

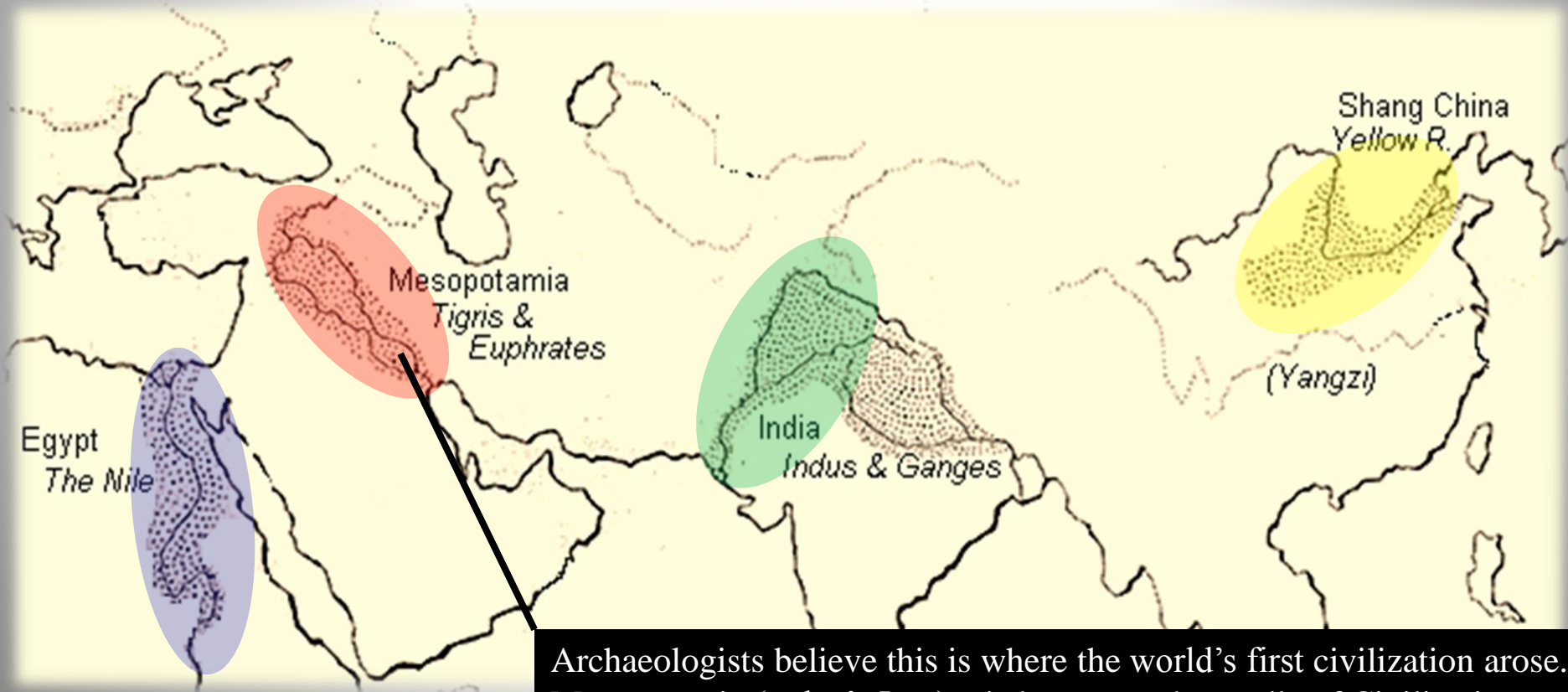
Early River Valley Civilizations

Sumerian Civilization - Tigris & Euphrates Rivers (Mesopotamia)

Egyptian Civilization - Nile River

Indus Civilization - Indus River (Harappa & Mohenjo Daro)

Chinese Civilization - Huang He (Yellow) River (Shang Dynasty)

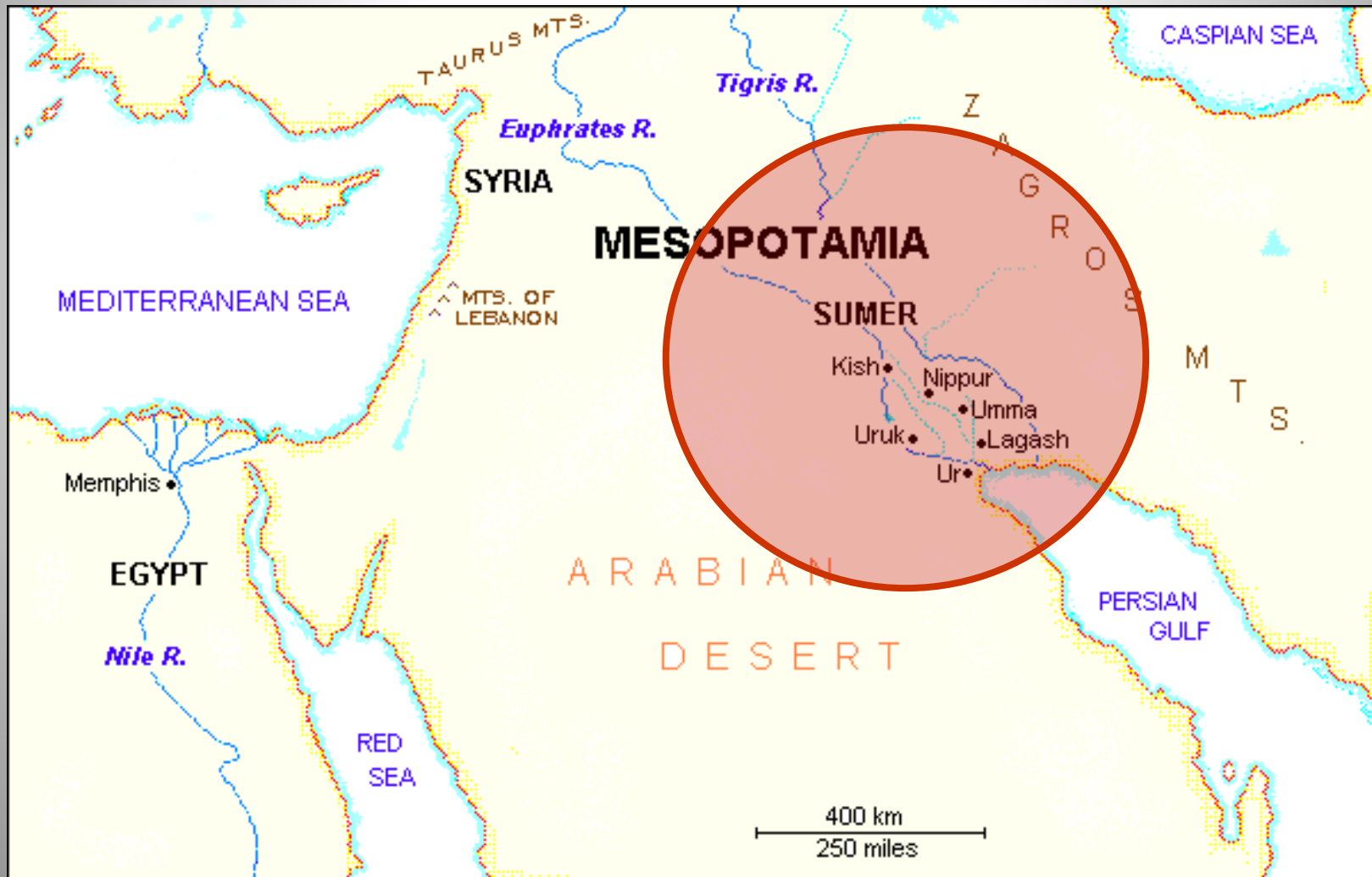


Archaeologists believe this is where the world's first civilization arose. Mesopotamia (today's Iraq) – is known as the cradle of Civilization.

Sumerian Civilization

Tigris & Euphrates Rivers (Mesopotamia)

City-States in Mesopotamia



Sumer

I. GEOGRAPHY

A. Mostly dry desert climate in SW Asia (Middle East)

1. Except in region between Tigris & Euphrates rivers
2. a flat plain known as **Mesopotamia** lies between the two rivers
3. Because of this region's shape and the richness of its soil, it is called the **Fertile Crescent**.
 - the rivers flood at least once a year, leaving a thick bed of mud called **silt**.



SW Asia
(the Middle East)



**Fertile
Crescent**

Sumer

Sumerians were first to settle in this region, attracted by the rich soil.

B. Three Disadvantages / Environmental Challenges

1. Unpredictable flooding / dry summer months
2. No natural barriers for protection
 - small villages lying in open plain were defenseless
3. Limited natural resources
 - stone, wood, metal

C. Solutions

1. Irrigation ditches
2. Built city walls with mud bricks
3. Traded with people around them for the products they lacked.

Sumerian innovations in achieving the 1st civilization set the example others would follow.

To arrive at these solutions, required organized government.

Sumer

II. The City-State Structure of Government

- A. Although all the cities shared the same culture ...
- B. Each city had its own government / rulers, warriors, it's own patron god, and functioned like an independent country
- C. Includes within the city walls and also the surrounding farm land
- D. Examples include Sumerian cities of Ur, Uruk, Kish, Lagesh
- E. At center of each city was the walled temple with a **ziggurat** – a massive, tiered, pyramid-shaped structure (step-pyramid).
- F. Powerful priests held much political power in the beginning.

Define the type of government:
Kingdom



Left: Standing nude "priest-king," c. 3300–3000 B.C.; Uruk.

Right: Bas-relief depicting priests intervening between worshipers & gods.



Sumer

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a massive, tiered, pyramid-shaped structure.
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- G. Military commanders eventually became ruler / monarch
- then began passing rule to their own heirs, creating a new
structure of government called a
Dynasty – a series of rulers descending from a single family line.

Define the
type of
government

Historians wonder...

Did the Sumerians develop this new type of government on their own, or did they learn and adopt it only after contact with other peoples – cultural diffusion?



Sumer

II. The City-State Structure of Government

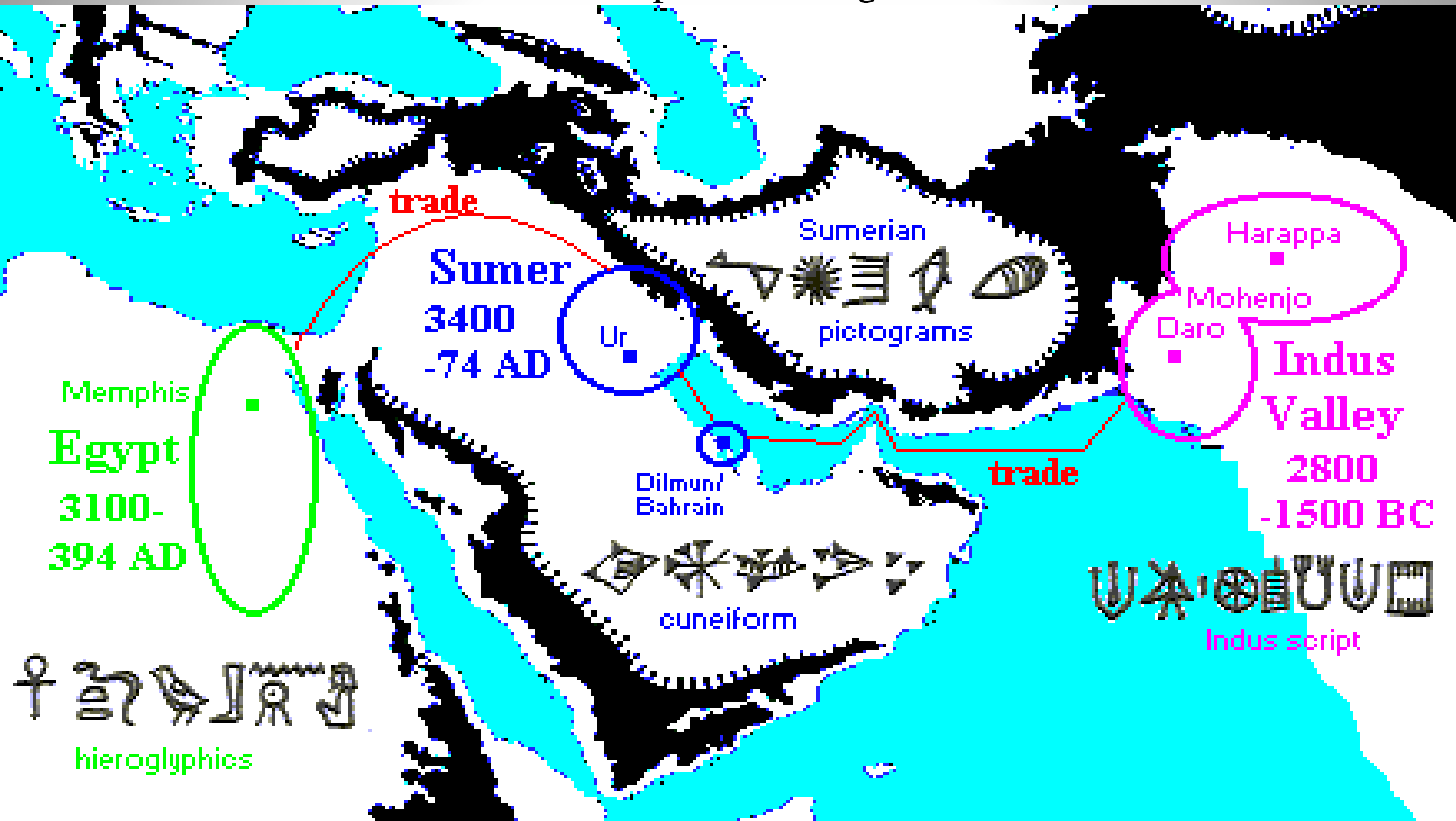
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structure of government called a
Dynasty – a series of rulers descending from a single family line.
- H. Through their trade with neighboring peoples, the Sumerians
spread their new innovations. This is **cultural diffusion** – the
spread of one culture's ideas, products, traditions, beliefs etc.
to another people. **EXCHANGE OF GOODS & IDEAS**

Define the
type of
government

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

EXCHANGE OF GOODS & IDEAS

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



Sumer

III. SUMERIAN CULTURE

A. RELIGION

1. Belief in many gods - Polytheism

God of the clouds & air was Enlil – the most powerful god.

(Nearly 3,000 others – with human qualities.

The Sumerians viewed their gods as hostile and unpredictable – similar to the natural environment around them.)



How does what's happening to people at any given moment affect how they think about their God(s)?

Marduk, the Dragon god

Sumer

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They were viewed as often hostile and unpredictable – similar to the natural environment around them.)

2. ***Gilgamesh Epic***, one of the earliest works of literature.

Contains a “flood story” that predates the Hebrew Old Testament story of Noah by at least 2,000 years.



GILGAMESH

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



Sumer

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.

Sumer

III. SUMERIAN CULTURE

B. SOCIETY

1. Three social classes
 - a. Priests and royalty (kings)
 - b. Wealthy merchants
 - c. Ordinary workers

[Slaves] –were not free citizens and thus not included in class system

2. Women
 - a. Had more rights than in many later civilizations
(could own property, join lower ranks of priesthood)
 - b. But not allowed to attend schools
(could not read or write)



Left: Statue of Sumerian woman with hands clasped at chest, ca. 2600-2300 B.C. **Right:** Gypsum statue of man and woman at Inanna Temple at Nippur, circa 2600-2300 B.C.



