

# **CHARACTERISTICS OF CIVILIZATION**

# **1. Rise of Developed Cities**

- Cities served as political and economic centers for surrounding areas**
- Major cities emerged in river valleys**

## • **2. Organized Government**

- **Different types of government = theocracy and monarchy**
- **Theocracy = a gov't ruled by religious leaders who claim God's authority**
- **Monarchy = gov't by a king or queen**

### **3. Role of Formalized Religion**

- Formal religious institutions that included ceremonies, rituals, and other forms of worship**
- Wanted to gain the favor of the gods**
- Many leaders claimed to rule by the will of the gods**

## **4. Specialization of Labor**

- Division of labor increased and many new jobs became available**

## **5. Social Structure**

**- Based on people's occupations, wealth, and influence**

- 1. Rulers, priests, and nobles**
- 2. Merchants and artisans**
- 3. Farmers and unskilled laborers**
- 4. Slaves**

**- Since the social structure is arranged in order of rank, then that makes it hierarchical**

## **6. Use of Writing**

- Developed about 5,000 years ago**
- First writings used and were based on pictographs**
- Developed calendars which were important to farming**



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## **7. Art**

- Paintings and statues of gods, rulers, and heroes**
- Reflected a civilization's power and a ruler's prestige**

## **8. Technology**

- **Something that made people's lives easier, for the hominids this was a rock used as a tool**

## **9. Trade**

- **Many civilizations traded with one another to gain goods and resources that their territory lacked**
- **Often led the spread of new ideas and technology**
- **Cultural Diffusion = the spread of cultural beliefs, traits, and ideas from one area to another**

