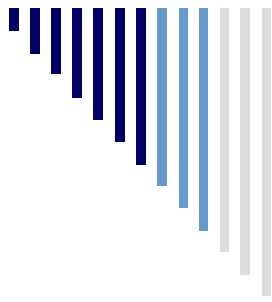


# RIVER VALLEY CIVILIZATIONS





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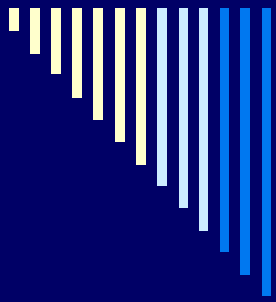
## QUESTIONS TO KEEP IN MIND:

- ☐ How did geography impact the first civilizations?
  - ☐ How did changes in the Neolithic Revolution lead to the development of River Valley Civilizations?
-



# KEY VOCABULARY

- **Civilization** – form of culture in which some people live in cities and have complex social institutions, use some form of writing, and are skilled in science, art, and technology
- **Empire** – group of territories or nations ruled by a single ruler or government
- **Theocracy** – government headed by religious leaders or a leader regarded as a god
- **Polytheistic** – belief in many gods
- **Monotheistic** – belief in only one god

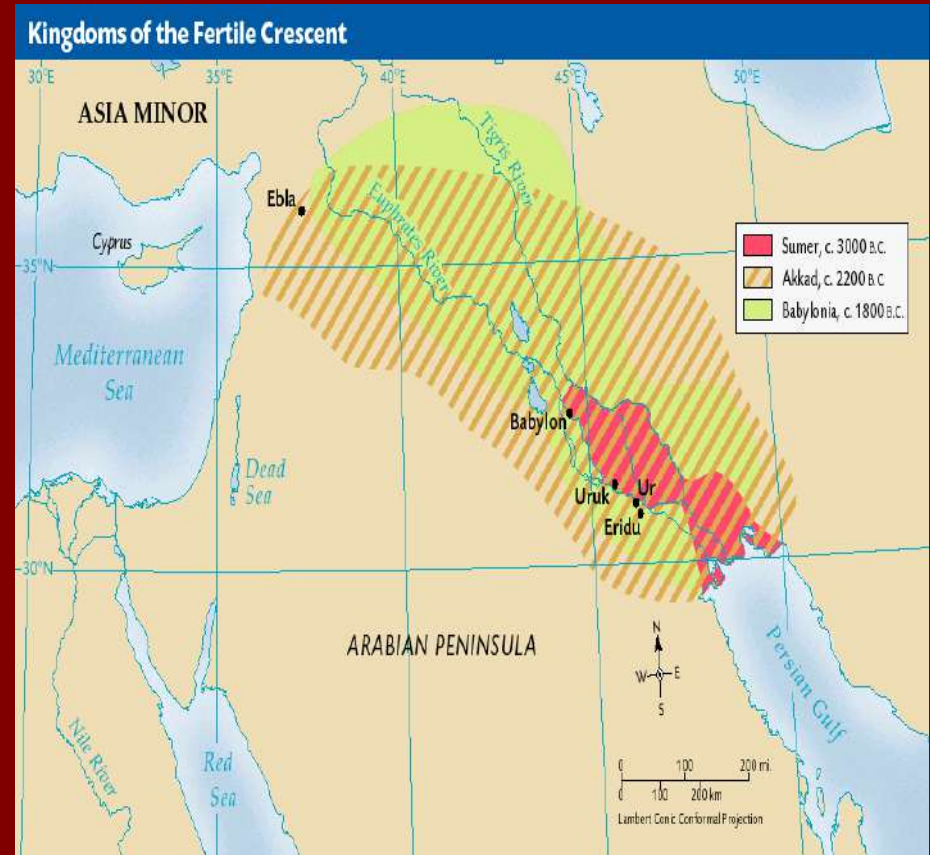


# THE RISE OF CIVILIZATION

- Arose in 4 separate river valleys around 3500 B.C.
- Fertile soil, mild climate, waterway for transportation, water for crops & drinking
- Provided for abundant crops and food surpluses

# MESOPOTAMIA (3500 B.C.E.-1700 B.C.E.)

- The Land between the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers
  - Also called The Fertile Crescent
  - First civilization was SUMER





