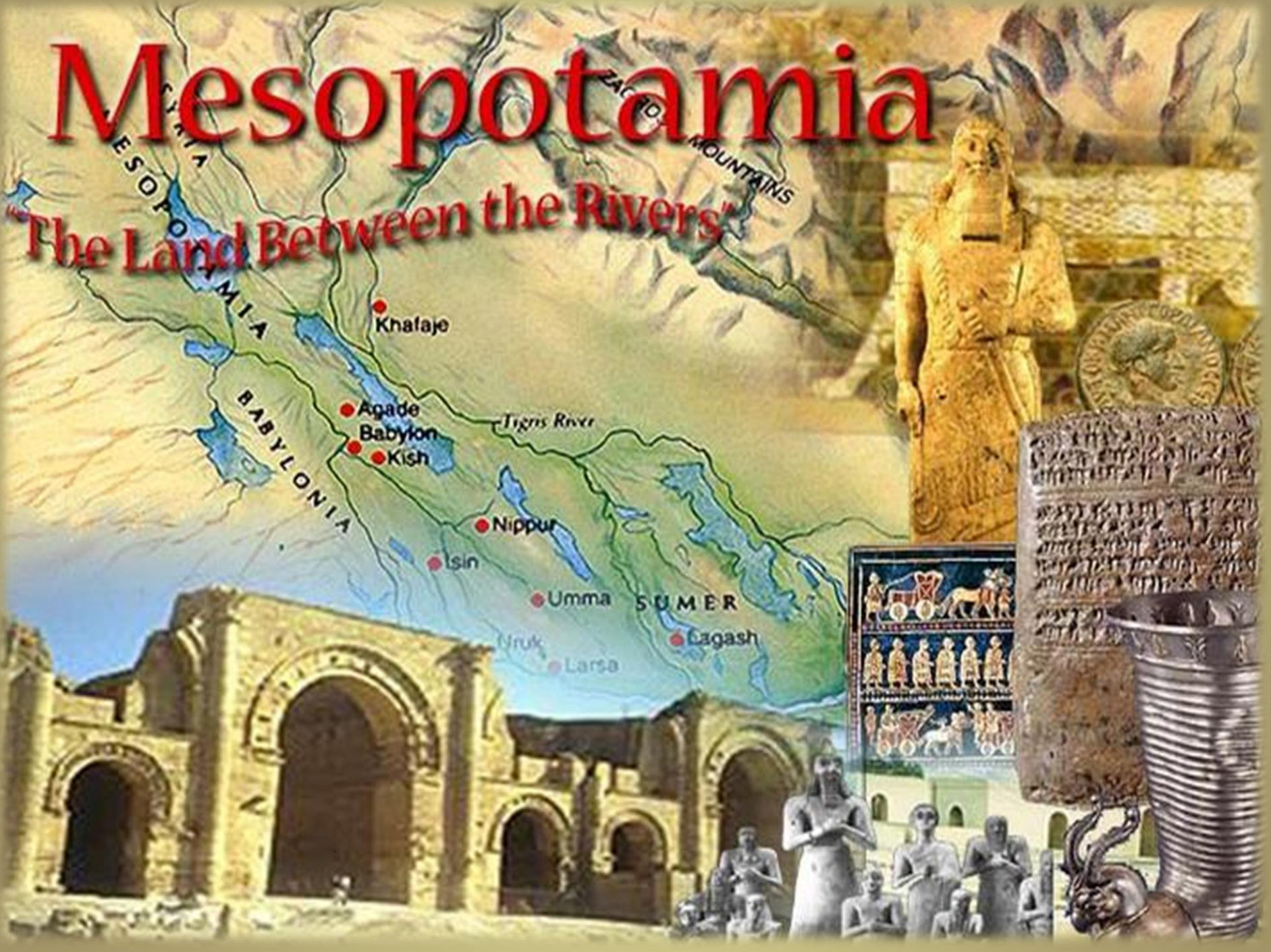


# Mesopotamia

"The Land Between the Rivers"



# Mesopotamia

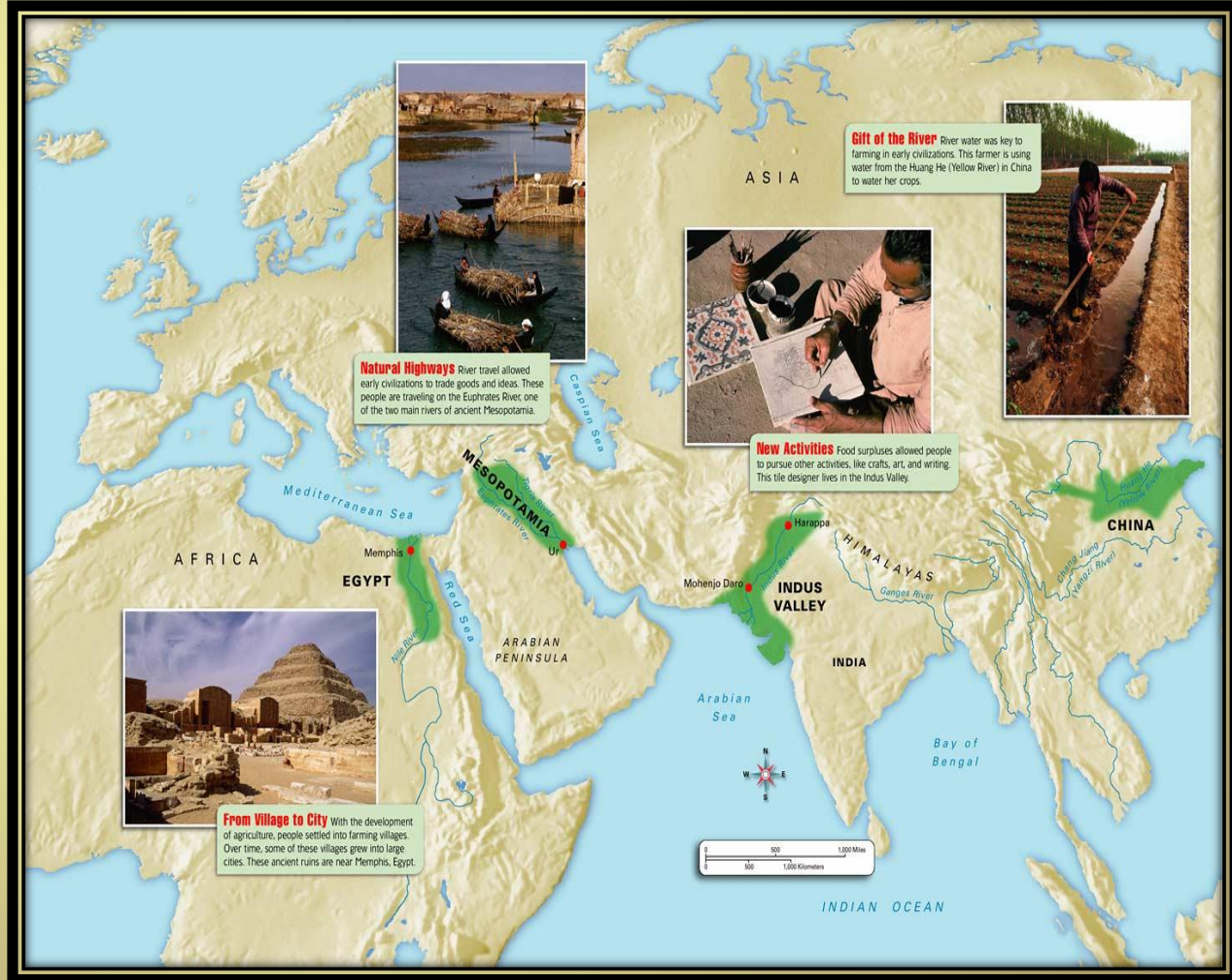
The Land Between the Rivers

How did physical geography affect the development of early Mesopotamia?

Essential Question

# What did a surplus of food lead to?

- The world's major river systems formed large **VALLEYS**. In these, **PEOPLE** found plenty of **WATER** for drinking, cooking, and bathing.
- With so many **RESOURCES**, the river valleys provided a good place to build permanent **SETTLEMENTS**.



- Over time, the farmers learned to grow a **SURPLUS** of **CROPS**, which led people to do activities other than farming. People started to create more advanced **CULTURES**.
- One of the earliest **CIVILIZATIONS** developed in the valleys of two major rivers, the Tigris and the Euphrates in southwestern Asia



# Mesopotamia

The Land Between the Rivers

What did a surplus of food lead to?



