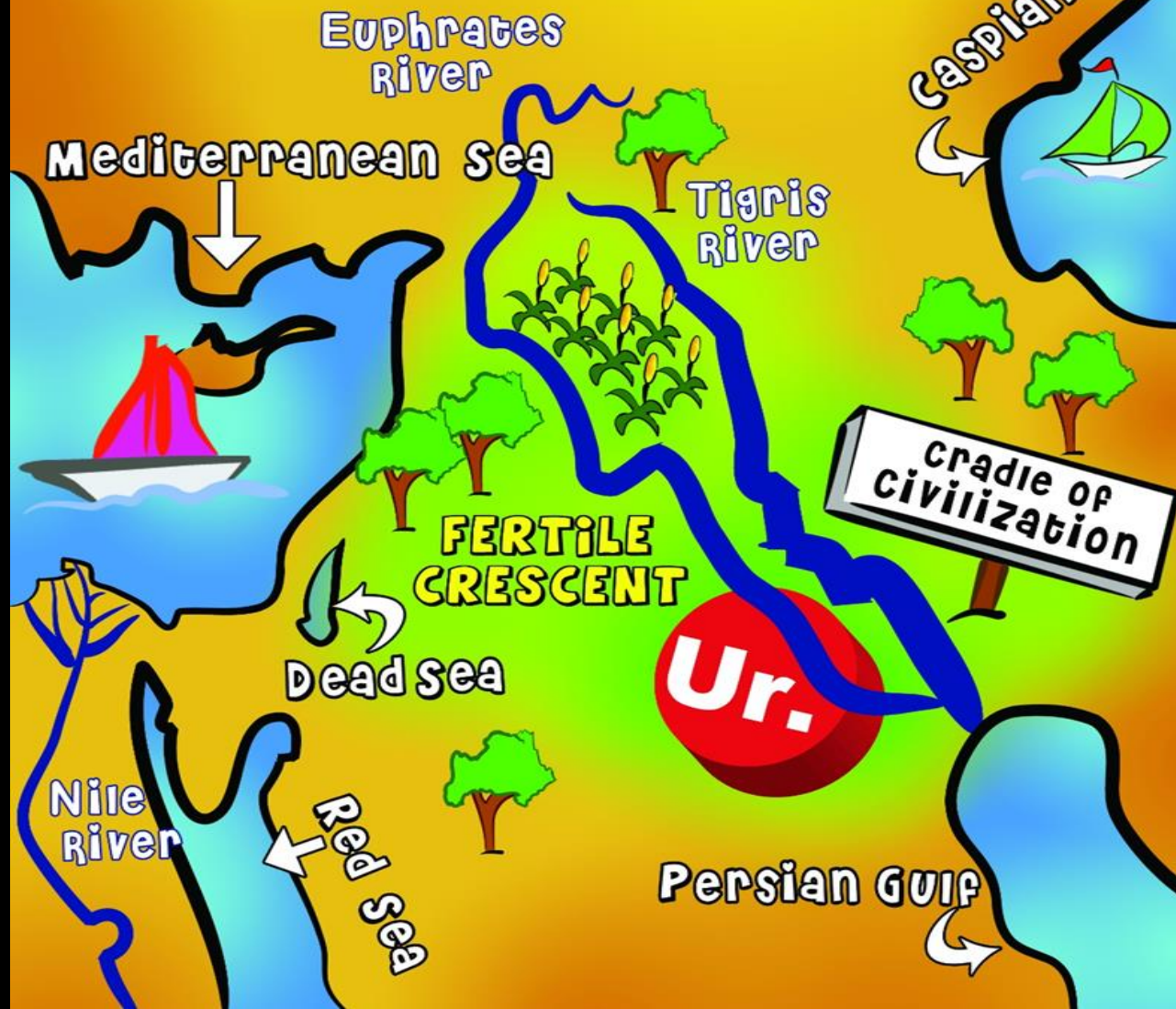


Mesopotamia

Chapter 4

ANCIENT MESOPOTAMIA



First Civilizations of Mesopotamia

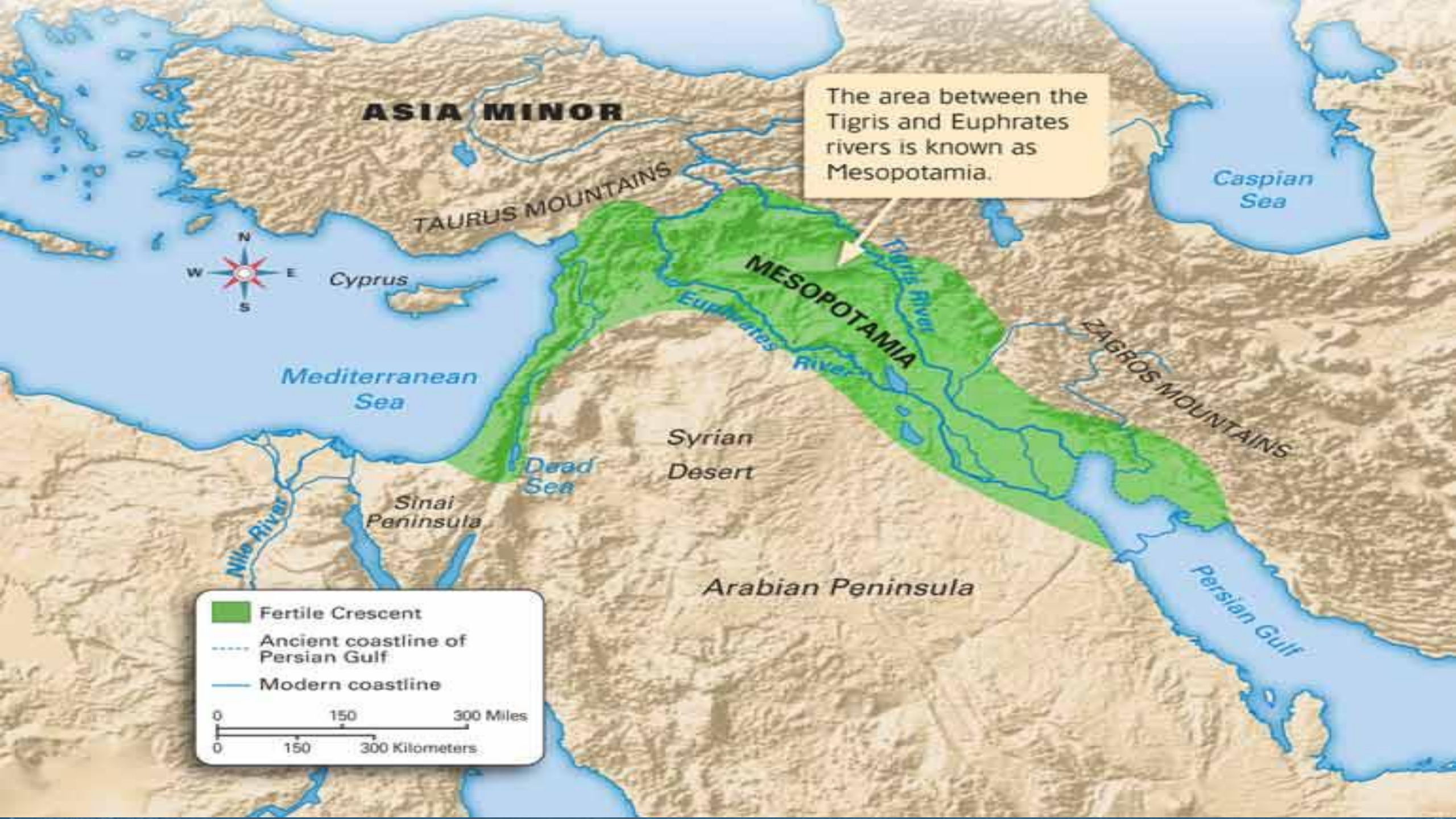
- ▶ Developed around 3,000 BC
- ▶ ALL developed around water