Discovery  
EDUCATION

# GOVERNMENT

- City-states
- Each had its own ruler (also head of religion – theocracy)
- Were eventually united under single rulers
- King Hammurabi created the first written law code
  - Pertained to all aspects of life
  - Did not apply to all people equally



# ECONOMY

- Farming – basis for economy
  - Grew grains, vegetables, dates, flax
  - Domesticated sheep, goats, cows, oxen, and donkeys
- Evidence shows they traded with other civilizations
  - Merchants
  - artisans





# RELIGION

- King was the head of the religion, as well as the government
- Each city-state had its own chief deity
- Like most ancient religions, Sumer was polytheistic (believed in as many as 2000 gods)
- Built amazing temples (ziggurats) to honor gods)



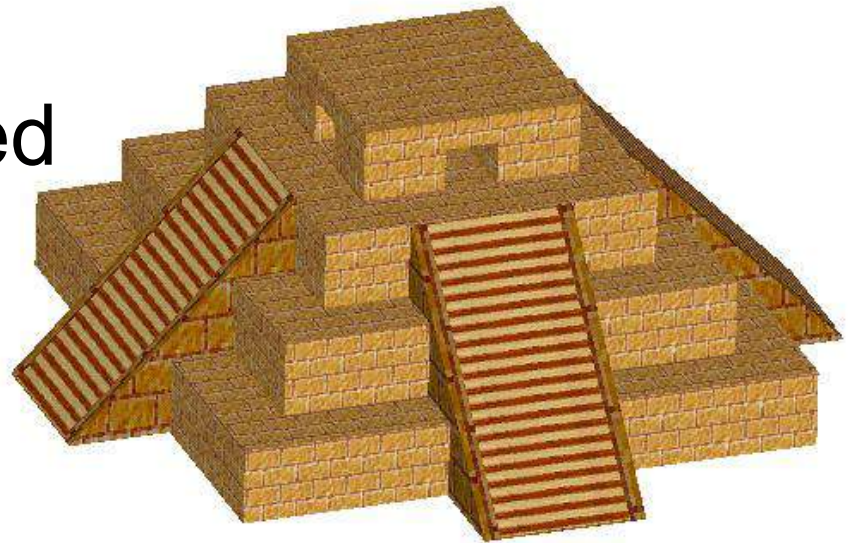
# SOCIETY

- Three social classes
  - King and nobles
  - Merchants and artisans
  - Peasants and slaves
- Women had few legal rights in Sumerian society



# INNOVATIONS (Technology)

- Developed the first writing – cuneiform
- Built clay brick structures – ziggurats (temples)
- Developed the arch, ramps, sewers, and the wheel
- Number system based on 60 and algebra
- Had a lunar calendar

