

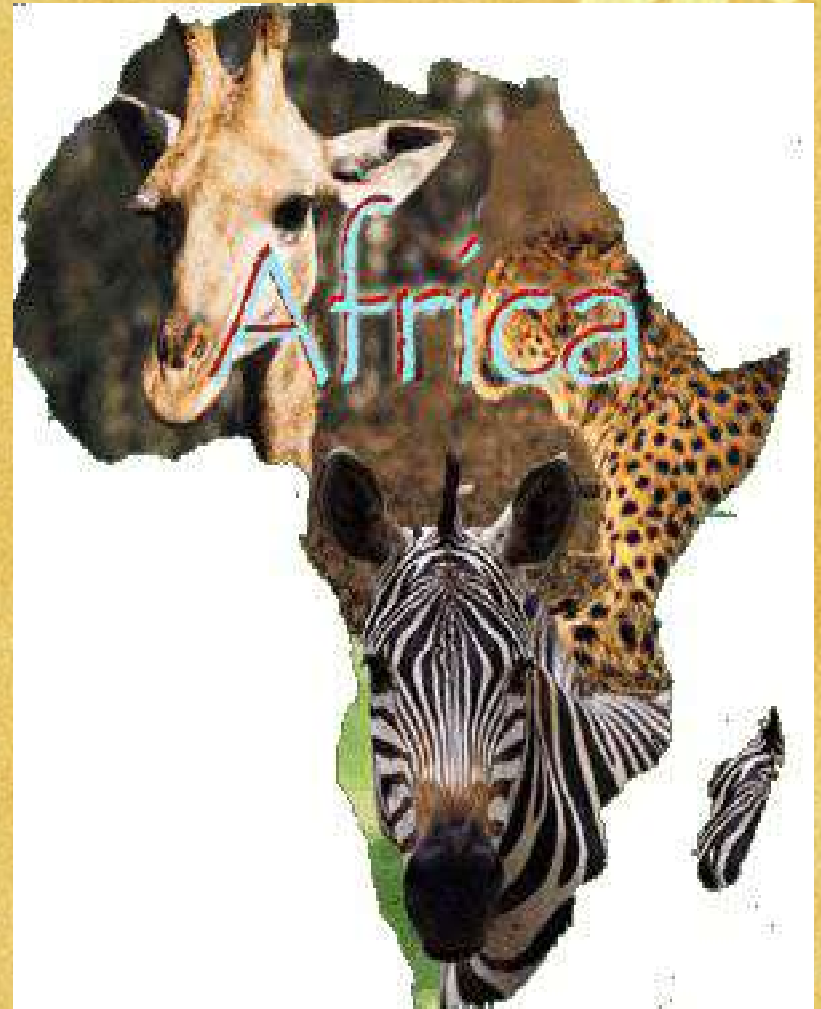
Classical Era Variations:
Africa and the Americas
500 BCE - 1200 CE

AP World History
Chapter 5



Early Africa

- Few written records of early African people
- Historians learn about early African people through **oral traditions = legends & history passed by word of mouth through generations**
- We also learn about them through art and artifacts that have been left behind

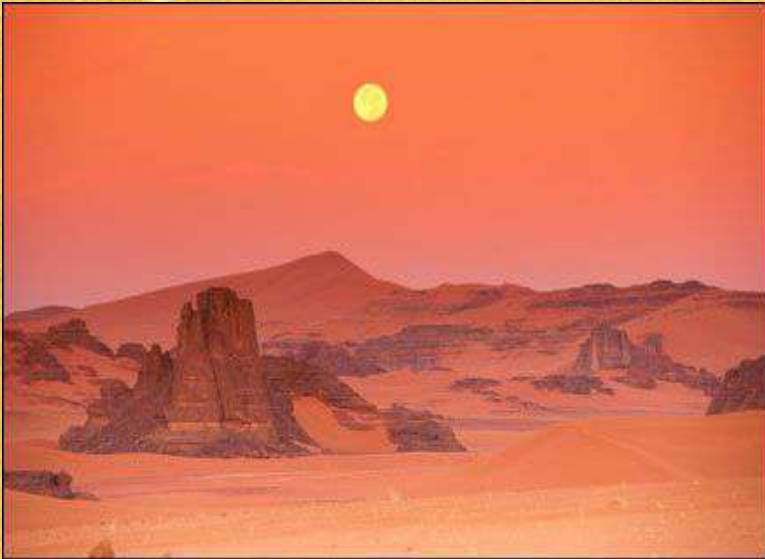


Geography & Environment



- African continent is 3 times larger than the U.S.
- Contains deserts, mountains, grasslands, river valleys, rainforests, etc.
- 5 regions (N, S, E, W, and Central)

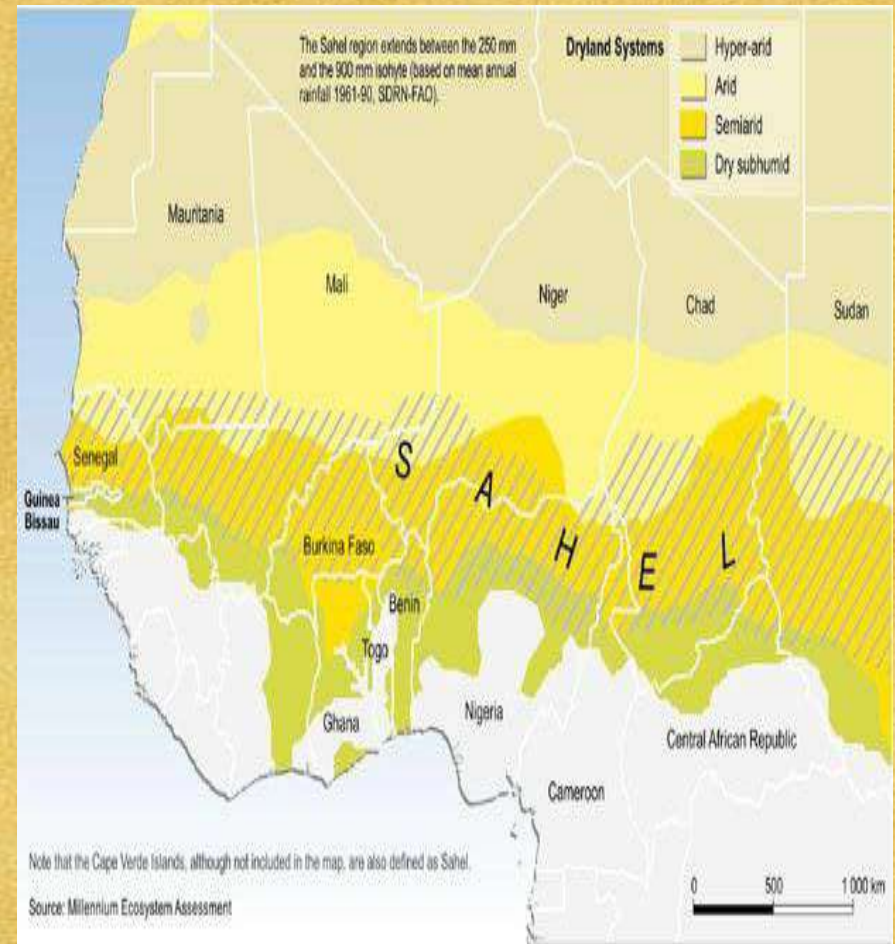
Geography & Environment



- Sahara Desert in the north = the world's largest desert
- Another major desert = the Kalahari in the south

Geography & Environment

- South of the Sahara lies a great **plateau = high, flat area = called the Sahel**
 - Sahel = covered by **savannas = treeless grasslands**



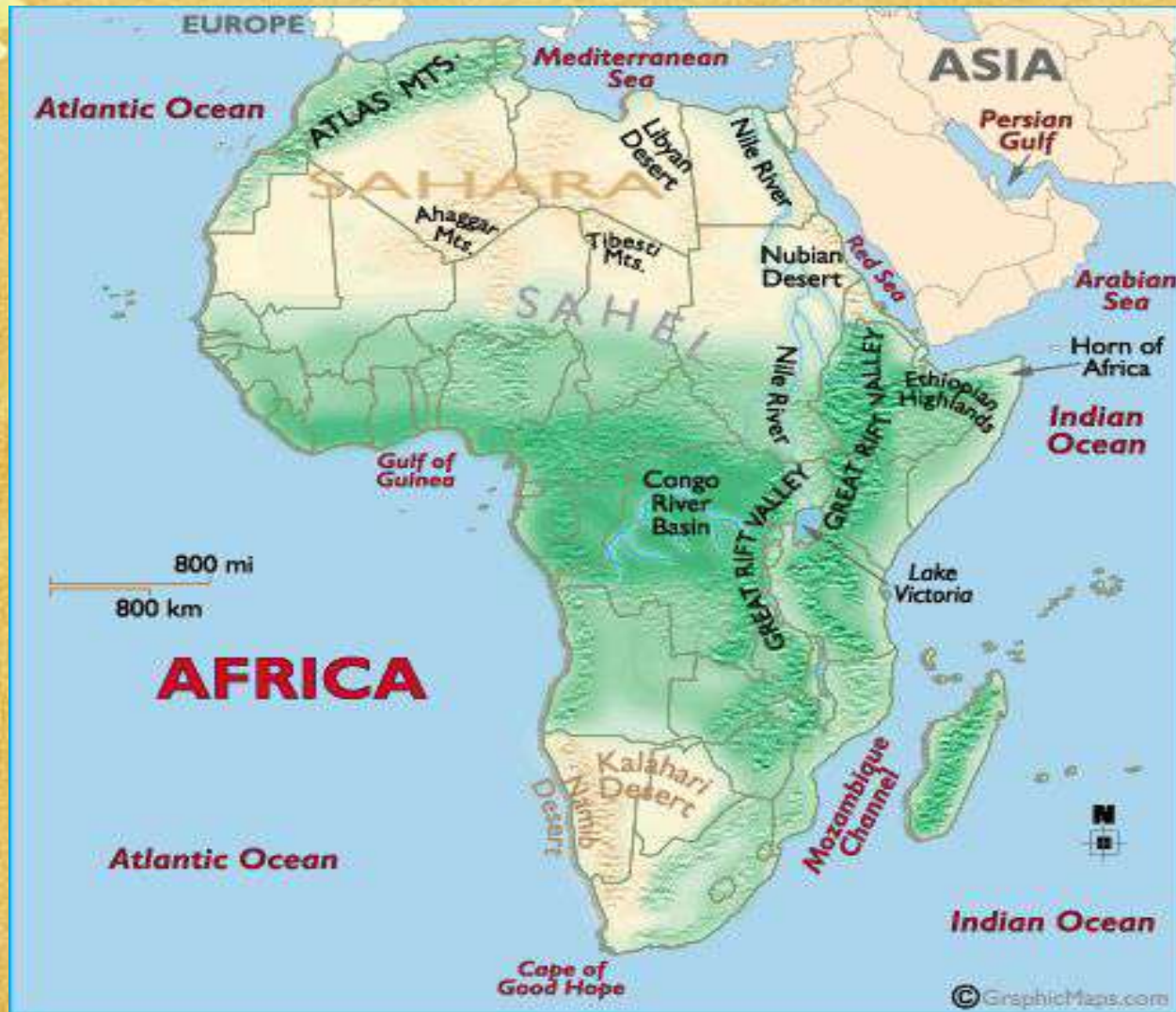
Geography & Environment

- Major highlands and mountains in eastern Africa
- Mount Kilimanjaro and Mount Kenya



- Tropical rainforests in central Africa

Geography & Environment



Geography and Environment

- As a result of Africa's size and environmental variations, many separate societies, cultures, and civilizations grew throughout Africa



Africa's Climate



- Africa is one of the most tropical continents in the world
- As a result of this tropical climate:
 - 1) Poorer and less fertile soil = less productive agriculture than in Eurasia
 - 2) Many disease-carrying insects and parasites = long-term health problems

Africa's Proximity to Others

- Close to Eurasia and Arabia
- This facilitated trade, interaction, and cultural diffusion



Africa in the Classical Era



Map 7.1 Africa in the Classical Era
Chapter 7, *Ways of the World: A Brief Global History with Sources*, First Edition
Copyright © 2011 by Bedford/St. Martin's
Page 285

Nubian Civilization

- Nubia = along the southern Nile; south of Egypt
- Had close contact with Egyptians; trade, cultural diffusion, and warfare between the two
 - Tombs of Nubian kings found with gold, jewelry, and pottery from Egypt
 - Same objects (like eating utensils) found in both civilizations



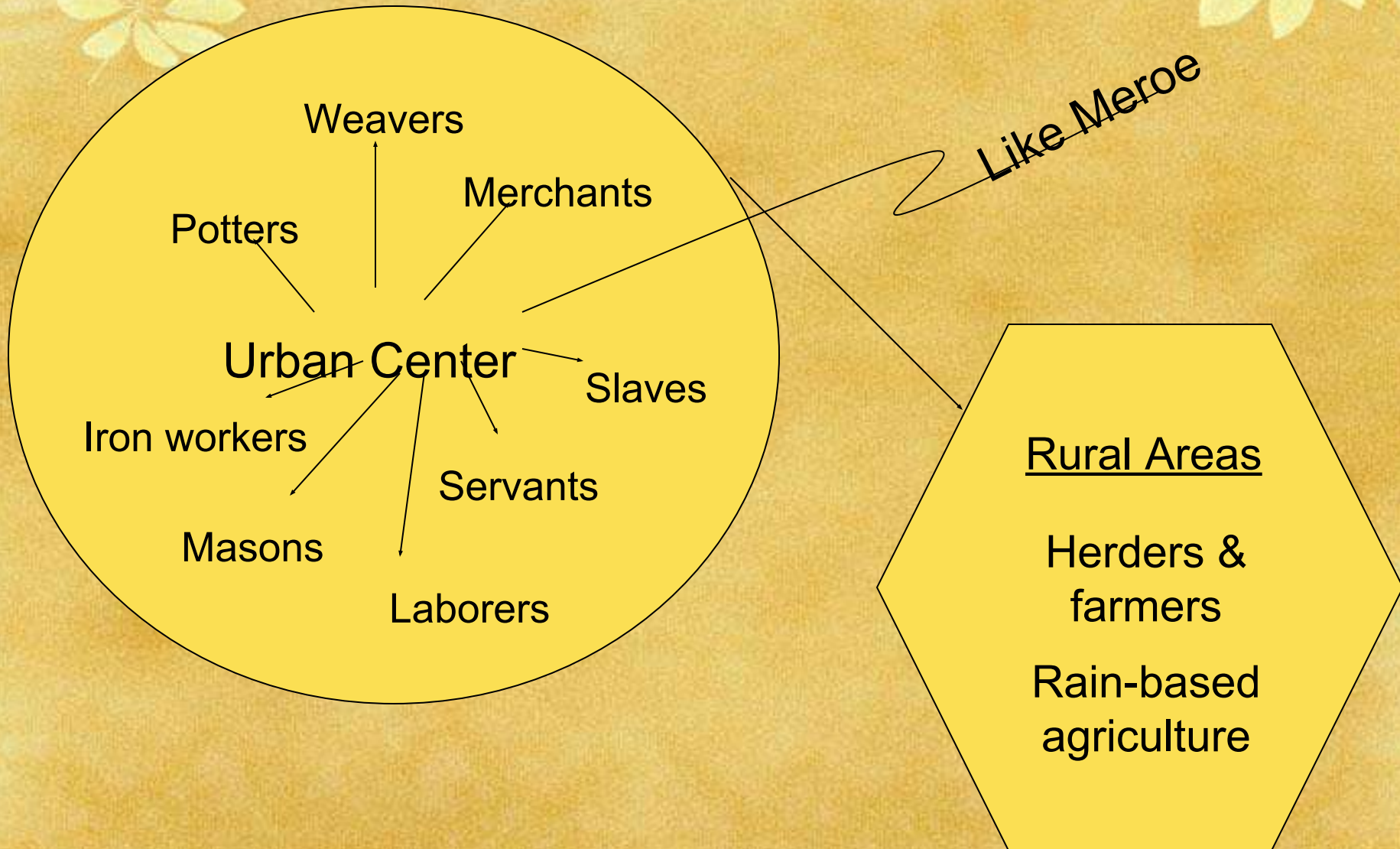
Nubian Civilization



Meroe Pyramids

- Focused on city of Meroe after Egyptian kingdom fell apart
- Government = all-powerful monarch
- Gained wealth and military power from trading to the north via the Nile and to the east and west via camel caravans
- Flourished from 300 BCE to 100 CE