- ▶ ALL HAD:
 - ▶ Social classes
 - ▶ Specialized work
 - ▶ Improved technology
 - ▶ Better (and more) goods
 - ▶ Governments
 - ▶ Defenses
 - ▶ Building projects

**ALL DEVELOPED SYSTEMS OF
VALUES AND BELIEFS**

Two Rivers

Mesopotamia means
“the land between two rivers”



ASIA MINOR

The area between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers is known as Mesopotamia.

TAURUS MOUNTAINS

Caspian Sea



Cyprus

Mediterranean Sea

MESOPOTAMIA

ZAGROS MOUNTAINS

Syrian Desert

Dead Sea

Sinai Peninsula

Nile River

Arabian Peninsula

Persian Gulf

Legend:

- Fertile Crescent
- Ancient coastline of Persian Gulf
- Modern coastline

Scale:

0 150 300 Miles

0 150 300 Kilometers



ANATOLIA

TURKEY

Caspian Sea

Mediterranean Sea

CANAAN
LEBANON

SYRIA

MESOPOTAMIA
AKKADAMIA

IRAN

Zagros Mountains

JERUSALEM
Dead Sea
JORDAN

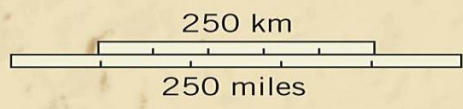
IRAQ
BABYLONIA

SAUDI ARABIA

SUMER
CHALDEA

modern-day coastline

Persian Gulf



Fertile area of early agriculture



ANATOLIA

Caspian Sea

ASSYRIA

Nineveh