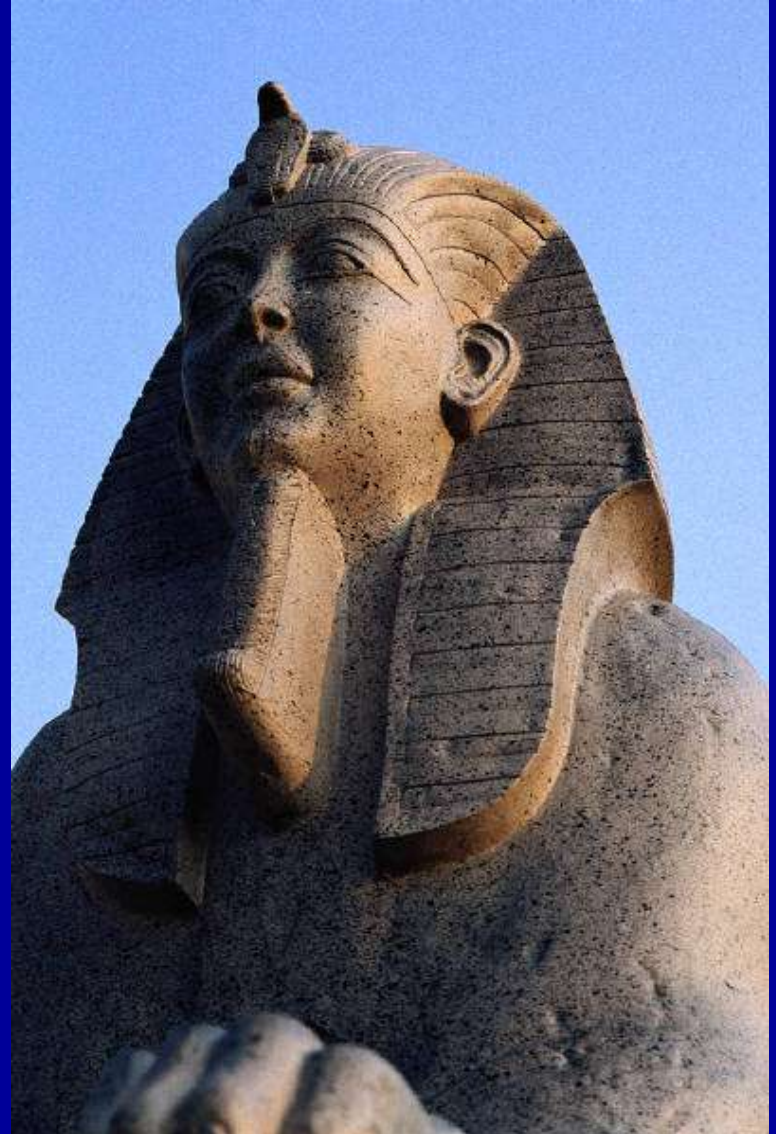


# Assignment:

- Write a summary on your Cornell notes
- Begin your comparison chart of ancient civilizations
- Reading assignment for homework
  - The Fertile Crescent

# ANCIENT EGYPT

- Gift of the Nile





# GEOGRAPHY

- Located in the Nile River Valley in North Africa
- Fertile soil
- Yearly floods
- Building resources
- Natural protection from invasion