# MESOPOTAMIA AND SUMMER

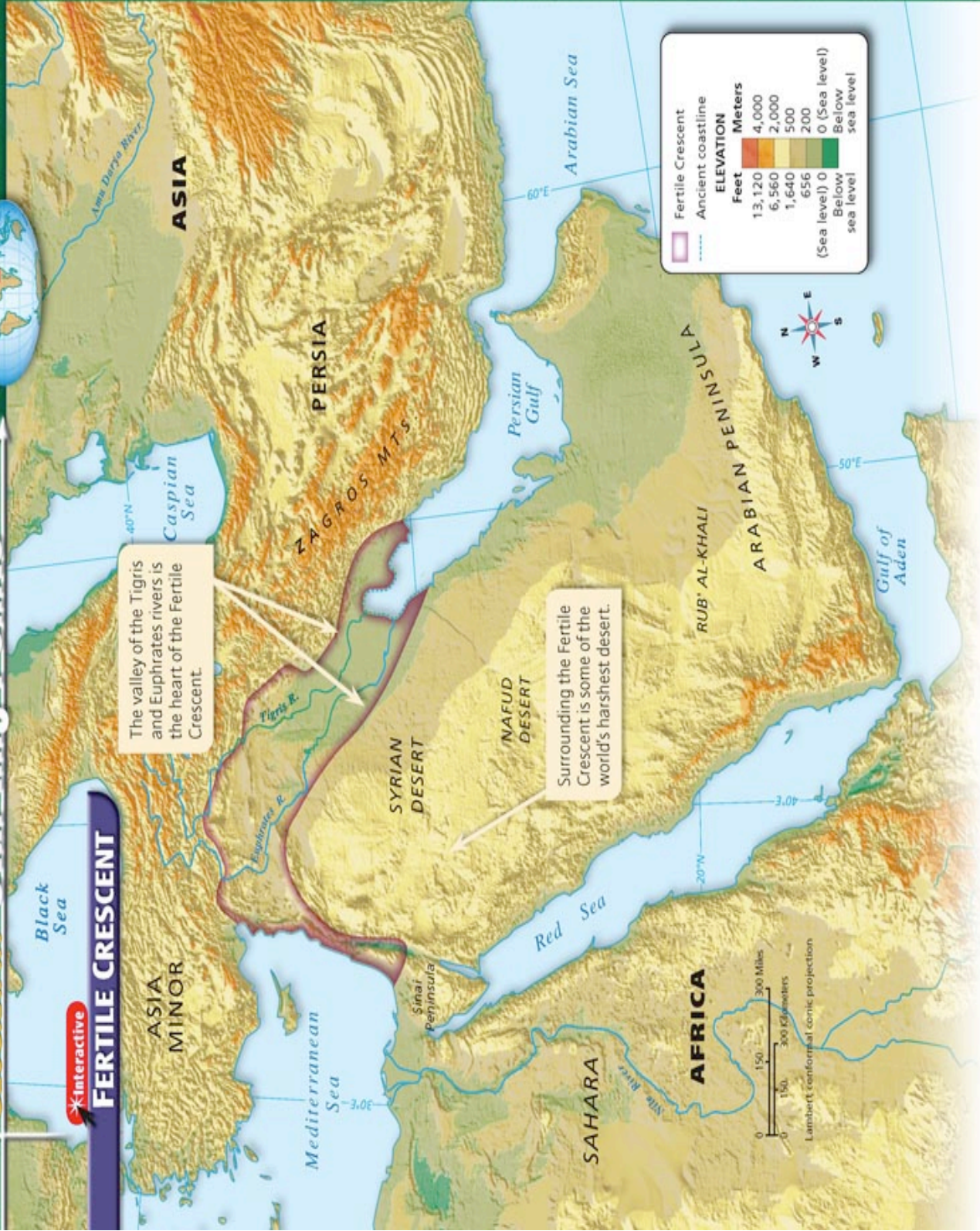
# MESOPOTAMIA

- Mesopotamia is the valley between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers
- Also known as the Fertile Crescent due to an abundance of crops
- There are three main areas:
  - Assyria , Akkad, and Sumer
  - The city-state of Babylon is also found in Mesopotamia

# GEOGRAPHY Starting Points

Interactive

## FERTILE CRESCENT



Interactive

## ANCIENT MESOPOTAMIA

ASIA  
MINOR

Cyprus

Mediterranean  
Sea



Sinai  
Peninsula

Euphrates R.

Mari

Syrian  
Desert

Tigris R.

Akkad

Babylon

Lagash

Uruk

Ur

Persian  
Gulf

0 100 200 Miles

0 100 200 Kilometers

Lambert conformal conic projection

Sumer

Sargon's Empire, c. 2330 BC

Fertile Crescent

Ancient coastline



Sumerian soldiers wore helmets like this one into battle.