Ashur

PERSIA

Mediterranean Sea

Tigris River
Euphrates River

Mesopotamia

AKKAD

Babylon

Kish

SUMER

Uruk

Lagash

BABYLONIA

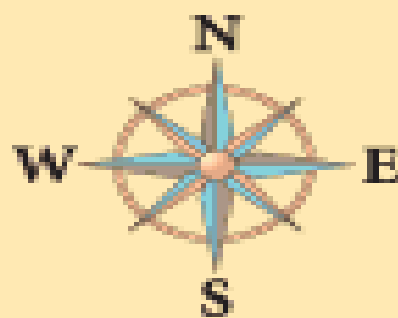
Ur

Persian Gulf

EGYPT

Nile River

Red Sea

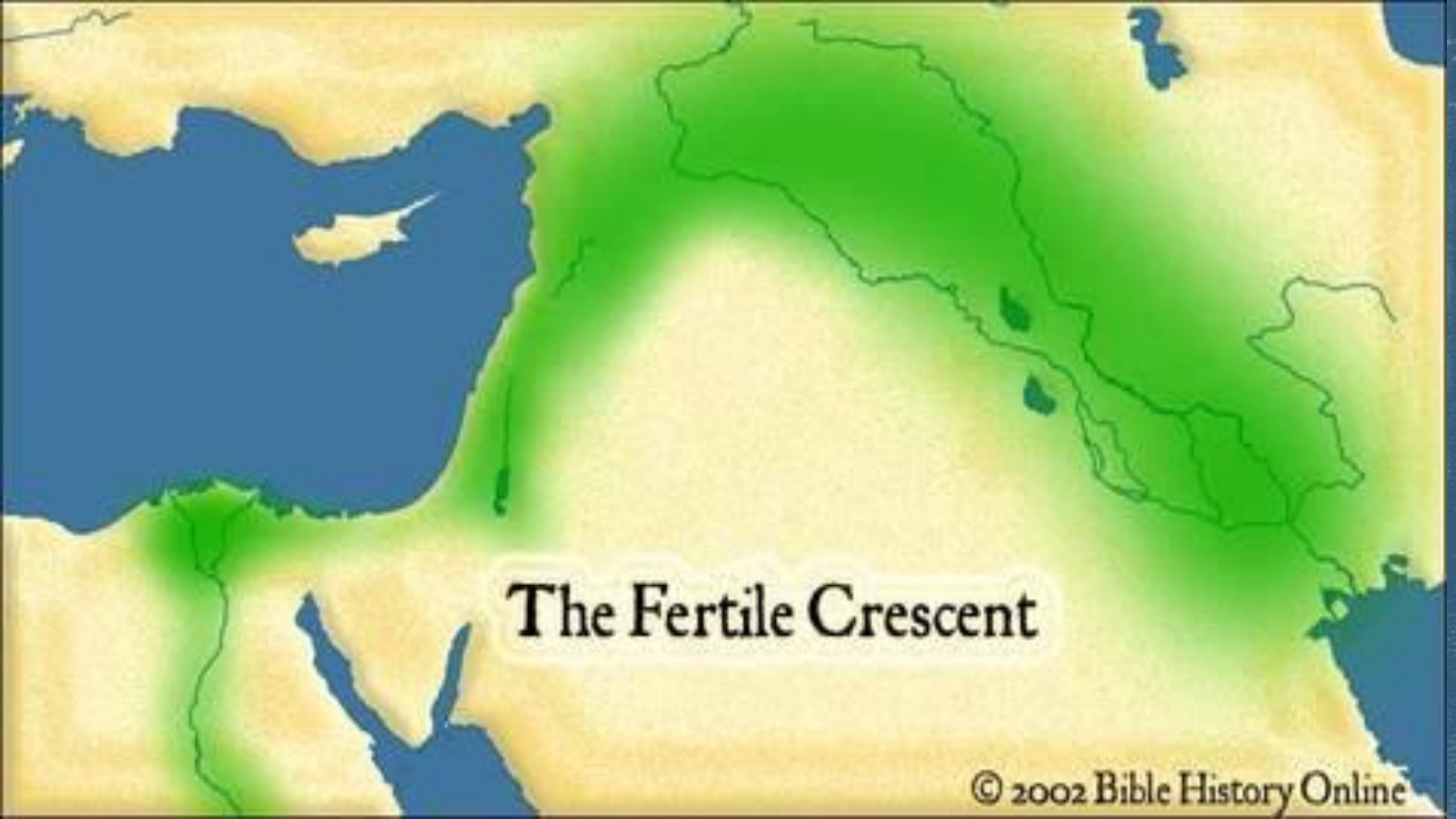


Fertile Crescent

LOCATION

- ▶ Plains between the Euphrates and Tigris rivers
 - ▶ Flow more than a 1,000 miles
 - ▶ Run to the southeast

- ▶ Fertile Crescent
 - ▶ From the Mediterranean Sea to the Persian Gulf

A map of the Middle East region, highlighting the Fertile Crescent. The landmass is shown in shades of green and yellow, with the Mediterranean Sea to the west and the Persian Gulf to the east. The Tigris and Euphrates rivers are clearly visible, forming a crescent shape. The text "The Fertile Crescent" is overlaid on the map in a white box.

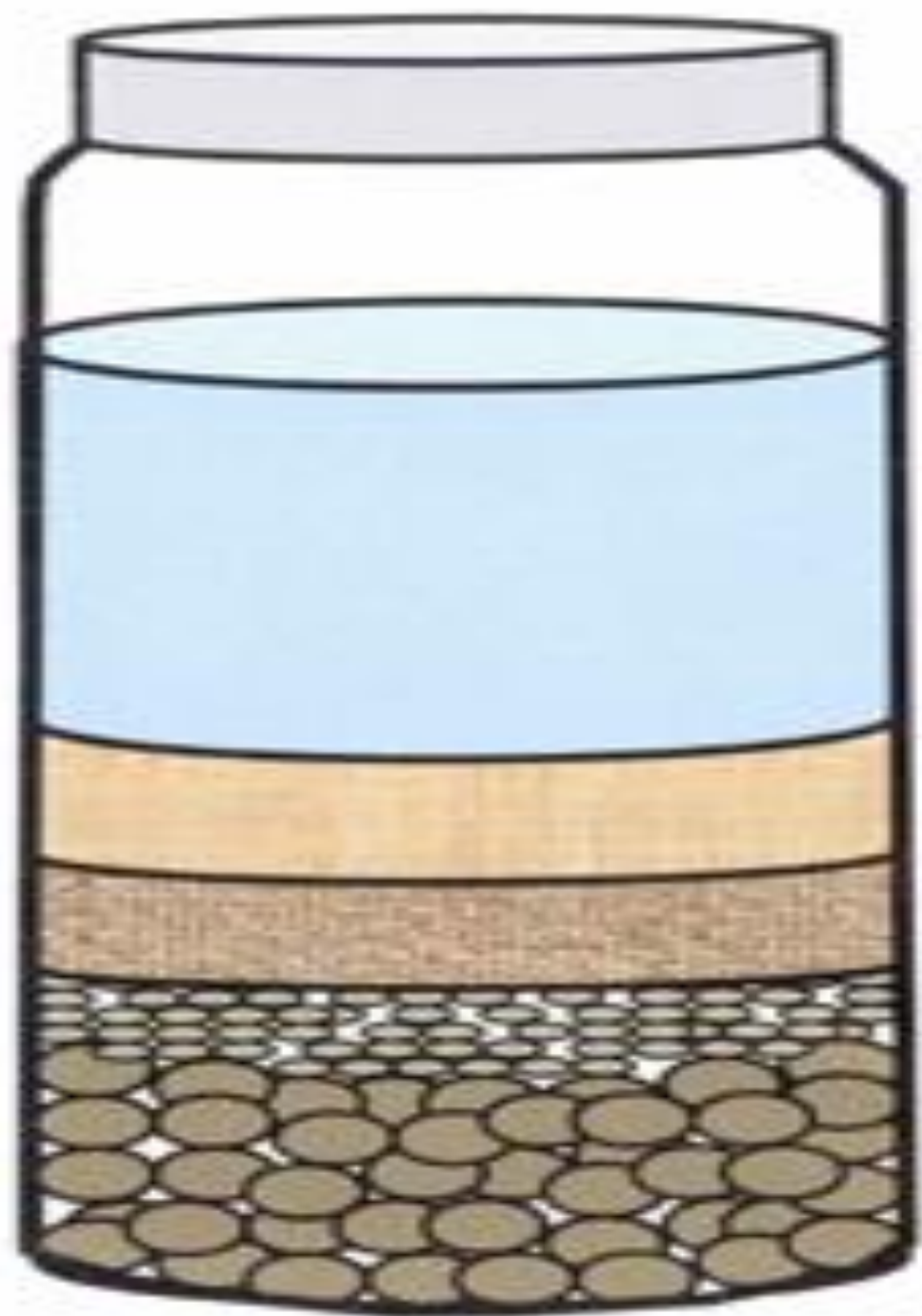
The Fertile Crescent

Early Valley Dwellers

- ▶ 1800's archaeologist started digging up artifacts
- ▶ 7000 BC- hunters and gathers
- ▶ 4000 BC- villages between Tigris and Euphrates