# What was the Land Between the Rivers?

- This civilization arose in a land that came to be known as **SUMER**.
- Sumer lay in the southern part of a region known as the **FERTILE CRESCENT**, this lush valley has the shape of a crescent moon, the word fertile refers to the rich soil found there.
- Many **TRIBUTARIES**, or smaller rivers, flow into the Tigris River. Eventually, the **TIGRIS** and **EUPHRATES** flow into the **PERSIAN GULF**

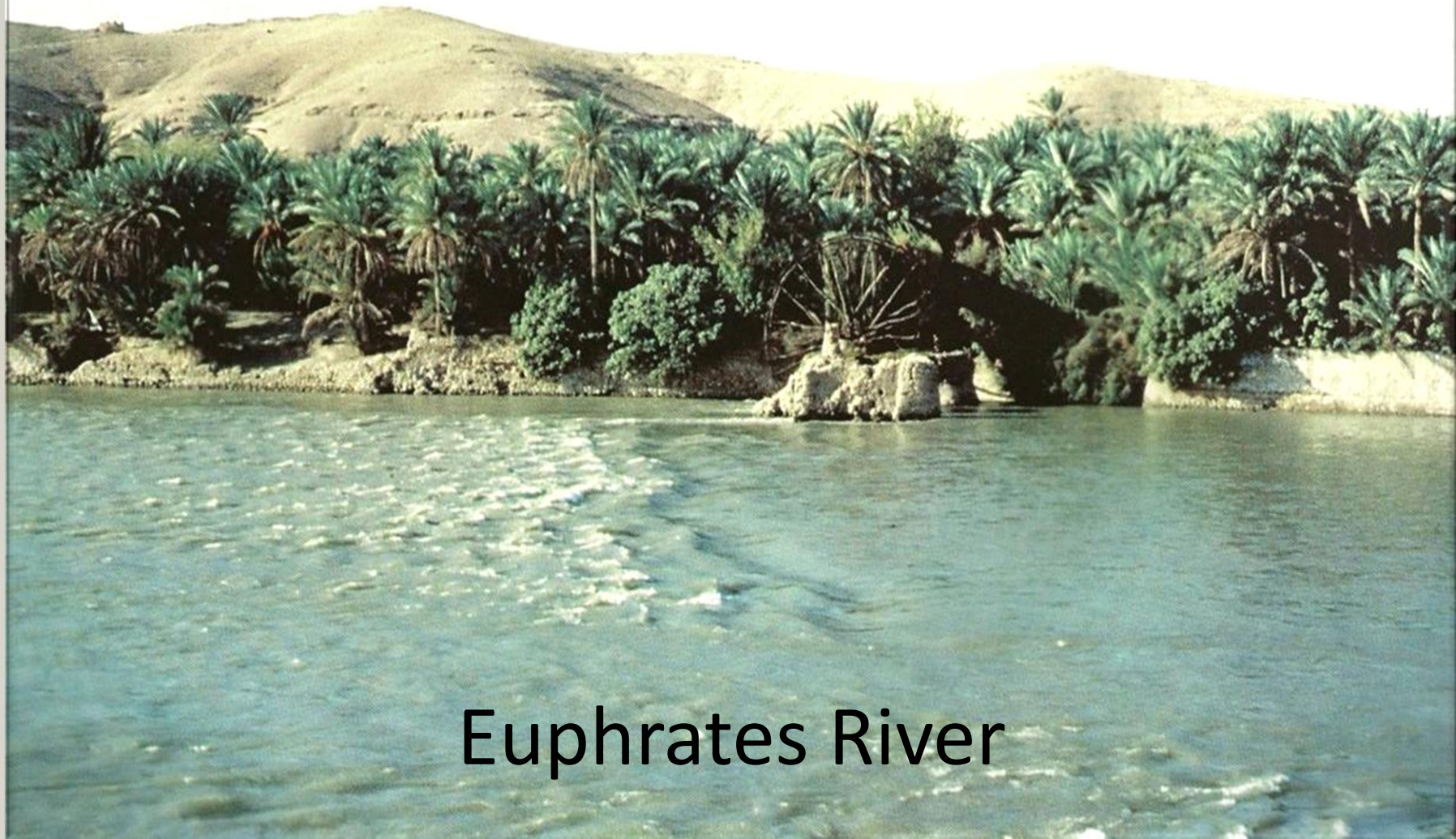
# The Fertile Crescent





Tigris River





Euphrates River

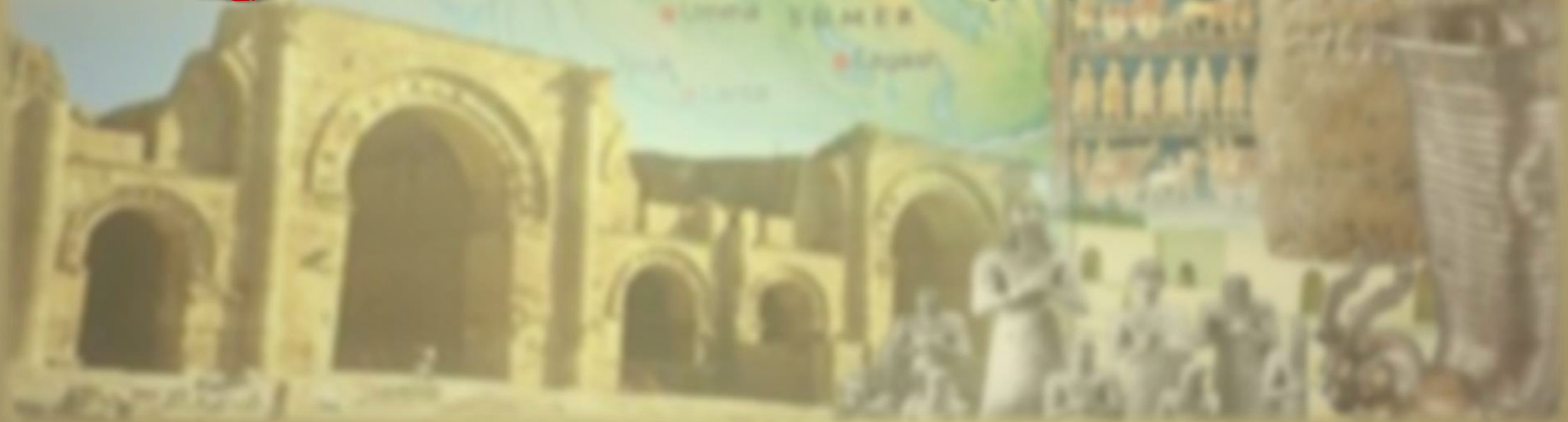
- Long ago, the land between the two rivers was known as **MESOPOTAMIA**, which literally means **THE LAND BETWEEN TWO RIVERS**
- During the spring, the two rivers often **OVERFLOWED** their banks, as the floodwaters drained, they deposited tiny rocks to form a new layer of **SILT**.



# Mesopotamia

The Land Between the Rivers

What was the Land  
Between the Rivers?





# MESOPOTAMIA

[Euphrates River song 3 min](#)

# How did the Mesopotamians use the rivers?

- The annual **FLOODING** made the soil rich, but it could not be counted on to water the farmer's crops. The floodwaters often rushed over the land, this **DESTROYED CROPS**, livestock, and even **VILLAGES**.
- In **NORTH**ern Mesopotamia received enough **RAINFALL** to water their crops, but **SOUTH**ern Mesopotamia did not. They had frequent **DROUGHTS**

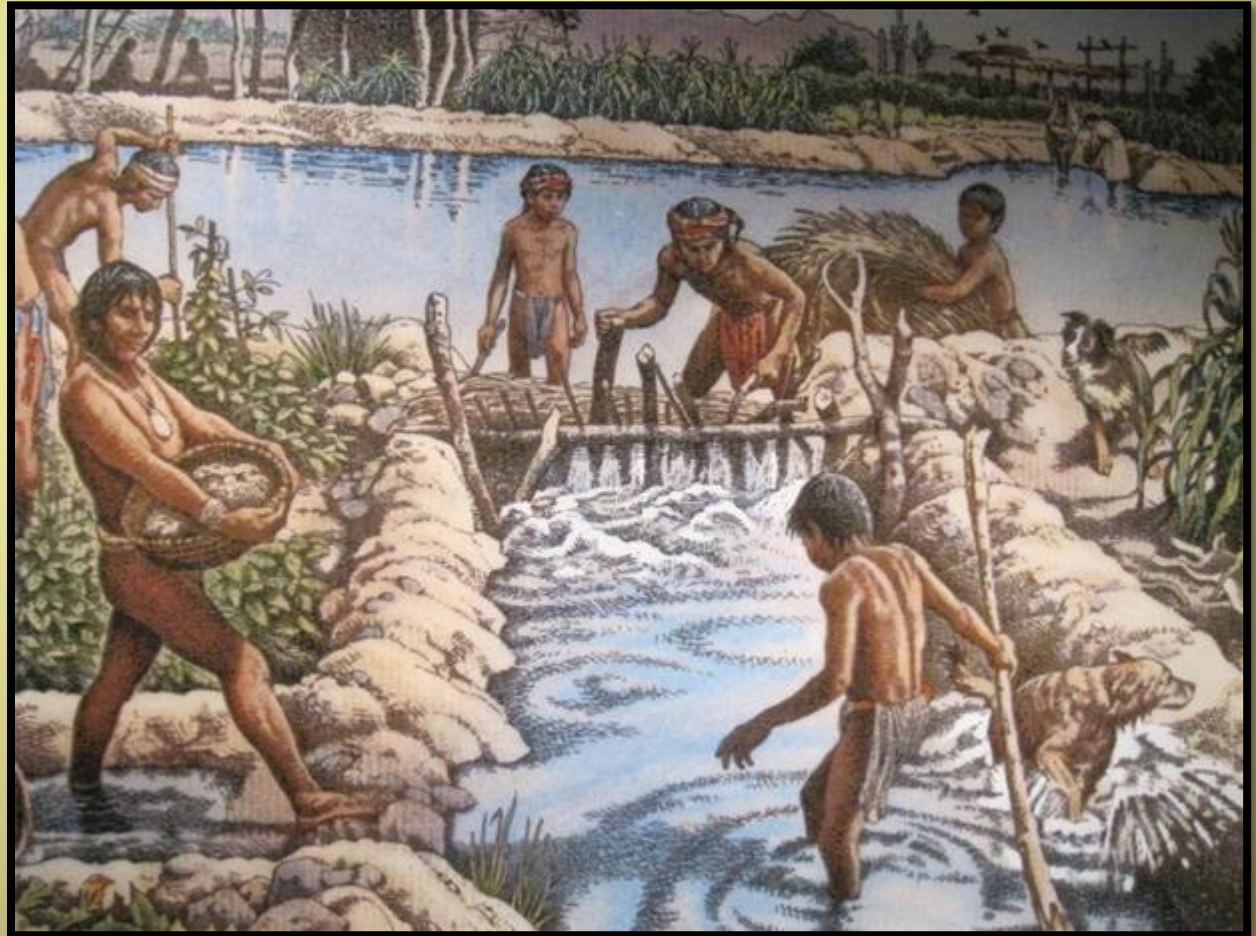
- Eventually, the people realized they could dig canals, and **CONTROL** the **WATER**, using **IRRIGATION** to carry water from the rivers to the land.