Sumer

III. SUMERIAN CULTURE

C. SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

1. One of the first writing systems - Cuneiform



Cylinder seals and their ancient impressions on administrative documents and locking devices are our richest source for a range of meaningful subject matters. A wealth of these have been discovered at Sumerian sites. *

Sumer

III. SUMERIAN CULTURE

C. SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

1. One of the first writing systems - Cuneiform
2. Invented wheel, the sail, the plow
3. First to use bronze.

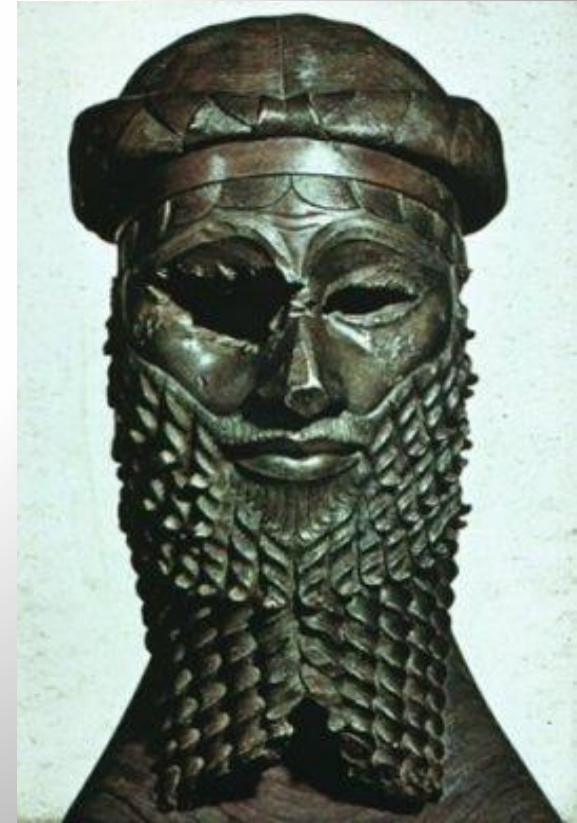
Other Sumerian Achievements

- one of the earliest sketched maps
- astronomy
- a number system in base 60
from which stems our modern units of measuring time
and the 360 degrees of a circle.

Sumer → Akkadian Empire

IV. First EMPIRE Builders

- A. 3,000 – 2,000 B.C.E. the Sumerian city-states began to war with each other. These internal struggles meant they were too weak to ward off an attack by an outside enemy.
- B. Sargon of Akkad (ca. 2,350 B.C.E.)
 - 1. Took control of the region, creating world's first **empire** - when several peoples, nations, or previously independent states are placed under the control of one ruler.



2. The Akkadian Empire lasted about 200 years, 2350 B.C.E. – c. 2150 B.C.E.



Akkadian Empire

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 - 2. The Akkadian Empire lasted about 200 years, 2350 B.C.E. – c. 2150 B.C.E.
 - 3. Spoke a Semitic language (related to Arabic and Hebrew)

THE END FOR THE AKKADIANS

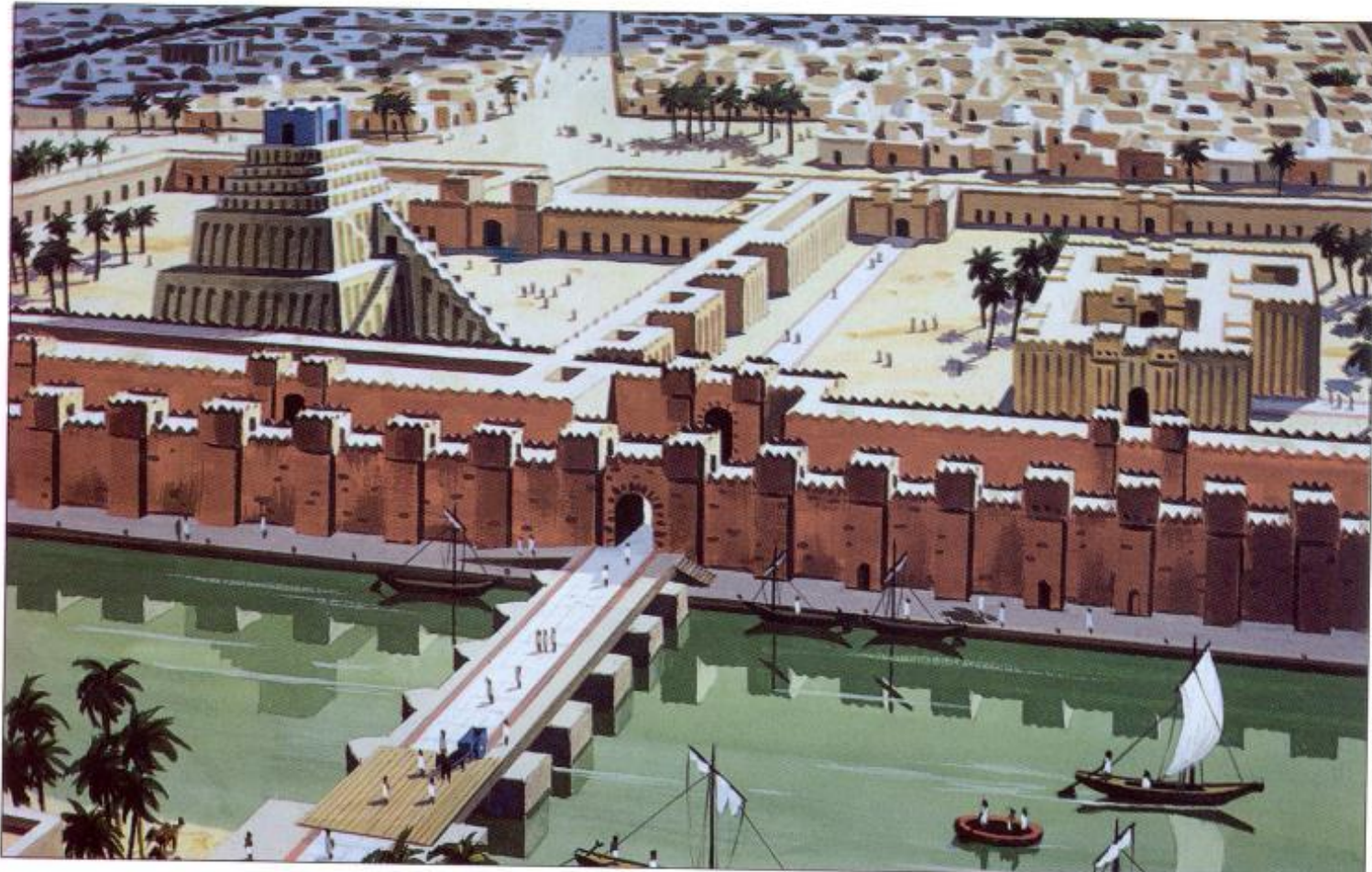
Invasions,
internal fighting,
and a severe famine

all contributed to the end of the Akkadian Empire.

Babylonians

C. Babylonian Empire

1. Overtook Sumerians around 2,000 B.C.E.
2. Built capital, Babylon, on Euphrates river

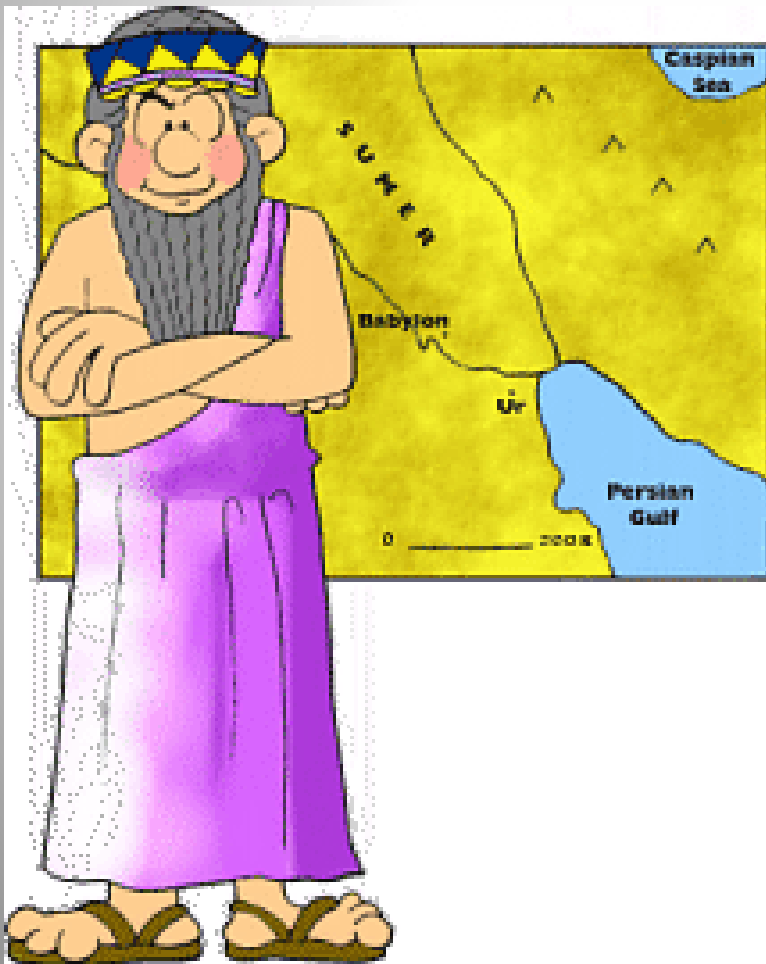


Reconstruction of Babylon after Richard Ungar. From "Babylon" by Richard Ungar.
© Walter de Gruyter

Babylonians

C. Babylonian Empire

1. Overtook Sumerians around 2,000 B.C.E.
2. Built capital, Babylon, on Euphrates river
3. Reign of Hammurabi [1792-1750 B.C.E.]



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.

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- 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.
- 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.



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Teacher's Notes:

1. Discuss (review) with the students what life was like for people when they were hunters and gatherers. Then, **discuss** changes that took place in society to bring early people into the Neolithic Age. **The five characteristics of civilization – including government & Laws**

2. To the Board Next, ask the **students** to brainstorm with you as you **come up with positive and negative aspects of people starting to live in villages, towns, and large communities**. Write these ideas on the board or on an overhead projector. A possible list may include the following:

Positive Aspects

protection from danger
greater supplies of food
opportunity for commerce
new job opportunities

Negative Aspects

army, taxes, slavery
waste disposal
governing large groups of citizens

The list could go on and on. It may take a bit of leading, but eventually, the students will come up with the problems governing large groups of people. People have been killing, stealing, and maiming for quite a long time. How did the earliest civilizations handle these situations? Have we made any progress in four thousand years?

Hammurabi wasn't the first ruler to establish a code of laws. Earlier records date back four hundred years. Many of Hammurabi's laws, as it turns out, were exact copies of earlier Sumerian laws. His code, however, is the best preserved legal document giving us an idea of the life and social structure of the people during Hammurabi's reign.

It is now time for your students to determine if he was an enlightened, benevolent ruler, or a cruel, demanding tyrant.

CH 2 Sec. 1

Primary Source Document Analysis: “Hammurabi’s Code” (*see handout*)



Cute website

http://www.phillipmartin.info/hammurabi/hammurabi_situation_index.htm

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.

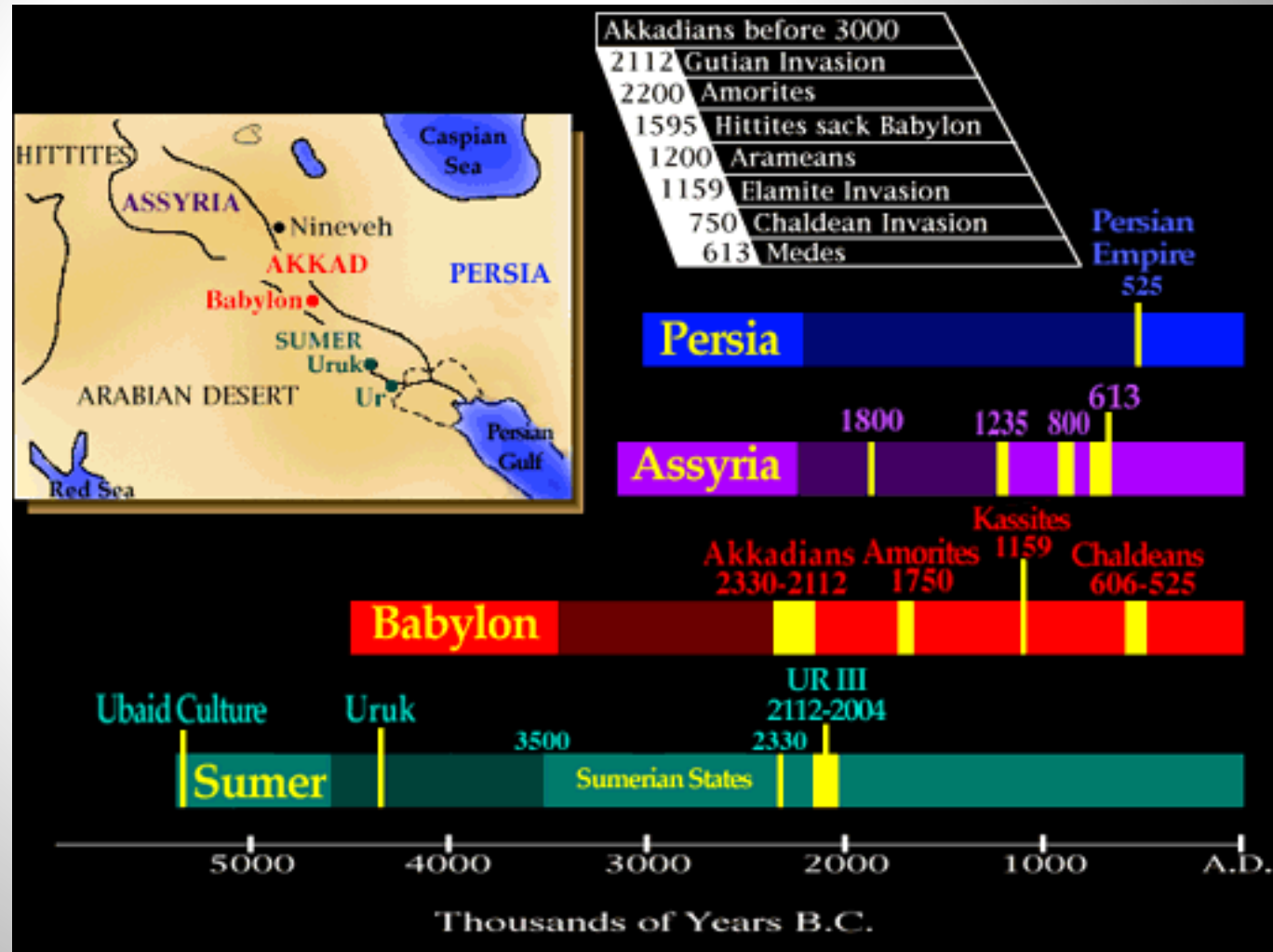
Decide what you think to be a fair way to deal with the problem.

