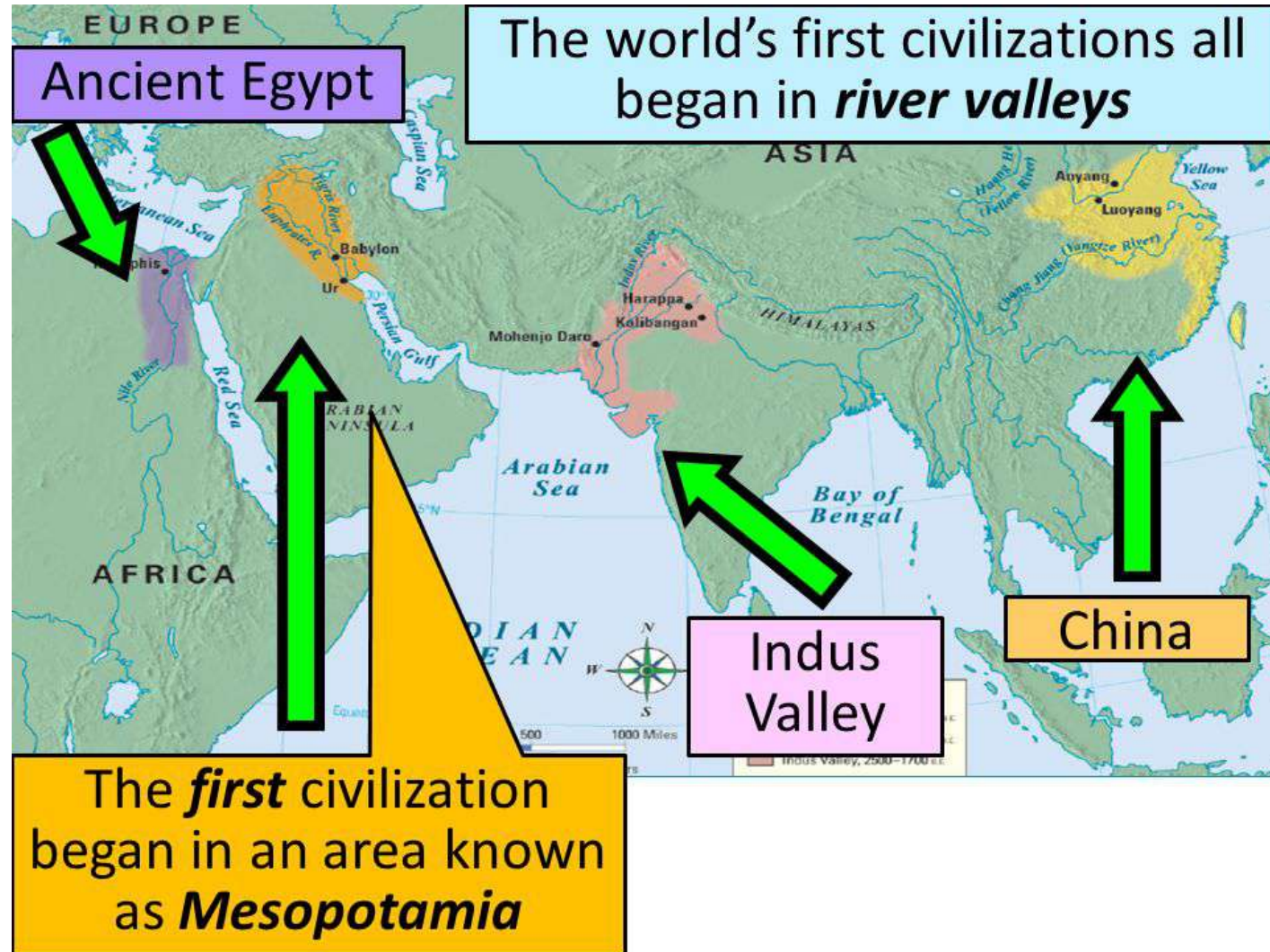




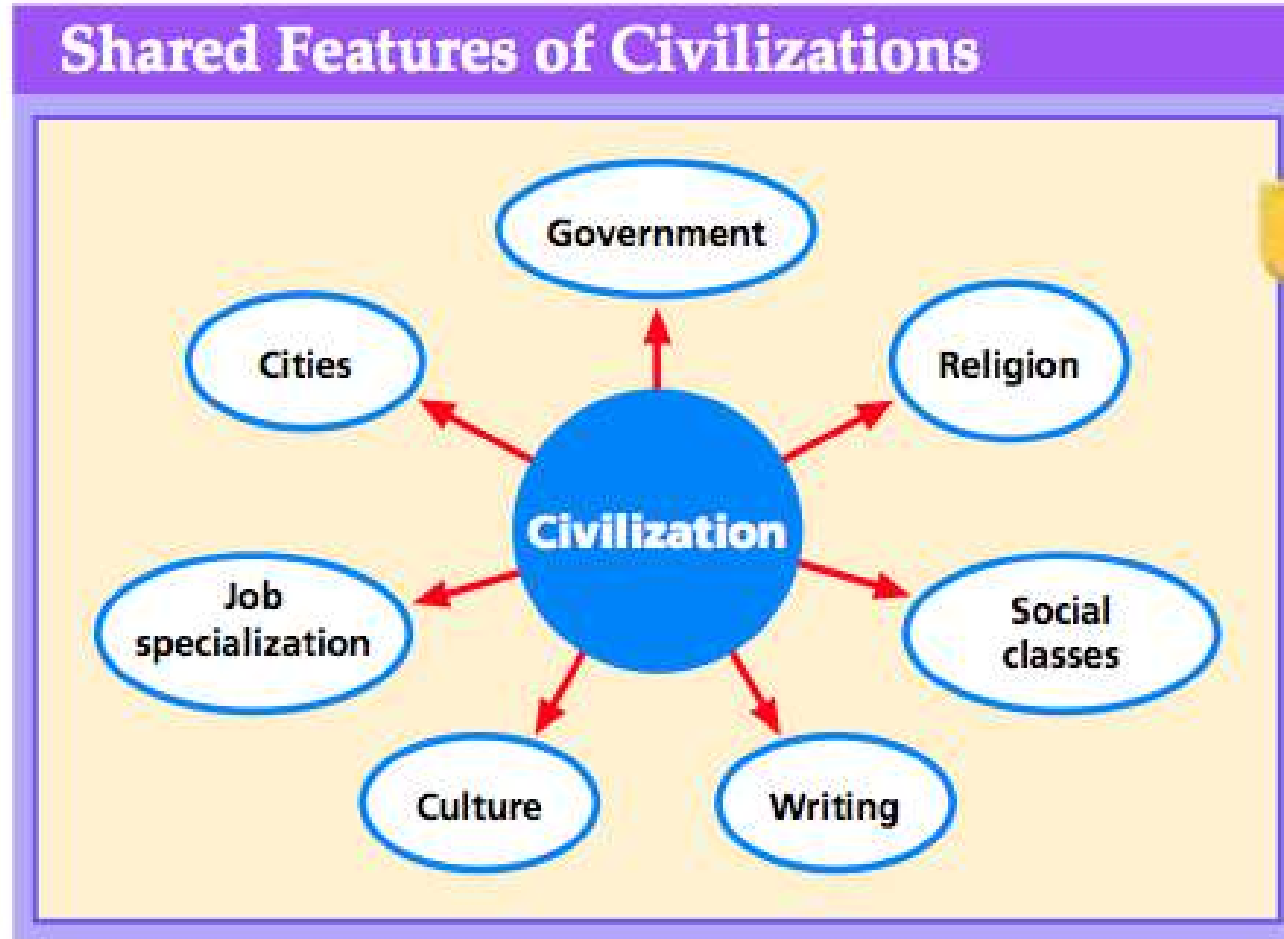
The Four River Valley Civilizations
APWorld

Lecture
1.2

Things that make you go hmhhh...



What qualifies as a civilization?



Who was first?

The Fertile Crescent



Sumerians in Mesopotamia

Environmental challenges:

1. Yearly flooding of the Tigris and Euphrates

Solution: Irrigation ditches

2. No natural barriers for protection

Solution: City Walls

Tigris and Euphrates Rivers

Sumerians

- The Sumerians are known for:
- **Cuneiform**
- **Ziggurats**
- **Irrigation Systems**
- Empire Building and City State governments



Ziggurats

- Step Pyramids, hold grain, priest live there
—each city has it's own “Patron God”



DID YOU KNOW...

Like many ancient civilizations, the Sumerians also had “a flood story.” That’s not surprising given their challenging environment sitting between two unpredictable rivers...in their view, such a cataclysmic event did, indeed, destroy their “entire world.”