They also **STORED** water in lower areas of land called **BASINS**, to use in times of drought.



They also built up walls of dirt called **DIKES** along the riverbanks to **STOP** the rivers from flooding.





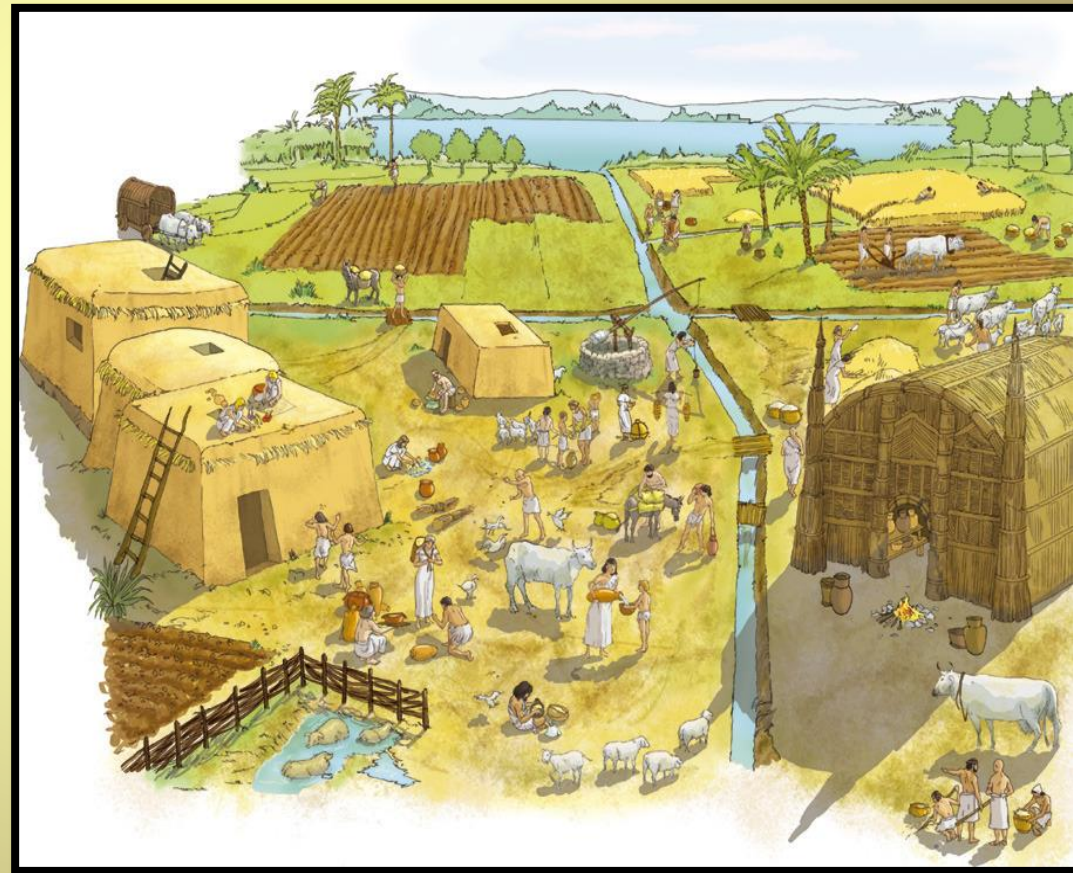
# Mesopotamia

The Land Between the Rivers

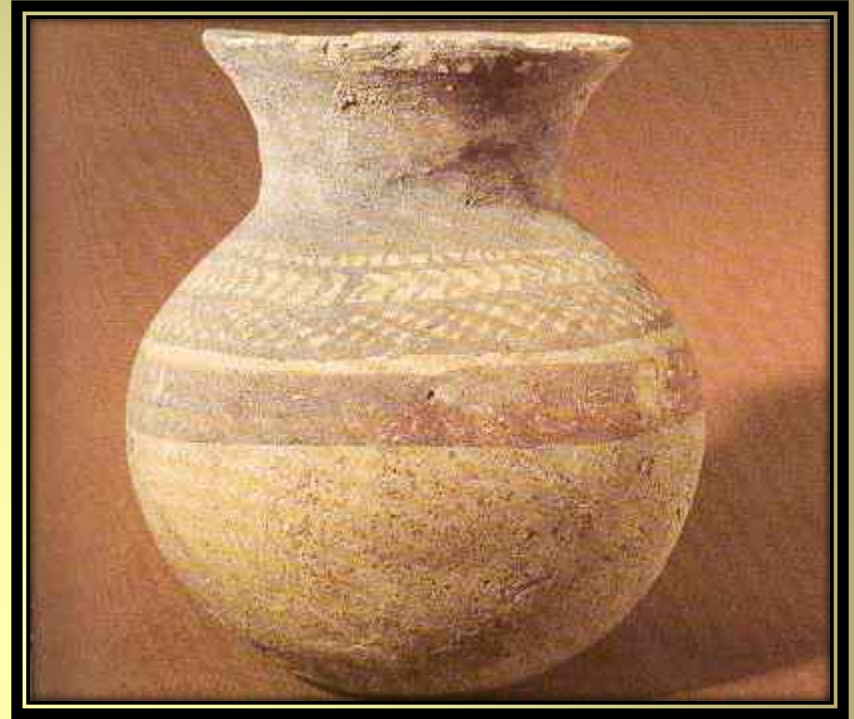
How did the  
Mesopotamians  
use the rivers?

# How did the first cities begin?

- With a **SURPLUS** of food and water, these early people developed new, more complex **CULTURES**.
- The **FIRST** settlement in southern Mesopotamia formed in about 5000 BC, they are known today as the **UBAID** culture.
- For the most part, they lived simply, growing just enough crops to survive.