Then together we'll view what Hammurabi actually declared.

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).

Move on to discuss the
2nd Early River Valley
Civilization – the Nile.



Early River Valley Civilizations

Sumerian Civilization - Tigris & Euphrates Rivers (Mesopotamia)

Egyptian Civilization - Nile River

Indus Civilization - Indus River (Harappa & Mohenjo Daro)

Chinese Civilization - Huang He (Yellow) River (Shang Dynasty)



Archaeologists believe this is where the world's first civilization arose. Mesopotamia (today's Iraq) – is known as the cradle of Civilization.

Egyptian Civilization

Nile River



Ancient Egypt

I. GEOGRAPHY

A. The Nile

1. Egypt's settlements arose along narrow strip of land made fertile by the river
2. Yearly flooding, **PREDICTABLE**
Regular cycle: flood, plant, harvest, flood, plant, harvest...
3. Intricate network of irrigation ditches
4. **Worshipped as a GOD** – giver of life and benevolent

Compare and Contrast...

Earlier we discussed the Sumerians and the effect their particular environment may have had on the way they viewed their gods.

Compare the Sumerian view to the Egyptian view and explain why the Egyptian view may have been so different.



**WATCH
VIDEO
CLIP**

Examine this quote:

“Egypt, the gift of the Nile”

~ Herodotus, Greek historian (484-432 B.C.E.)



What do you infer from this quote, what did Herodotus mean by it?

Ancient Egypt

I. GEOGRAPHY

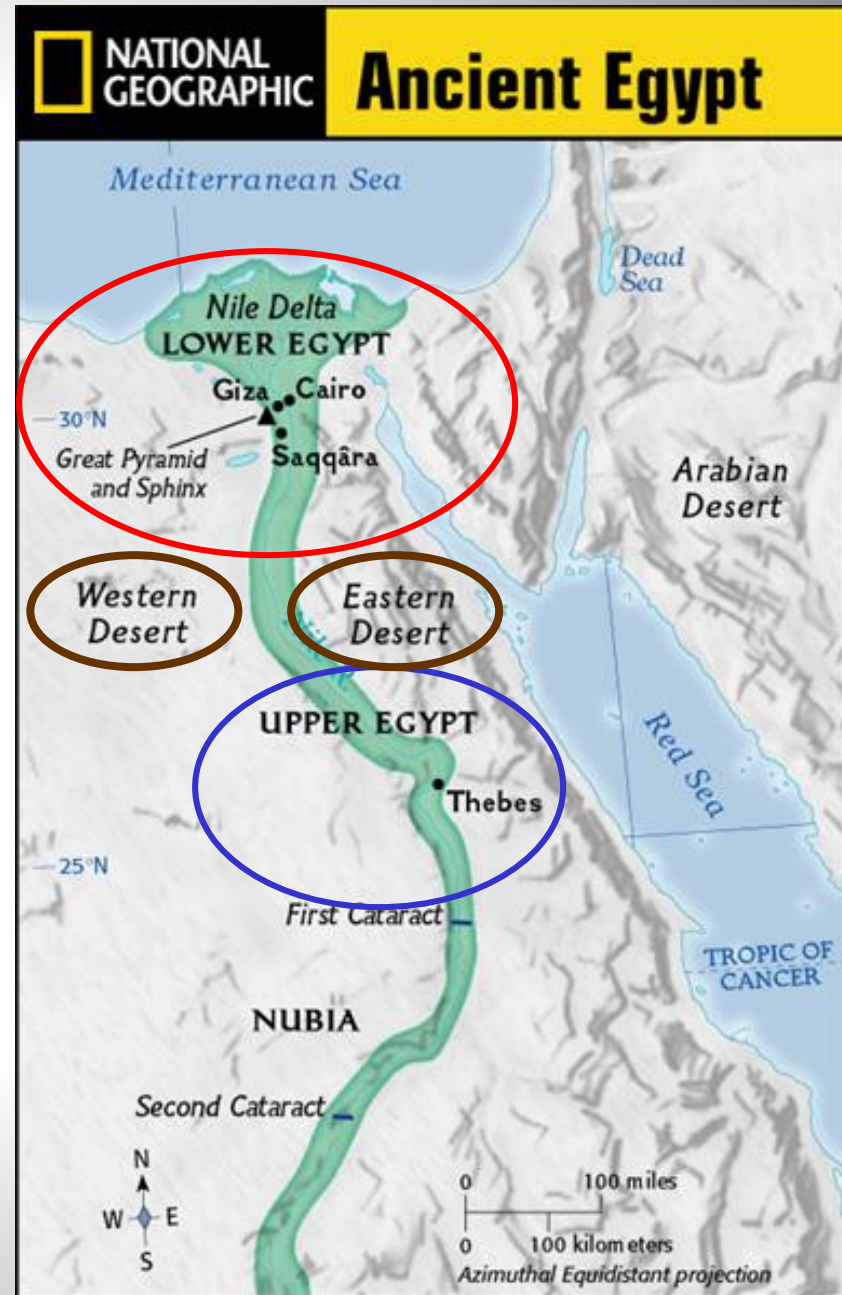
B. Upper and Lower Egypt

1. Most of Egypt's history focused around **Lower Egypt**, the Nile delta which flows into the Mediterranean Sea.
2. **Upper Egypt** developed later upstream
3. Nile provided reliable transportation
 - to go N, drift with the current toward the sea
 - to go S, sail catching the Mediterranean breeze

C. Environment

1. Unlike Mesopotamia, the Nile was predictable
2. **Deserts** on both sides of Nile
 - provided natural protection against invaders
 - also reduced interaction with other people

Egypt would develop **mostly in isolation** and therefore, a culture that was quite unique.



Ancient Egypt

II. UNITED EGYPT'S GOVERNMENT

A. Unlike Sumer, **no** independent city-states in Egypt

B. **Menes**, the king of Upper Egypt,

1. united the two regions – Upper and Lower – in 3,100 B.C.E.
2. Capital: Memphis
3. Creates first Egyptian **dynasty**

C. **Pharaoh** [means, *royal house*] – the ruler of Egypt

1. were considered gods; served both political and religious roles

Type of government where the political rulers are thought to be divinely-guided, or even divine themselves is a theocracy.

**Define
type of
government**



Before 3000 B.C., there was the white crown of Upper Egypt and the red crown of Lower Egypt. When Egypt was united, these two crowns were combined into the Double Crown of Upper and Lower Egypt.

Ancient Egypt

II. UNITED EGYPT'S GOVERNMENT

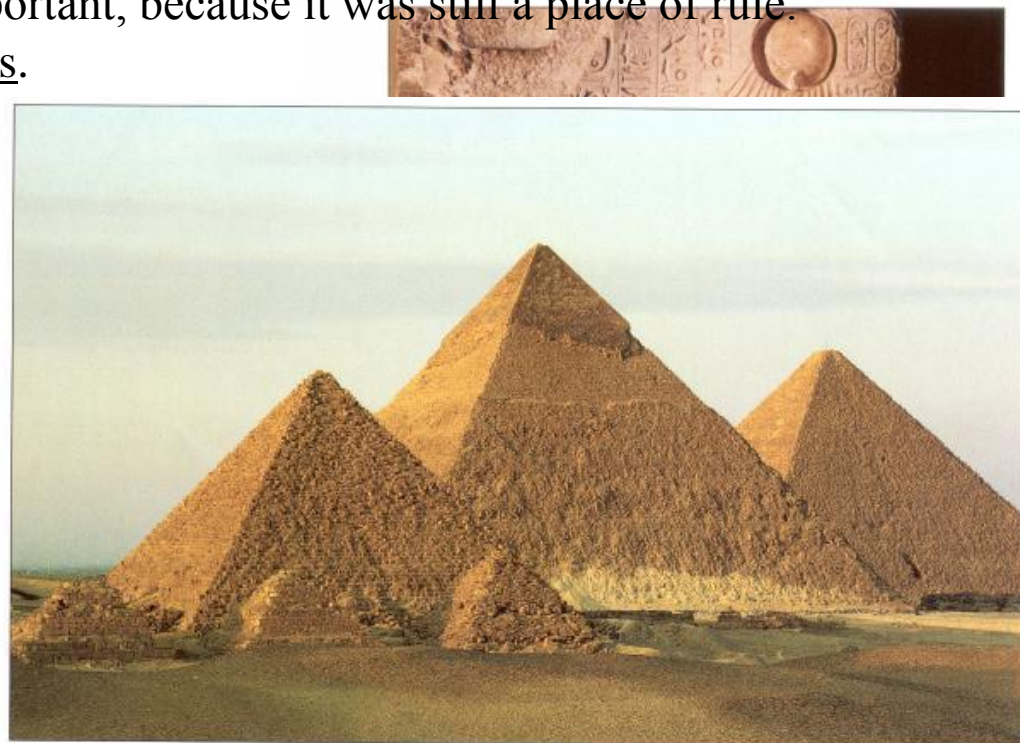
C. **Pharaoh** [means, *royal house*] – the ruler of Egypt

1. were considered gods; served both political and religious roles
Type of government where the political rulers are thought to be divinely-guided, or even divine themselves is a theocracy.
2. Believed each pharaoh ruled even after death, because they all possessed the same eternal spirit = *ka*;
and being gods, they naturally bore full responsibility for Egypt's well-being.
3. Therefore, Pharaoh's tomb very important, because it was still a place of rule.
Built massive tombs called pyramids.
4. The pyramids were built mainly in the Old Kingdom.

Define
type of
government

The pharaoh Akhenat
Nefertiti worship

The Great Pyramids at Giza



EARLY DYNASTIC PERIOD 2920-2575 BCE

- Unification of Upper and Lower Egypt by **Menes**.
- Foundation of the capital Memphis.
- Early **Step Pyramid** is built at **Saqqara**.

OLD KINGDOM - 2660-2180 BCE

- The **Great Pyramids** of Khufu (Cheops), Khafre (Chephren), and Menkaura (Mencopres) are built at Giza.
- Pyramids of Sahure, Neferirkare, Raneferef, Neuserre are built at Abusir.

MIDDLE KINGDOM 2180-1550 BCE

- Fragmentation of centralized power.
- Kings in Thebes establish control over all Egypt.
- Chaos leads central administration in Lower Egypt to disintegrate. An Asiatic people in the Nile Delta.
- Upper Egypt dominated by kings in Thebes.

NEW KINGDOM 1550-1070 BCE

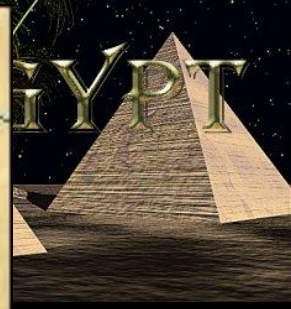
- Theban king Ahmose expels the Hyksos and reunites Egypt.
- Reigns of such kings as Amenhotep and Thutmose (Thutmosis).
- Ramses II (1290-1224 BC) divides power in Middle East.
- Invasions of mysterious sea peoples wreck havoc throughout Egypt.

Future history....

- Alexander the Great of Macedonia / Greece conquers and rules Egypt.
- After the defeat of Cleopatra, the last Ptolemy ruler, the Romans take Egypt. Egypt becomes a main production center of wheat, papyrus and textiles for the Roman Empire.



- Old Kingdom (2686 to 2181 B.C.)
- Middle Kingdom (1991 to 1786 B.C.)
- New Kingdom (1570 to 1070 B.C.)



at Giza.

csos,

tial city.
Egypt.

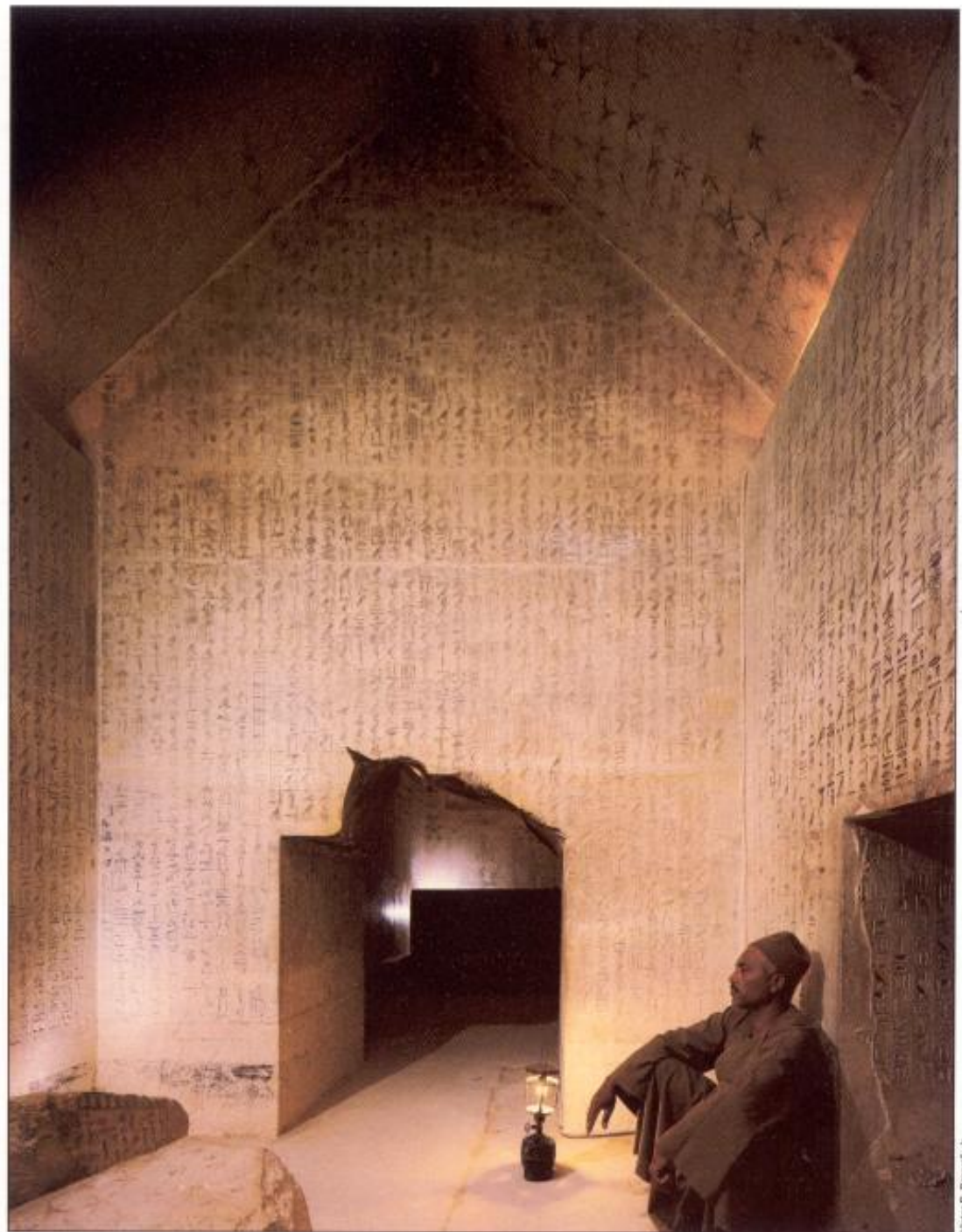
30 BC
e main
D

The pyramid at Saqqara is believed by archaeologists to be one of the earliest.