The Epic of Gilgamesh is, perhaps, the oldest written story on Earth. It comes to us from ancient Sumeria, and was originally written on 12 clay tablets in cuneiform script. It is about the adventures of the cruel King Gilgamesh of Uruk (*ca. 2750 and 2500 BCE*).

In tablet XI we read about Per-napishtim, a man who built a boat and was saved from a great flood brought about by angry gods. On p. 77 in your textbook you can compare Per-napishtim’s story to Noah’s story in the biblical book of Genesis as well as a “flood story” from India



Tablet XI

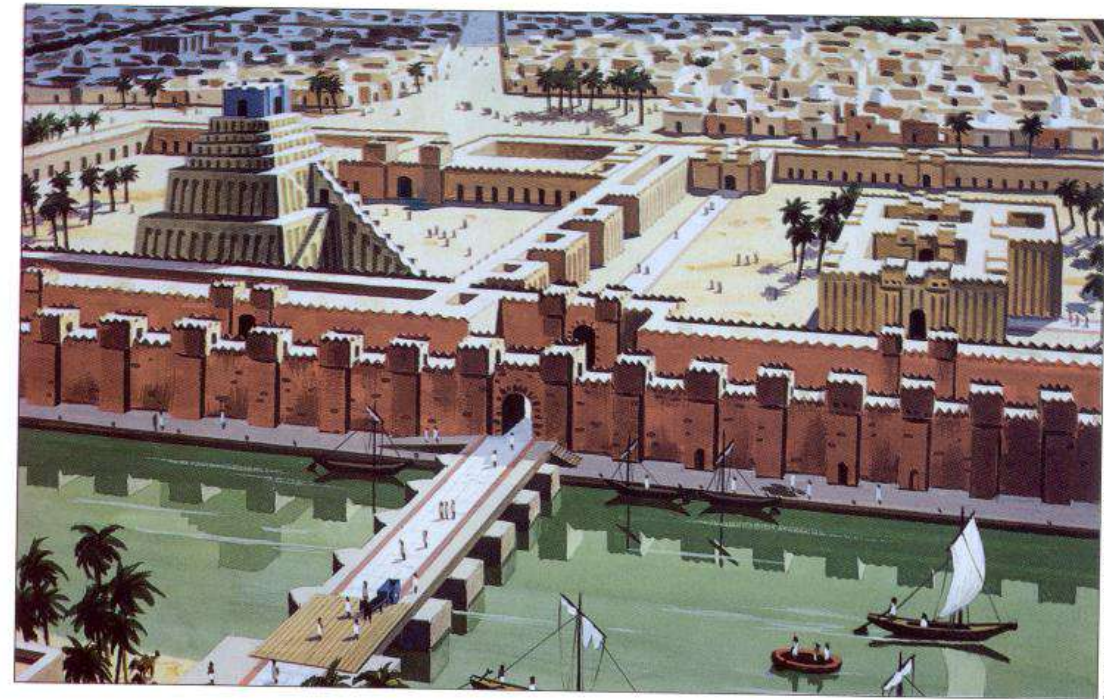


GILGAMESH

Great website to visit: <http://gilgamesh.psnc.pl/>

Sumerians, Akkadians, then Babylonians (2000)BCE

- Babylonians and **Hammurabi's code**
- **Hanging Gardens of Babylon-one of wonders of ancient world**



Commercial break brought to you by the Hittite Empire (1600 BCE to 1180 BCE)

- The **Hittites** were from Anatolia (Turkey)
- Conflicts with Egypt ...**first recorded peace treaty in history**
- Warlike and manufactured **advanced iron goods.**
- **Perhaps the first to develop iron metallurgy**

Empire vs Civilization....



3. Reign of Hammurabi

a. Famous Code of Law

- he wisely took all the laws of the region's city-states and unified them into one code. This helped unify the region.
- Engraved in stone, erected all over the empire.



And why do you think he believed it important to place the laws in prominent locations so the people could visibly see them?



A total of 282 laws are etched on this 7 ft. 5 in. tall black basalt pillar (stele). The top portion, shown here, depicts Hammurabi with Shamash, the sun god. Shamash is presenting to Hammurabi a staff and ring, which symbolize the power to administer the law. Although Hammurabi's Code is not the first code of laws (the first records date four centuries earlier), it is the best preserved legal document reflecting the social structure of Babylon during Hammurabi's rule.