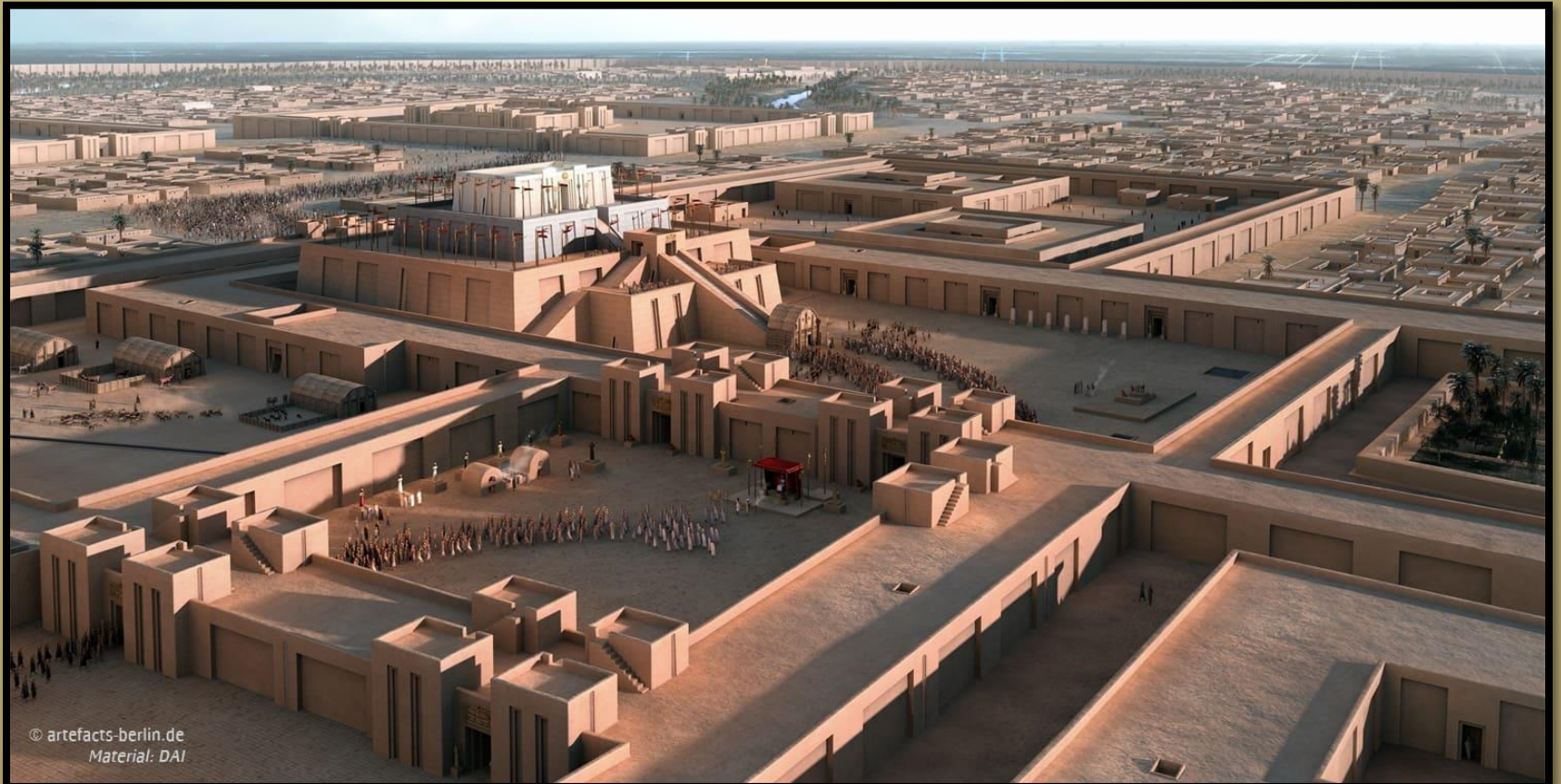
# Ubaid Pottery



- The **UBAID** people lived in **MUD HUTS** and worshipped their many **GODS** in one room temples. By 4500 BC this culture had spread across much of the Fertile Crescent.
- Over time, the simple life grew more complex; One person in each village served as the **VILLAGE CHIEF**. **RULES** and regulations were needed to **GOVERN** the growing civilization. Eventually they built **LARGER** homes and larger temples to worship in.



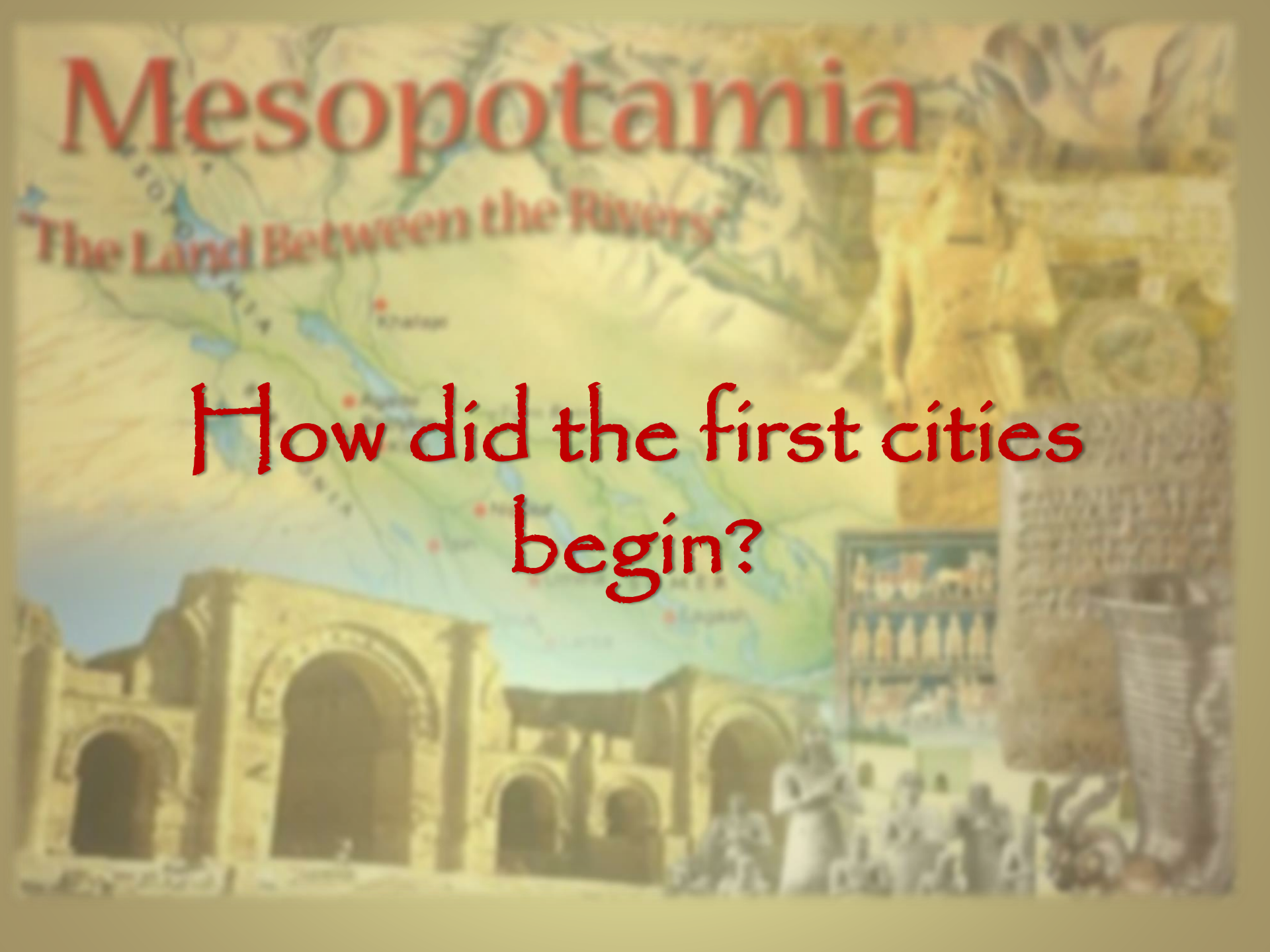
- In about 4000 BC, a new, more advanced culture developed from the Ubaid culture.
- The **SUMERIANS** developed many new ideas in southern Mesopotamia. Soon, the villages emerged as the first **CITIES**, these were known as Eridu, Uruk, **KISH**, and **UR**. By 3500 BC, the Sumerians had formed one of the world's first civilizations