Nubian Civilization





Nubian Civilization

- Fell apart in the centuries following 100 CE due to:
 - Deforestation
 - Conquest by the neighboring state of Axum

Axum

- Located along the Red Sea
- Very productive agricultural system
 - Plow-based farming
 - Made wheat, barley, millet, and teff
- Became a trading power in Red Sea and Indian Ocean Commerce



Axum

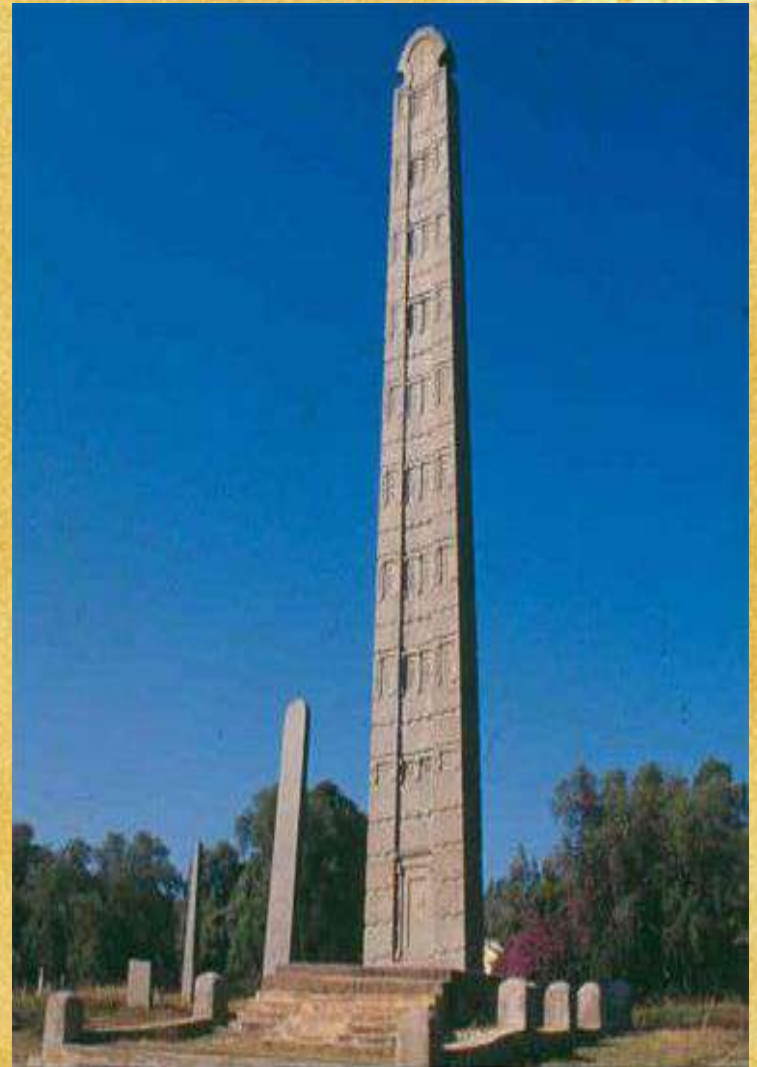
- Many cities/ports on the East African coast got products from the African interior to sell in the Indian Ocean trading network
 - Ivory, rhinoceros horns, tortoiseshells, obsidian, slaves, etc.
 - Placed taxes on these items to bring in more revenue



Axumite Coins

Axum

- Known for their stone obelisks
 - Royal grave markers
 - Funeral monuments
- As a result of its trade connections, it absorbed parts of Roman culture, including Christianity





Axum Decline

- Started to decline in the 600s CE due to:
 - Soil exhaustion and erosion
 - Deforestation
 - Rise and spread of Islam

Niger River basin



Niger River Valley

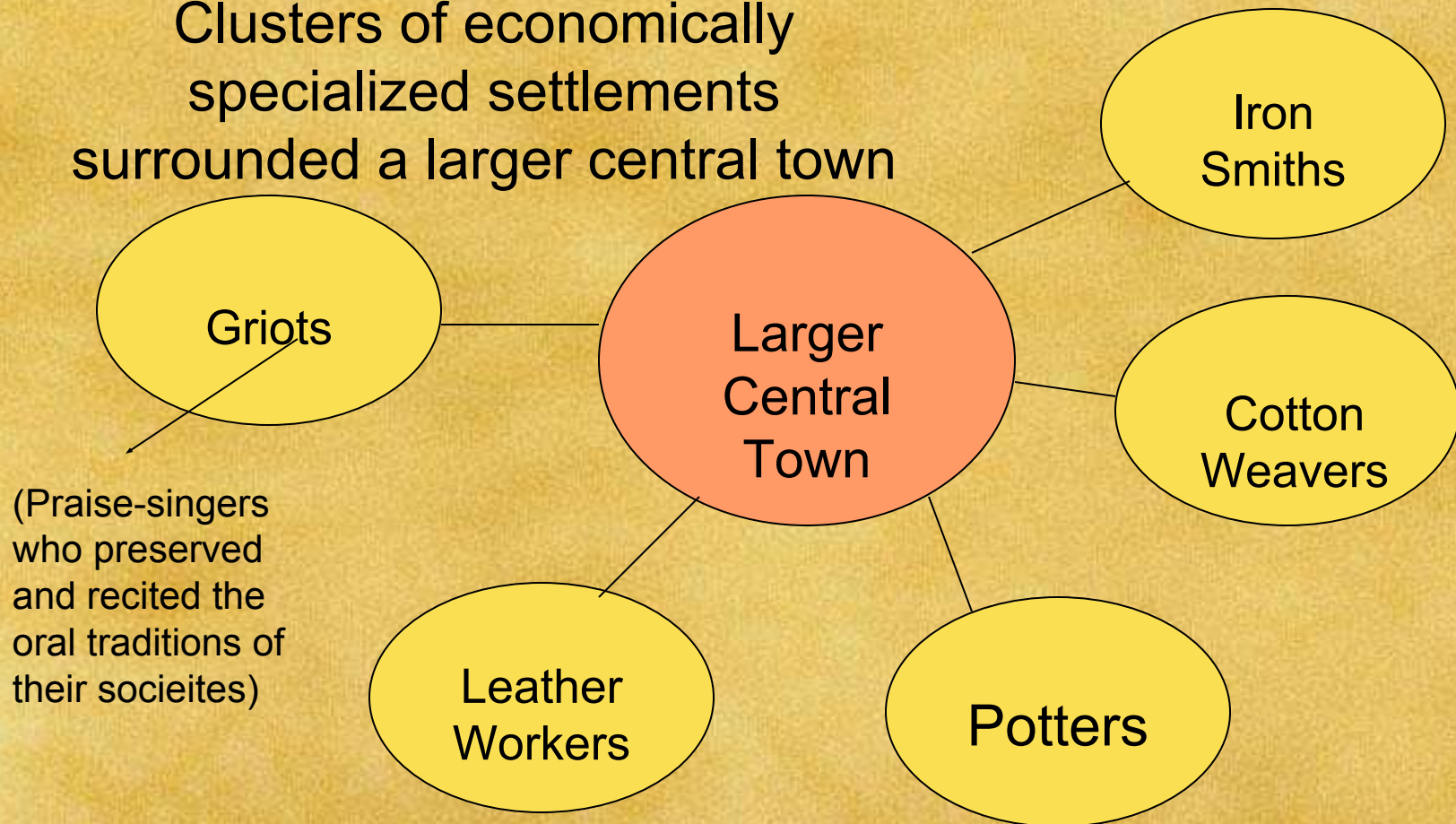
- City-based civilization
- Biggest city = **Jenne-jeno** (about 40,000 people)
- NO monarch, emperor, or other kind of leader controlling the cities
- NOT city-states because each city did NOT have its own individual monarch and/or bureaucracy



Statue excavated from
site of Jenne-jeno

City “Clusters”: Set Up of a Typical City

Clusters of economically specialized settlements surrounded a larger central town





Niger River Valley

- Artisan communities became occupational castes
 - Skills and jobs were passed down to children
 - Only allowed to marry within your own group

Niger River Valley

- In the rural areas surrounding these urban clusters were the farmers
- Specialization occurred even out here
 - Fishing
 - Rice cultivation
 - Animal domestication

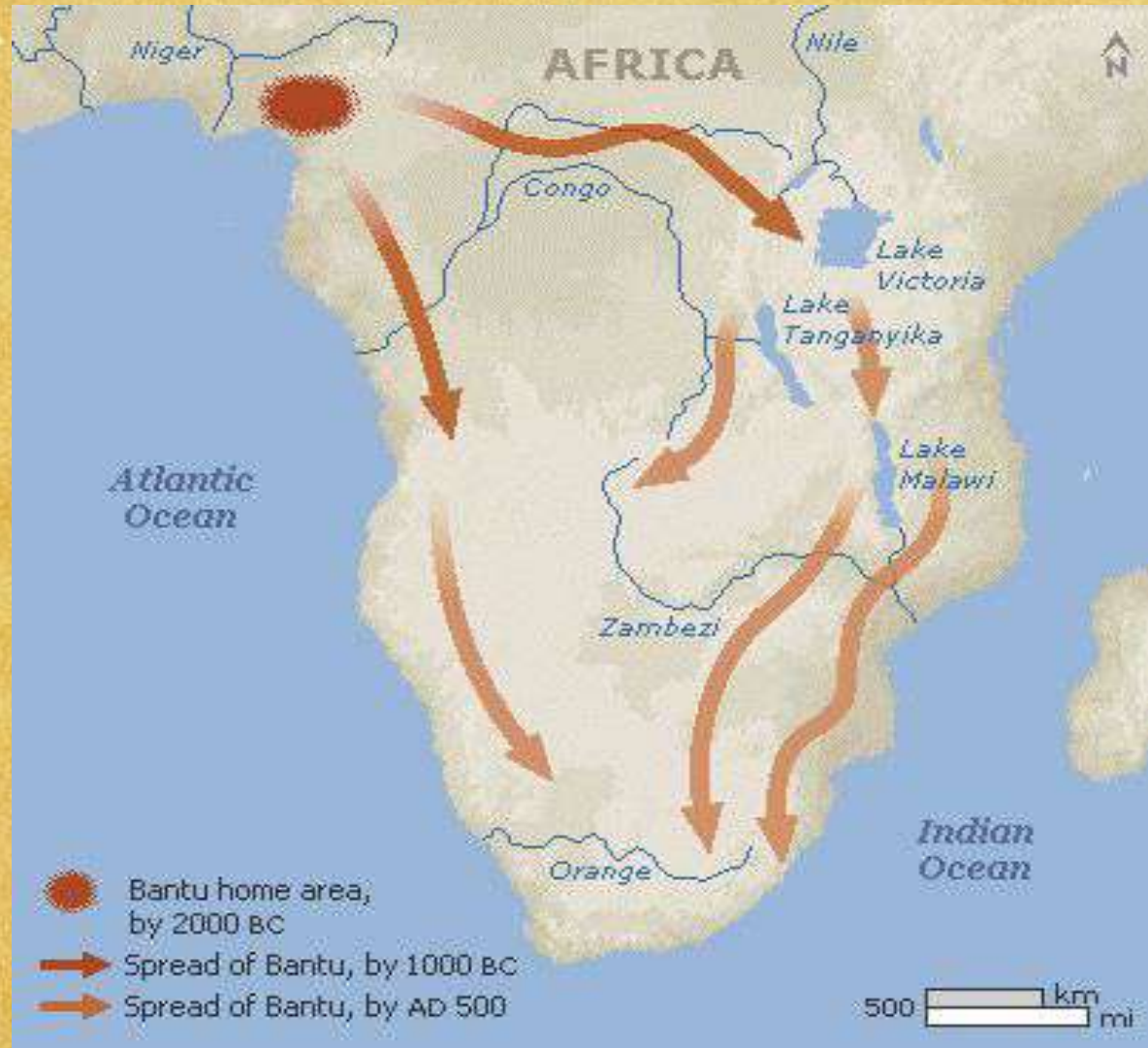


Dinner's Ready!

Bantu Migrations

- People left West Africa for less populated areas
- Settled all across southern and western Africa
- Called the Bantu Migrations because - descendants of the people that migrated shared elements of a language known as Bantu
- These people brought their culture & knowledge as they migrated
- Bantu languages became dominant south of the Sahara

Bantu Migrations

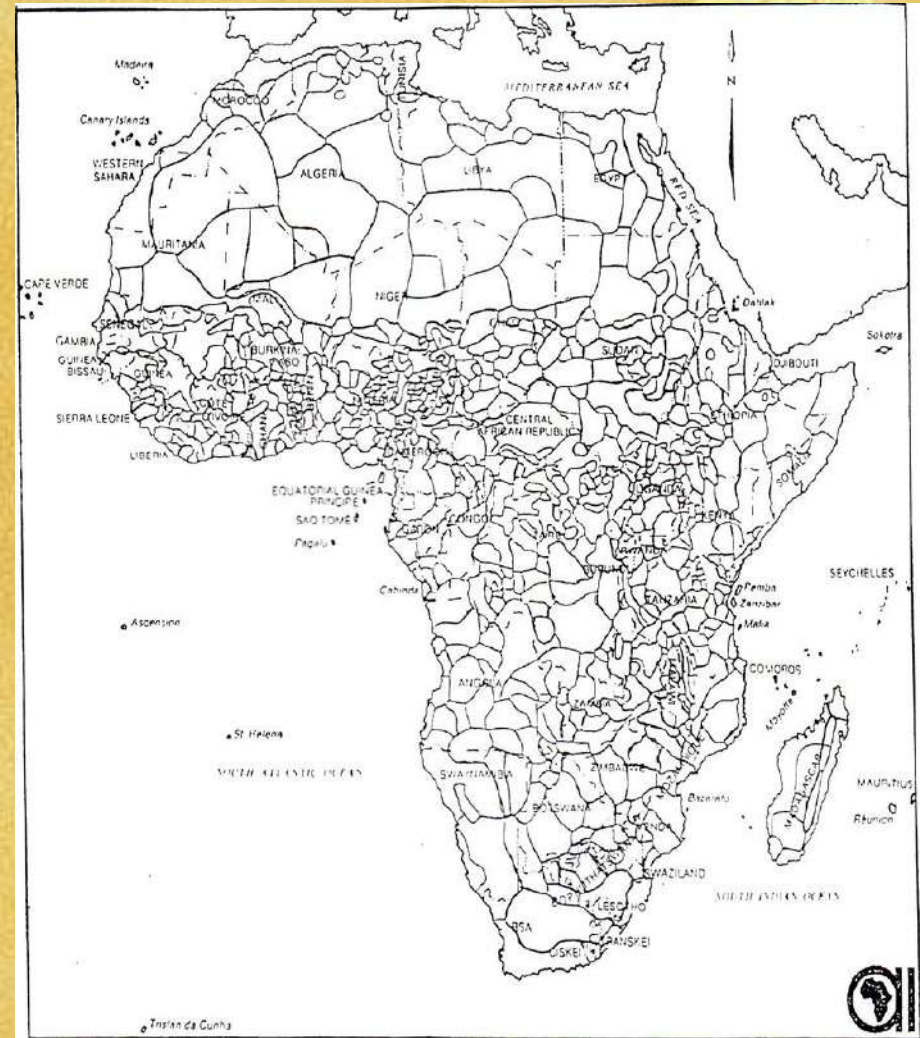


Bantu Migrations

- Bantu people were able to displace, absorb, or eliminate hunter-gatherers they encountered due to:
 - 1) Agriculture - they had a productive economy and could sustain a larger number of people in a small area
 - 2) Iron -- used it to make tools and weapons
 - 3) Disease -- they brought infectious diseases (like malaria) with them