# POLITICS

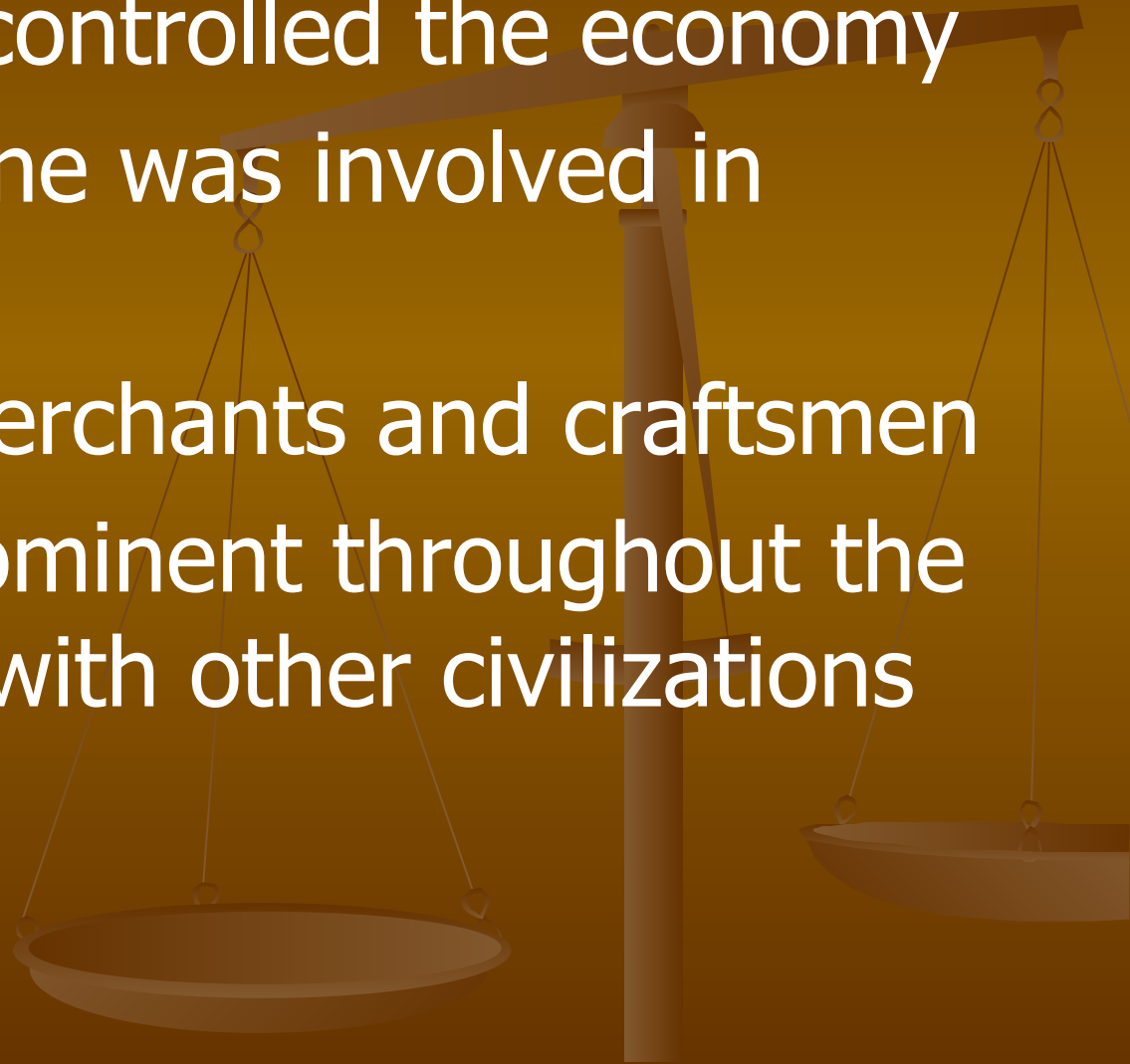
- Ruled by dynasties (ruling families)
- King was called “pharaoh”, (monarchy)
  - Controlled army & defended Egypt from invasion
  - Owned all the land and made all the laws
- Eventually created empires by uniting sections of Egypt
- There were even some women pharaohs (Hatshepsut was the 1<sup>st</sup> woman ruler in the