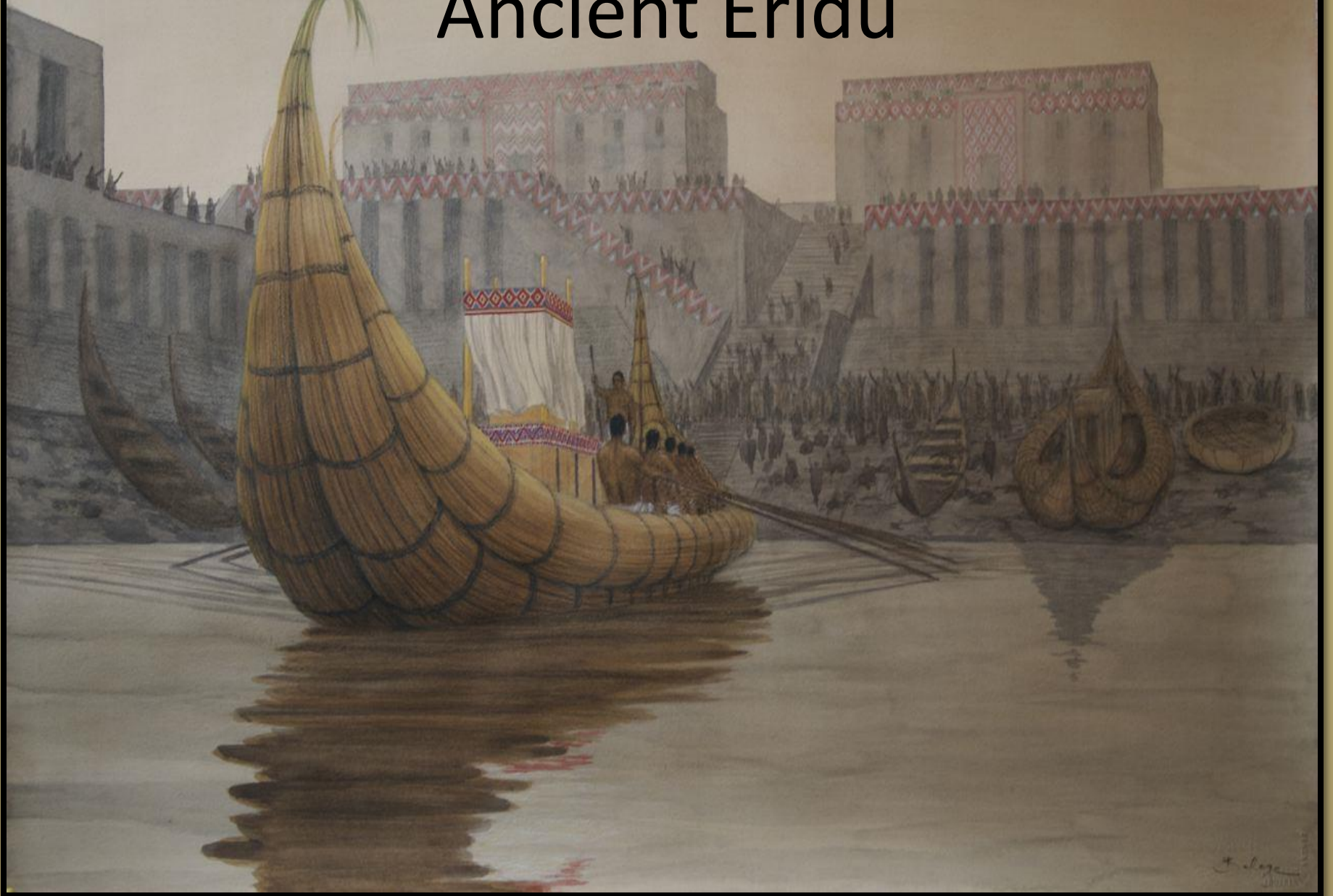
# Mesopotamia

The Land Between the Rivers

How did the first cities  
begin?