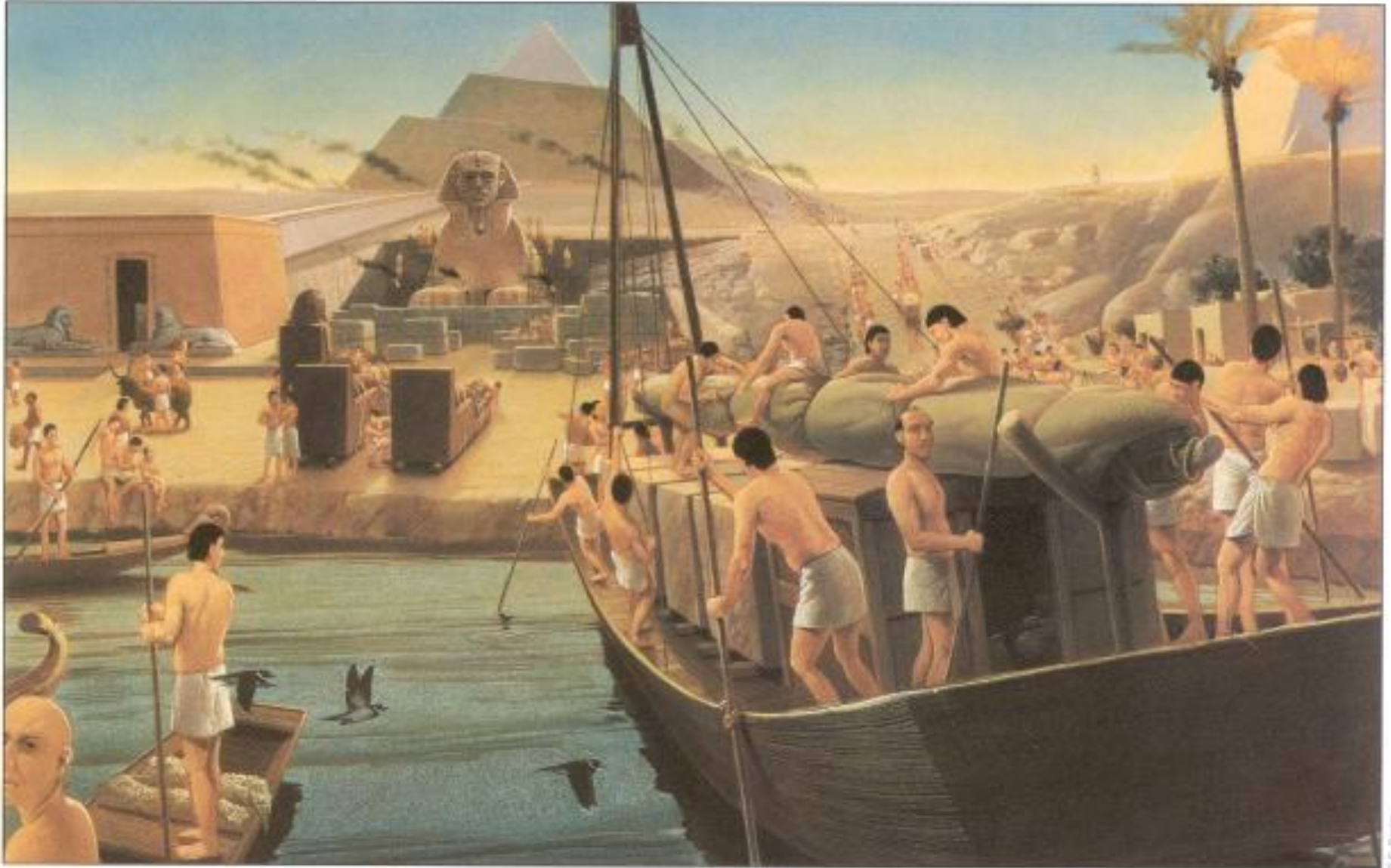
What is unusual about it? What clues does it offer to how the pyramids were built?



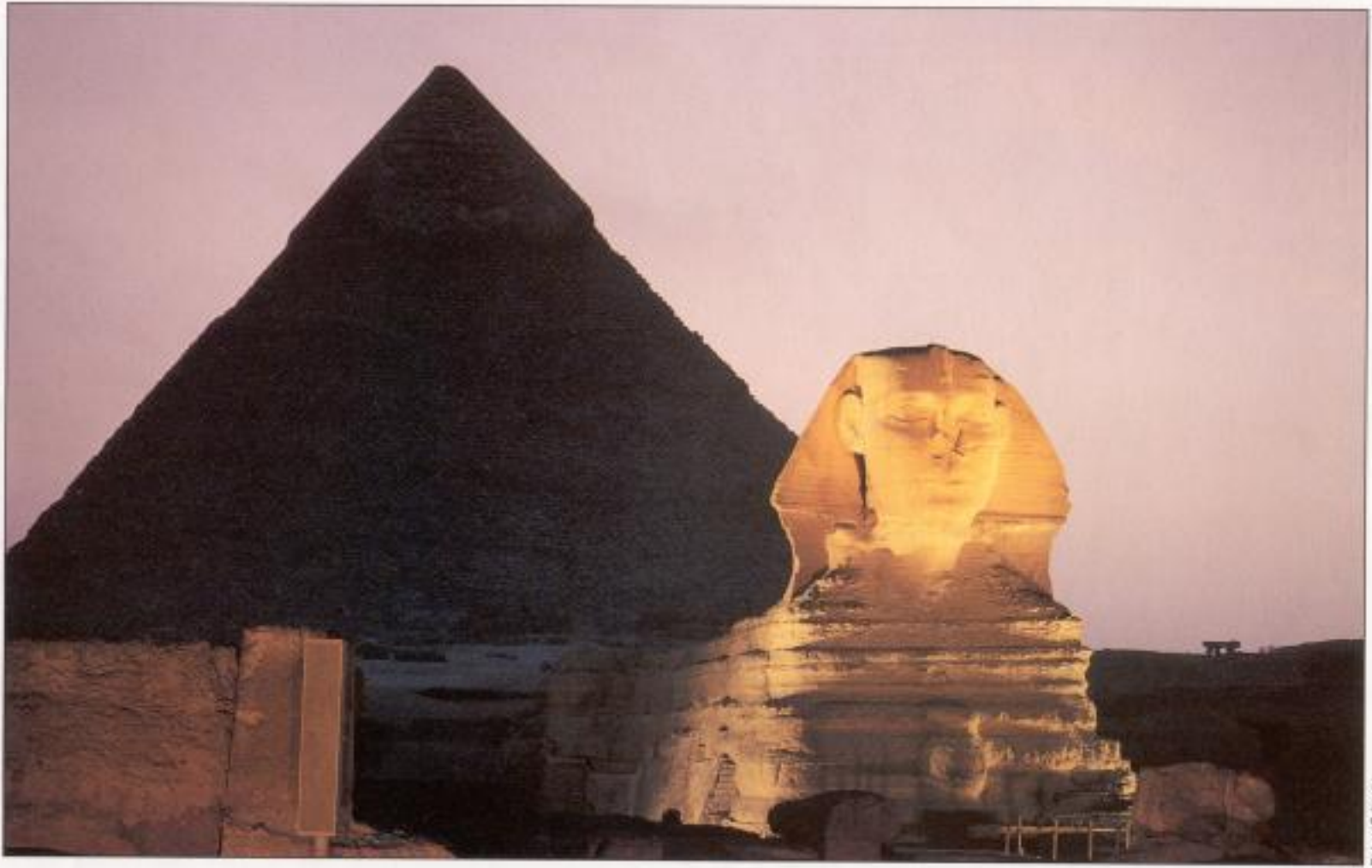
A modern-day Egyptian guide uses his lantern to illuminate the amazing hieroglyphic text covering the walls deep within the tunnels below the Saqqara pyramid.



What details do you notice and what can you infer about how this artist thinks the pyramids were built? Does this match the theory supported by the Saqqara pyramid?



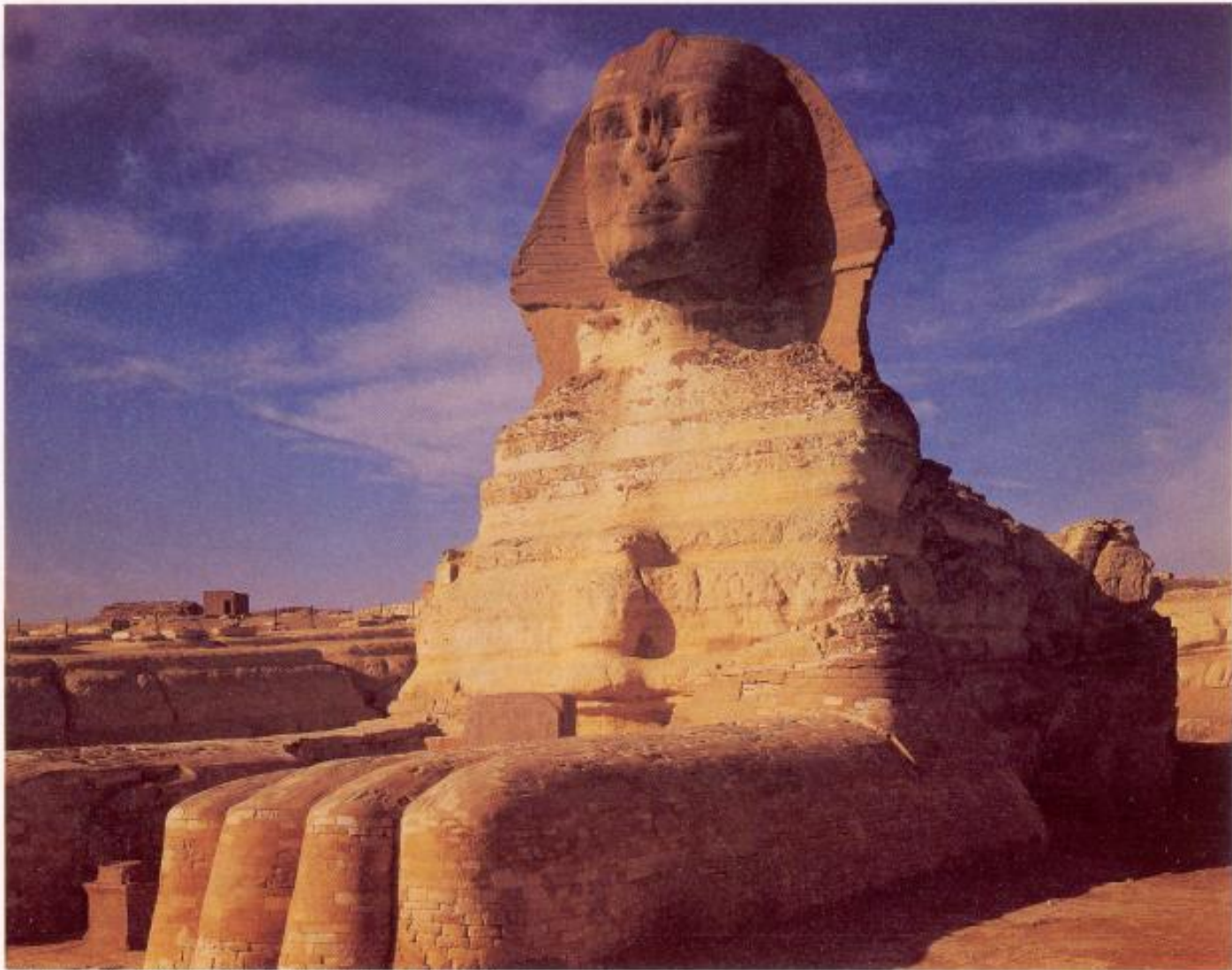
An artist's conception of the building of the great Khufu pyramid at Giza, Sphinx in foreground.



Richard T. Howitt

The Sphinx and Pyramid of Khafre at Giza.

Take a panoramic view of the Sphinx at
<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/lostempires/obelisk/explore/sphinx.html>



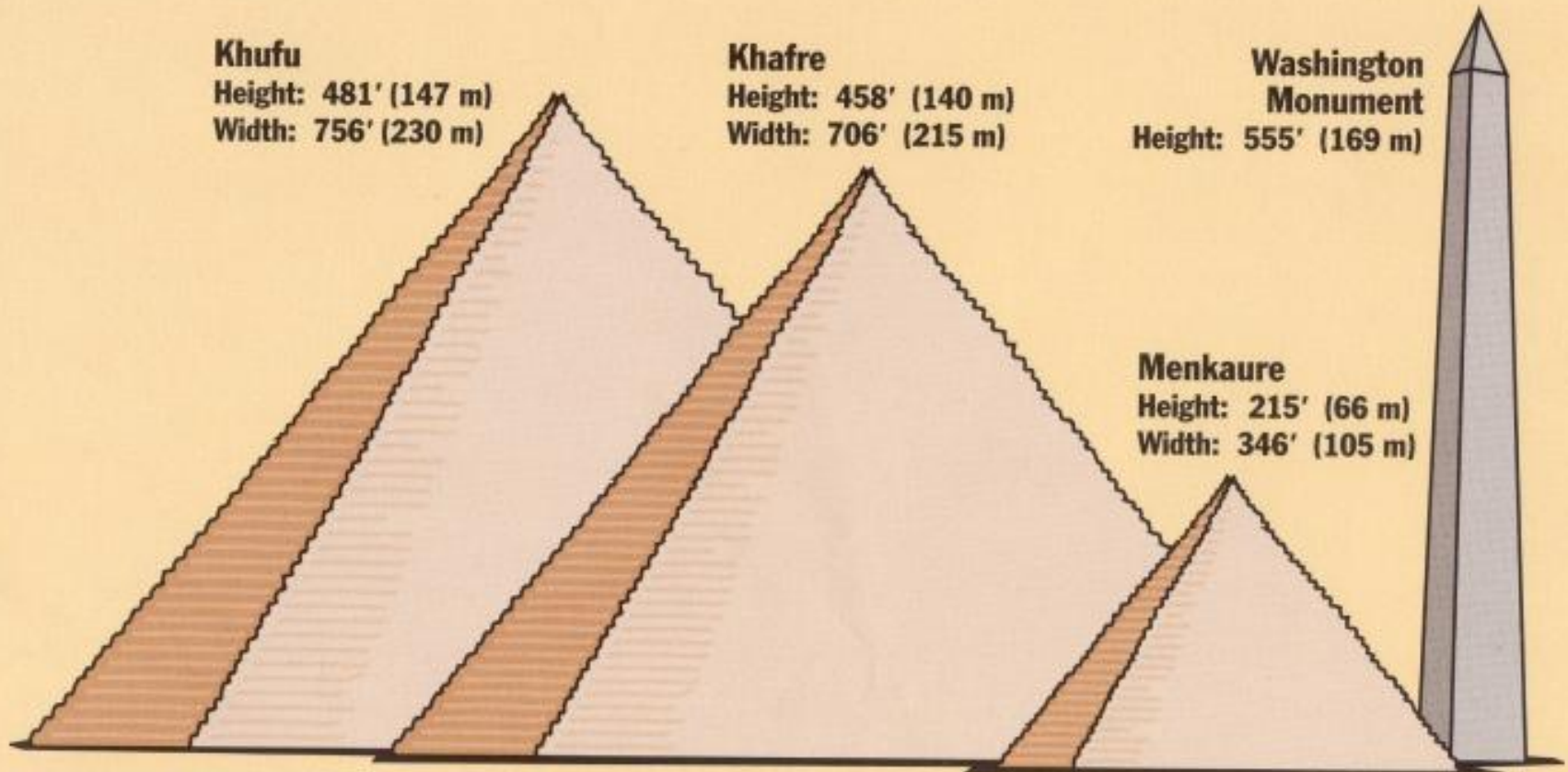
*The Sphinx, Giza, Egypt (1973). Eliot Porter. Ektachrome transparency. Copyright © 1990
Amon Carter Museum, Fort Worth, Texas. Request of Eliot Porter (P1990.70.14010.1).*