Taming the Rivers

- ▶ First used river water for crops
 - ▶ Fall would run OUT of water
- ▶ Spring Harvest
 - ▶ Fields flooded
- ▶ Silt- very good for farming
- ▶ Dams to control seasonal floods
 - ▶ Dug canals
 - ▶ Irrigation

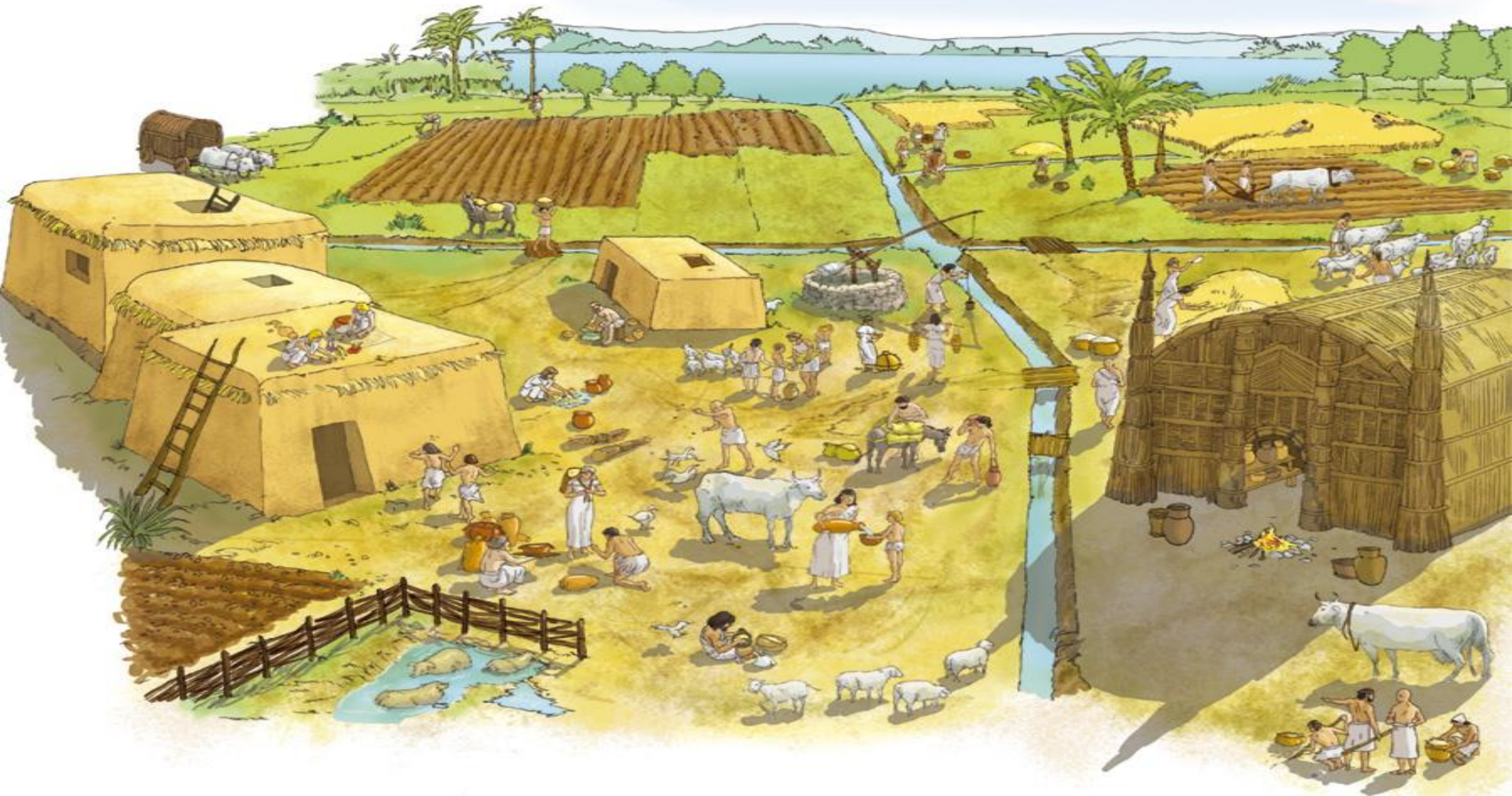


Clay layer

Silt layer

Sand layers









Sumer Civilization

Sumer

- ▶ Developed in 3000 BC in southern Mesopotamia
- ▶ People known as “Sumerians”
- ▶ Built many cities: Ur, Uruk, Eridu
 - ▶ Controlled the river valley