Bantu Africa

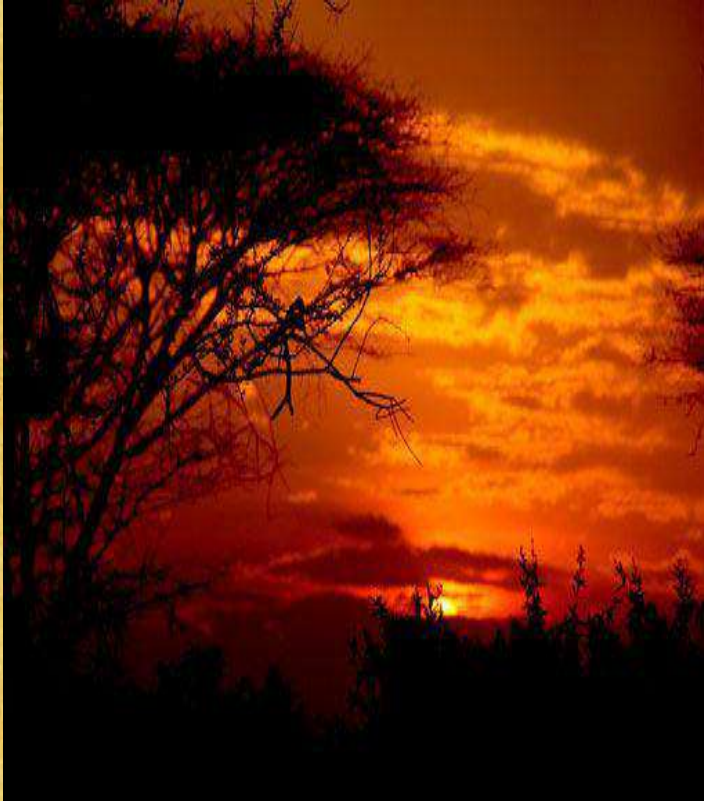
- Bantu-speaking people became divided into hundred of ethnic groups



MAP 2: SUPERIMPOSED ETHNIC MAP OF AFRICA
(Source: Africa Institute and De Blij, 1977: 102)

Bantu Religion

- Bantu people focused on ancestral and nature spirits
- Power of dead ancestors accessed through sacrifice rituals
- Charms also used -- could be activated to control the rains, defend the village, achieve success in hunting, etc.



Bantu Religion

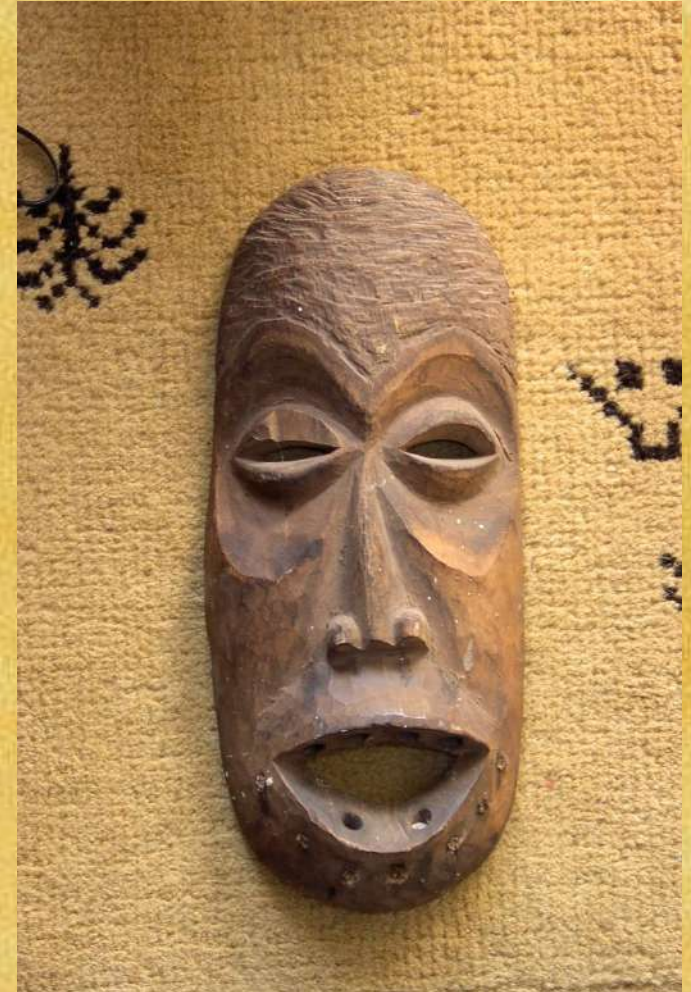
- Diviners = could connect to the supernatural world
 - Used dreams, visions, charms, or trances to identify the source of misfortune and to prescribe remedies

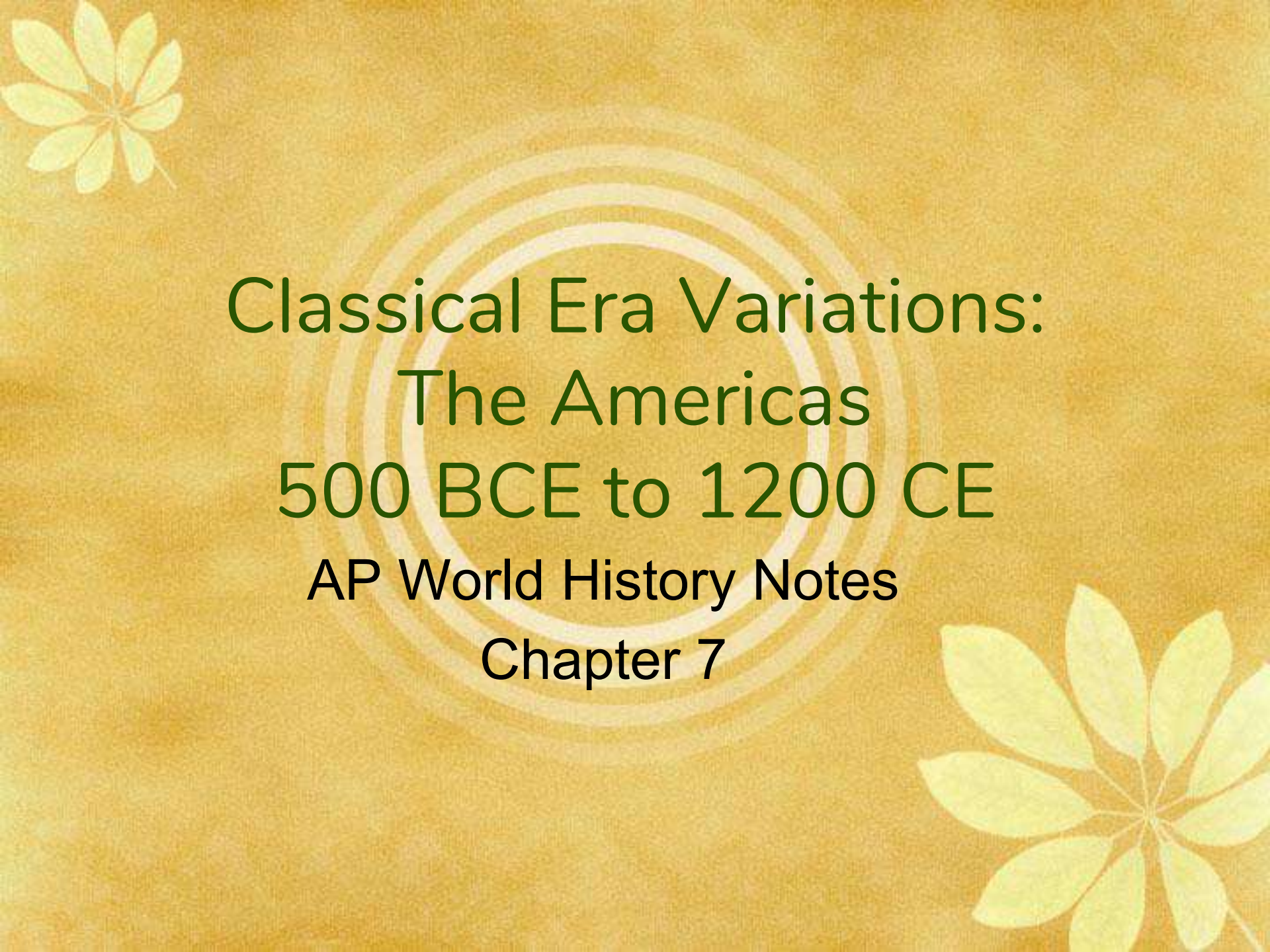


Divination Horn

Bantu Arts

- Sculpture was an important art form
- Masks worn at dances & ceremonies -- symbolized link between living & dead
- Music was important --> choral singing, dances for ceremonies





Classical Era Variations:
The Americas
500 BCE to 1200 CE
AP World History Notes
Chapter 7

Migration Theory A



- The traditional theory is the first Americans crossed the land bridge at the Bering Strait around 11,500 years ago and followed an “ice free corridor” between two large ice sheets, the Laurentide and Cordilleran.
- These small bands then dispersed throughout the Americas on foot and began settling in areas on both continents.

The Clovis People



- The general theory has been the first inhabitants of the Americas were the Clovis People.
- These first inhabitants, whose archeological sites are scattered across North and South America, were named after a town in New Mexico where fluted spear points were first found.



Migration Theory B



- There is now convincing evidence of human habitation sites that date earlier than the Clovis Culture including sites in South America.
- Monte Verde, a well studied site located along a river near southern central Chile, dates 12,500 years ago.
- This site contains the buried remnants of dwellings, stone tools including large bifacial projectile points, and preserved medicinal and edible plants.

How did people manage to settle this far south at such an early date?

- A coastal migration route is now gaining more acceptance. Emerging evidence suggests that people with boats moved across the Pacific coast into Alaska and northwestern Canada and eventually south to Peru and Chile by 12,500 years ago.
- Sea routes would have provided abundant food resources and easier and faster movement than land routes. Many coastal areas were unglaciated at this time, providing opportunity for landfall along the way.
- Many potential coastal sites are now submerged, making investigation difficult.

Migration Theory C




- The similarity of ancient crania to Polynesians suggests that one early source of migrants to the Americas were Asian circumpacific populations.
- The general theory is settlers of the Americas came by boat crossing the Pacific Ocean and eventually made their way to South America and spread north and south.




Migration theory D



- The latest theory using Mitochondrial DNA is beginning to suggest that while there are similarities between Native Americans and recent populations in Asia and Siberia, there are also unique American characteristics.
- This theory is proposing Native Americans are truly indigenous to the Americas which is in accordance to many Native American legends and religions.



Conclusions on Migration theories



- In Summary, scientists are examining archeological, biological, and linguistic evidence to determine who the first Americans were, when they arrived in the New World, and what happened subsequently.
- New discoveries in one field of study can cause reinterpretations of evidence not only from the same field but also from other fields.
- There is no doubt that future discoveries and analyses, unbound by the Clovis limit, will shed more light on a changing picture of New World prehistory.



Development of Societies



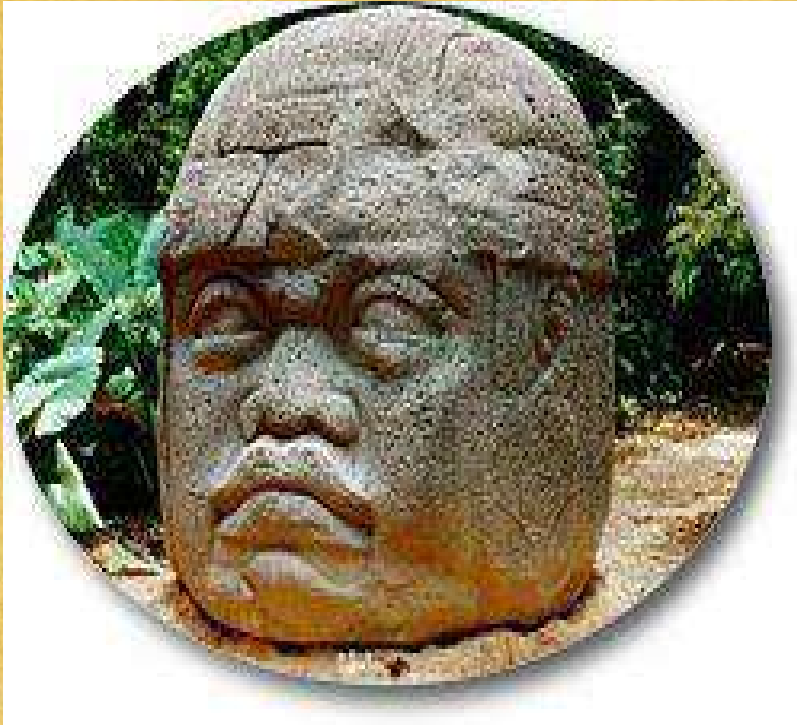
- Like in Mesopotamia, Egypt, and the Indus, permanent settlements centered around religious shrines and were led by local chiefs or Shamans.
- Trade and shared cultural and ceremonial practices gave a common character to specific geographical regions within Mesoamerica.
- Along the Atlantic Coast of Mexico, the earliest of these civilizations, the Olmecs, took shape around 1500 B.C.E. and another, the lesser known, Zapotec, was located along the Pacific Coast in what is now Mexico.

Mesoamerica



- Meso = means middle
- Mesoamerica = stretches from central Mexico to northern Central America

The Mesoamerican Olmec, 1500-400 B.C.E.



- The most influential early Mesoamerican civilization was the Olmec, flourishing between 1500 and 400 B.C.E.

Olmec Civilization



- The center of the Olmec Civilization was located near the tropical Atlantic coast of what are now the Mexican states of Veracruz and Tabasco.
- Olmec cultural influence reached as far as the Pacific coast of Central America and the Central Plateau of Mexico.
- Two main sites were San Lorenzo and La Venta



The Olmec



- Historians have found little evidence to suggest if the Olmecs had rival city-states or dependent centers of centralized political authority.
- It appears that each settlement developed independently to exploit and exchange specialized items such as salt, cacao, clay, and limestone.
- Trade in Jade, obsidian, and pottery was also common.