Egyptian Civilization: "The Gift of the Nile"

1 Which is the tallest pyramid?

2 Which is taller, Khufu or the Washington Monument?

3 What is the length of a side of the Menkaure pyramid at its base?



III. EGYPTIAN CULTURE

A. RELIGION

1. Polytheistic

a. Over 2,000

Ra, the sun god; **Horus**, sky god; **Isis**, mother goddess “giver of life” associated with Nile



*Above: The pantheon of Egyptian gods**

Example of Religious Syncretism

Right: The depiction of the seated mother holding the suckling child Horus was a common painted image throughout Egypt and is reminiscent of the iconography of Mary and Jesus. Also, Horus, being the child of Osiris and Isis – the god of the living and the dead - would grow up to defeat the evil Seth and cast him into darkness. Seth eternally strives for revenge, battling Horus at every turn. When Horus wins, Maat (justice) is upheld and the world is at peace. Horus then protects us in this life. Given all that...can you see how the early Christians had an easy time marketing their new Roman religion to the Egyptians, particularly after convincing them that Mary, mother of Jesus, was an incarnation of Isis!



III. EGYPTIAN CULTURE

A. RELIGION

1. Polytheistic

a. Over 2,000

Ra, Sun god; **Horus**, sky god; **Isis**, goddess of fertility (associated with Nile – mother “giver of life”)

b. Belief in afterlife!



The Funerary Scene

This scene depicts what occurs after a person has died, according to the ancient Egyptians. The Egyptians had an elaborate and complex belief in the afterlife.

Egypt on the Nile

III. EGYPTIAN CULTURE

A. RELIGION

1. Polytheistic

a. Over 2,000

Ra, Sun god; **Horus**, sky god; **Isis**, goddess of fertility (associated with Nile – mother “giver of life”)

b. Belief in



Osiris would weigh each person's heart on a scale against the weight of a feather. If the heart tipped the scale, heavy with sin, the Devourer of Souls would pounce on the heart. If not, the soul would live forever in the Other World.

III. EGYPTIAN CULTURE

A. RELIGION

1. Polytheistic

a. Over 2,000

Ra, Sun god; **Horus**, sky god; **Isis**, goddess of fertility (associated with Nile – mother “giver of life”)

b. Belief in afterlife! The dead were judged by **Osiris**, god of the dead.

Desiring to make it to the Other World safely, Egyptians of all classes made special preparations for their burials, including

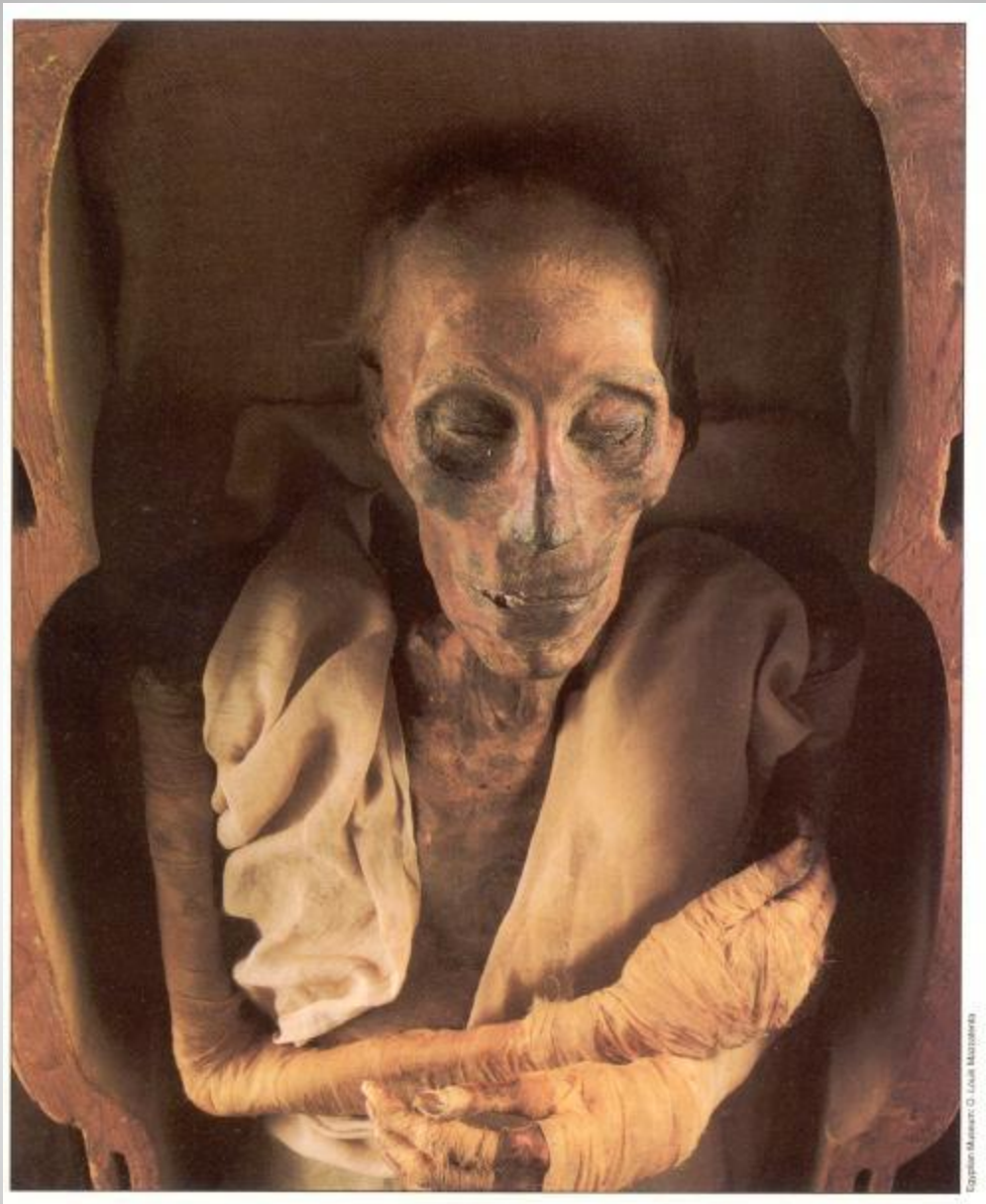
mummification – embalming and preserving the corpse to prevent it from decaying.



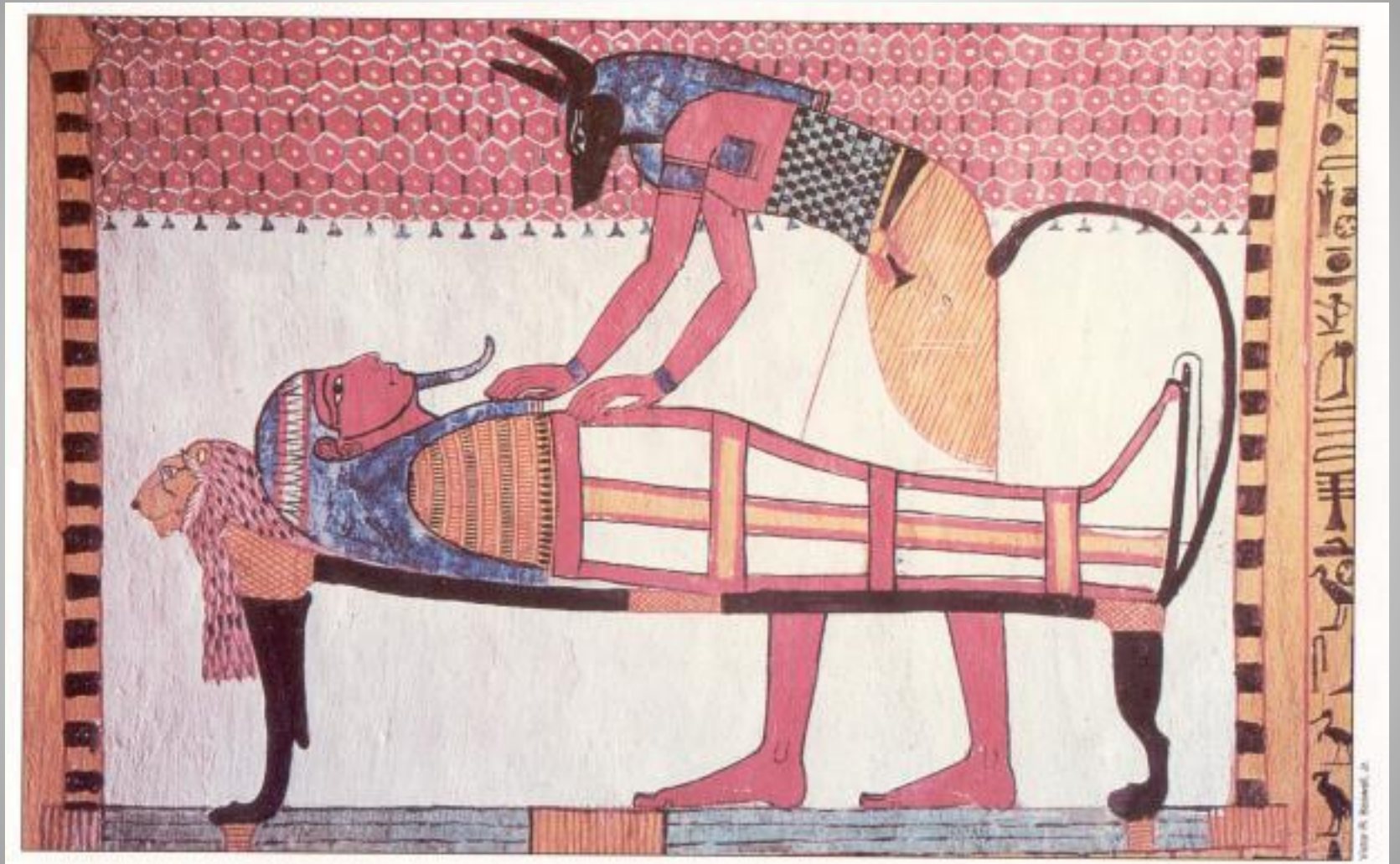
Above: Canopic jars for the body's various organs.

Right: Coffin of a Middle Kingdom government official.



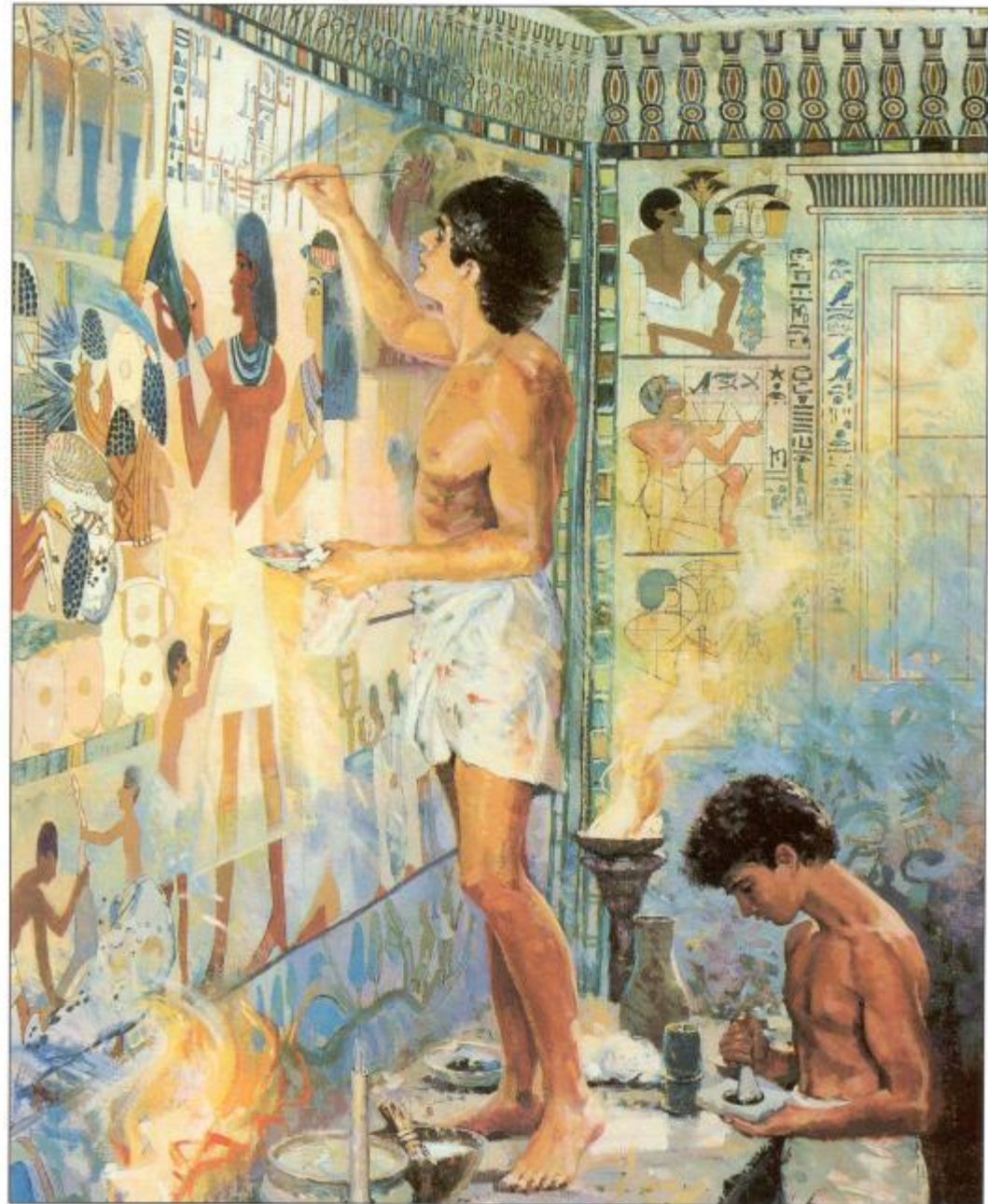


The mummy of Ramses II (1304 -1237 BC) still preserved today, 3,200 years later, at the Cairo Museum.