# ECONOMY

- The pharaoh controlled the economy
- Nearly everyone was involved in agriculture
- Some were merchants and craftsmen
- Trade was prominent throughout the kingdom and with other civilizations



# RELIGION

- Polytheistic
- Believed in a specific afterlife
- Mummified bodies
- Believed pharaoh was a “god-king”



# SOCIETY

- Pharaoh was at the center of Egyptian society
- Social classes
  - Ruling family and nobility (including priests and scribes)
  - Farmers, merchants, artisans, warriors
  - Peasants & Slaves
- Women had some legal rights, but were still considered less than equal to men

# INNOVATIONS

- Number system based on 10, as well as geometry
- Great astronomers
- Excellent irrigation systems
- Mummification
- Hieroglyphic writing



# THE ARTS

- *Built huge temples and pyramids*
- *Sphinx, obelisks*
- *Decorated tombs and temples with drawings and hieroglyphics that recorded history and depicted everyday life, as well as the pharaohs and their families*



# Assignment

- Write a summary on your Cornell notes for Egypt
- Add to your PERSIA Chart
- Reading for homework – Egypt
  - Reading Quiz on Tuesday



Observe the picture

Look at all the Parts

Think of a Title  
(write it down)

What can you Infer?  
(write it down)

Write your Conclusion

# INDUS RIVER VALLEY

The Harappan Civilization



# **GEOGRAPHY**

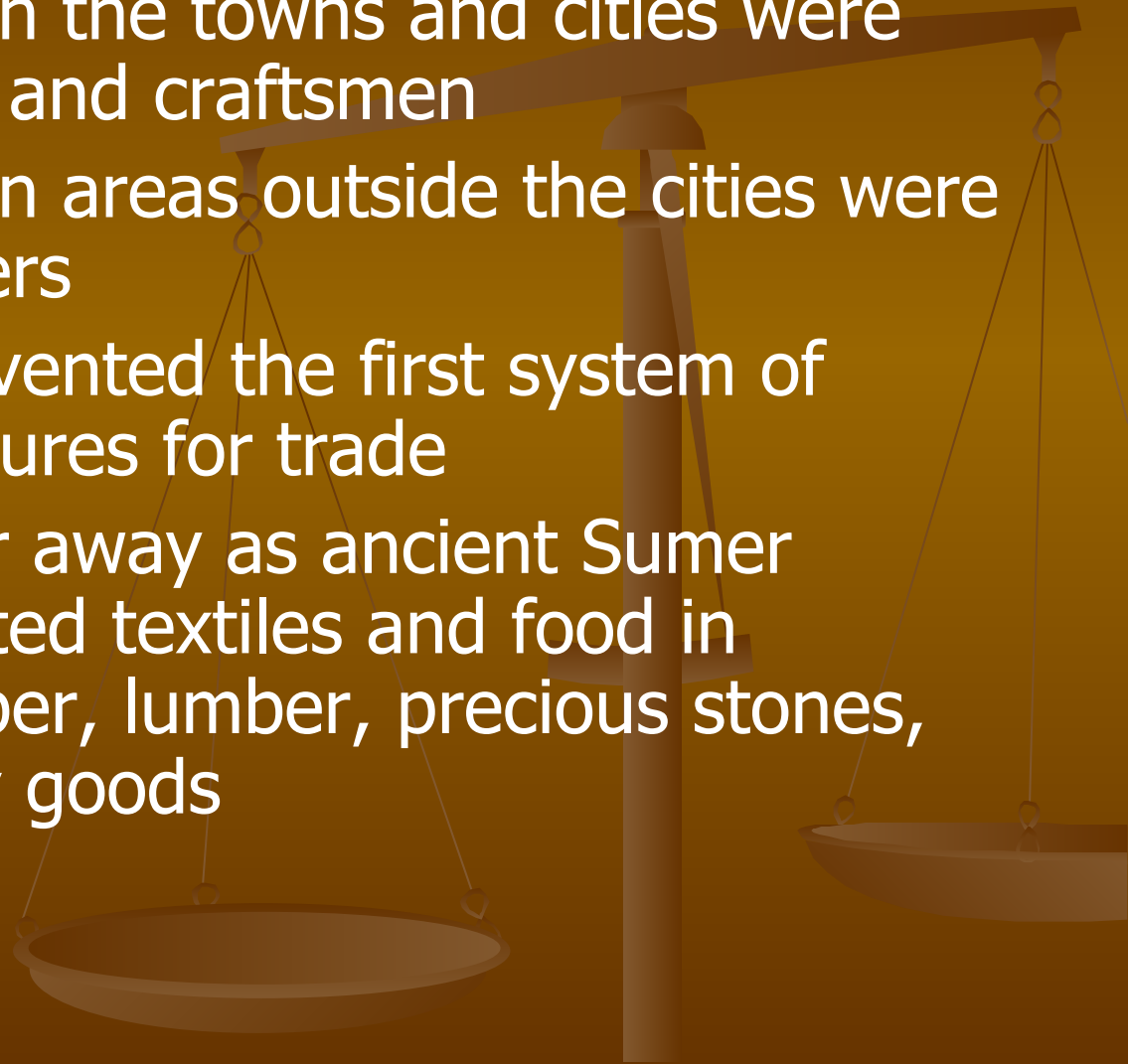
- **Located in the Indus River Valley on the Indian subcontinent**
- **Yearly floods deposit fertile soil in the region**
- **Weather is influenced by yearly monsoons**
- **The Kyber Pass thru the Hindu Kush mountains allow people to cross into the Indus River Valley**

# POLITICAL STRUCTURE


- The center of government was the citadel
- The Harappans had a strong and well-organized central government
- We are unsure of the exact political structure
- There were “twin” capitals at Harappa and Mohenjo-Daro
- Eventually, the Aryans took control

# ECONOMY

- People who lived in the towns and cities were mostly merchants and craftsmen
- People who lived in areas outside the cities were farmers and herders
- The Harappans invented the first system of weights and measures for trade
- They traded as far away as ancient Sumer where they imported textiles and food in exchange for copper, lumber, precious stones, cotton, and luxury goods



# RELIGION

- Polytheistic
  - Originally, probably an animistic religion
  - Rulers probably ruled by divine right
  - Eventually developed the Hindu religion when the Arayans brought their ideas
- 

# SOCIETY

- More people involved in trade and craftsmanship than other civilizations
- Little evidence to suggest what their class system was like
- Women had no legal rights and were considered the property of their husbands
- As the Arayan influence spread, a caste system developed

# INNOVATIONS

- Well-planned cities (streets at 90° angles)
- Sewer systems and garbage bins
- Private and public baths
- Kilns for baking bricks
- Public wells provided water
- Written language (mostly pictographic)

[The Arayans brought the Sanskrit language when they took over]



# THE END OF HARAPPAN CIVILIZATION

- ◆ No one really knows what happened to the Harappans
- ◆ Theories
  - Natural disaster (earthquake, floods) destroyed the cities and the people migrated to other areas
  - They were conquered by other people
  - They moved from the region for some other reason