AKKAD

ELAM

Kish

Lagash

Uruk

Ur

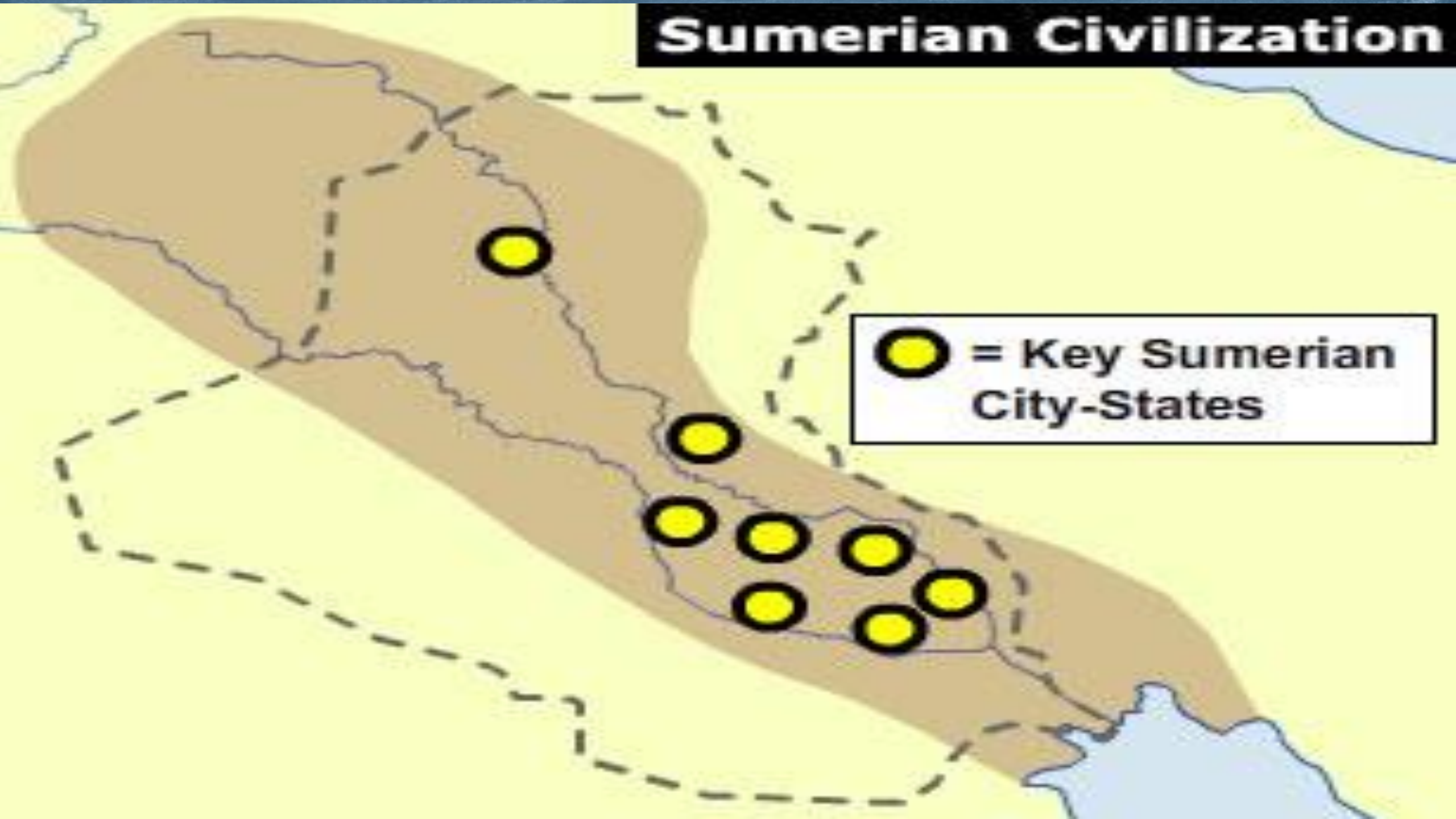
Sumer


ARABIA

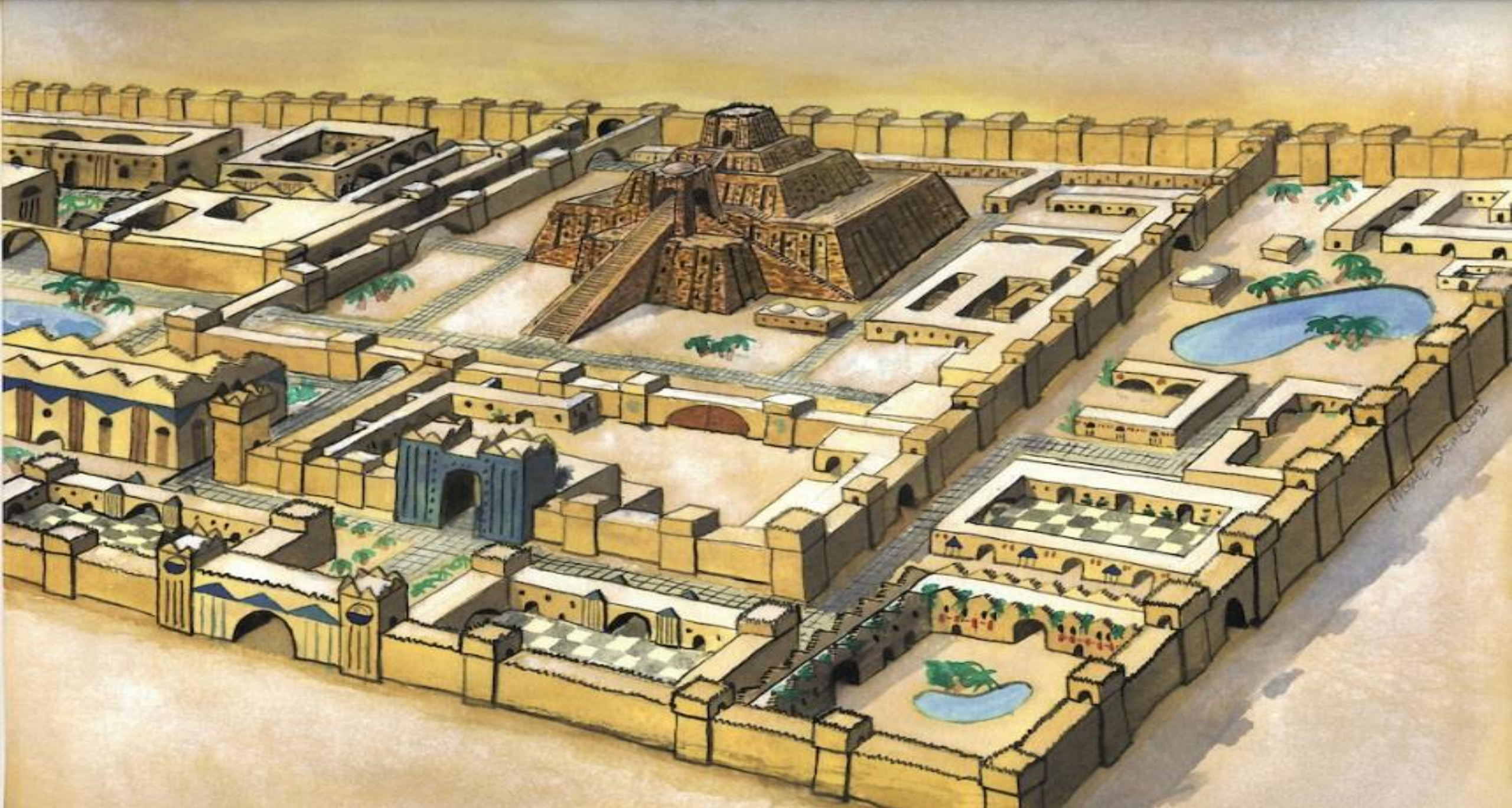
City-States Arise and became Independent

- ▶ Raised own crops, own goods
- ▶ Gained political and economic control around them
- ▶ Own ruler
- ▶ NOT part of any other government
- ▶ Populations from 5,000-20,000

Sumerian Civilization



 = Key Sumerian City-States





War and Peace Relationship

▶ War

- ▶ Over resources and political borders
- ▶ To win glory or gain more territory

▶ Peace

- ▶ Traded with each other
- ▶ ALLIANCES: protect common interest

Religion

Gods, Priests, and Kings

▶ Polytheistic

▶ Honored whatever god that would help them with that activity

▶ Honored all gods

▶ Each city-state claimed one god

▶ Ziggurats

▶ “to rise high”

▶ Very top was a holy place- the god's home

▶ Only special priests were allowed inside













Power

- ▶ Early days: Priests ruled the city-states
- ▶ Later: Groups of men
 - ▶ Then monarchies
- ▶ King's power comes from the city's god.
 - ▶ Power passed to their son.
 - ▶ Early kings were usually war heroes

Social Groups

People generally stayed in the group they were born into.