This amazing find was discovered in 1901 and today is in the famous Louvre Museum in Paris, France.

3. Babylonian Reign of Hammurabi

Strict in nature –

“the punishment fits the crime” / “eye for an eye”

Such laws were adopted by neighbors – many similar found in Hebrew scriptures (Old Testament)

His act set an important *precedent* – idea that the government was responsible for what occurred in society.



Hammurabi, the king of righteousness,
On whom Shamash has conferred the Law,
am I.

When Marduk sent me to rule over men,
to give the protection of right to the land,
I did right and in righteousness brought about
the well-being of the oppressed.

Below are situations Hammurabi faced.

Decide what you think would happen in today's society.

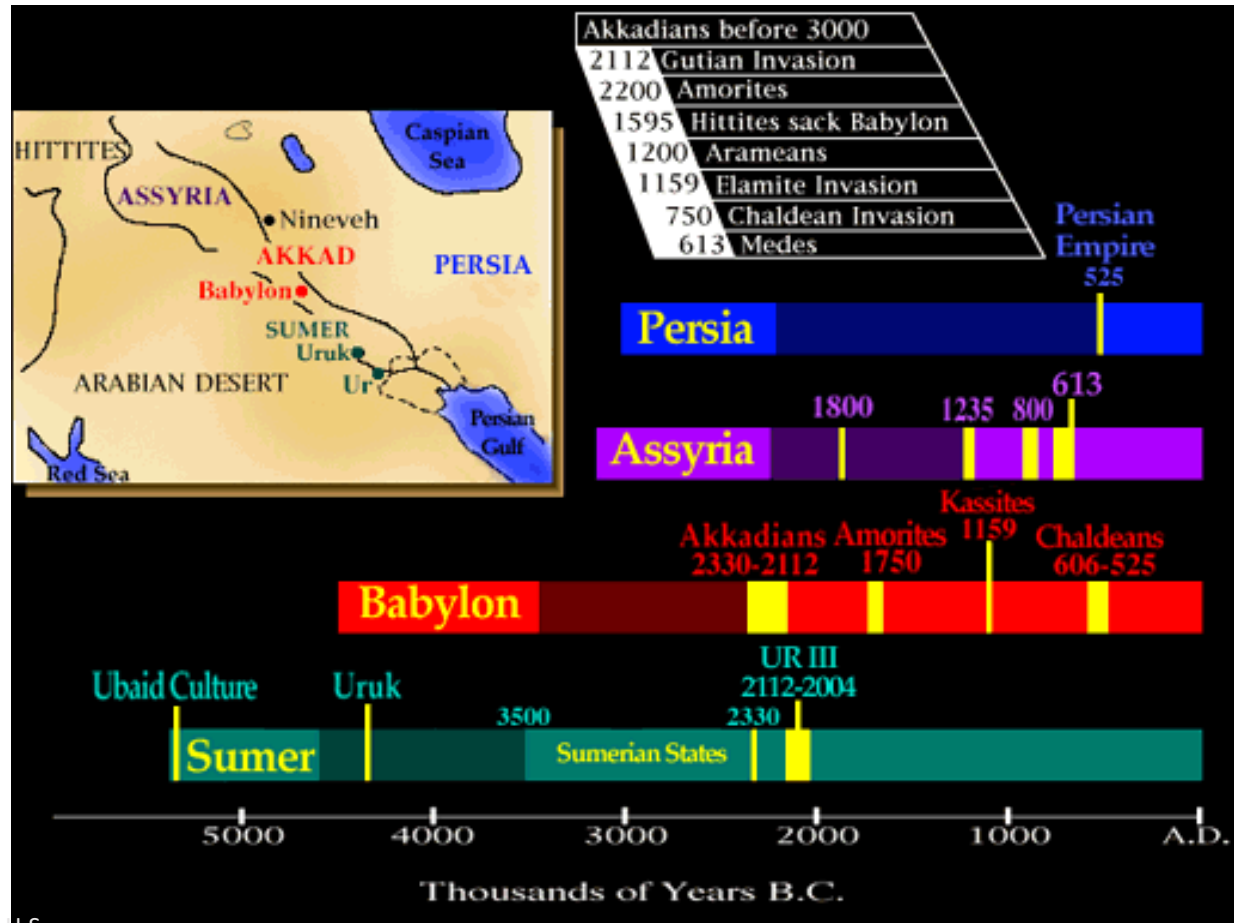
Then together we'll view what Hammurabi actually declared.