Annubis, god of embalming

Young males educated as scribes paint the walls of a tomb in preparation for a burial.





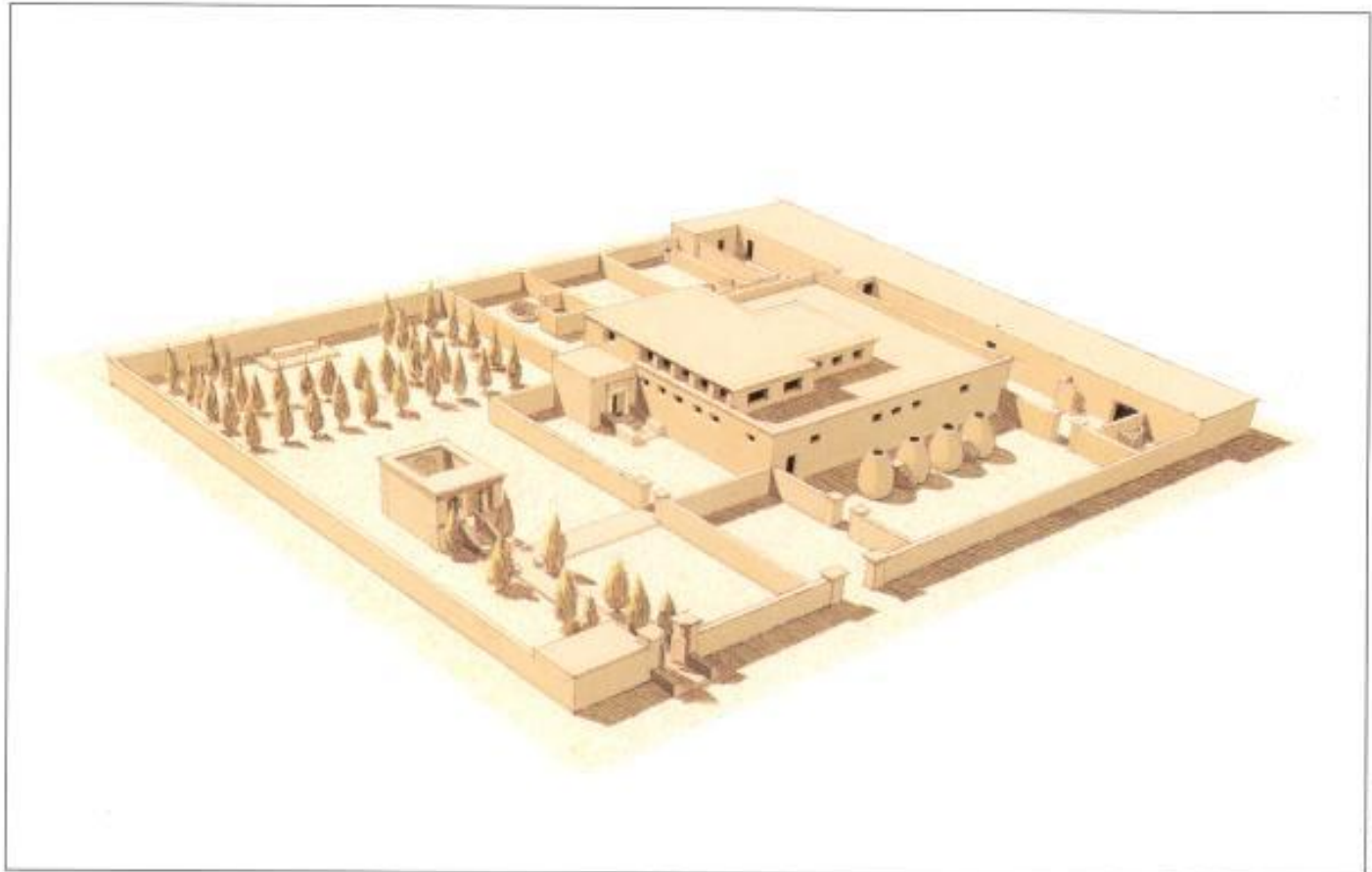


III. EGYPTIAN CULTURE

B. SOCIAL STRUCTURE

- Royal Family
- Upper class
 - Landowners (*become familiar with other terms for this class – i.e., aristocracy or nobility*)
 - Priests
 - Army commanders
 - Government officials

Wealthy man's house
at Amarna.

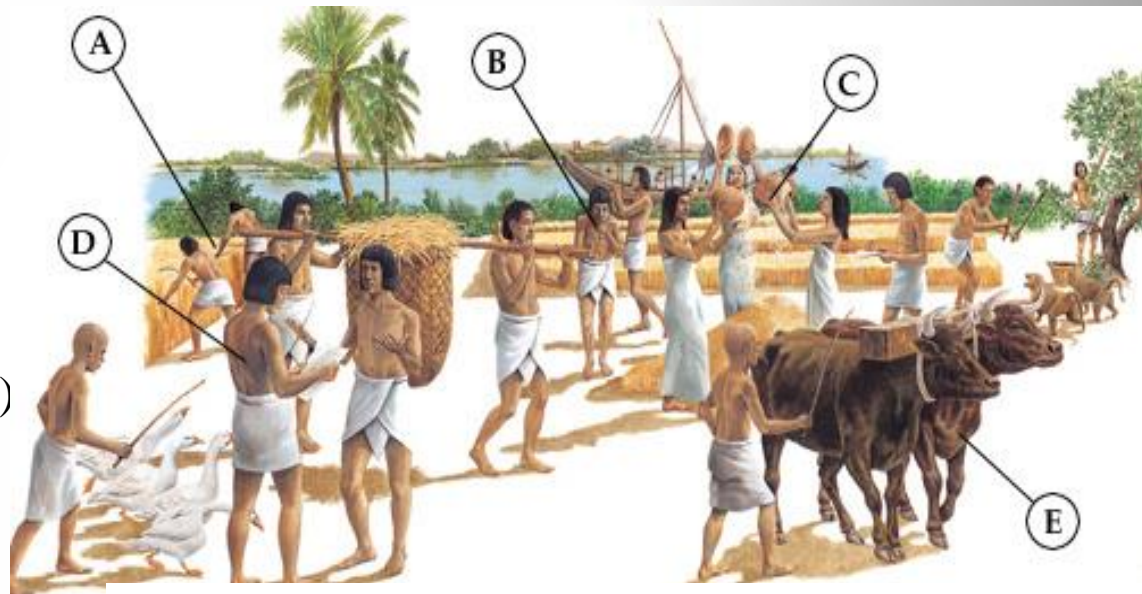


III. EGYPTIAN CULTURE

B. SOCIAL STRUCTURE

- Royal Family
- Upper class
Landowners (also known as aristocracy or nobility)
Priests
Army commanders
Government officials
- Middle Class
(merchants / artisans)
- Lower class
(peasant farmers, unskilled laborers)

Socially Mobile classes
Not “locked in”,
lower and middle classes
could rise up through marriage
or through merit (success).



A. Harvesting grain; B. Musicians play for the workers in the fields; C. Women winnowing the grain; D. Scribes tally the farmer's taxes; E. The farmer's son tending the livestock / cattle.

III. EGYPTIAN CULTURE

B. SOCIETY STRUCTURE

- Royal Family
- Upper class
Landowners (also known as aristocracy or nobility)
Priests
Army commanders
Government officials
- Middle Class
(merchants / artisans)
- Lower class
(peasant farmers, unskilled laborer

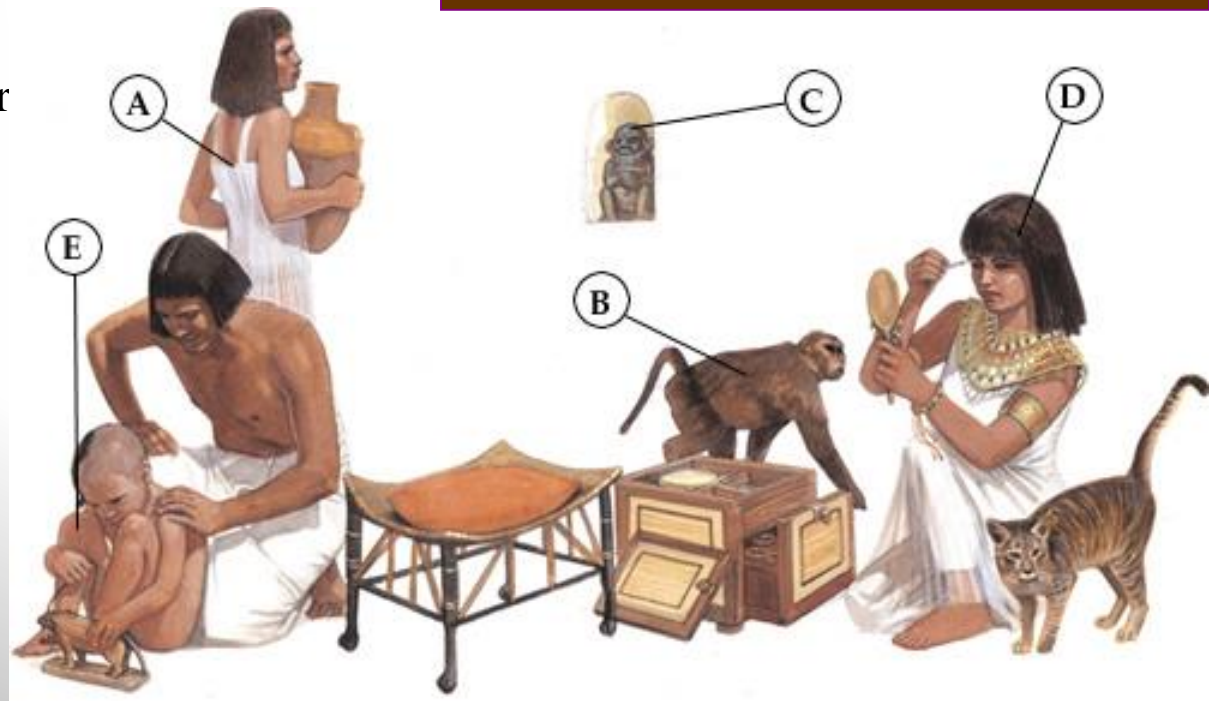
2. **Women** had many of the same rights as men, could own property, could seek divorce.

Later we'll discover
a couple of women
who actually ruled Egypt!

Did you know...

Men and women
wore makeup in Egypt.

The dark-lined eyes that look out at us from the artwork of ancient Egypt was the height of fashion and was called kohl – powdered minerals mixed with water and applied with a small stick. Both genders also wore lipstick – crushed red ocher (iron oxide) mixed with oil.



IV. EGYPTIAN WRITING

- A. Pictographs developed into hieroglyphics
- B. Written on Papyrus, unfurled reed from the Nile, dried into strips
- C. Deciphering hieroglyphics

The Rosetta Stone, discovered in 1799 A.D.

Why was the knowledge of reading hieroglyphics LOST in the first place?

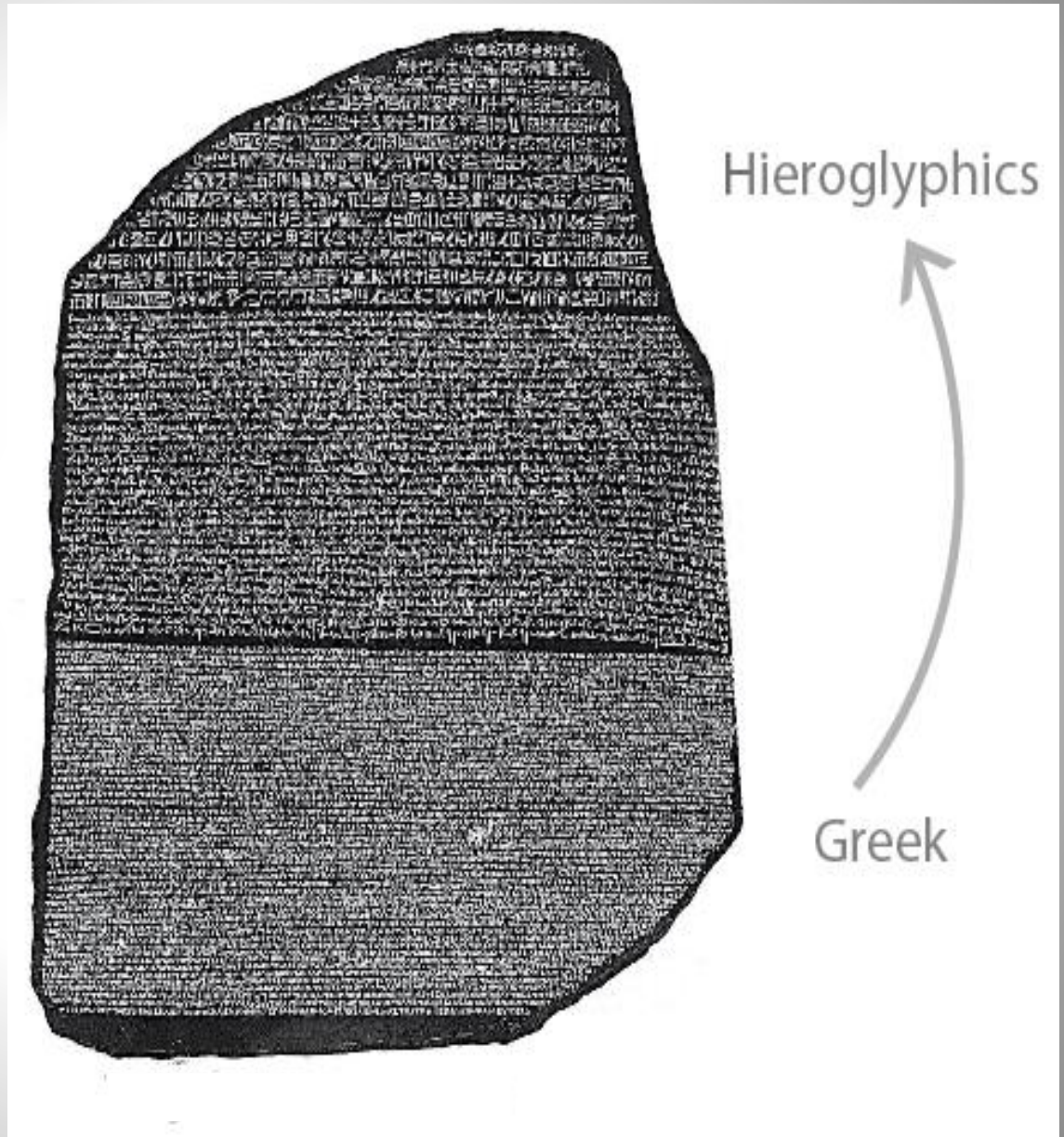
In the first century A.D. when Christianity arrived in Egypt, it was common for the Christian movement to remove / destroy the religious images, writings, and priesthood of the former religion in the region. During this chaotic time of transition, the literate priests and scribes were mostly killed off and the knowledge of hieroglyphics was lost for almost 1,500 years.