Olmec Civilization



- Some of the platforms also served as residences placing the elites above the masses.
- The Olmec also laid out their cities with the paths of certain stars, signifying their strong belief in astrological events.
- The construction of these sites used low-skill labor; However, skilled artisans who lived in or near the urban core decorated the buildings and carvings of the Olmec.



Olmec Society



- Little is known about the Olmec political structure; However, there appears to be a hierarchy of elites and commoners.
- The colossal heads of the Olmec are believed to memorialize past rulers and some of the heads are over 11 ft. (4 meters)
- Organization of collective labor by the Olmec elite benefited the commoners. A diverse diet was also common.
- It appears the Olmecs used elaborate religious rituals to control their complex society.



Olmec Religion



- Elevated platforms and mounds with carved stone veneers served as a backdrop for rituals.
- Rulers and their close kin came to be associated with the gods through bloodletting and human sacrifice.
- The Olmec were polytheistic and most of their deities had male and female traits. Jaguars, crocodiles, snakes, and sharks were common motifs and the ability to transform themselves into these creatures was believed.

Olmec Innovations



- Astrological observations and a form of writing that may have influenced later civilizations.
- Calendar used for ritual life and agriculture
- Ball game that became an enduring legacy of Mesoamerican ceremonial life



Olmec Decline



- Some Archeologists believe the Olmec were defeated by other groups while others believe the death of a leader perhaps led to their decline.
- Large artificial platforms and mounds of packed earth dominated Olmec urban centers and brought rural groups to these centers for religious purposes. Ritual sacrifice?
- Each major Olmec center was eventually abandoned , its monuments defaced, and its buildings destroyed.

The Maya



- Settled the Yucatan Peninsula of present-day Mexico
- Mayan ruins found throughout the area
- Not one unified empire → instead, a patchwork of city-states & kingdoms
 - But all city-states shared common language, culture, and so on
 - Like: Ancient Mesopotamia and Greece!



The Maya Area





Mayan Religion



- Religion = center of Mayan life
- Believed in 2 levels of existence: (1) the daily physical life they lived and (2) the “Otherworld,” a spiritual world of gods, the souls of ancestors, and other supernatural creatures
 - Actions on 1 level could affect things on the other level

Mayan Religion

- Mayan kings = BOTH political leaders AND spiritual leaders
 - Performed rituals and ceremonies to satisfy the gods
 - Huge temples and pyramids built where thousands could gather for special religious ceremonies and festivals

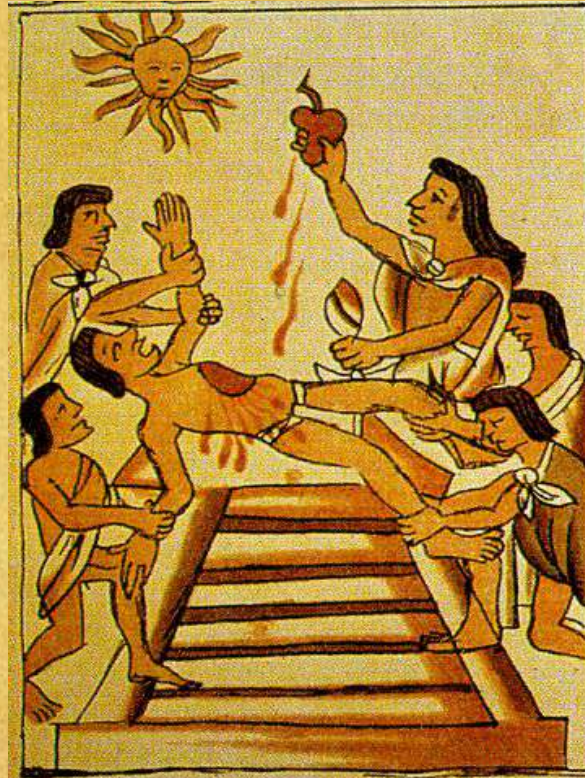
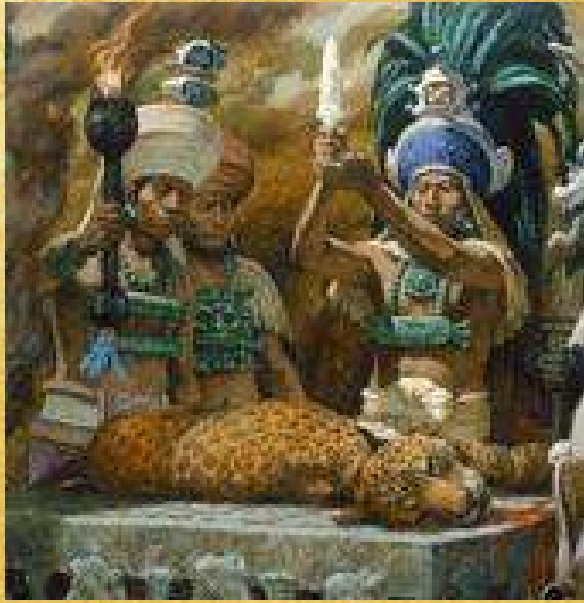


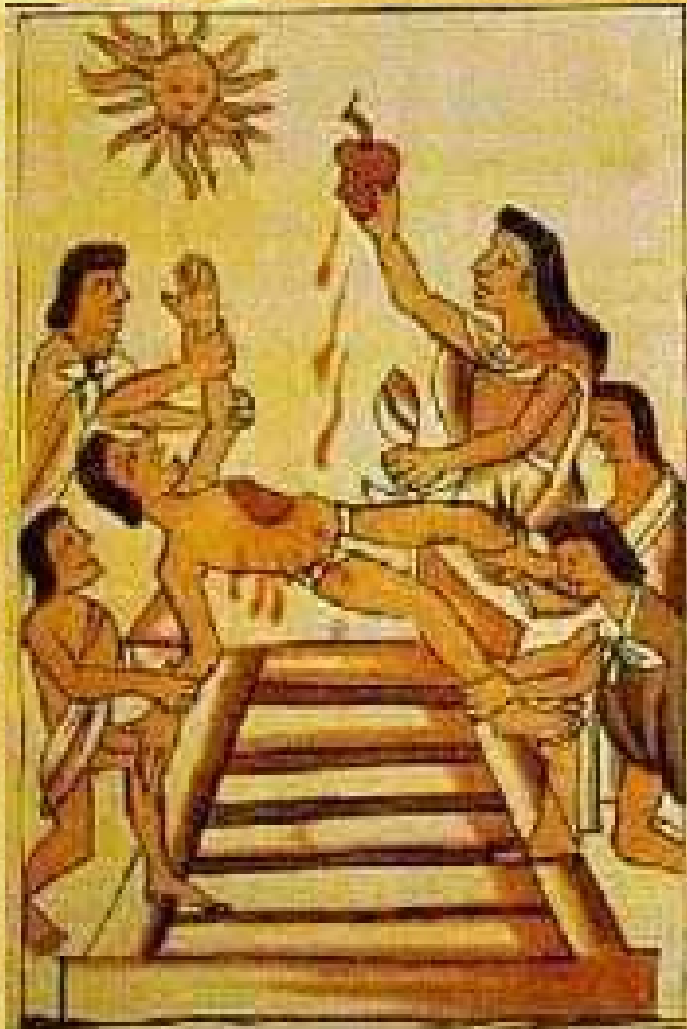


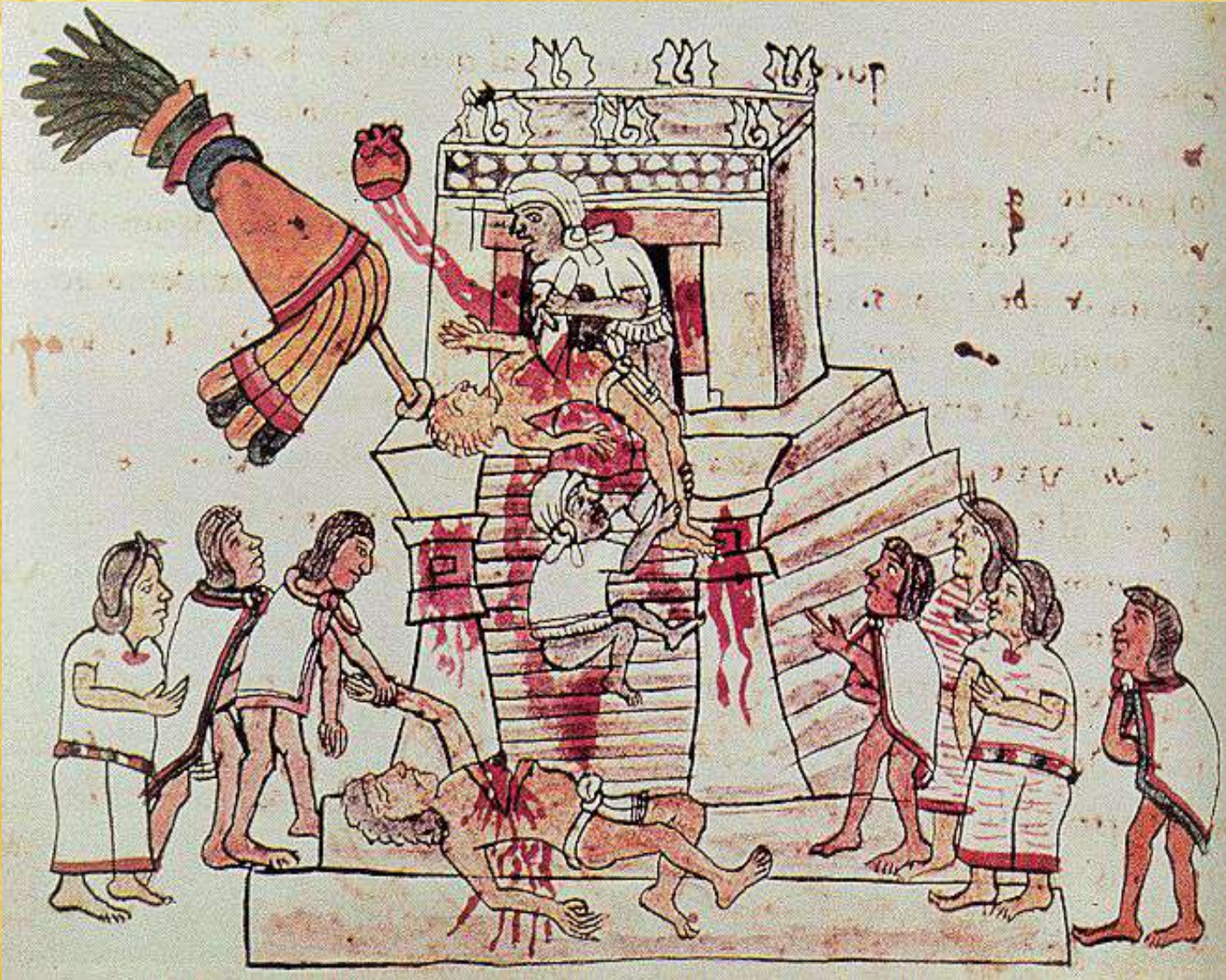


Mayan Religion

- Images on Mayan temples, sacred objects, and pottery = tell us a lot about their religion and their gods
- Human sacrifice and bloodletting rituals = HUGE part of religious ceremonies



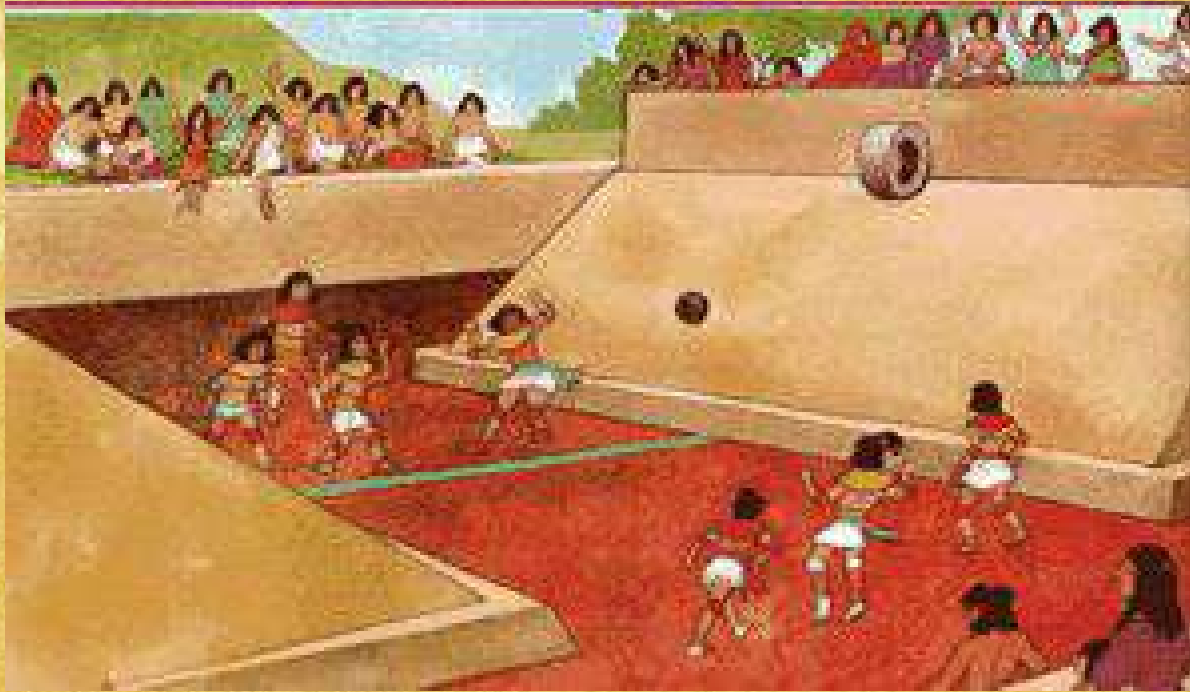






Mayan Religion

- Some ceremonies also included a ritual ball game = pok-a-tok → Rubber balls batted back and forth across a walled court
 - Symbolized back & forth struggle between this world and the next





Mayan Science



- Mayan priests = excellent mathematicians and astronomers
- Developed accurate calendars → used to predict eclipses, schedule religious ceremonies, and determine times to plant and harvest



Mayan Economy



- Economy = based on agriculture and trade
- Farmers grew: maize, beans, squash, pumpkins, chili peppers, tomatoes
- Farmers brought surplus crops to open markets → traded for cotton, jade, pottery, fish, deer meat, and salt



Mayan Economy

- Merchants traded throughout Mexico & Central America
 - Canoes used to trade along rivers
 - Goods carried by humans overland – no wheels yet; no large domesticated animals



Tikal

- Some of the larger temples attracted dense populations and evolved into genuine cities.
- Among them, Tikal was a wealthy and bustling city of 40,000.
- It had enormous paved plazas and numerous temples, pyramids, palaces, and public buildings and nearly 500,000 people lived in the region.