We'll find out if Marduk, the supreme god, will be pleased with your decisions?



1. What should be done to the carpenter who builds a house that falls and kills the owner?
 2. What should be done about a wife who ignores her duties and belittles her husband?
 3. What should be done when a "sister of god" (or nun) enters the wine shop for a drink?
 4. What should be done if a son is adopted and then the birth-parents want him back?
 5. What happens if a man is unable to pay his debts?
 6. What should happen to a boy who slaps his father?
 7. What happens to the wine seller who fails to arrest bad characters gathered at her shop?
 8. How is the truth determined when one man brings an accusation against another?
-

Two centuries after Hammurabi's reign, the Babylonian Empire fell to nomadic raiders. New groups would rule over the Fertile Crescent in the future. However, the innovative ideas of the Sumerians and their descendants in the region would be adopted by the later peoples – including the Assyrians, the Persians, Phoenicians and the Hebrews (Jews).



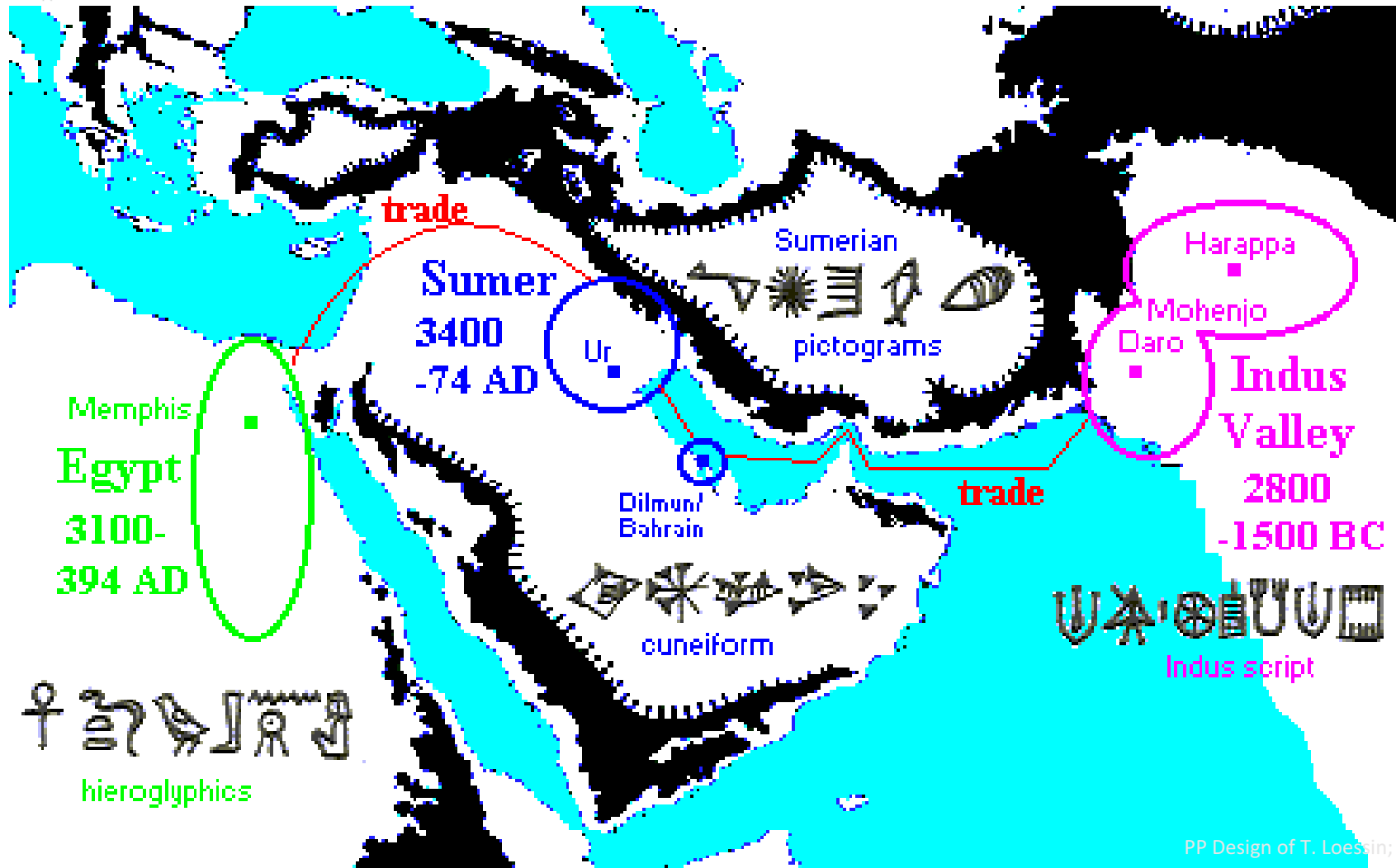
Cultural Diffusion

the spreading out of culture, cultural traits, or a cultural pattern from a central point.