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Interactive Map

Keyword: SHLANE

GEOGRAPHY  
SKILLS

INTERPRETING MAPS

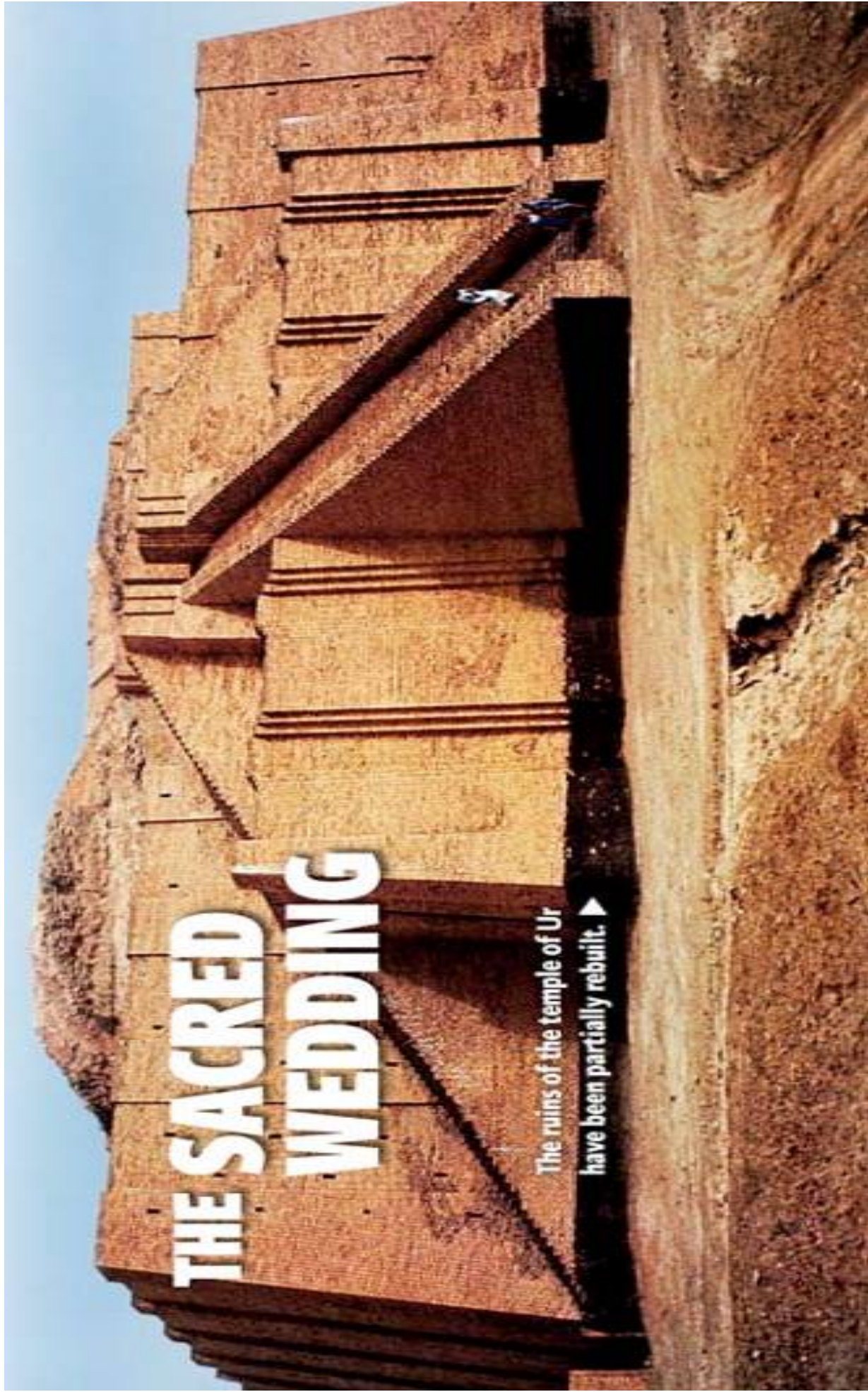
- 1. Place** What bodies of water provided water to Sumer's farms?
- 2. Regions** Approximately how many miles wide was Sargon's empire at its greatest extent?

# SUMER

- By 3000 BC independent city-states had been established
- City-state = a city that has political and economic control over the surrounding countryside
- The most prominent building was the ziggurat (a pyramid-shaped structure) which was the temple dedicated to the chief god or goddess of the city

# THE SACRED WEDDING

The ruins of the temple of Ur have been partially rebuilt. ▶





## **Sumer Religion**

- **Believed that gods and goddesses owned the cities**
- **The Sumer religion was polytheistic**
- **Monotheistic = belief in one God**
- **Polytheistic = belief in many gods**
- **Worked hard to please the gods**
- **Kingship was seen as divine**
- **Kings believed to get their power to rule from the gods and served as the gods' chief representative**

## **Sumer Society**

- **Society was patriarchal = dominated by men**
- **Scribes also held very important positions because they could read and write**
- **Few people could read and write, took years of schooling**

## **Sumer Achievements**

- **Created the first system of writing which was called cuneiform**
- **Made wedge-shaped impressions on clay tablets and then baked them in the sun**
- **Developed a math system based on the number 6**
- **Hour divided into 60 min., circle into 360 degrees**
- **Invented the wheel and plow**

# Reading like a Historian

## A Cuneiform Tablet

**Analyzing Primary Sources** Early Sumerian writing used pictographs, or picture symbols. Each pictograph represented either an object, such as a tree, or a syllable. Reading a cuneiform inscription can teach us a great deal about the Sumerians. Look at the tablet below and read the translation provided. As you read, think about

- who might have written the document.
- why it was written.
- what we can learn about the Sumerians by reading it.