Mayan Writing

- One of the first Native American cultures to develop a writing system
- Only within the past 25 years have we made any breakthroughs in translating Mayan writing
- Maya recorded: genealogy of their kings & royal families, mythology, history, ritual practices, and trade



CHAN
'sky'



WINIK
'person'



WITZ
'mountain'



K'IN
'sun'



B'ALAM
'jaguar'



K'AK
'fire'



BAK
'bone'



WAY
'spirit'



JUUN
'book'



JA
'water'



AJAW
'lord'



MUYAL
'cloud'



IX
'woman'



CH'AM
'to grab'



K'UK
'quetzal'



CHAN
'snake'



CH'UL
'holy'



CHOK
'to scatter'



JAAB
'year'



YAX
'blue/green'



PAKAL
'shield'



TOK
'flint'



NAJ
'house'



K'AL
'twenty'





Collapse of the Maya



- Unclear as to why the Maya collapsed
- Political disunity?
- Agricultural breakdown → from warfare? From over-farming?
- Long-term drought?
- Malnutrition, sickness, famine, high death rates
- Probably a combination of all of these factors

Teotihuacán

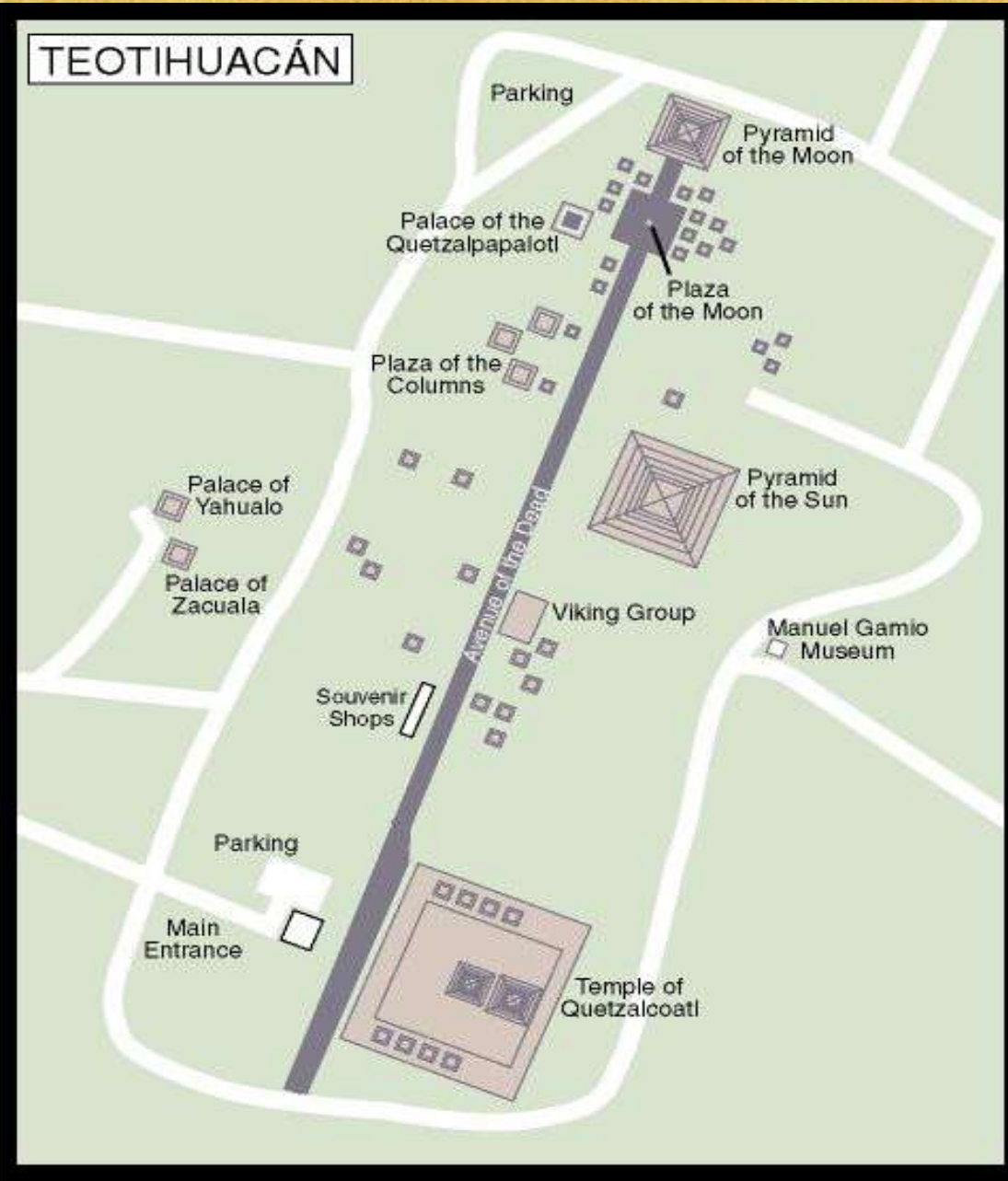




Teotihuacan

- Teotihuacan = northeast of present-day Mexico City
- Had about 200,000 people at its peak
- City laid out on a grid
- Found in excavations = 600 pyramids, 2000 apartment compounds, 500 workshop areas, and a huge marketplace

TEOTIHUACÁN







Teotihuacan

- Reason for collapse = unknown
- Probably declined when invaded by the **Toltec**

Civilizations of the Andes

- South America
- Along Pacific coast
- Andes themselves = towering mountain chain with many highland valleys





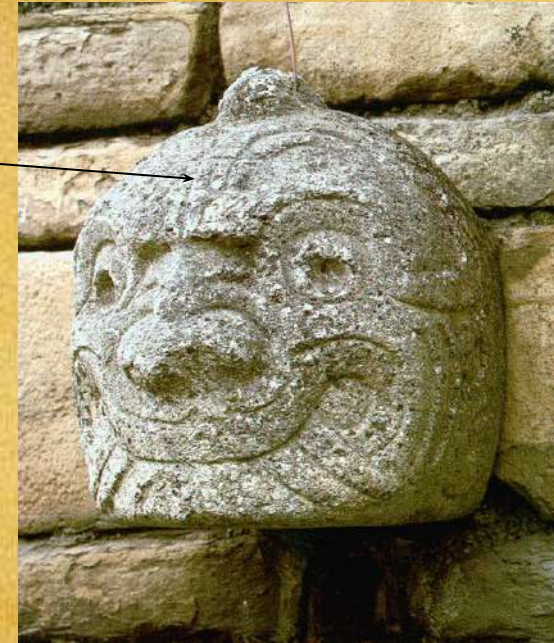
Chavin

- Village called Chavin de Huantar
- Became the focus of a religious movement that swept throughout the Andes region

Chavin Religion

- Major deities = represented jaguars, crocodiles, and snakes
 - All animals native to the Amazon basin
- Shamans (priests) = used hallucinogenic cactus to connect to the supernatural world
- Religious imagery seen on pottery, sculptures, temple walls, textiles, etc.

Carved figure of half-human, half-feline deity





Moche



- Dominated a 250-mile stretch of Peru's coast
- Incorporated 13 river valleys
- Grew maize, beans, squash, and cotton
- Fishermen harvested anchovies from the Pacific

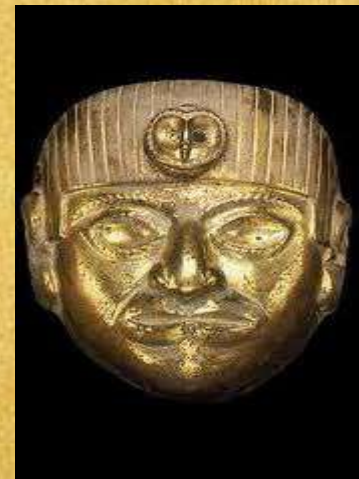
Moche Political System

- Governed by warrior-priests
 - Lived atop huge pyramids
 - Used hallucinogenic drugs to mediate between this world and that of the gods
 - Presided over sacrifice of human victims



Moche Artisans

- Metalworkers, potters, weavers, painters, etc.
- Face masks, animal figurines, and jewelry often plated in gold
- Images of daily life (of all classes) painted on ceramic pottery



Legacies of the Americas

- The civilizations of early China, Mesoamerica, and South America, were greatly shaped by their geographic locations and their developments in trade, innovative technologies, and their social organization reflected this.
- In Mesoamerica, the innovations of the Olmec may have helped to shape the cultures of the peoples of teotihuacan, Zapotec, the Maya, and much later the Aztec.
- In South America, the Andean terrain shaped the cultures in slightly different ways molding themselves from the varied topography and varies cultures like the Chavin, the Mochica, Huari, and much later the Inca.

North America

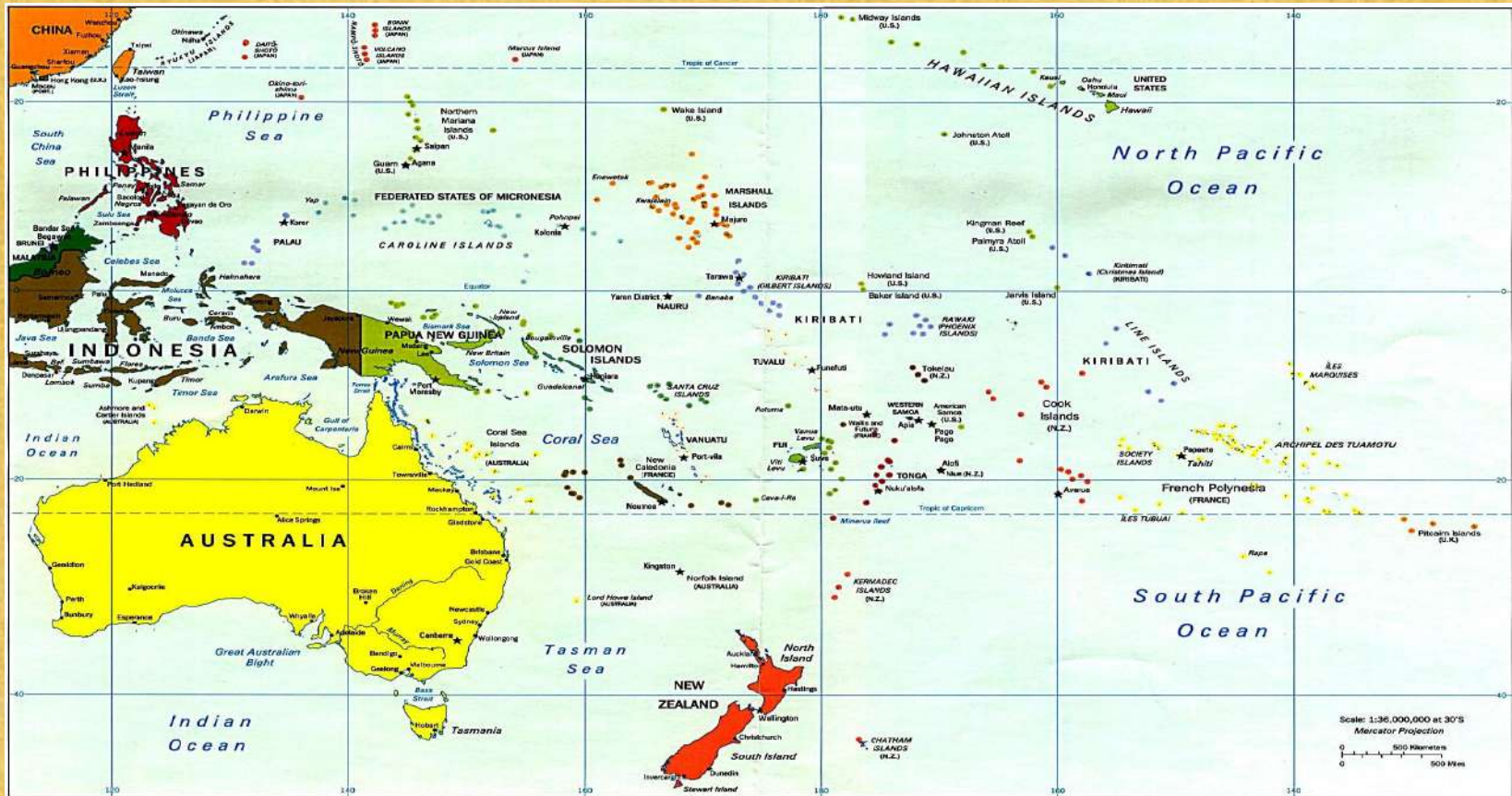


- In North America, the first developed towns in the Mississippi Valley would not appear until around 700 C.E. with the largest of these at Cahokia near modern-day St. Louis.
- Cahokia held a population of 10,000 and perhaps 40,000 lived in the region.
- A strong central authority existed and stratification of society but no written records remain.

The background is a textured, golden-brown color. In the top-left and top-right corners, there are faint, stylized floral or leaf-like patterns in a light yellow-green hue. The main text is centered and reads:

Early Societies of Oceania

Oceania





Early Societies in Oceania



- Human migrations entered Australia and New Guinea at least 60,000 years ago
- Approximately 5,000 years ago, trade started to emerge in SE Asia and Oceania
- Primarily hunter-gatherer societies with domestication taking place much later.
- Australia and New Guinea developed in different ways

The slide features a light beige background with a subtle floral pattern. Two large, stylized, light green floral motifs are positioned in the top-left and top-right corners, framing the title.

Early Societies in Australia

- Like hunting and gathering societies elsewhere, the Aboriginals lived in small, mobile communities.
- This practice of communal land and life would stay virtually intact until the arrival of the British in 1788.



Austronesian Peoples



- Like the Aboriginals of Australia, the peoples of New Guinea were primarily hunter gatherers.
- However, this would change with the introduction of peoples from SE Asia.
- Most of the peoples depended upon root crops and the herding of animals.
- Diffusion of culture from the peoples of SE Asia would as they would migrate from islands in the region.



The Peopling of the Pacific Islands

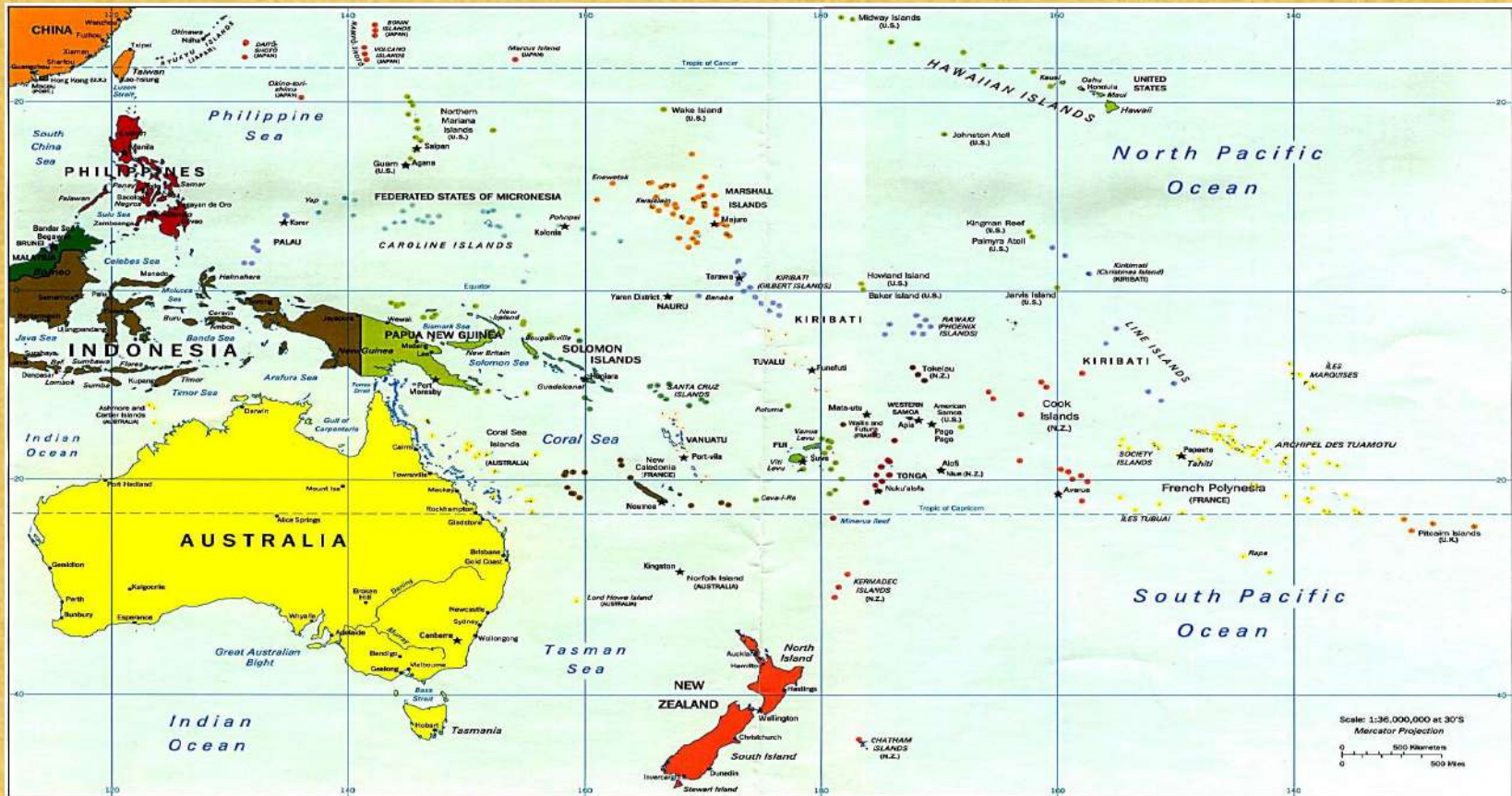
- Many ventured onto various islands during a time of low seas.
- Possessed a sophisticated maritime technology as well as agricultural expertise.
- Around 1500 BCE, Austronesian mariners had arrived to Vanuatu and New Caledonia and continued to migrate eastward in Oceania.
- Polynesian, Micronesian, and Melanesian societies develop differently over time.