# THE ARAYANS (FYI)

- Nomadic people from the Caspian and Black Sea region
- Patriarchal tribes of herders
- Did not associate with the natives of India which they conquered
- Did not build large cities or permanent settlements
- Influenced modern social structure and religion of India



# Assignment

- Add Harappan civilization to your PERSIA Chart


# WARM-UP

- Title your map “River Valley Civilizations”
- Locate the 4 River Valley Civilizations on your map and draw an outline of the civilization (you don’t have to be exact).
- Color each civilization a different color and create a key on the map showing Sumer, Egypt, Indus Valley, and China
- Label the continents of Africa, Europe, and Asia, as well as the Atlantic, Indian, and Pacific Oceans

# CHINA



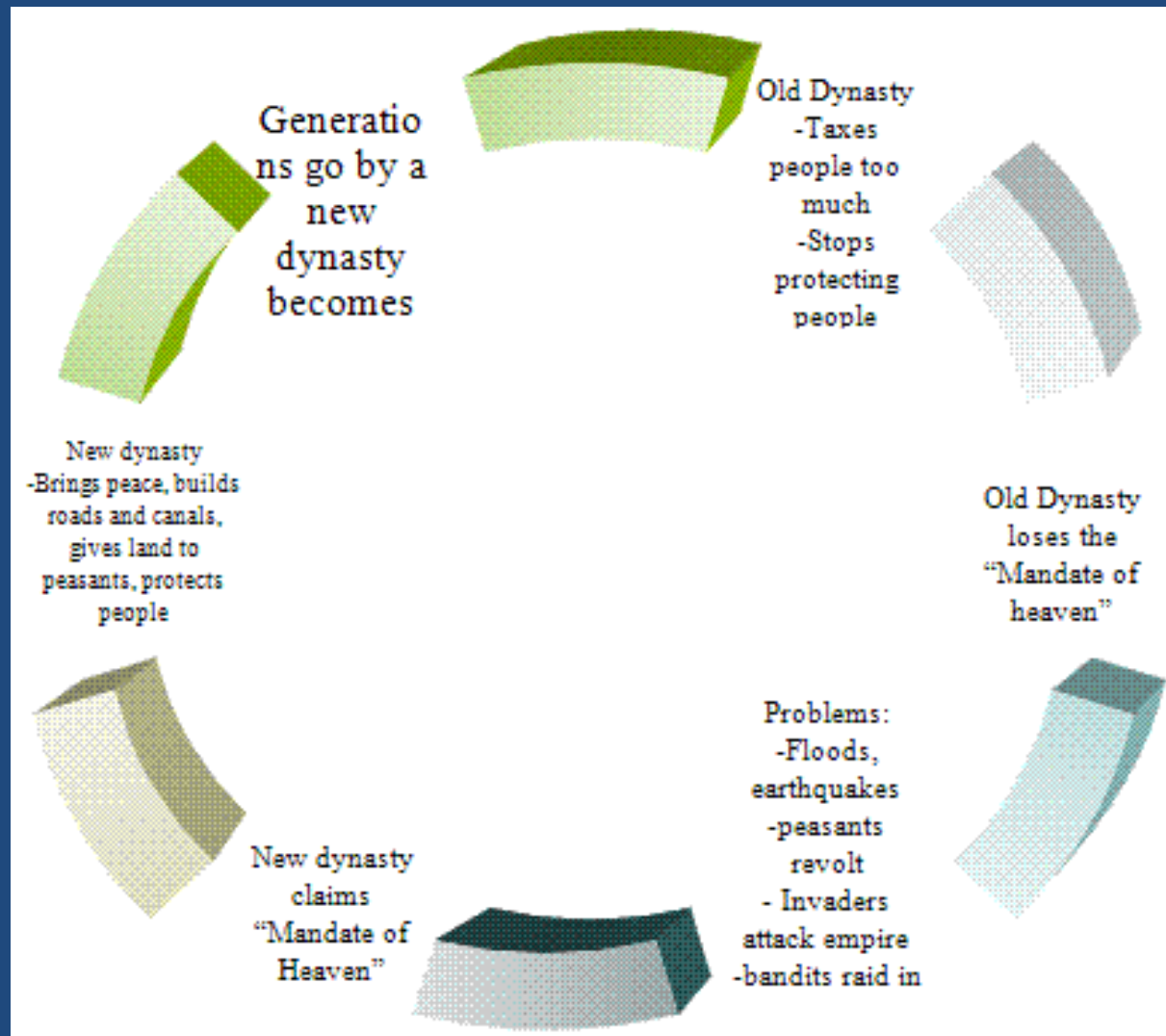
# GEOGRAPHY

- ◆ Located in the Huang He River Valley
    - Also called the Yellow River (silt yellowish color)
    - Also called China's Sorrow (devastating floods)
    - Contained by a system of dikes
  - ◆ Relatively isolated
    - Surrounded by mountains, desert, and water
    - Little influence from other civilizations
- 
- A stylized, layered mountain range graphic in shades of teal and blue, located in the bottom right corner of the slide.