This symbol can mean "god," "goddess," or "heaven."

This complex symbol means "king."

**Translation of the Tablet** For Innana [a goddess] Lady of Eanna—His Lady. Shulgi, the mighty man, King of Ur, King of Sumer and Akkad.

**EMPIRES OF  
MESOPOTAMIA  
AND SOUTHWEST ASIA**

# Akkadians

- Conquered the Sumerian city-states and northern Mesopotamia
- Main king was Sargon I and his achievement was that he formed the world's first empire
- Adopted cuneiform and spread Sumerian culture

Interactive

## ANCIENT MESOPOTAMIA

ASIA MINOR

Cyprus

Mediterranean Sea



Sinai Peninsula

Syrian Desert

Euphrates R.

Mari

Tigris R.

Akkad

Babylon

Lagash

Uruk

Ur

Persian Gulf

Sumer

Sargon's Empire, c. 2330 BC

Fertile Crescent

Ancient coastline

0 100 200 Miles

0 100 200 Kilometers

Lambert conformal conic projection



Sumerian soldiers wore helmets like this one into battle.

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Interactive Map

Keyword: SHLANE

GEOGRAPHY SKILLS

INTERPRETING MAPS

- 1. Place** What bodies of water provided water to Sumer's farms?
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# Babylonian Empire

- Main king was **Hammurabi**
- Honored Sumerian gods and united all of Mesopotamia
- Hammurabi also instituted a legal system known as the **Code of Hammurabi**
- It consisted of 282 laws based on eye for an eye
- The Code of Hammurabi was important because it unified all the people within the empire under one set of laws, depending on social status

**QUICK  
FACTS**

## MESOPOTAMIAN ACHIEVEMENTS

### **Sumerians**

- Developed the world's first civilization
- Created cuneiform writing
- Invented the wheel and the plow
- Wrote the *Epic of Gilgamesh*
- Built cities and ziggurats

▼ Sumerian model  
of a wheeled cart



### **Akkadians**

- Established the world's first empire

### **Babylonians**

- Wrote Hammurabi's Code



## The Splendor of Babylon

Babylon was one of the greatest cities of the ancient world. Archaeologists have found the ruins of the Ishtar Gate (below), but no trace of the Hanging Gardens (right) remains. **How might we know of the Hanging Gardens?**