# Ancient Eridu



# Eridu Today



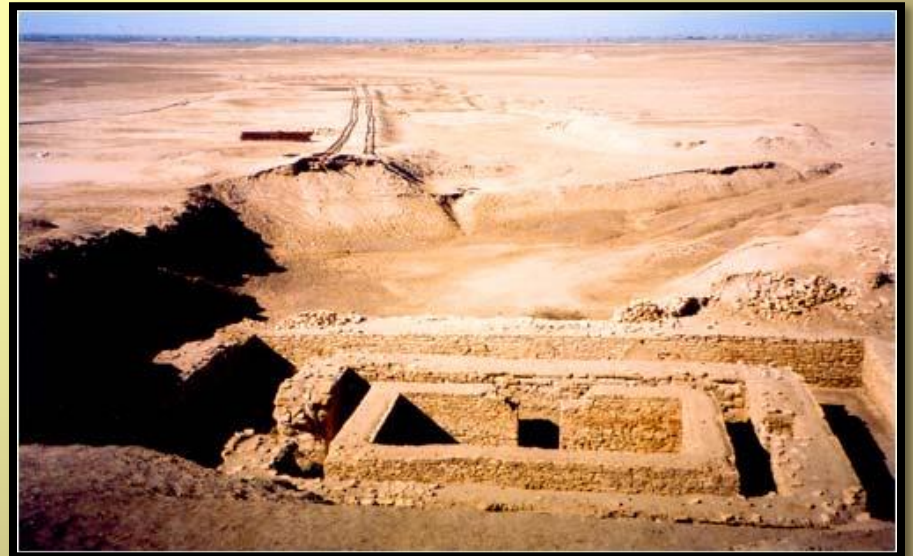


# Ancient Uruk



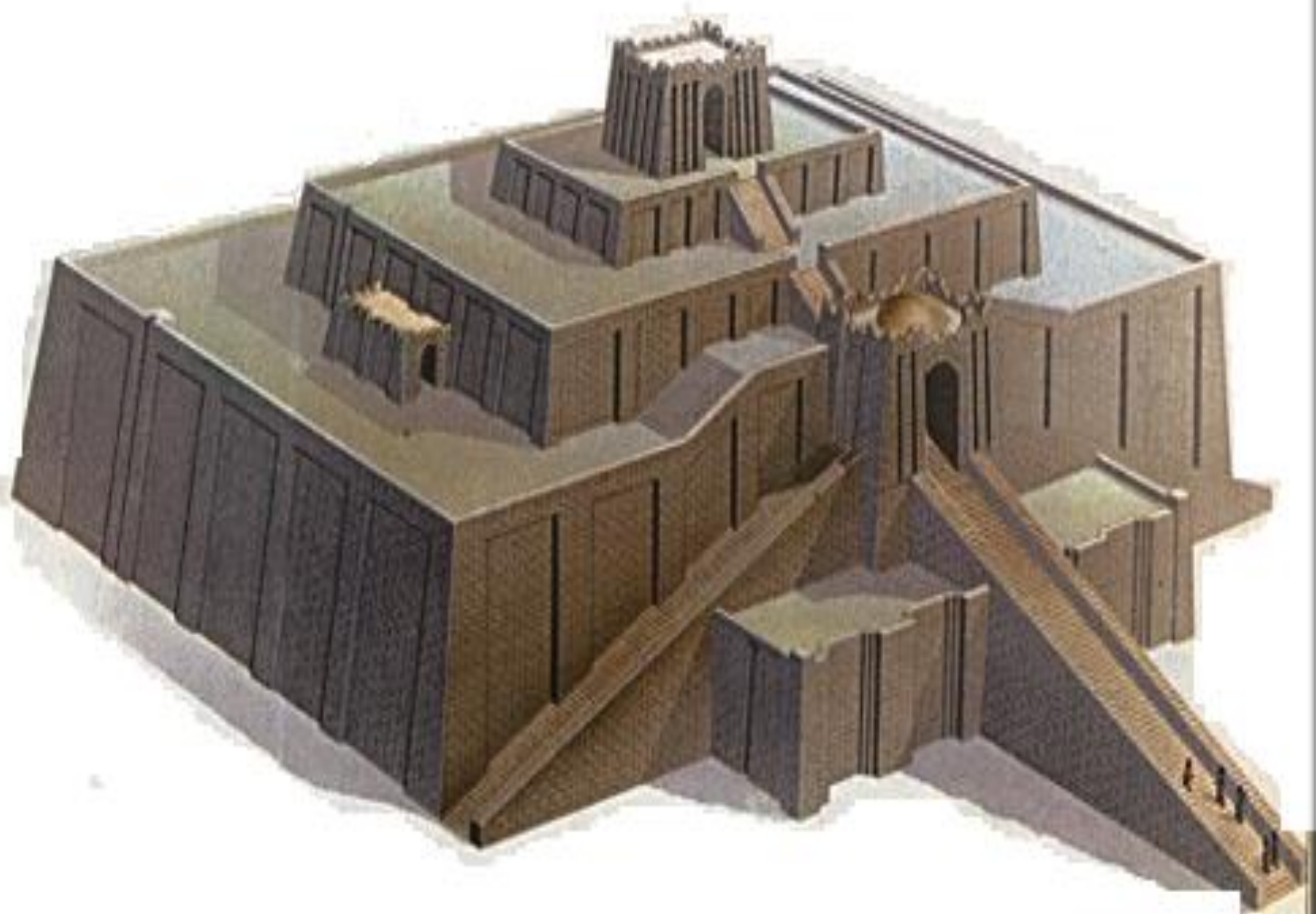


# Uruk Today



# Ancient Ur







Ur today

# Mesopotamia

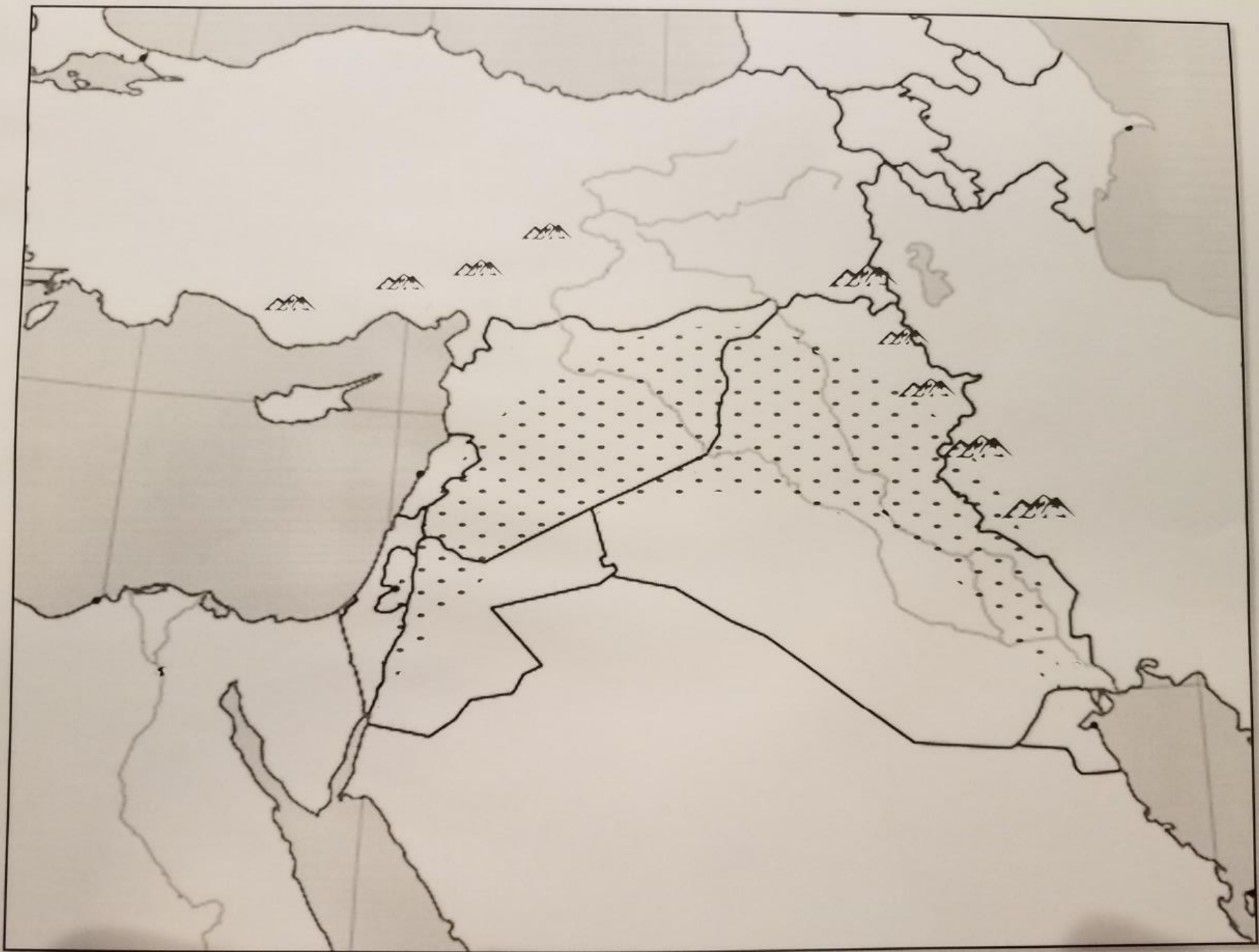
The Land Between the Rivers

How did physical geography  
affect the development of  
early Mesopotamia?

Essential Question

# Mesopotamía Map

Label and color together

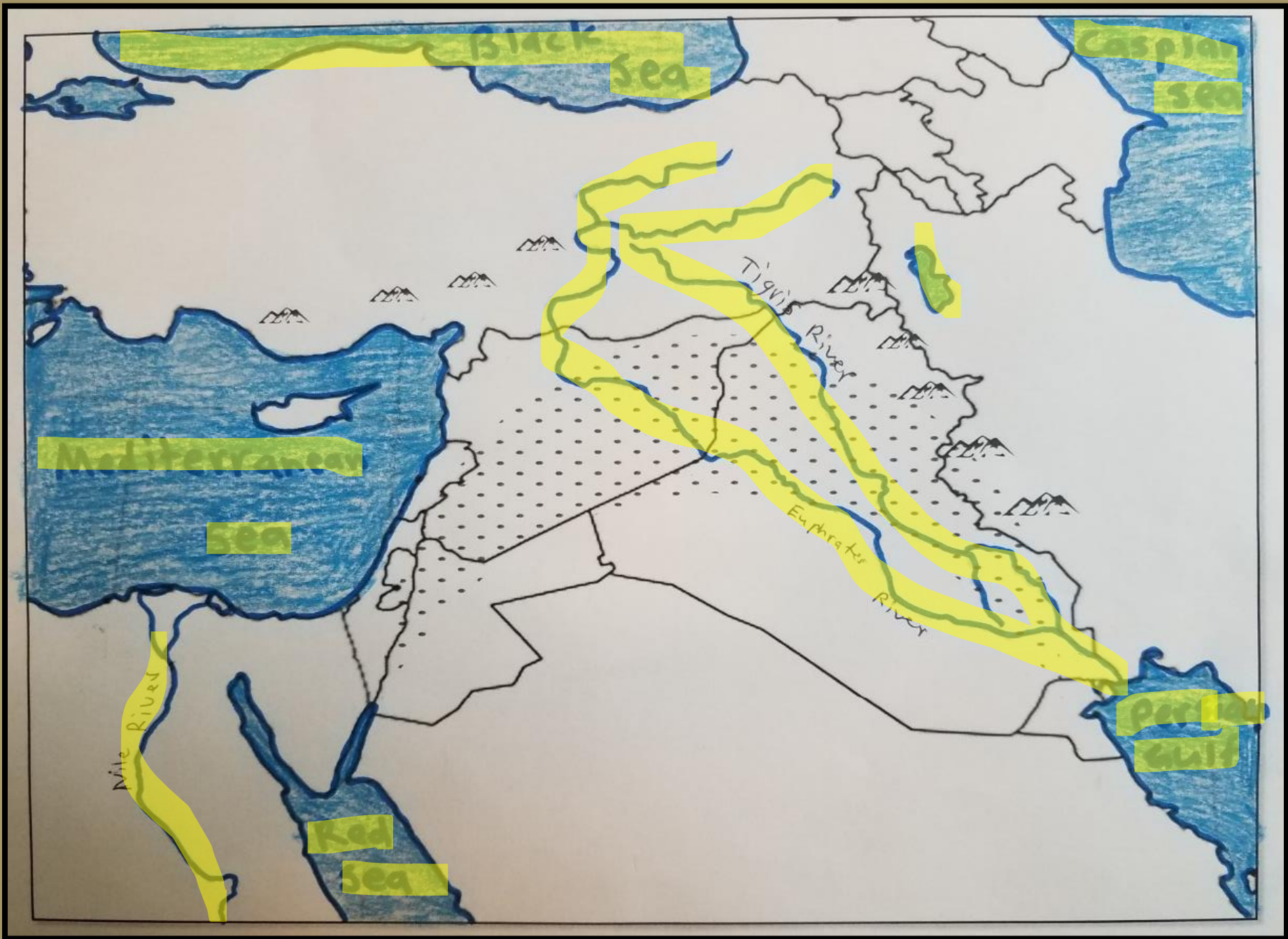




# Bodies of water

Color these blue

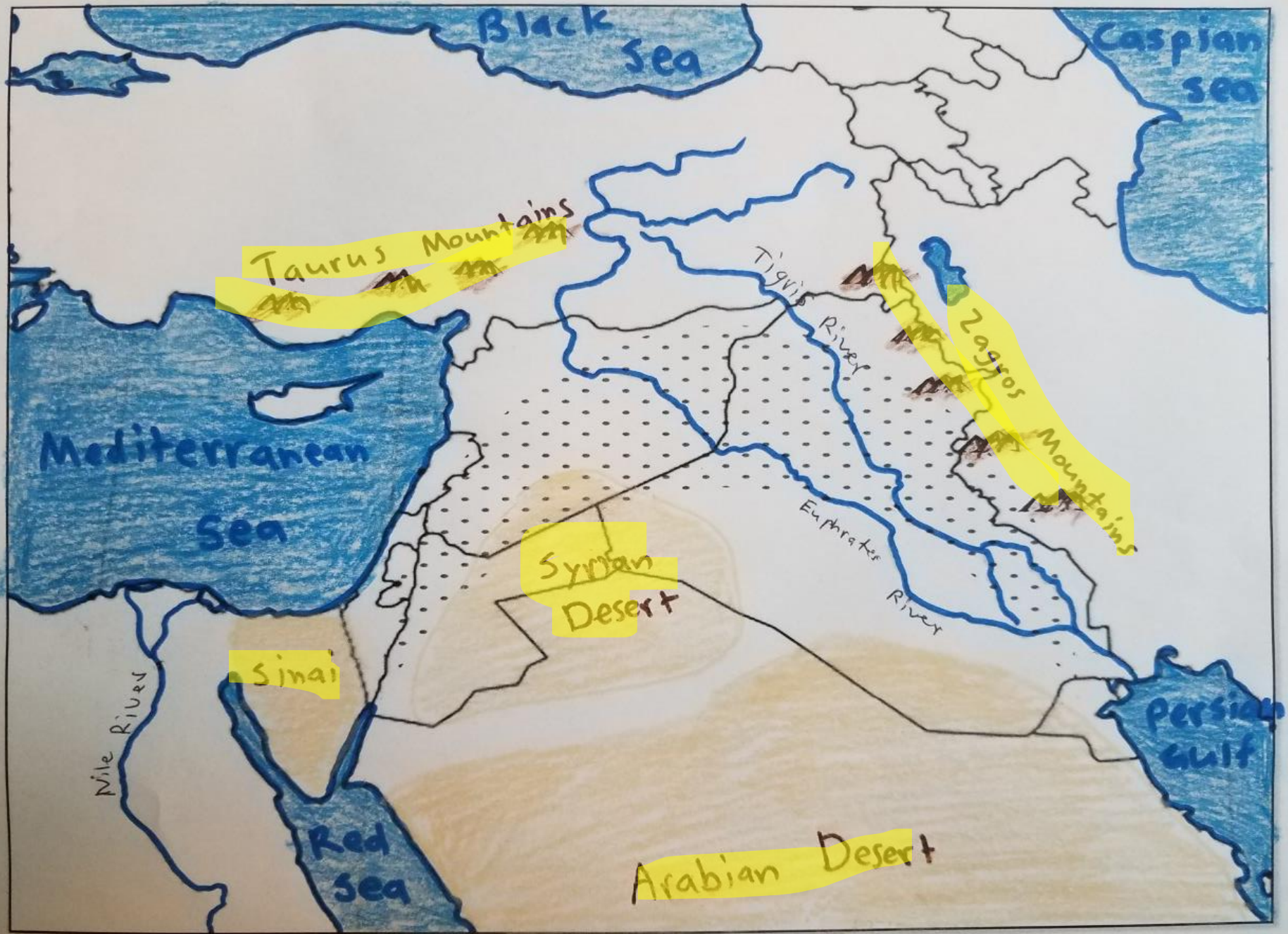
- Black Sea
- Caspian Sea
- Mediterranean Sea
- Persian Gulf
- Red Sea
- Tigris River
- Euphrates River
- Nile River