# POLITICAL STRUCTURE

- Known for its dynastic cycle (see diagram)
- The first known dynasty was the Shang
  - Built China's first cities
  - Established a capital at Anyang
- Emperors were military leaders who ruled with the help of powerful nobles
- Principle of government was the Mandate of Heaven (gods approval of the emperor)
- When an emperor lost “Mandate of Heaven” there was an uprising and often a new dynasty would take control

# DYNASTIC CYCLE



# ECONOMY

- Based on agriculture
- Used mostly barter system of trade
- Though skilled at many crafts, trade was discouraged outside the empire

# RELIGION

- Polytheistic (animistic)
- Believed in ancestor worship (think Mulan)
- Shang emperors also served as high priests and often offered sacrifices to their royal ancestors

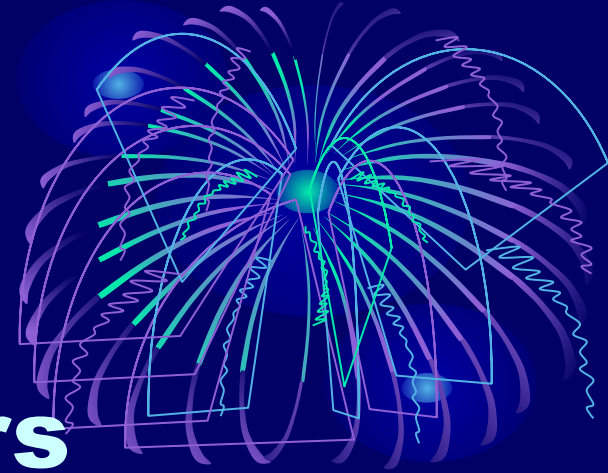


# SOCIETY

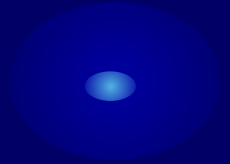
- Social structure was based on agricultural society
- Three social classes
  - Emperor/Royal Family/Nobility
  - Warriors
  - Farmers/merchants/craftsmen
- Family was key social unit
- Women had no legal rights
- Arranged marriages
- Extended families lived together

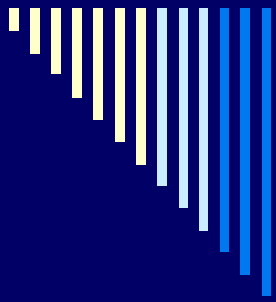


# INNOVATIONS



- **Skilled metal workers**
  - **Weapons made of bronze**
  - **Bronze ceremonial vessels**
- **Silk**
- **Mirrors**
- **Fireworks/gunpowder (later dynasties)**





# The Arts

- Unique architecture
- Decorated pottery
- Pictographic writing (5000 characters)

# Assignment

- Add Summary on your Cornell notes
- Add to your Persia Chart
- Reading for homework - China

# OTHER ANCIENT PEOPLES

# The Phoenicians

- Seafaring people along the eastern Mediterranean coast
- Traded a number of goods with other people
  - Purple dye
  - Cedar lumber
  - glass
- Established colonies throughout the Mediterranean
- Developed an alphabet of 22 characters

# The Hebrews (Israelites) 1200 B.C.E.

- Mostly nomadic herders
- Influenced both Mesopotamia and Egypt due to its geographic location near the eastern Mediterranean
- Developed the first monotheistic religion
  - Ten Commandments
  - Forefathers, Abraham and Moses entered into covenants with God (Yahweh)

# Assignment

- Finish your River Valleys Map
- Finish your PERSIA Chart
- **Homework** – compare/contrast the Code of Hammurabi (some examples on pg. 44 in textbook) with the Ten Commandments (pg 60 in textbook).