UPPER

- ▶ Kings, priests, warriors, government officials

MIDDLE

- ▶ Farmers, merchants, fishers, artisans
- ▶ This was the biggest group

LOWER

- ▶ Slaves
 - ▶ Captured in war
 - ▶ Criminals, debtors
 - ▶ Worked for the upper class

Gender

MEN

- ▶ Head of the home
- ▶ Went to school
- ▶ Trained for a job

Gender

WOMEN

- ▶ Ran the home
- ▶ Cared for the children
- ▶ Few civil rights
- ▶ *Some* owned businesses

- Parents must take care of their children.

- Children must take care of their adult parents.

SUMERIAN LAW

Farmers & Traders

Farmers

- ▶ Biggest profession.
- ▶ Grew wheat, barley, and dates
- ▶ Raised sheep, goats, and pigs

Trade

- ▶ Skilled metalworkers
- ▶ Trade routes from Egypt to India.
- ▶ They traded: wheat, barley, tools
- ▶ They got: timber, minerals, metals





Sumerian Contributions

First civilization that had a great influence on history...
“**cradle of civilization**”

WRITING

- ▶ Earliest known writing system in the world.
- ▶ Keeps records and history
 - ▶ Share information, pass ideas to next generation






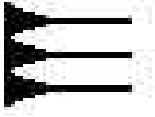
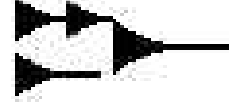




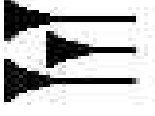

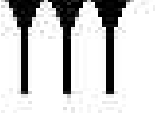



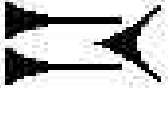


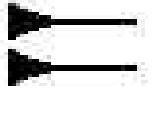


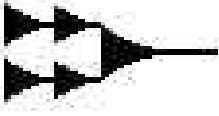






Cuneiform

- ▶ 1,200 different characters
- ▶ Represented names, objects, numbers
- ▶ NO PAPER
 - ▶ Cut wedge-shapes into damp clay
- ▶ Only a few males learned how to read and write
 - ▶ Years of training to be a SCRIBE
- ▶ Recorded oral history and stories
- ▶ Praised gods and warriors
- ▶ Oldest story: Epic of Gilgamesh





A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	j	k	l	m
n	o	p	q	r	s	t	u	v	w	x	y	z

 a	 b	 g	 h	 d	 h
 w	 z	 h	 t	 y	 k
 s	 l	 m	 d	 n	 z
 s	 c	 p	 s	 q	 r
 t	 gg	 t	 i	 u	 s ₂