# Mountains and deserts

## Color these brown and tan

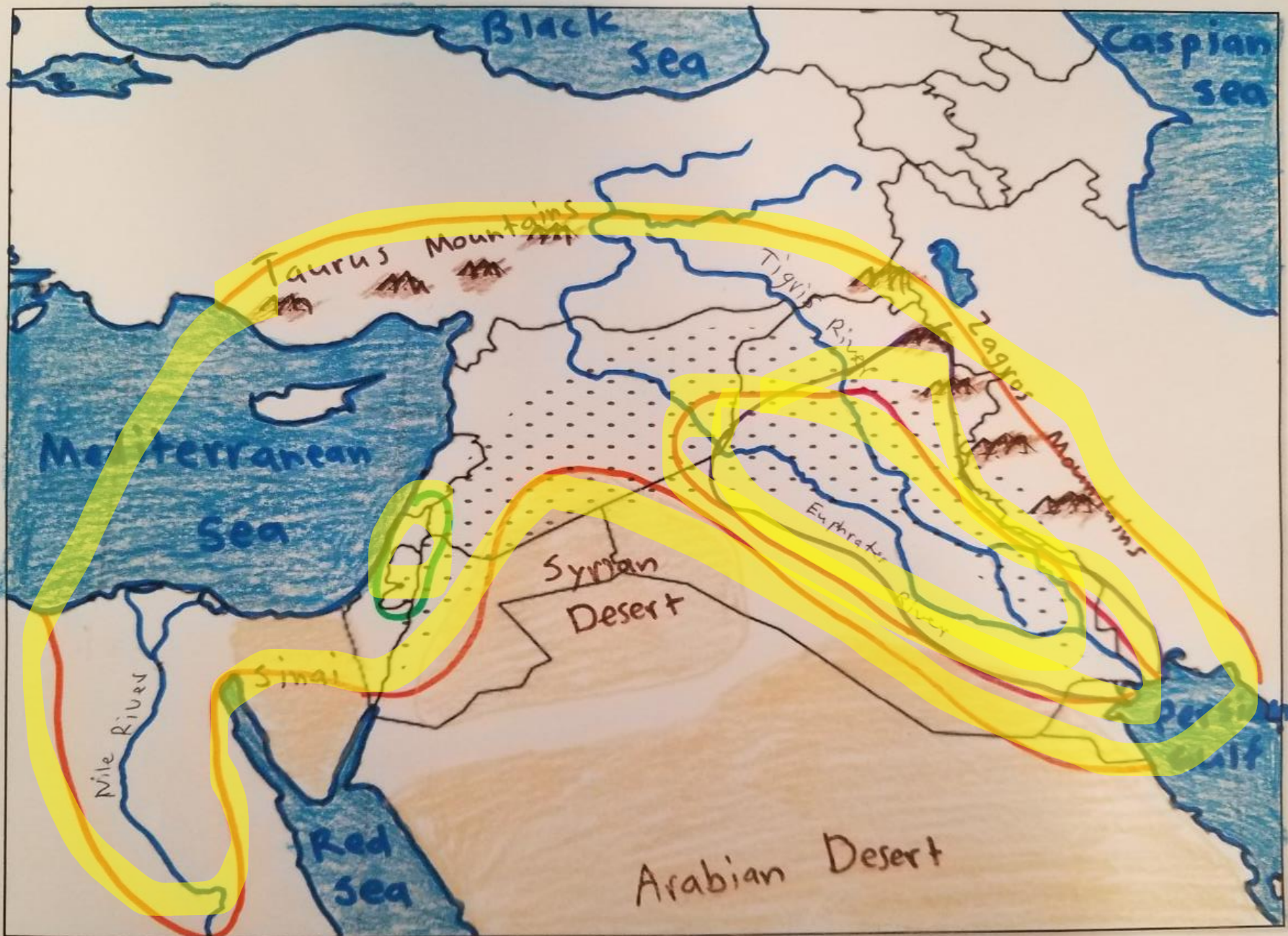
- Taurus Mountains
- Zagros Mountains
- Syrian Desert
- Arabian Desert
- Sinai



# Ancient Empires

Outline these in the following colors

- Sumerian Empire: PURPLE
- Kingdom of Israel: GREEN
- Assyrian Empire: ORANGE
- Babylonian Empire: RED