Organizational Structures

- Chief-based societies
- Food allocation would be a primary limiting factor
- Inter-tribal conflict appears to have happened as a result of limited resources.
- Some societies developed in more aristocratic ways as populations were brought together under powerful leaders.

Oceania





Moving Toward Monotheism

Moving toward Monotheism



- Zoroastrianism = emerged in the Persian Empire around the 6th or 7th century BCE
- Followed the teachings of prophet named **Zoroaster**
 - Said there was a struggle between good and evil in the world
 - Ahura Mazda vs. Angra Mainyu
 - Humans caught in the middle of this struggle and had to choose sides
 - Humans who chose good would get eternal life
 - Humans who chose evil would get darkness & misery after death
 - Big emphasis on the free will of humankind

Zoroastrianism

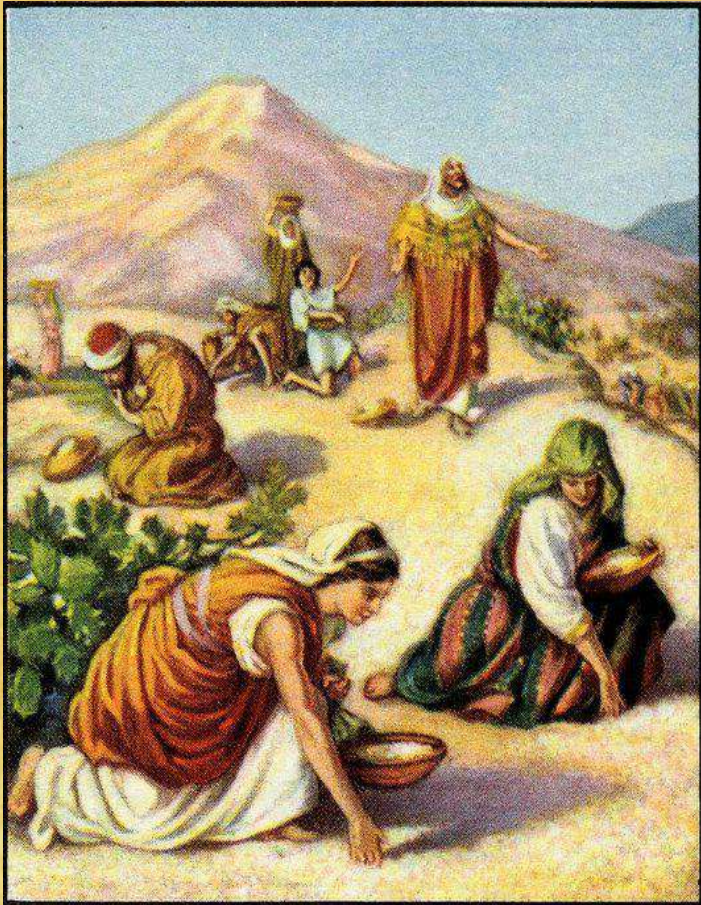
- Did not spread widely beyond the Middle East because it was not an active missionary religion
- Invasions of Alexander the Great devastated Zoroastrianism → temples destroyed, priests slaughtered, sacred writings burned
- Arrival of Islam in the Middle East also led to the final decline of Zoroastrianism



Zoroastrianism

- Elements that remain within Judaism and Christianity:
 - Good versus evil
 - God versus an evil counterpart
 - Idea of a last judgment & resurrected bodies
 - Belief in final defeat of evil
 - Arrival of a savior (Messiah)
 - Remaking of the world at the end of time

The Israelites



- Most cultures of the ancient world worshipped many gods
 - The Israelites (living in Canaan) = **monotheistic** = **belief in only 1 God**
 - Commands of God revealed by **prophets** = **holy messengers**
 - God called: Yahweh
 - Yahweh determined right & wrong and the people had to accept moral responsibility for their actions

The Israelites

- Teachings of the Israelites exist today as religion of Judaism
 - Shares many beliefs with Christianity and Islam



The Land of Canaan



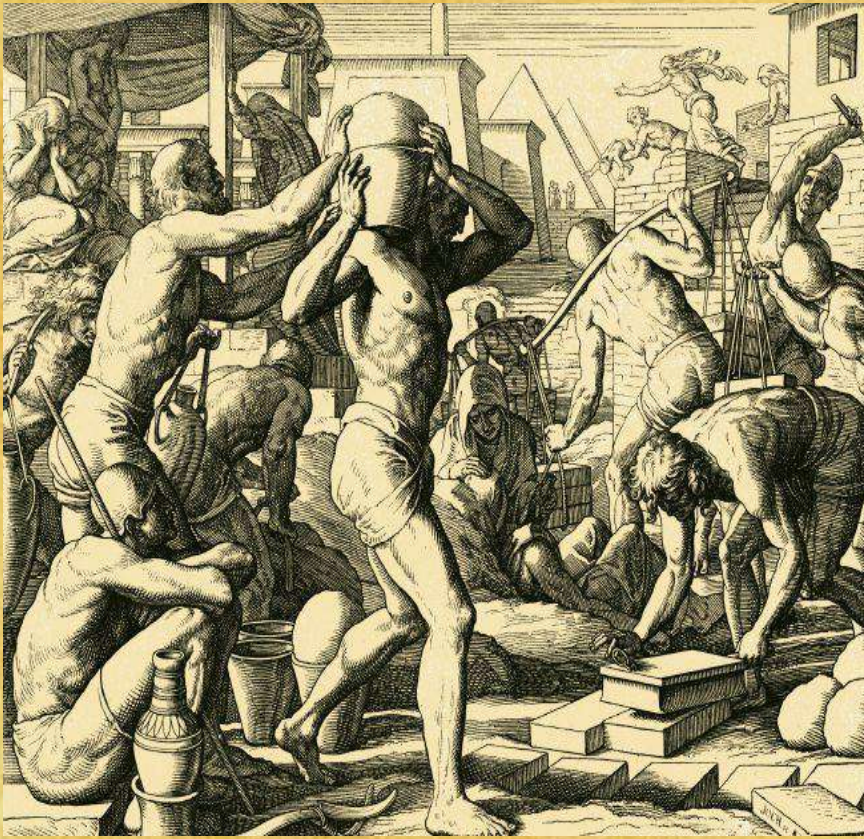
- Bible remains one of the main sources of ancient history in Fertile Crescent
 - Bible traces origins of the Israelites to Abraham = herder/trader from Ur in Mesopotamia
 - Says God made a **covenant** (agreement) with Abraham to make a great nation for the Hebrews
 - Traveled to Canaan --> shared land with Phoenicians & Philistines

The Land of Canaan

- Many people in Canaan lived as nomads herding sheep and goats
 - Usually wandered around valley of Jordan River = farming land



The Exodus from Egypt

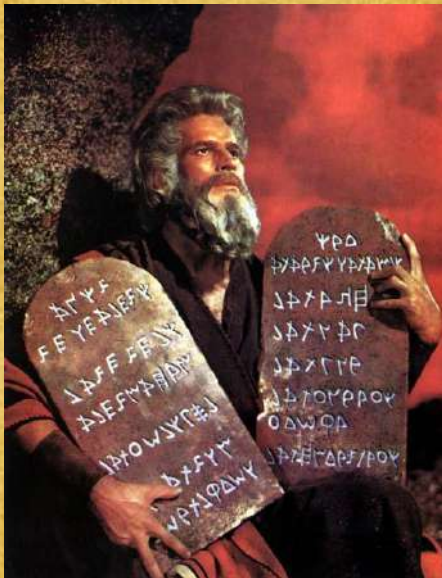


- Abraham's grandson Jacob raised 12 sons in Canaan
 - Each son led a separate tribe = family group
 - 12 tribes migrated to Egypt to escape famine --> eventually were enslaved by the Egyptians

The Exodus from Egypt



- Prophet Moses led the Israelites out of Egypt to the Sinai Desert in a mass **exodus** = departure
 - During the journey, God gave Moses the 10 commandments
 - Exodus story retold by Jewish people at Passover every year





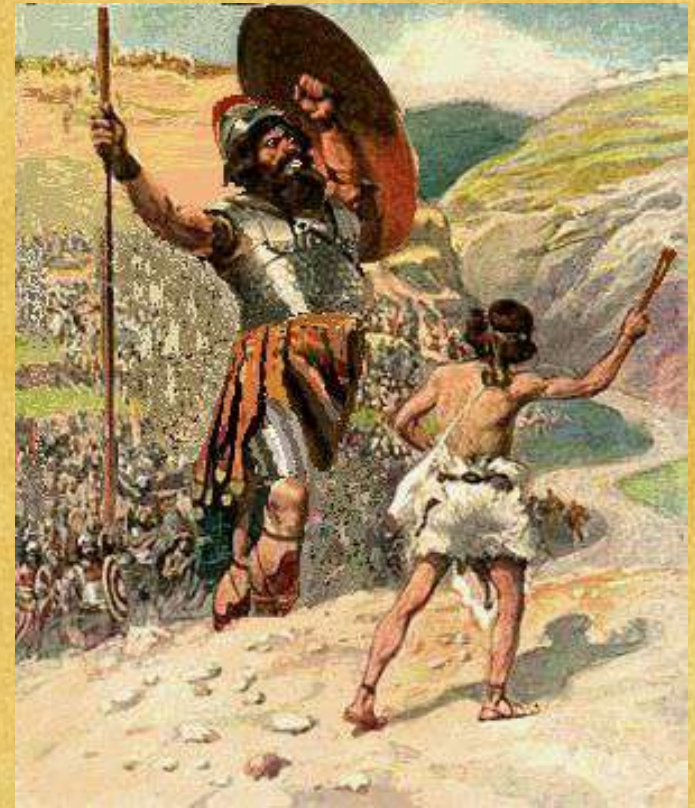
Settling the Land



- Moses died before arrival at Canaan --> successor, Joshua, led Israelites
- For 200 years = Israelites fought the Philistines for control of the land
- Lack of unity among the 12 tribes made fighting difficult
 - Continued warfare led tribes to unite under 1 king = Saul

Settling the Land

- Saul couldn't help them defeat Philistines & David took the throne
 - David was popular because he defeated the Philistine Goliath
 - David set up capital of **Jerusalem**
 - Set up a central government, enlarged the kingdom's borders, brought economic prosperity



Settling the Land

- David's son Solomon took over after him
 - Unpopular because he made high taxes to pay for new cities and temples
 - After his death, 10 northern tribes broke away from 2 southern tribes
 - Northern tribes kept the name Israel
 - Southern tribes took the name Judah



Exile and Return



- 2 kingdoms were too weak to resist invaders
- 722 BCE = Assyrians (from Mesopotamia) conquered Israel
- 586 BCE = Chaldeans (from Mesopotamia) gained control of Judah



Exile and Return

- Israelites were enslaved and exiled to Babylon
- During this time, the Jews had no temple so they met on the holy day of rest together for study and prayer
 - Rise of synagogues developed from these gatherings



Exile and Return

- 539 BCE = Persians conquered the Chaldeans
 - Persian king allowed the Jews to return to Judah and to rebuild the temple

Exile and Return



- 400s BCE = Jewish holy writings organized into the **Torah = made up the first 5 books of the Bible**
- Since this time, Jewish communities have existed outside their homeland = called Jewish **Diaspora**



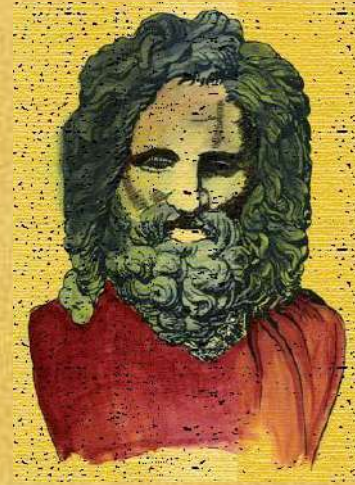
A Lasting Legacy



- Jews recorded their history & examined it for meaning
- Prophets recorded their teachings
- Jewish religious beliefs & principles helped shape Christianity in the future

Recap of Religion in Ancient Rome

- Early Romans worshipped nature spirits
- Romans then adopted Greek religion and gave gods Roman names
- Under Augustus: people expected to honor the emperor as Rome's chief priest



Jupiter



Minerva

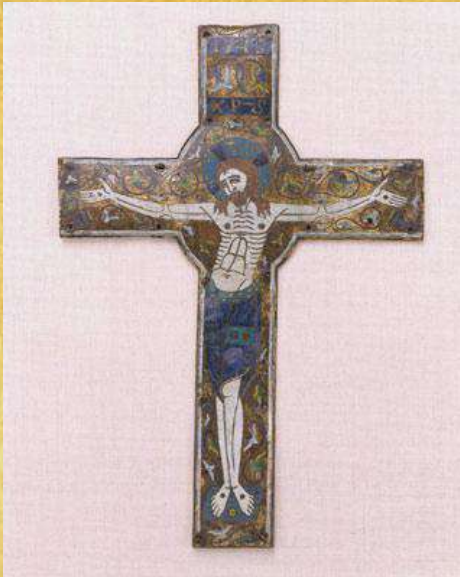


Bacchus

Recap of Religion in Ancient Rome



- But empire's people allowed to worship freely
- Many religions existed in the Roman Empire
- Some Jews began practicing a new religion called Christianity
 - Considered a **sect** (group) within Judaism at first
 - Became a separate religion



Judaism & the Empire

- 6 CE = Augustus turned kingdom of Judah into Roman province of Judea
- Jews in Judea allowed to practice their religion, but treated very cruelly
 - They hoped a **messiah** = **deliverer chosen by god** = would help them regain their freedom