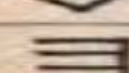




Meaning

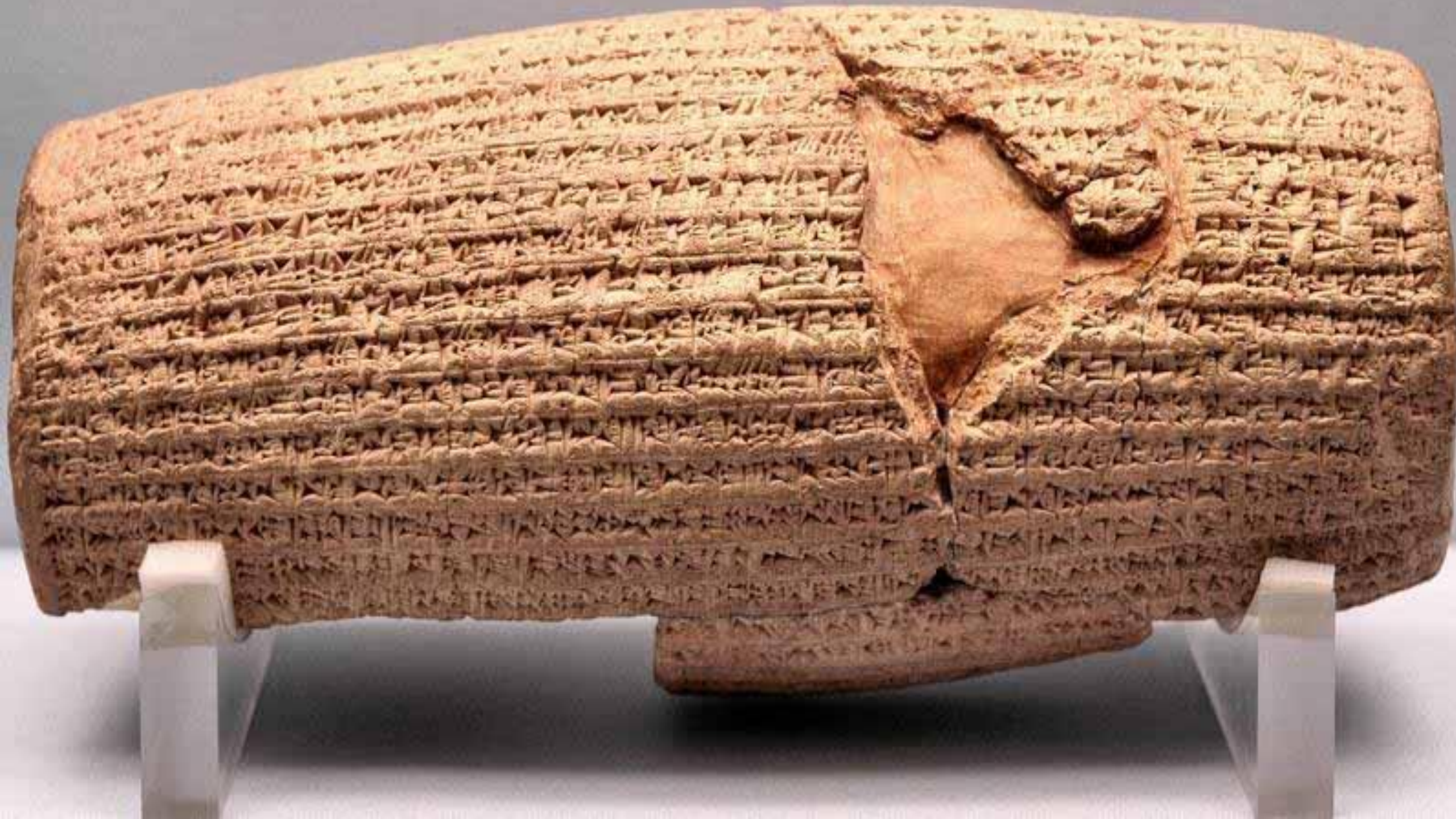
Outline
Character,
B. C. 4500

Archaic
Cuneiform,
B. C. 2500

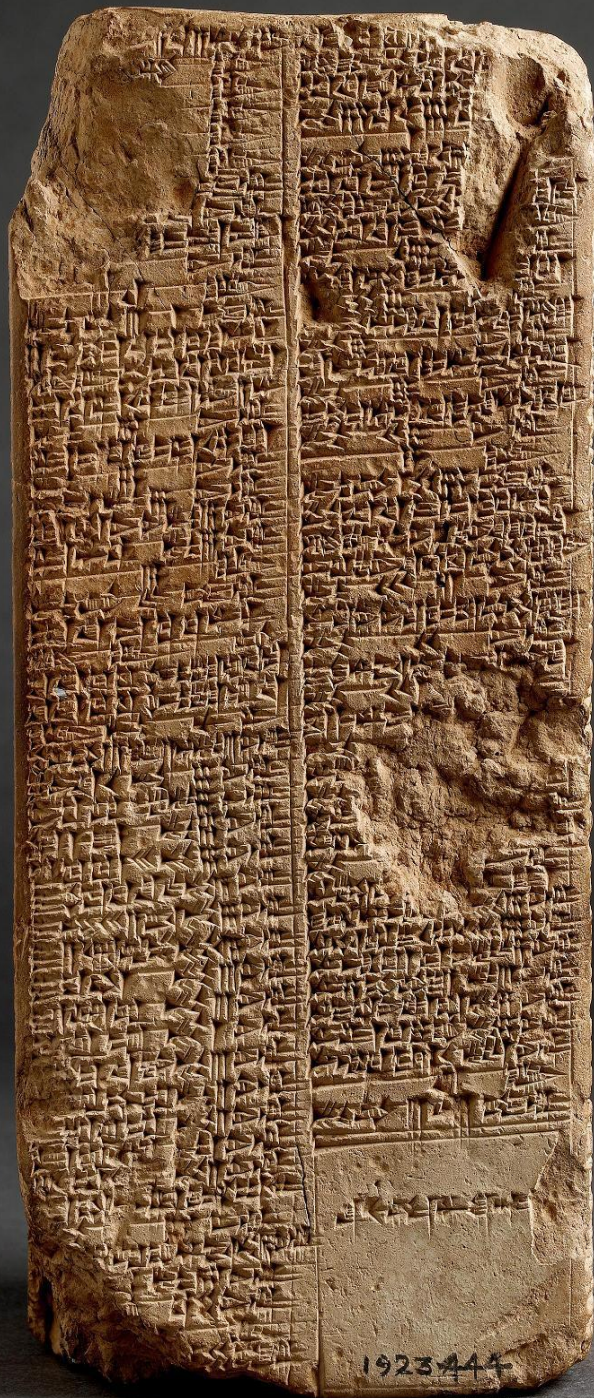
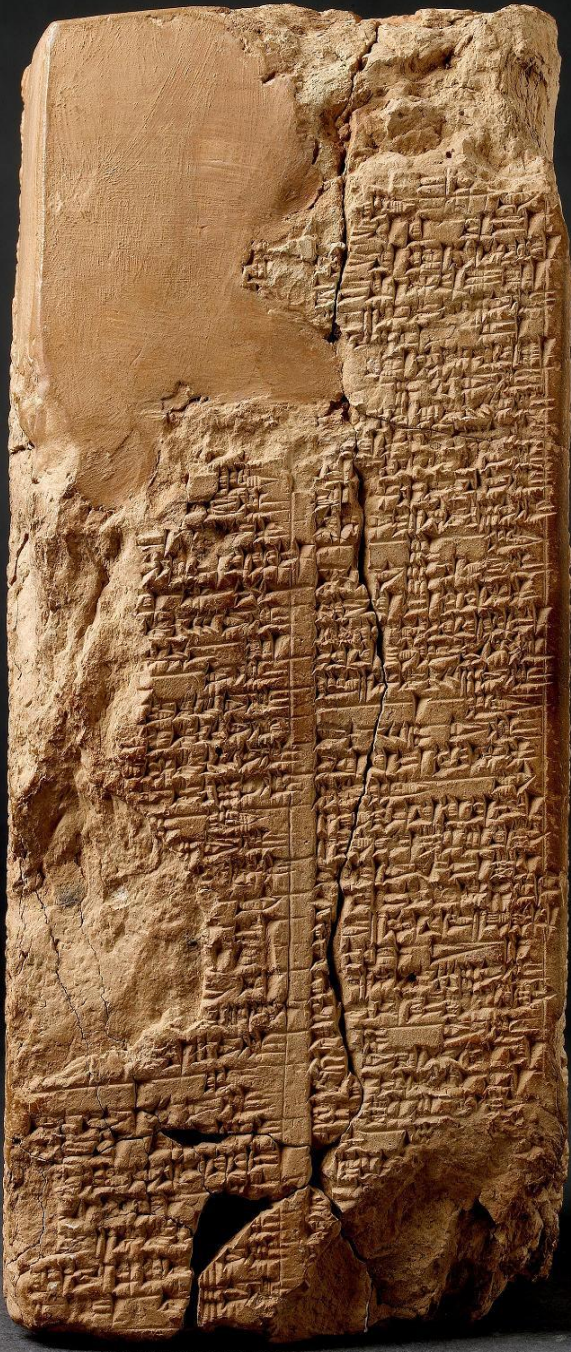
Assyrian,
B. C. 700

Late
Babylonian,
B. C. 500

1.	The sun				
2.	God, heaven				
3.	Mountain				
4.	Man				
5.	Ox				
6.	Fish				
7.	Heart				
8.	Hand				
9.	Hand and arm				
10.	Foot				
11.	Grain				
12.	Piece of wood				
13.	Net				
14.	Enclosure				











This is How "WE" Roll!