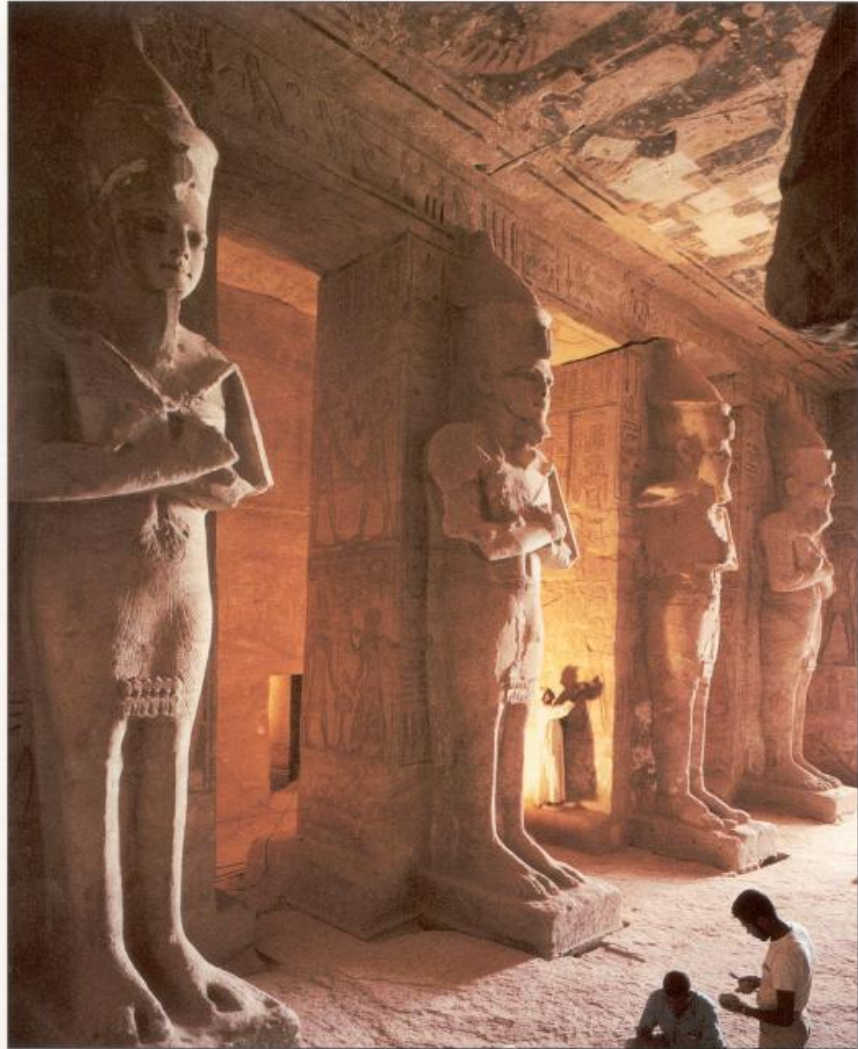
The Rosetta Stone can be viewed by tourists today in the British Museum.

The Rosetta Stone, discovered in 1799 A.D.



V. SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

A. Geometry, numeric system on base 10 (decimal), engineers and architects, first to use stone columns



B. Calendar

C. Amazing advancements in medicine

VI. INVASIONS

A. Old Kingdom begins to decline, ca. 2180 B.C.E.

After about a century of fragmented and weak rulers,

B. Middle Kingdom period rises [2080-1640 B.C.E.]

- Center of power is now in Thebes in Upper Egypt rather than Lower Egypt's old Memphis capital.

- This is a prosperous period.

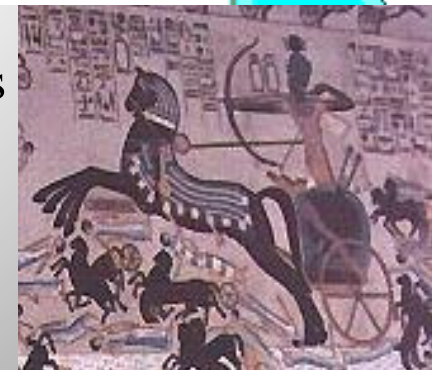
Massive building projects around Thebes.

Unfortunately the Egyptians took their years of well-protected geographic isolation for granted and made little real defensive preparations should the unthinkable happen.

The unthinkable happened.

C. Invaded by the Hyksos, an Asiatic people, great chariot-riders which they introduced in Egypt for the first time.

These foreigners bring the Middle Kingdom period to an end and will rule Egypt for 70 years.



4 early River Valley Civilizations

- Sumerian Civilization - Tigris & Euphrates Rivers (Mesopotamia)
- Egyptian Civilization - Nile River
- Harappan Civilization - Indus River
- Ancient China - Huang He River



“The Four Early River Valley Civilizations”

- Sumerian Civilization - Tigris & Euphrates Rivers (Mesopotamia)
 - Egypt (Nile River)
 - Harappan Civilization - Indus River



The ruins of Mohenjo-Daro; Indus Valley

The **Indus Valley civilization** flourished around 2,500 B.C. in the western part of South Asia, in what today is Pakistan and western India.

It is often referred to as **Harappan Civilization** after its first discovered city, Harappa.

The nearby city of **Mohenjo-Daro** is the largest and most familiar archaeological dig in this region.

The Indus Valley was home to the largest of the four ancient urban civilizations of Egypt, Mesopotamia, India and China.

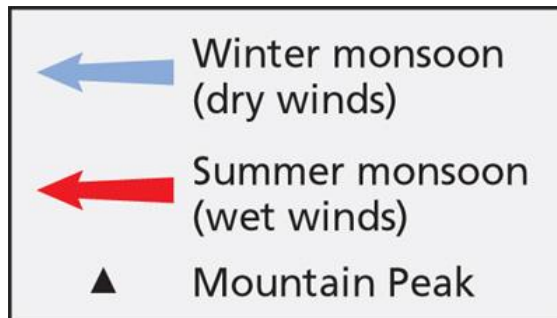


This ancient civilization was not discovered until the 1920's. Most of its ruins, including major cities, remain to be excavated.

Left: The excavated ruins of Mohenjo-daro.

1. What challenges did the people along the Indus River face?

- unpredictable rivers
(similar situation to Mesopotamia region)
- strong winds / monsoons



2. Name conclusions that have been drawn about Indus River culture?

- Began farming along Indus about 3,200 B.C.
- Size of settled region larger than Egypt or Mesopotamia.
- Careful city planners; laid out in grid with a defendable citadel.
- Engineered sophisticated plumbing and sewage systems.
- Peaceful people – few weapons found
- Similarity in housing indicates little differences between social classes.
- Religious objects and symbols clearly linked to Hinduism.

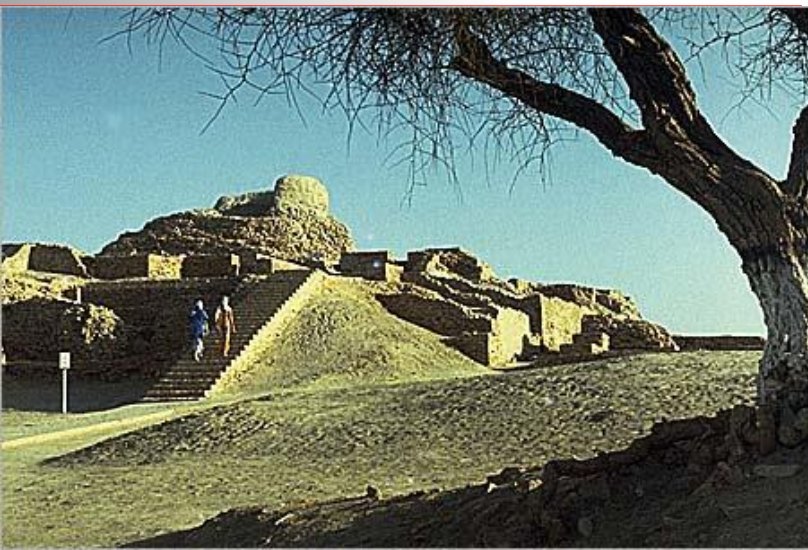
Did you know?

Hinduism is considered to be the world's oldest religion.

Yet it's origins have long been a mystery.



Above: Terracota household statues such as this female goddess are found frequently in the region. Is this religious icon an early Shiva? Does modern Hinduism have its origins in Harappan civilization?



Left: The excavated ruins of Mohenjodaro – one of several planned cities laid out on a grid system in the Indus region.

Right: The citadel at Mohenjodaro.

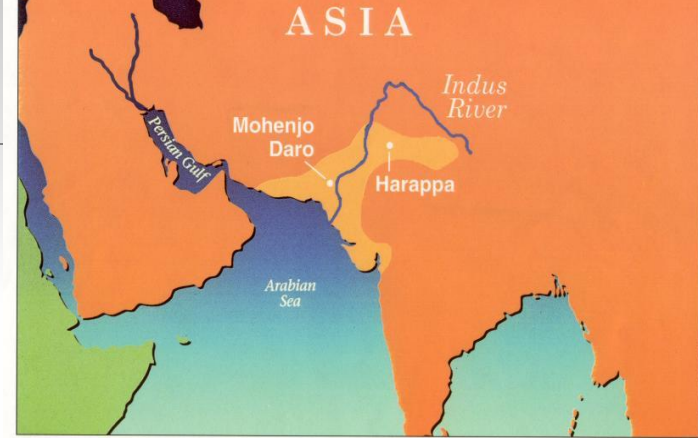


What happened to the Harappan civilization on the Indus River?



3. Name three theories about why the Indus Valley civilization ended around 1500 BCE?

- The river may have changed course, natural disaster (caused by heavy monsoons)
- The people may have overworked the land (overcutting trees, overgrazed, overfarmed land depleting nutrients)
- Invaders
(What is the disputed (A.I.T.) Aryan Invasion Theory?)

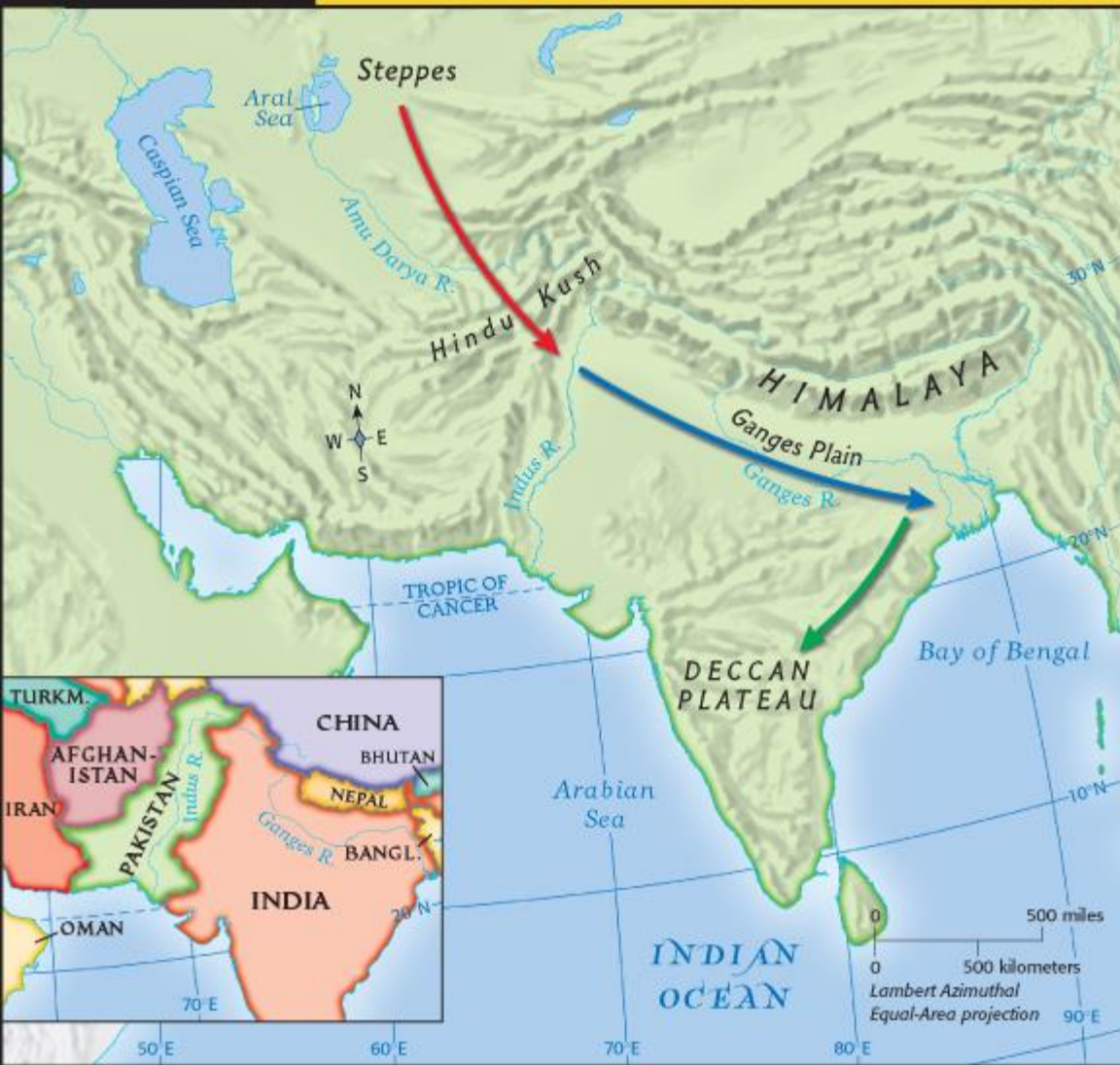


Source: Geographic Society Publications Ltd

Ray Anderson

Harappans abandoning their city.

Aryan Migration, 2000–500 B.C.



Aryan migration:

- ← 2000–1500 B.C.
- ← 1500–1000 B.C.
- ← 1000–500 B.C.

Aryan Civilization Daily Life

The Vedic & Epics Periods 1500 – 500 BCE

Aryans:

- ❖ Things changed in the Indus Valley when a new group arrived, called the Aryans.
- ❖ Came from Central Asia (Russia) → Entered thru the Khyber pass
- ❖ Were nomads & raised livestock, rode chariots
- ❖ Had no sophisticated gov't → grouped in clans & ruled by warrior chiefs called rajas
- ❖ Constant war amongst themselves, b/tw various clans

The *VEDAS*: *means knowledge*

- ❖ Beliefs & daily life described in the 4 Vedas → collection of poems & sacred hymns c.1500 BCE
- ❖ Composed of the Rig, Sama, Yajur, & Atharva Vedas
- ❖ This is why the period from c. 1500 BCE – 1000 BCE is called the Vedic Period.