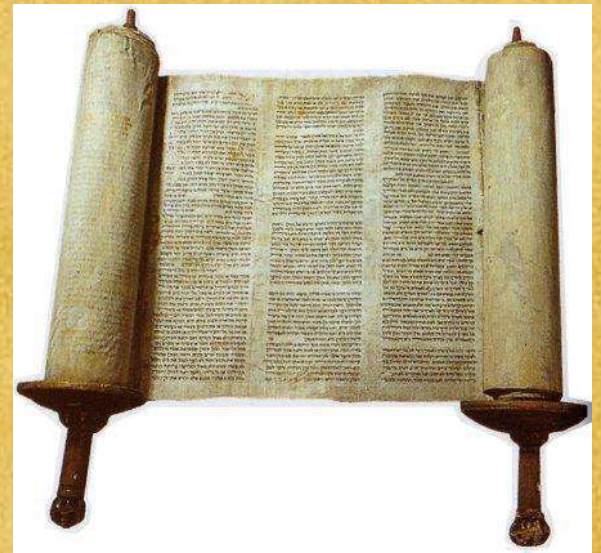
Judaism & the Empire



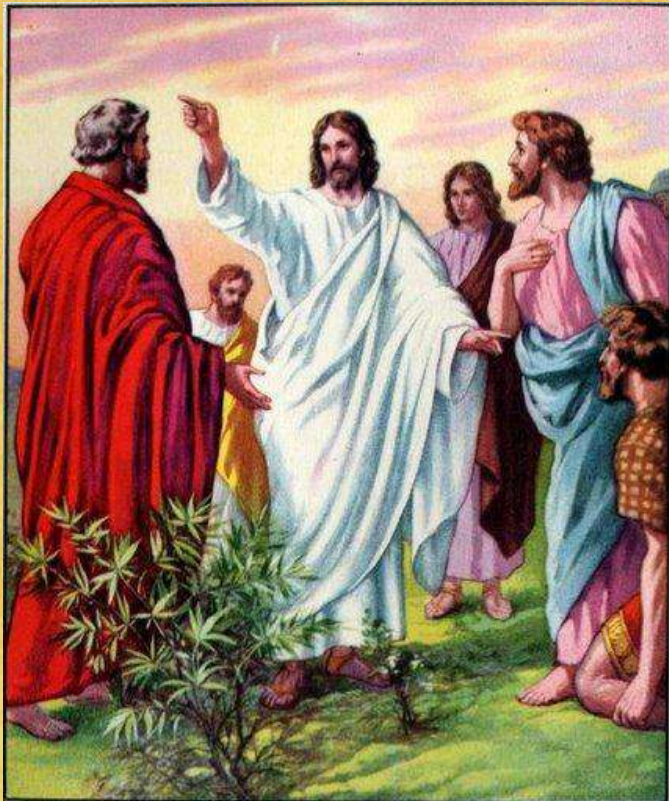
- 66 CE = Jews rebelled against Romans & took over Jerusalem
 - 4 years later = Romans retook Jerusalem, destroyed the Temple, and killed thousands of Jews
 - Romans banned the Jews from living in Jerusalem

Judaism & the Empire

- Jews continued to study the Torah in scattered communities throughout the Middle East
- Jews set up yeshivas = special schools to train rabbis
- Rabbis created the Talmud = important book of Jewish law



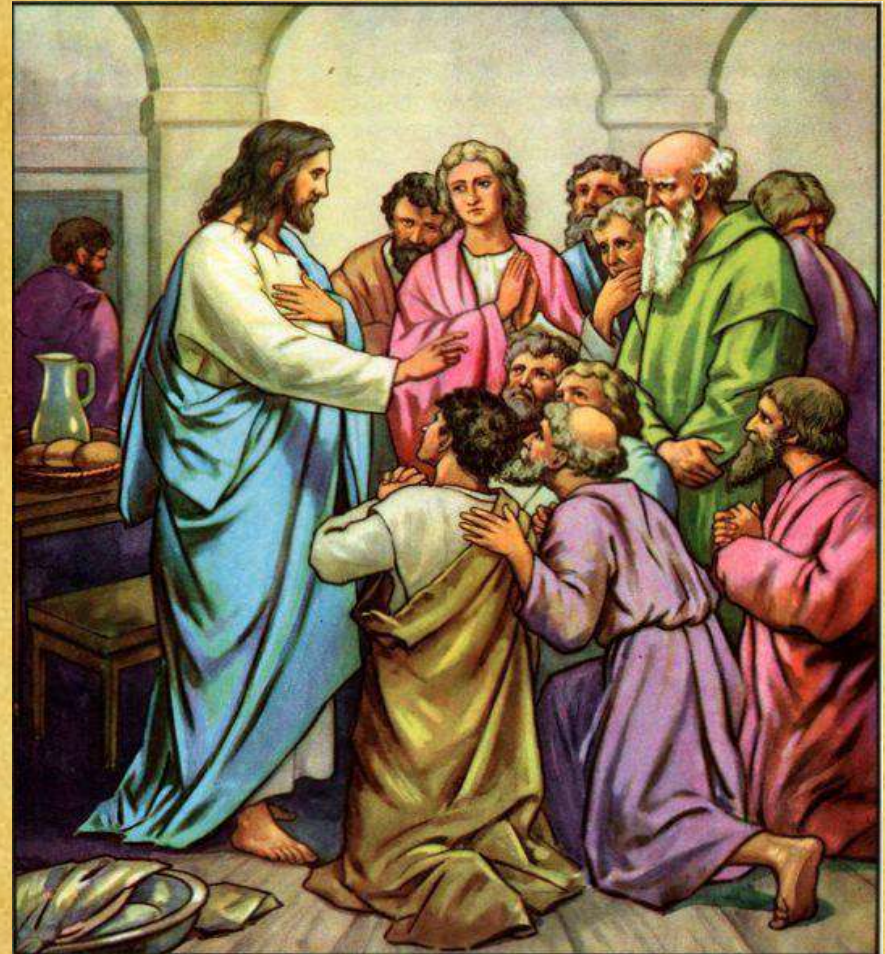
Jesus of Nazareth



- Jesus preached a new message to his fellow Jews
 - Traveled throughout Galilee and Judea
 - Gained **disciples** = followers
 - Said God was loving and forgiving
 - Often used parables = symbolic stories

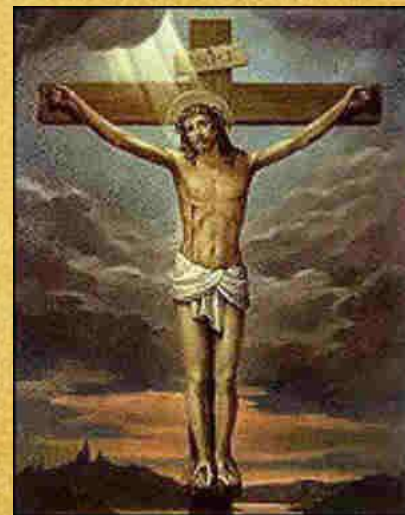
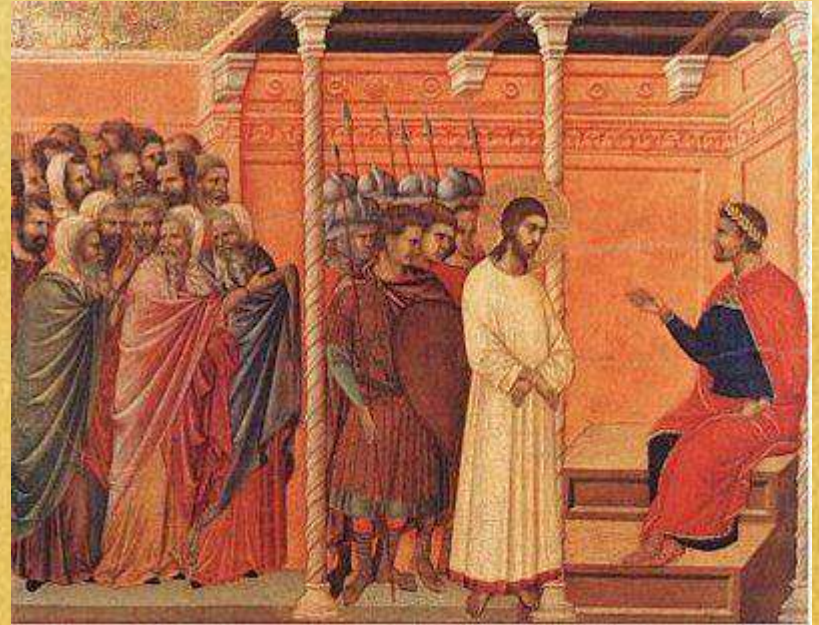
Jesus of Nazareth

- Disciples believed Jesus was the Messiah
 - Other Jews disputed this – believed the Messiah had not come yet

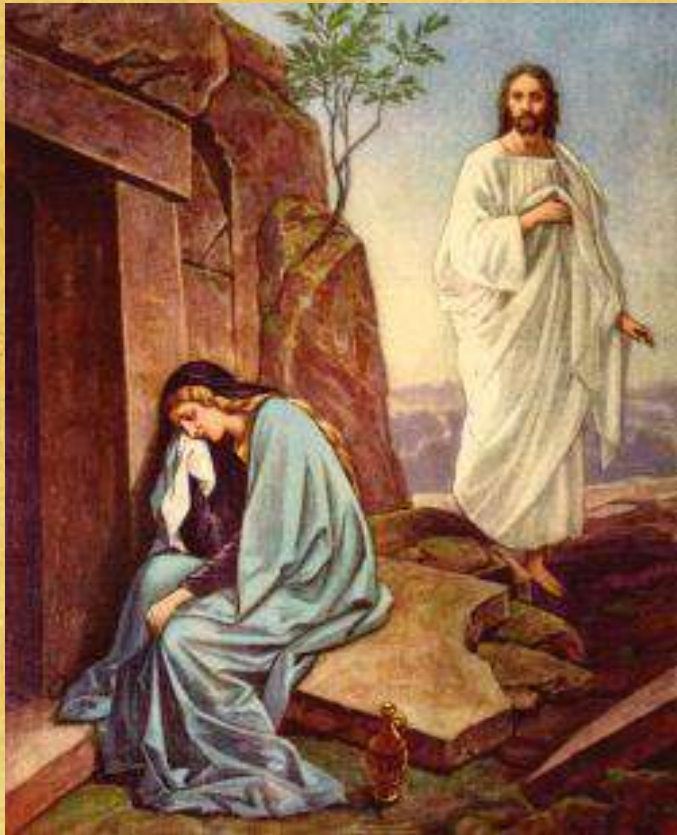


Jesus of Nazareth

- Roman officials were troubled by the controversy over Jesus
 - Roman governor Pontius Pilate arrested Jesus & ordered that he be crucified



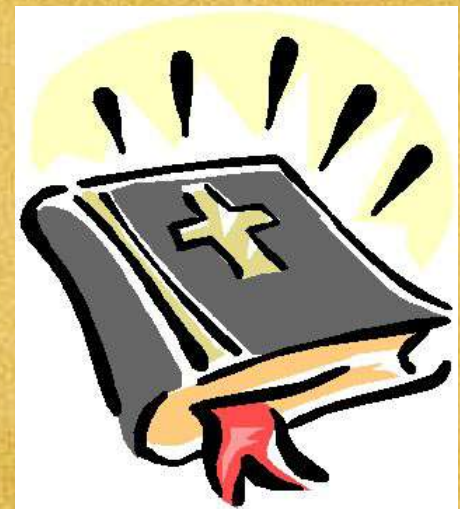
The Spread of Christianity



- After Jesus' death, his disciples said he had risen from the dead
- They began preaching that Jesus was the Son of God
 - Those who accepted this message = called Christians
 - Christians formed own churches for worship, fellowship, and instruction

The Spread of Christianity

- **Paul** = helped spread Christianity → especially to non-Jews
 - Traveled all over and wrote letters about this new religion
 - Letters along with the 4 Gospels (stories about Jesus) = combined with writings of other Christian leaders to form New Testament of the Bible





The Spread of Christianity

- Apostles = Christian missionaries that spread Christianity in Roman world
 - **Peter** = leader of the apostles → founded a church in Rome



Persecution & Competition

- Christians refused to honor the Roman emperor as a god & rejected military service --> many Romans accused them of treason
- Christians seen as causing trouble could be killed
- Christian **martyrs = people who died for their beliefs** - were often killed by wild beasts in front of cheering crowds



Persecution & Competition

- Problems for Christians:
 1. Hard to get followers because followers often persecuted
 2. Had to compete with other polytheistic & mythical religions, as well as Judaism, for followers

- Mainly a religion of the cities (so was Judaism)
 - Traditional Roman religion = had a stronghold in the countryside

Romans Adopt Christianity



- **Constantine** = Roman emperor who believed the Christian God had helped him win a battle
 - Became protector of Christianity
 - Issued the Edict of Milan = said all groups were free to worship as they pleased
- Christianity increased in size & influence

Romans Adopt Christianity

- 392 CE = **Theodosius** made Christianity the official religion of the Roman Empire
 - He banned all other religions



The Early Church



- Christians felt that teachings had to be stated clearly to avoid differences in opinion that might divide the church
- Church Fathers wrote books explaining Christian teachings

Church Structure



- Church was organized into a hierarchy with levels of authority
 1. Parishes = local gatherings of Christians led by priests
 2. Diocese = several parishes grouped together
 - **Bishop** = leader of the diocese
 - **Patriarchs** = bishops of the 5 leading cities = Rome, Constantinople, Alexandria, Antioch, Jerusalem
 - Bishop of Rome claimed authority over all other bishops --> he became the **Pope** = head of Roman Catholic Church




Church Structure



- With the Pope came a split in Christianity
- Churches in the western part of Roman Empire became known as the Roman Catholic Church
 - Latin-speaking churches -- Believed in the Pope
- Churches in the eastern part of the Roman Empire became known as the Eastern Orthodox Church
 - Greek-speaking churches -- didn't believe in the authority of the Pope