### FACES OF HISTORY

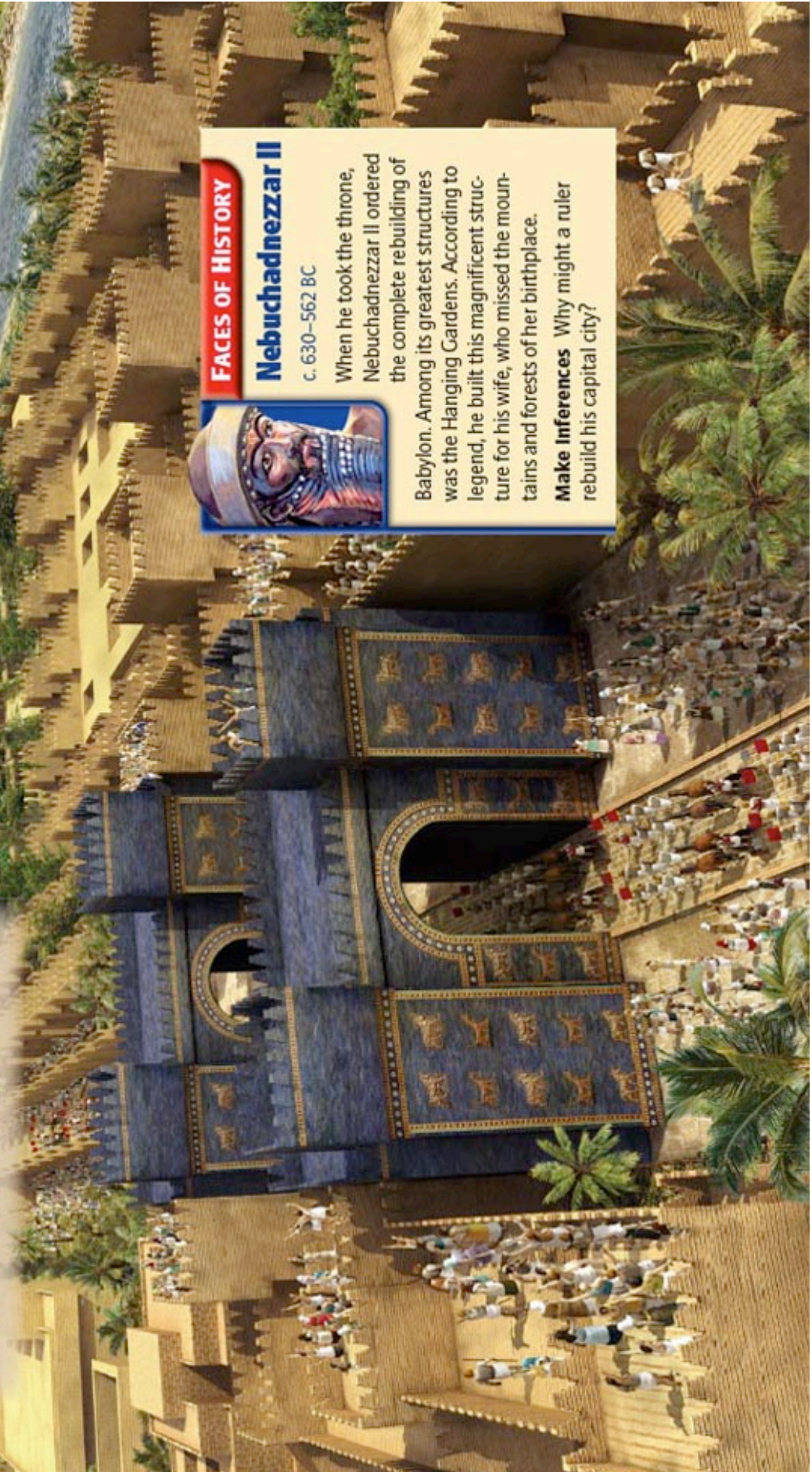
#### Nebuchadnezzar II

c. 630–562 BC

When he took the throne, Nebuchadnezzar II ordered the complete rebuilding of

Babylon. Among its greatest structures was the Hanging Gardens. According to legend, he built this magnificent structure for his wife, who missed the mountains and forests of her birthplace.

**Make Inferences** Why might a ruler rebuild his capital city?



# Hittites

- Located in Asia Minor (modern day Turkey)
- They were the first to make iron
- This benefited them because it made stronger weapons and tools