The Ramayana & the Mahabharata:

- ❖ c. 1000 BCE, Aryans started to create 2 epics
 - Stories about Aryans life, wars & accomplishments
- ❖ Ramayana → (good) Aryan king Rama destroys the (evil) pre-Aryan king Ravana
- ❖ Mahabharata → Aryan wars amongst 2 clans, Pandavas & Kauravas, & the Pandavas won
- ❖ This is why the period from c. 1000 BCE – 500 BCE is called the Epics Period.

How did the Aryans live?

- ❖ **Clans or tribes settled in different regions of NW India**
- ❖ **Tribes were called Gana (literally a "collection" - of people).**
- ❖ **Chief of each tribe was hereditary → If your father was chief, you would be chief.**
- ❖ **Made decisions, after listening to a committee, or even to the entire tribe.**
- ❖ **People had a voice, but the chief was the boss.**

Aryan Houses:

- ❖ **People in the Vedic period lived in straw huts.**
- ❖ **Some were made of wood, but not until the Epics Period.**

Yagna (central fire-place):

- ❖ **Life of the tribal Aryans focused around the central fireplace called the Yagna.**
- ❖ **Dinner time was social time → gather around the fireplace & share news & days happenings**
 - **Those who tended the fireplace also cooked for the rest of the tribe. (very special job)**
- ❖ **Fire tenders were the go-between b/tw the fire god & the people – Later, formed caste of priests**
- ❖ **Ate meat, vegetables, fruit, bread, milk& fish**

What did they do when they were not working or fighting each other?

- ❖ **Loved to gamble → introduced the horse to ancient India and raced chariots.**
- ❖ **Played fighting games & loved to tell stories.**
- ❖ **Were proud, fierce & deeply religious → had many gods & goddesses**

Jobs:

- ❖ **As the Aryans settled in and began to grow crops, people started to have occupations.**
- ❖ **Began to belong to 1 of 4 groups: Brahmana (priests), Kshatriya (warriors), Vaishya (traders and agriculturists) & Shudra (workers) beginning → just occupations & could move group to group**
- ❖ **Changed over time, until a person's occupation or group depended upon birth**
 - **If your father was a farmer, you had to be farmer.**
 - **Change from one group to another became very difficult.**

Education:

- ❖ **Taught by a guru (a teacher) → even chiefs sons had to obey the guru**
- ❖ **Followed a rigorous course of studies**
- ❖ **Writing was done on bark and leaves, and hence was perishable, so we have very few items to tell us what they studied or what they wrote.**

Clothing:

- ❖ **Initially made of animal skins → as people settled down clothing began to be made of cotton**

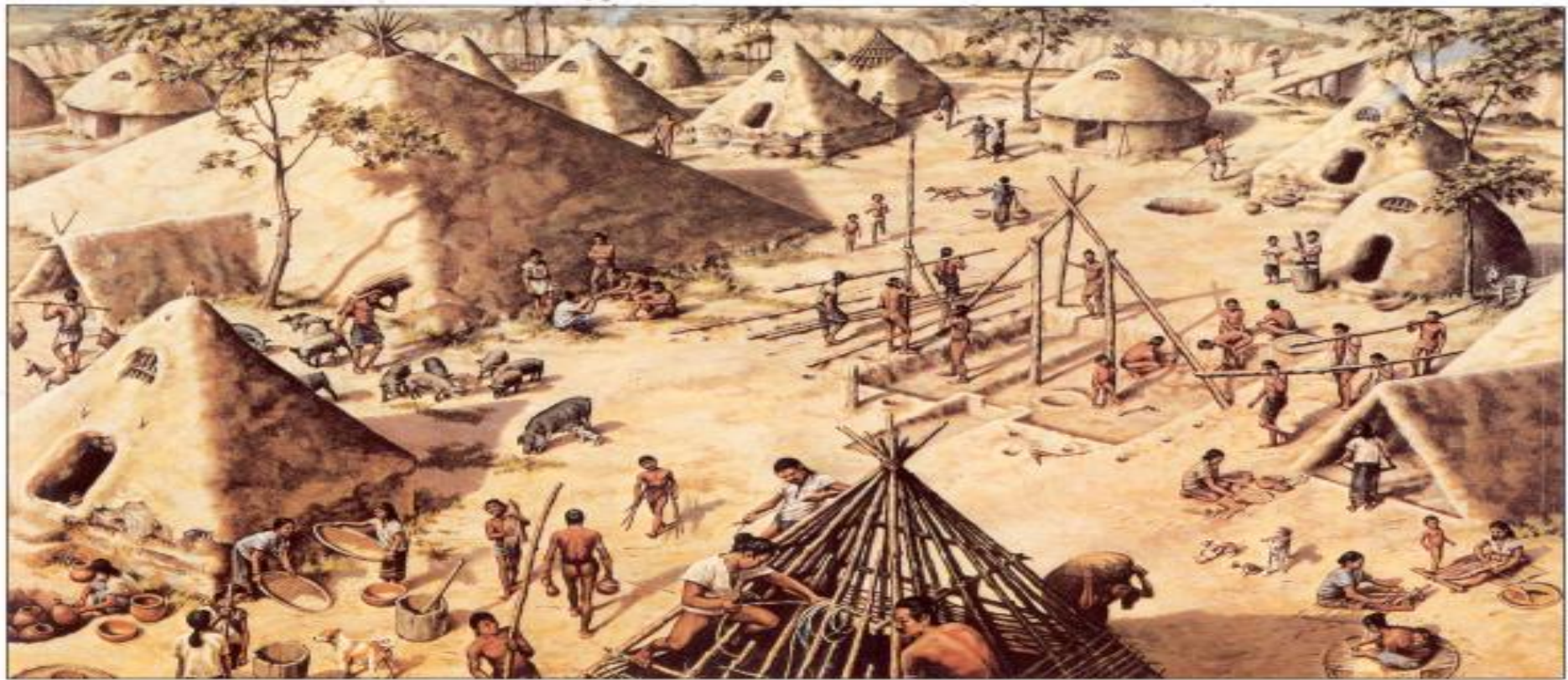
4 early River Valley Civilizations

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- Egyptian Civilization - Nile River
- Harappan Civilization - Indus River
- Ancient China - Huang He River



“The Four Early River Valley Civilizations”

- Mesopotamia [Sumer] (Tigris & Euphrates Rivers)
- Egypt (Nile River)
- Indus Valley (Indus River)
- **Ancient China (Huang He River)**



An artist visualizes what the ancient Chinese village of Banpo on the Huang He may have looked like over 4,000 years ago.



“River Dynasties in China”

1. Why did China develop apart from other cultures?

- China's geography ocean, desert, high mountains, isolated China.

Isolated geographically, cut off from trade, there would be little opportunity for cultural diffusion in China's case. Developing in a vacuum, China's civilization would stand out as the most unique of our world's early civilizations.

和平

PEACE

愛

LOVE

忍

TOLERANCE

福

LUCK

永

ETERNITY



Neolithic ca. 12,000 - 2000 B.C.

Xia ca. 2100-1800 B.C.

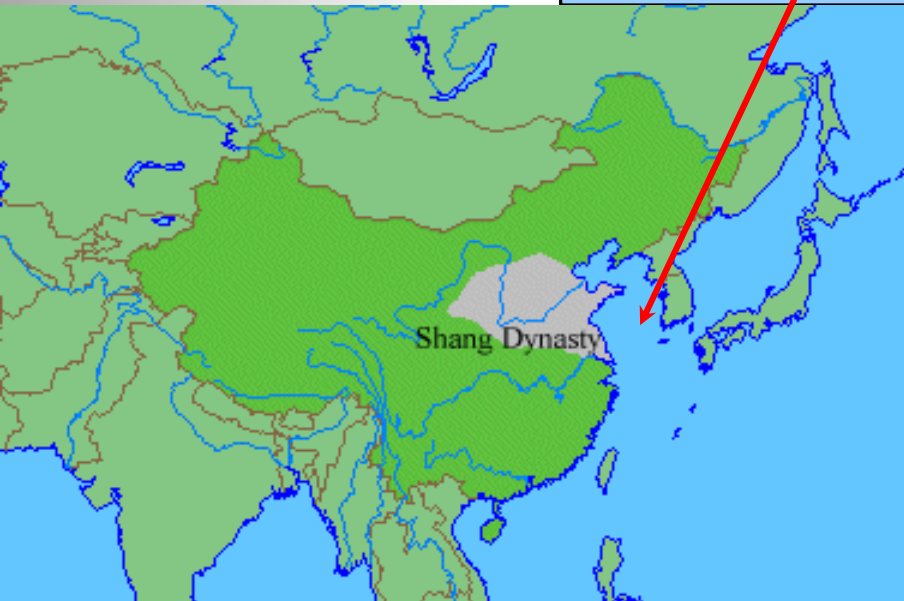
Shang 1700-1027 B.C.

Western Zhou 1027-771 B.C.

Eastern Zhou
770-221 B.C.

Warring States period
475-221 B.C.

**Ancient
China**



black lines represent
Great Walls built by
the Zhou

The Dynastic Cycle

New Dynasty

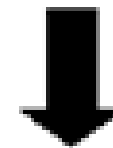
- ❑ Brings peace
- ❑ (Re)builds infrastructure
- ❑ Gives land to peasants
- ❑ Protects people



Generations go
by, New Dynasty
becomes...

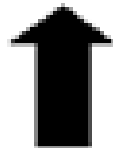
Old Dynasty

- ❑ Taxes people too much
- ❑ Stops protecting people
- ❑ Lets infrastructure decay
- ❑ Treats people unfairly



Old Dynasty loses
Mandate of Heaven

New Dynasty claims
Mandate of Heaven



Problems

- ❑ Floods, earthquakes, etc.
- ❑ Peasant revolt
- ❑ Invaders attack empire
- ❑ Bandits raid countryside



Shang (1700 - 1027 BCE)

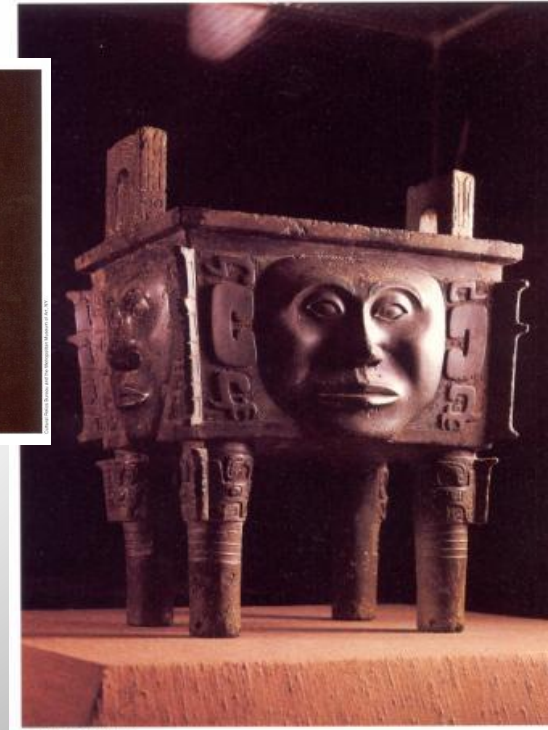
- First recorded Dynasty (Xia - no written records)
- Ruled by aristocracy
- First Chinese cities, center of court life
- Developed writing, worked with bronze, created silk
- Honored ancestors, used oracle bones
- Shang tyrant emperor overthrown



Ancient China

2. What were three features of Shang culture?

- First written records
 - calligraphy writing and paper making
- Sharp division between king's nobles and the peasants
- Wood used as building material
(not mud-dried bricks as in other regions)
- Peasants used wooden tools
- Shang made magnificent bronze weapons and ceremonial vessels



Pics: Bronze work of the Shang period (1700-1027 B.C.). A toilet, an ax, and a cooking cauldron.

PP Design of T. Loessin; Akins H.S.



Oracle bone

3. Name three important values of Shang culture.

- From very early on, the idea of the “group” / community more important than the idea of “individual”/ or any single person.
- Emphasis on family, respect of parents
- Family emphasized in religion too – ancestor worship.
- Oracle bones used to consult the gods
- Chinese writing unique to others.

Symbols stood for ideas, not sounds.

This allowed the many different groups who spoke different languages to all understand the same writing system.





Ancient China

Neolithic ca. 12,000 - 2000 B.C.

Xia ca. 2100-1800 B.C.

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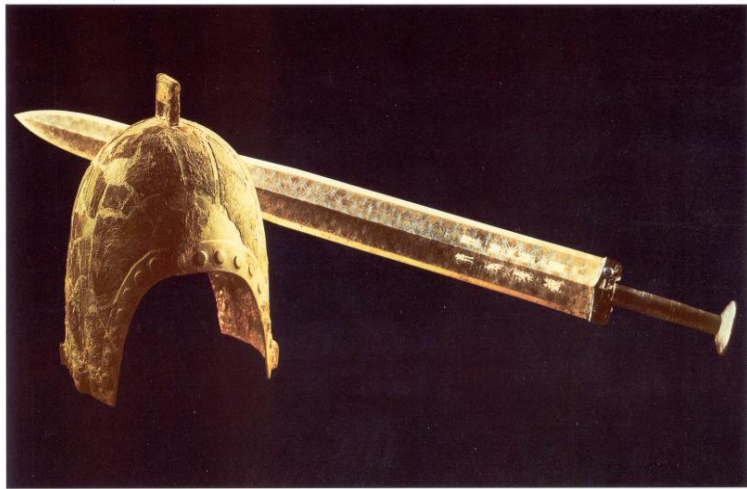
Zhou (1027 - 250 BCE)

- Longest lasting Chinese Dynasty
- Beginning of Mandate of Heaven
- Early: Feudal system, lords had total authority
- Later: City-states
- Built roads, expanded trade, made agricultural advancements
- Taoism and Confucianism introduced
- Decline: Inefficient rulers can't control fighting between city-states
- Period of Warring States



Above: Jade disk,
China's Zhou period.

Below: Bronze helmet and sword,
Zhou period.



4. Name two important changes brought about by the Zhou.

While the Zhou did simply adopt much of old Shang culture, they also did introduce new things:

- A new idea of royalty that claimed rulers got their authority from heaven. This was known as the **Mandate from Heaven**.

From this time on the Chinese would believe in *divine* rule.

This meant disasters could be blamed on the rulers and they would frequently be replaced.

This led to a pattern of rise and fall of dynasties in China known as the **dynastic cycle**.

- The Zhou gave large regions of land and privileges to a select few nobles who then owed loyalty to the king in return. This type of political system the Zhou introduced is called **feudalism**.
- Zhou introduced the first coined money; improved transportation with roads and canals; improved the efficiency of government with trained workers called civil servants; and introduced the first iron-making.



Center of Xia Dynasty

Ancient China

Neolithic ca. 12,000 - 2000 B.C.

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Shang Dynasty



Zhou Dynasty
at its greatest
extent

black lines represent
Great Walls built by
the Zhou

The first 300 years of Zhou rule were relatively peaceful and stable.

But that changed around 771 B.C.E. as nomadic tribes invaded from the north and as the noble families began to fight for power against one another.

The crossbow is introduced in China during this time of great conflict and chaos known as the **Period of Warring States**.

Chinese values collapsed during this period of arrogance, chaos, and defiance.

Will China be saved?

By who?

.....*stay tuned.*