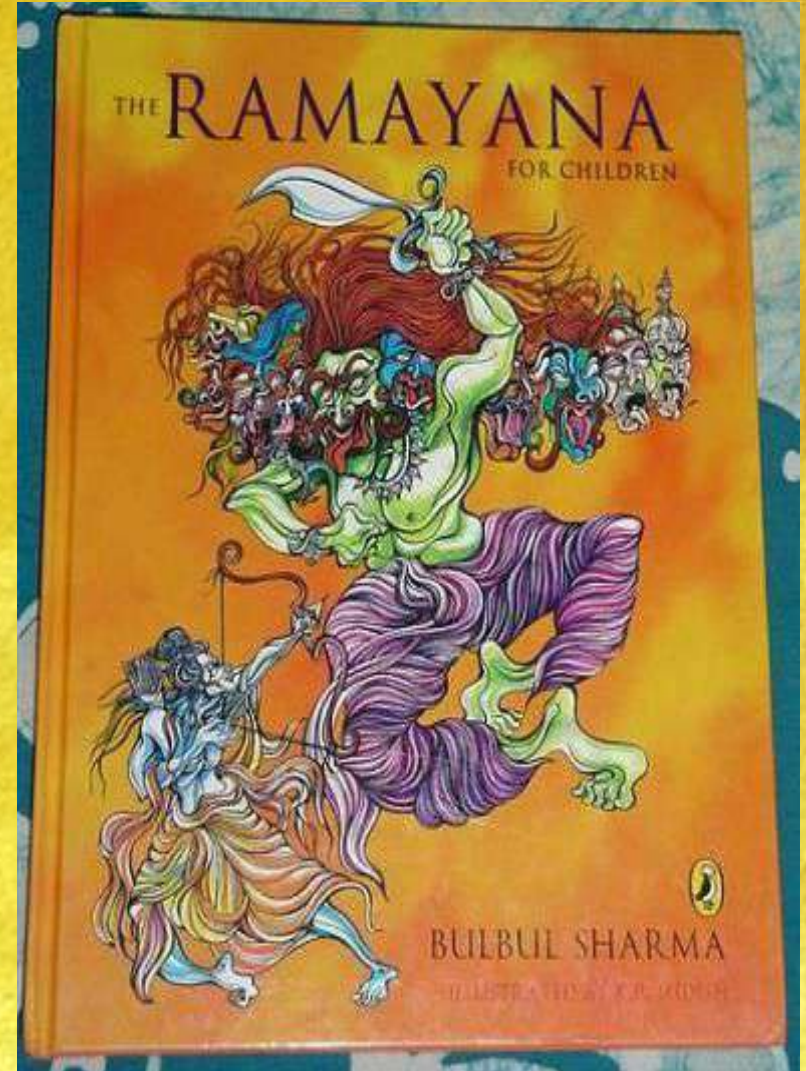


Eurasian Cultural Traditions
500 BCE to 500 CE
Chapter 5



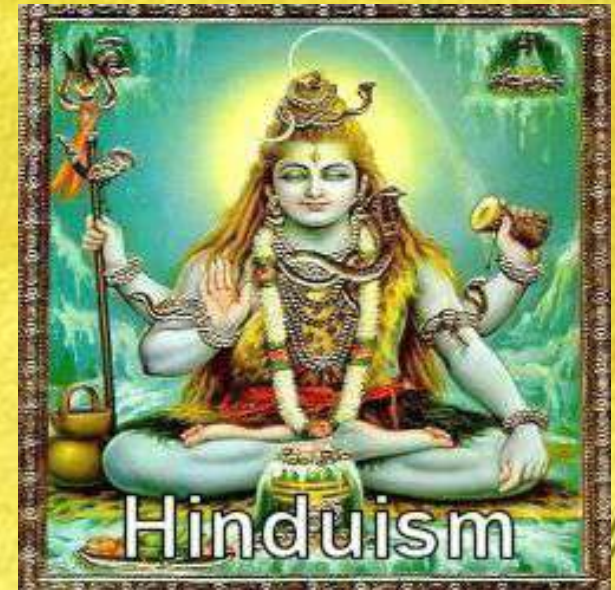
Language & Traditions

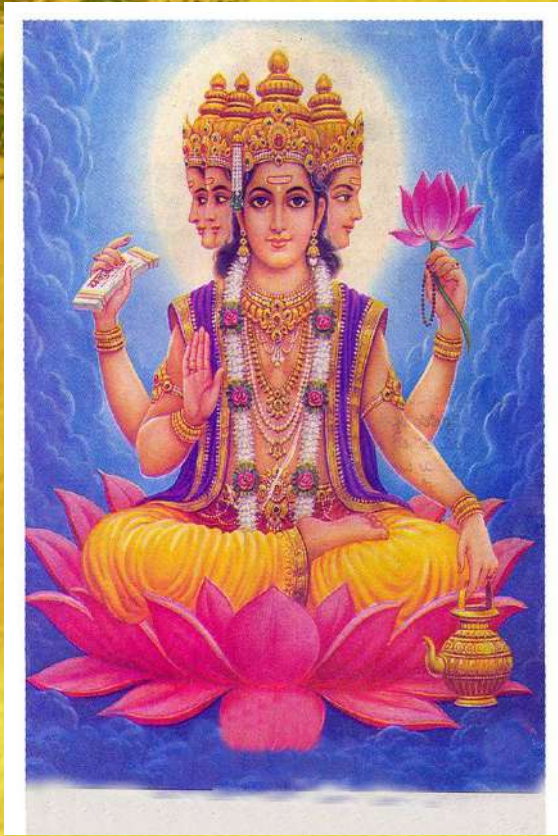
- Traditions were passed down verbally for centuries because there was no written language
- People sang songs & recited **epics = long poems celebrating their heroes**
- Texts eventually written down in Sanskrit



Hinduism

- Many deities
- Based on different beliefs & practices -- not founded by one person
- Doesn't have one, single holy book
- 3 gods are most important = Brahma (creator), Vishnu (preserver), and Siva (destroyer)





Brahma = Creator

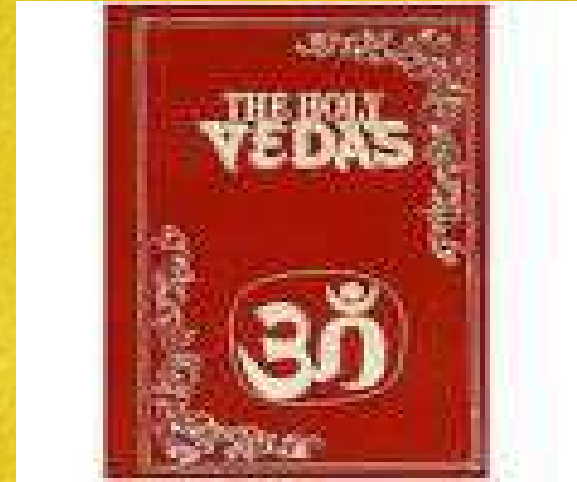
Vishnu = Preserver



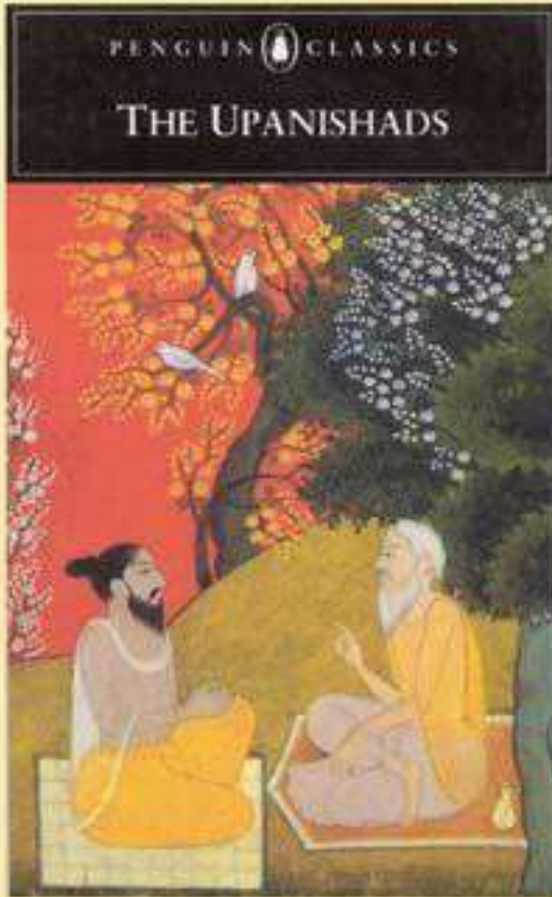
Siva = Destroyer

The Vedas

- Priests called *Brahmins* collected hymns, poems, prayers, and rituals into holy books known as *Vedas*
- Brahmins performed rituals and sacrifices, which gave them power and wealth



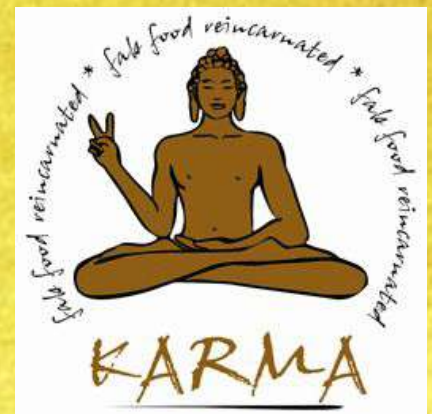
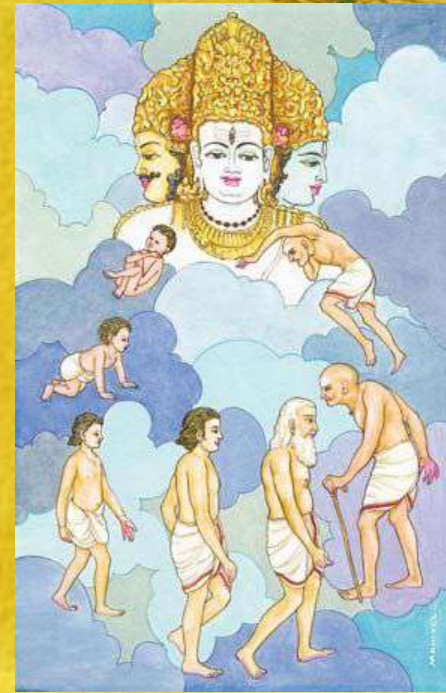
The Upanishads



- Upanishads = religious writings compiled by anonymous thinkers
 - All humans have a soul = the *atman*
 - All souls are part of 1 eternal & universal spirit = *Brahman*
 - Goal in life = union with the *Brahman* = liberation or moksha

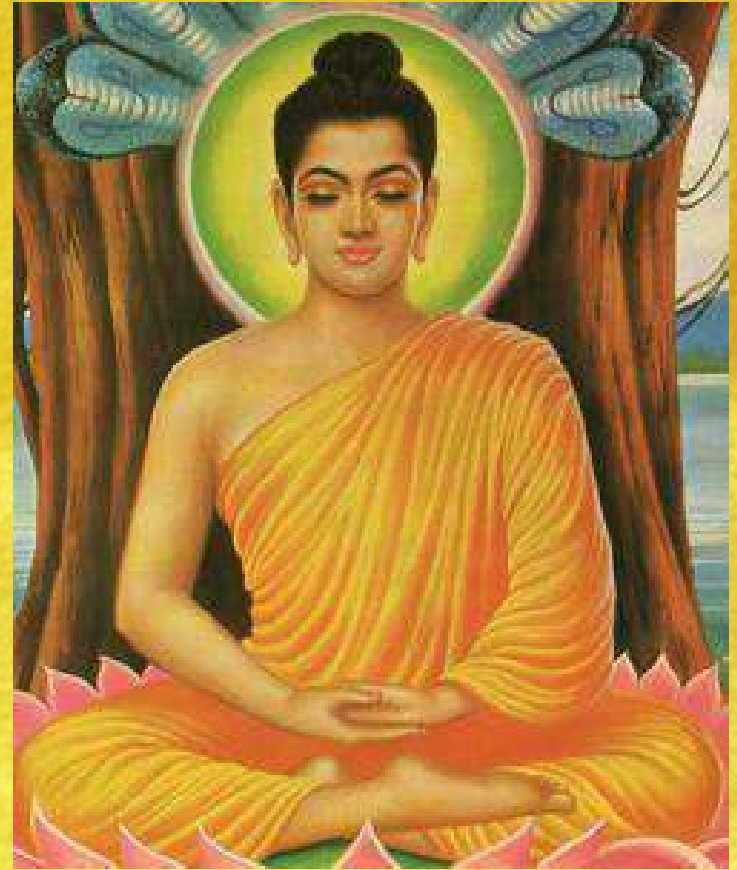
Cycle of Rebirth

- Believed in **samsara** = reincarnation/rebirth of the soul
- Soul passes through many lifetimes and continues until spiritual liberation = **moksha**
- **Karma** = how a person lives in this life determines what form the person will take in the next life
- Liberation achieved through a life of prayer, strict self-denial, and rejection of all worldly possessions



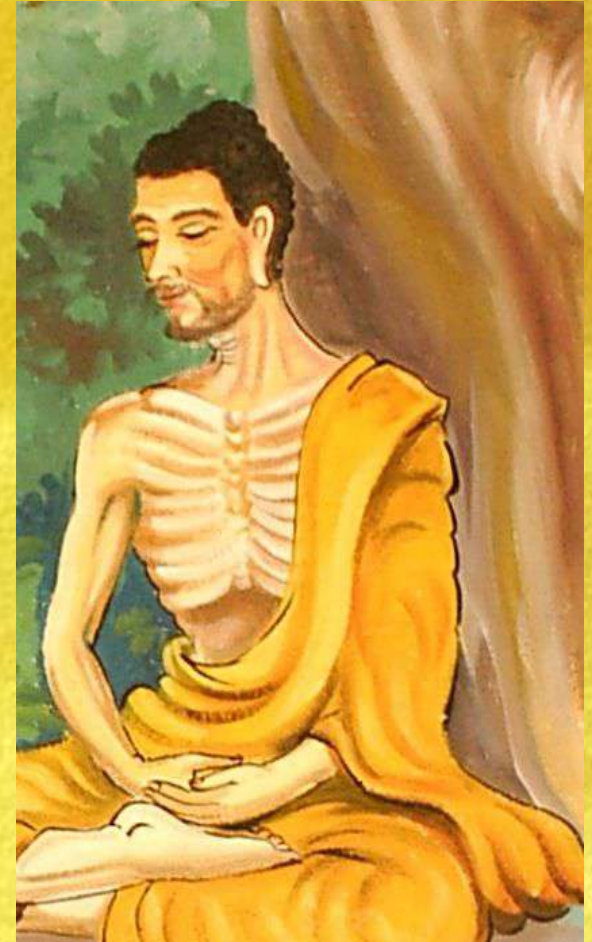
Buddhism

- Founder = Siddhartha Gautama
 - Prince from northern India
 - Lived a sheltered and luxurious life
 - Asked his charioteer to drive him around the city outside of the palace walls
 - Was shocked to see the violence, old age, sickness, disease, and hardship that existed



Siddhartha Gautama

- Set out on a 6-year quest to find spiritual enlightenment and an answer to why this suffering existed
- Taught what he learned --> his followers renamed him the Buddha = the Enlightened One




Four Noble Truths



1. All people suffer and know sorrow.
2. People suffer because they desire.
3. People can end their suffering by eliminating their desires.
4. People can eliminate their desires by following the Eight-Fold Path.



Eight-Fold Path

1. Know the truth
 2. Resist evil
 3. Say nothing to hurt others
 4. Respect life
 5. Work for the good of others
 6. Free your mind of evil
 7. Control your thoughts
 8. Practice meditation
- 

Nirvana




- Following this path would lead to **nirvana** = state of enlightenment
- Not a place (like Heaven)
- State of peace and serenity



Buddhism vs. Hinduism

Similarities

- Karma
 - Rebirth/reincarnation
 - Practice of meditation
 - Final release from cycle of rebirth
- 




Buddhism vs. Hinduism Differences

- Buddhism rejects:
 - Religious authority of Hindu Brahmins
 - Hindu caste system
 - Hindu deities




Buddhism: Different Expressions

- Theravada Buddhism = believe the Buddha is a wise teacher and model, but he isn't divine
 - A philosophy, not a religion
 - Mahayana Buddhism = Buddha became a god who postponed his own entry into nirvana to help others
 - Means the reincarnation of future Buddhas
 - A religion, not a philosophy
- 




Buddhism's Decline in India

- Wealth of Buddhist monasteries and leading monks separated them from ordinary people
 - Competition from Islam after 1000 CE
 - People turned toward more popular form of Hinduism
- 



New Wave of Hinduism

- More focus on individual action as a means of achieving spiritual liberation
 - Less emphasis on rituals and sacrifices made by the Brahmins
 - Stressed devotion to one of the gods/goddesses
- 

Bhakti (Worship) Movement

- Intense adoration of and identification with a particular deity
- Resulted in many bhakti cults