Cultural diffusion is the spread of elements of one culture to another people, generally through trade.

Take the spread of writing. Similarities between the pictograms of Egyptian hieroglyphics, Sumerian cuneiform, and the Indus script are striking.

Can you give examples of cultural diffusion in your society today?



Ancient Egypt Nile River Valley

- C. 3000 BCE
- Fewer unity problems then the Sumerians. Pharaohs and dynasties

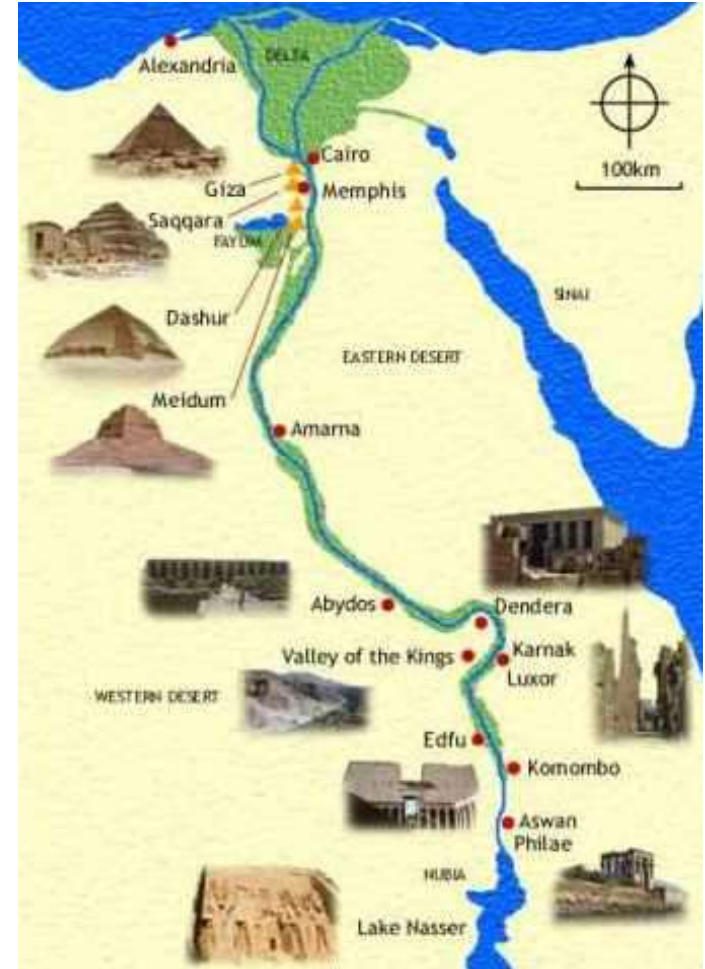
***The Great Pyramids**-religious architecture