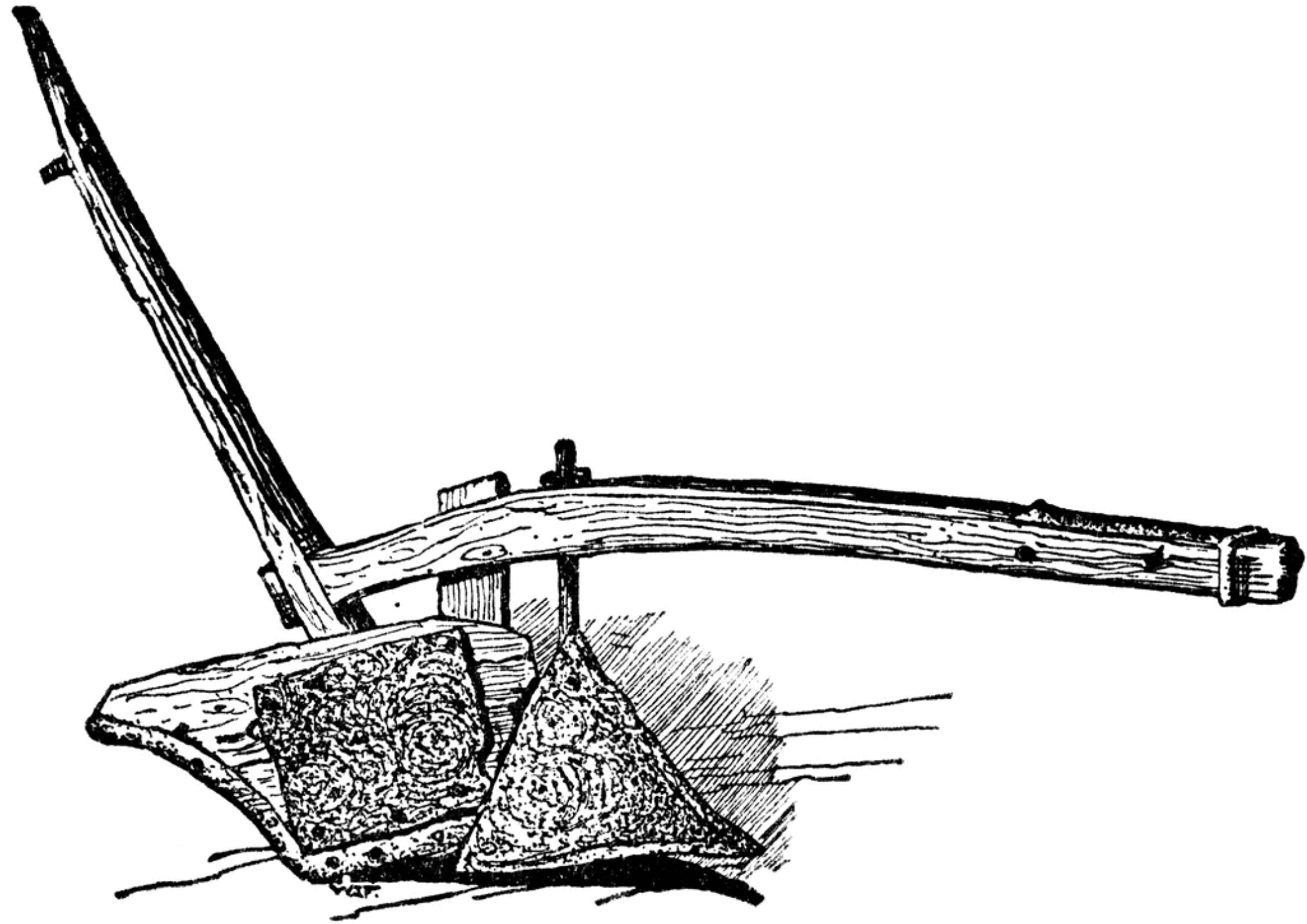
SUMERIAN CHARIOTS





SAILBOATS

Thanks to sailboats the mesopotamians could put nets in the river much easier, leading to more food.





The Sumerians invented a seed sowing machine, which could plant seeds more quickly and evenly than sowing by hand.



Technology

- ▶ First people to use the wheel
 - ▶ 3500 BC wheeled vehicle
 - ▶ Used for military use
- ▶ Sailboat
 - ▶ River travel
- ▶ Wooden Plow
- ▶ Potters wheel
- ▶ First Bronze tools
 - ▶ Stronger tools, weapons, and jewelry





Mathematics

- ▶ Geometry
 - ▶ Measure size of fields, plan buildings
- ▶ Place value system:
 - ▶ Based on 60
- ▶ Division and multiplication tables
- ▶ 60 minute hour, 60 second minute
- ▶ 360 degree circle
- ▶ Astrology (tracked stars)
 - ▶ When to plant crops, hold religious ceremonies
 - ▶ 12 month calendar based on the moon

Sumerian Mathematics

The Sumerians invented a number system based on 60.

We still see the influences of this today in our time system and Geometry.

┆	1	┆┆	2	┆┆┆	3	┆┆┆	4
┆┆	5	┆┆┆	6	┆┆┆┆	7	┆┆┆┆	8
┆┆┆	9	<	10	<┆	11	<┆┆	12
<┆┆┆	13	<┆┆┆	14	<┆┆┆	15	<┆┆┆	16
<┆┆┆┆	17	<┆┆┆┆	18	<┆┆┆┆	19	<<	20
<<<	30	<<<	40	<<<	50	┆	60

Ancient MESOPOTAMIA



ASSYRIA

■ NINEVEH

■ ASSUR

EUPHRATES
RIVER

TIGRIS
RIVER

■ BABYLON

BABYLONIA

■ URUK

SUMER

■ UR

■ ERIDU