Black Sea

Caspian sea

Mediterranean Sea

Taurus Mountains

Zagros Mountains

Tigris River

Euphrates River

Syrian Desert

Nile River

Sinai

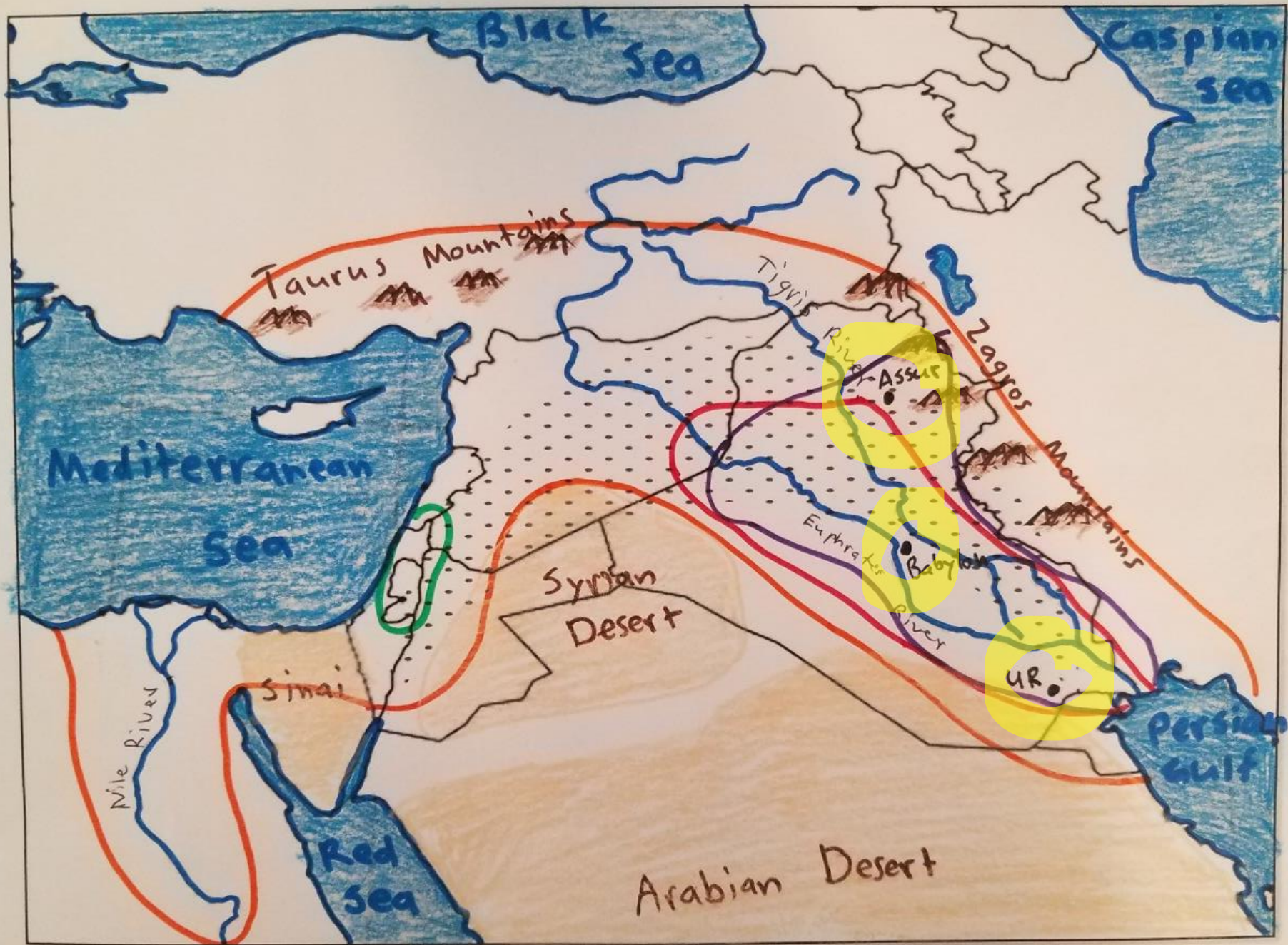
Red Sea

Arabian Desert

# Cities

Place a dot and label

- Ur
- Assur
- Babylon

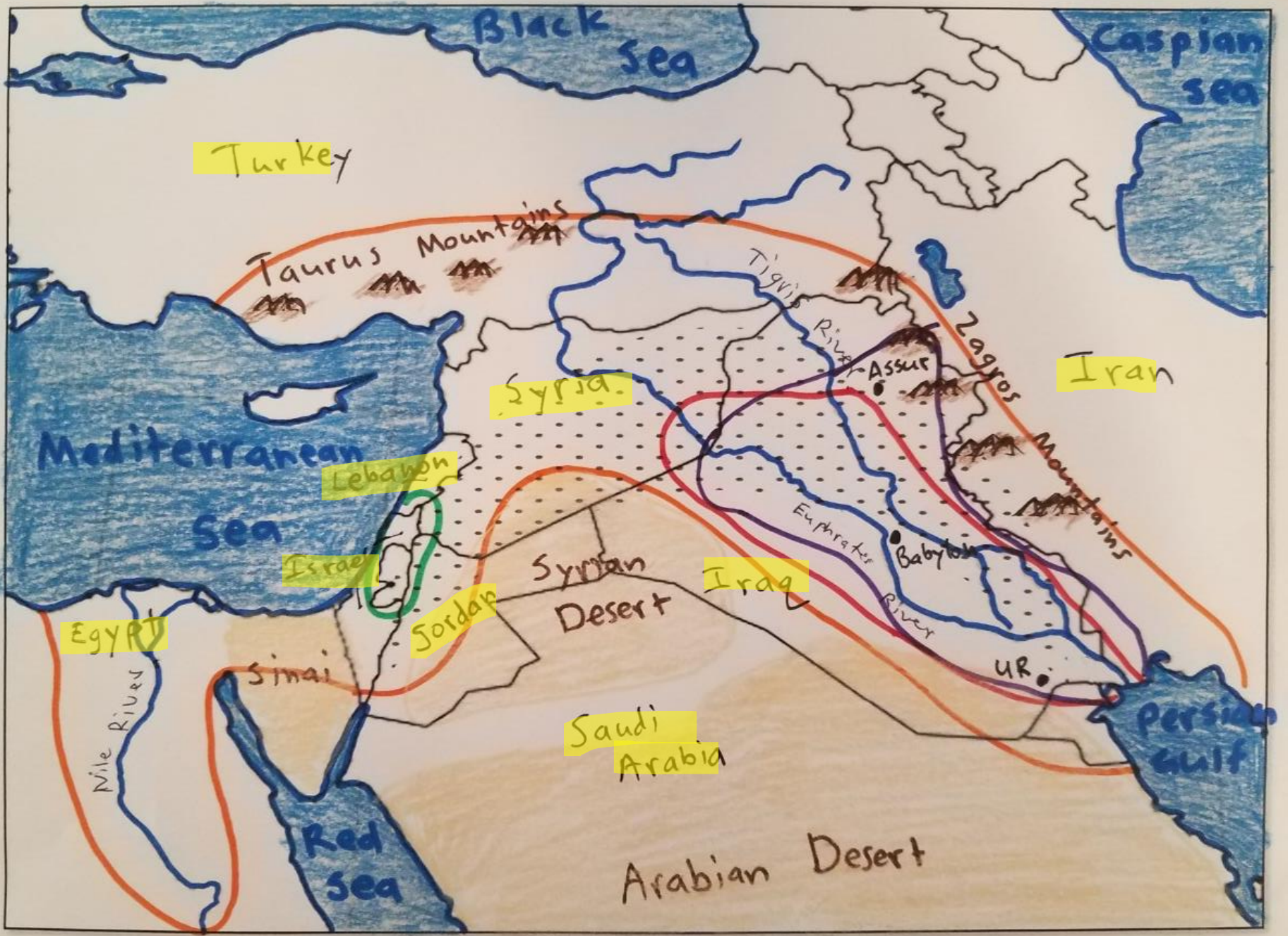




# Modern Countries

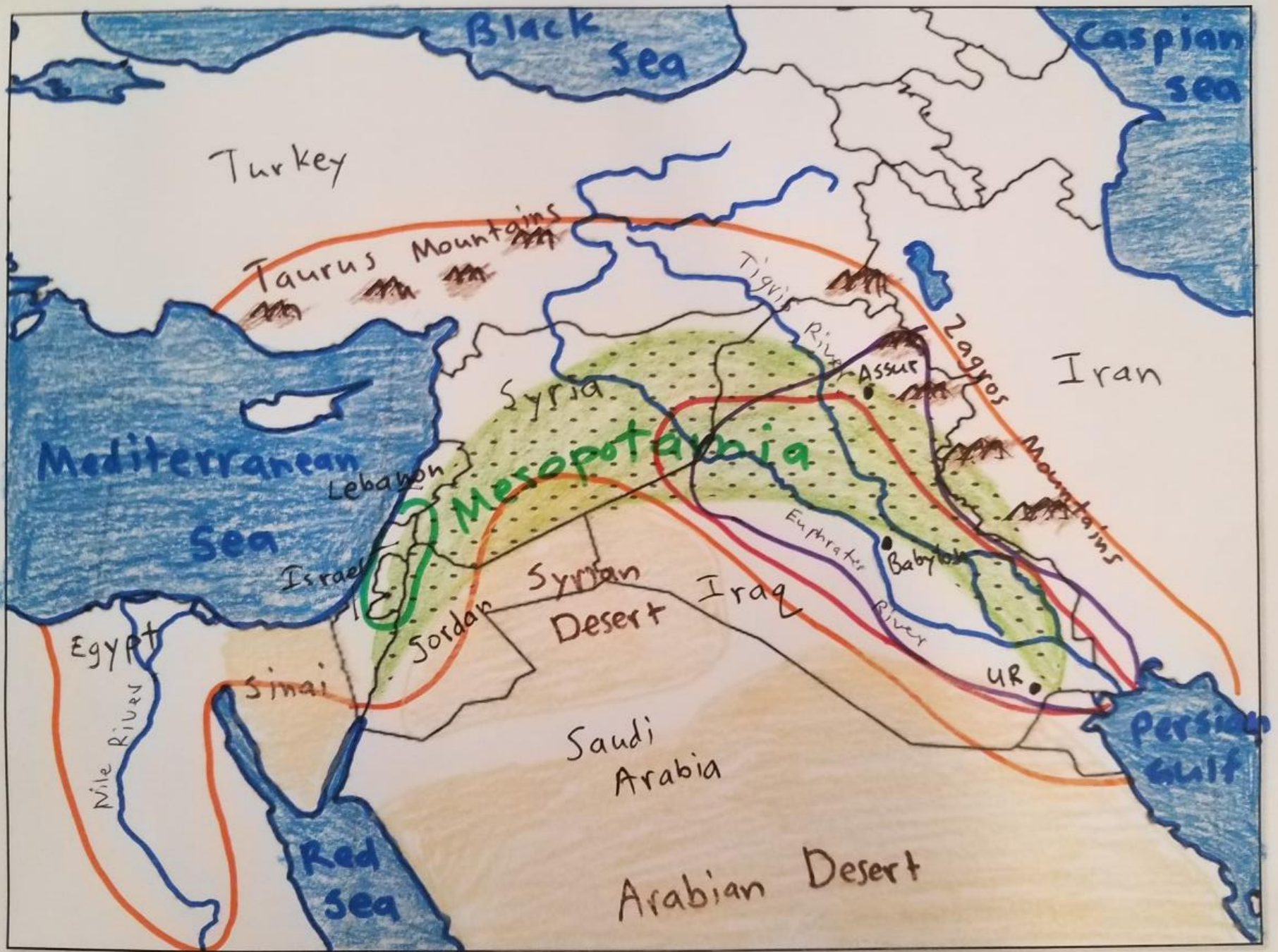
Write the name of the modern countries in the area

- Egypt
- Iraq
- Iran
- Saudi Arabia
- Syria
- Lebanon
- Israel
- Jordan
- Turkey



# Label the Fertile Crescent

- Color the dotted area **GREEN** and label MESOPOTAMIA



Keep your map safe in your binder,  
you may use it on assessments

# Mesopotamia

"The Land Between the Rivers"

## The End



• Power Point created by James Reese, 2011

• Primary source Harcourt Social Studies Ancient Civilizations, Volume One  
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