Written Record-Hieroglyphics

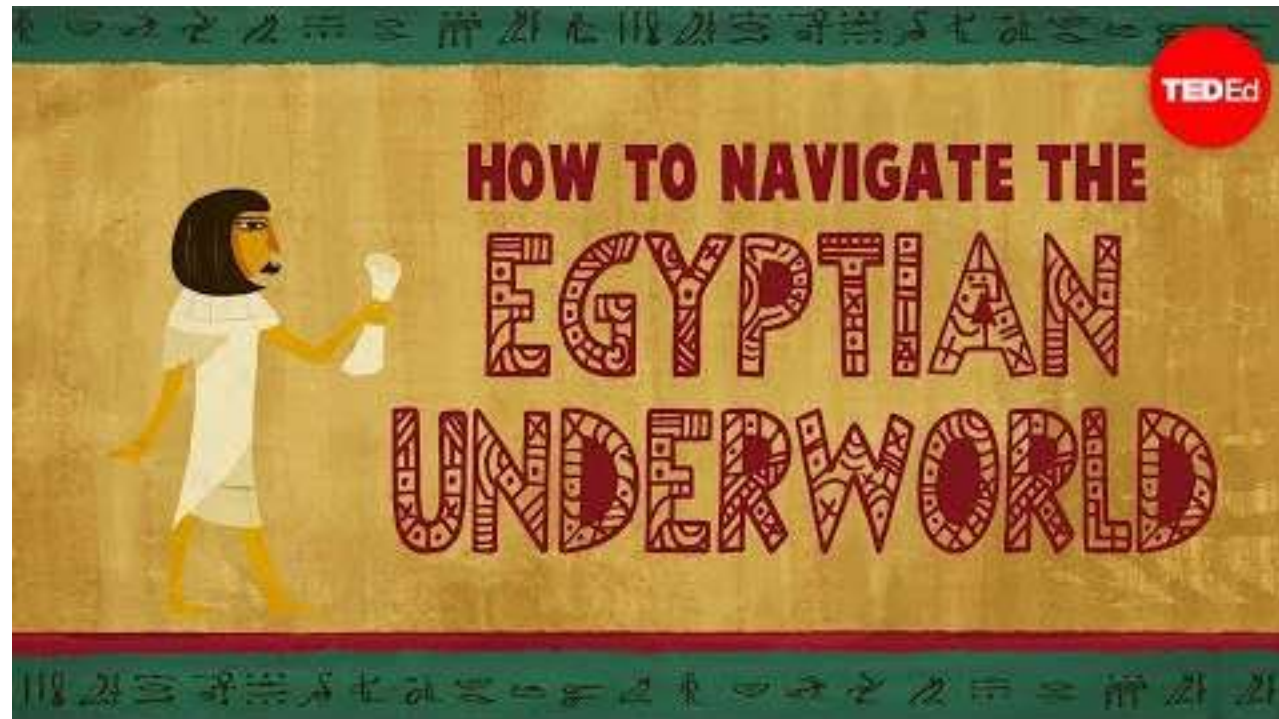
Legal code? Not really

Dynasties

Written work? **Book of the Dead**



Cheery! The book of the dead



Indus River Valley c 2500 BCE

- Harappan and Mohenjo Daro
- Extensive trade between the two
- Large **citadel**, **granary** and **city walls**
- World's oldest religion?
- **Vedic period (Knowledge) 1500-500 BCE**
 - Vedas—set of sacred books consisting of hymns dedicated to gods
 - Rig Veda is the first
 - Upanishad-vedic poems



Historians know the least about this RVC

- Why?
- Can't decipher their writing system
- However, we know they had:

Urban planning-uniform bricks and measures, drainage and waste systems

Animal images seem to be important in rituals

1500 sites!

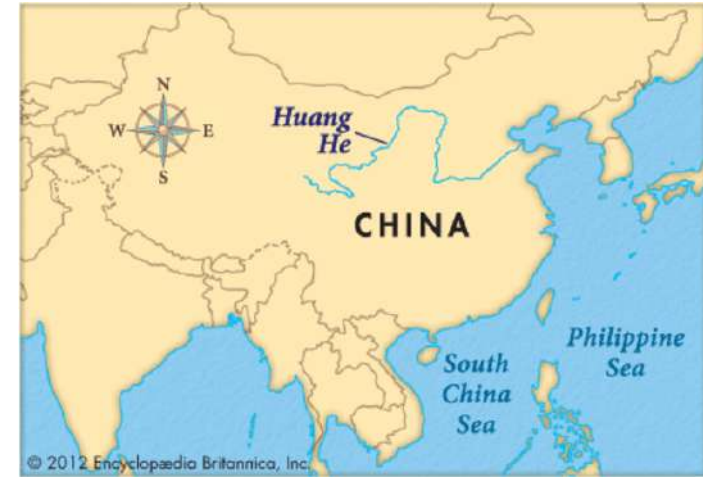


Seals, Bronze and very little NO weapons or war and trade with Mesopotamia



Finally—The Yellow River Valley Civilization

- AKA Huang He River Valley
- Well organized state, irrigation
- Ideographic symbols
- Iron working, silk production,
- Bronze production
- Shang dynasty 1500 BCE
- Zhou Dynasty 1029 to 700 BCE



Also...without benefit of cultural diffusion western hemisphere..but with **agricultural and cities beginnings**

- Olmecs-Mesoamerica
- Chavin-Peru