# THUNDER FROM THE

# WEST

Hittite soldiers  
stormed through  
Babylon in the  
1500s BC. ▶

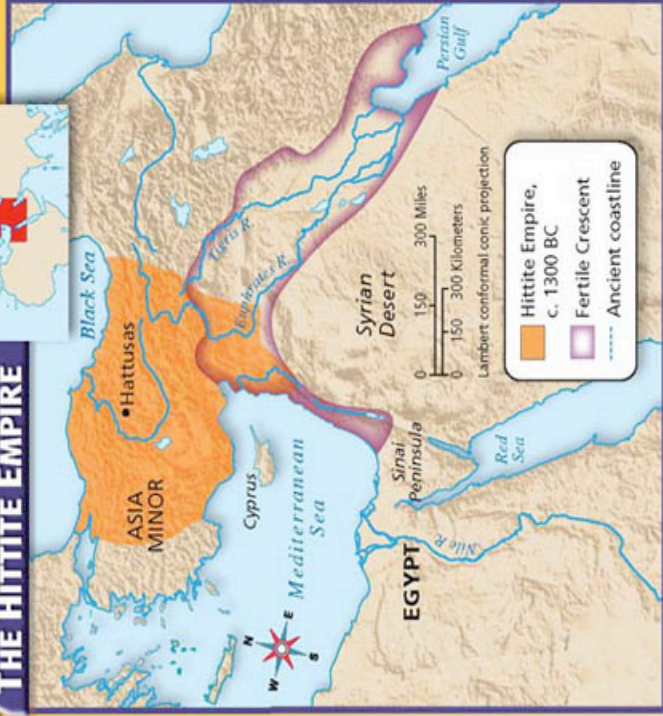


# Assyrians

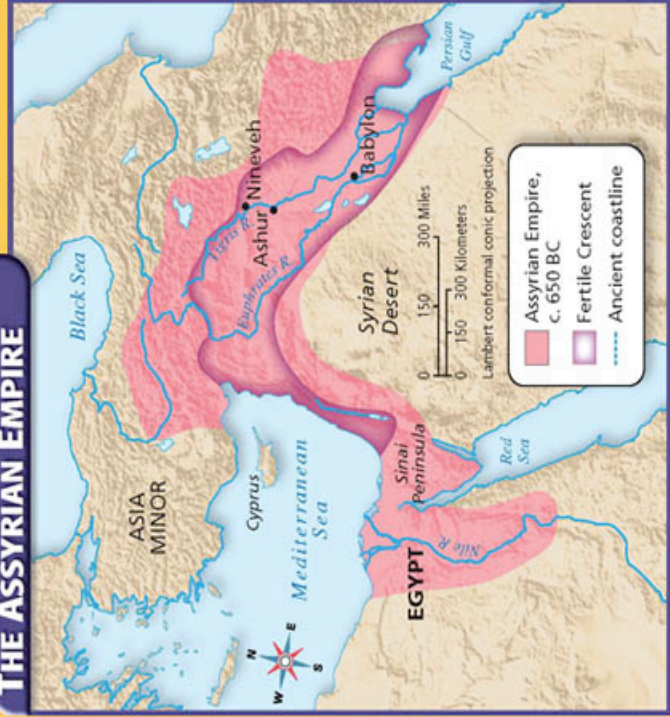
- Due to frequent warfare the Assyrians created a fierce warrior society
- Assyrian warfare relied on terror
- How did they treat the people they captured: tortured or killed them
- Ruthlessly punished those who opposed them

Interactive

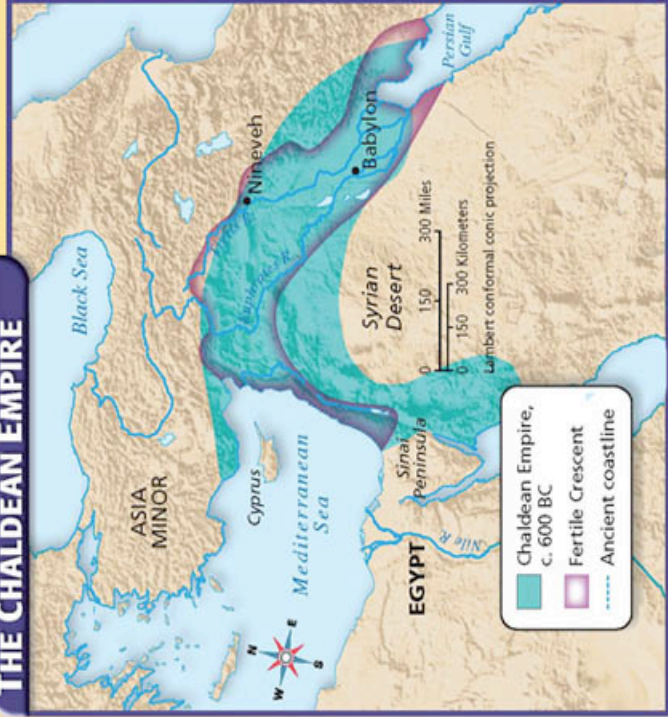
## THE HITTITE EMPIRE



## THE ASSYRIAN EMPIRE



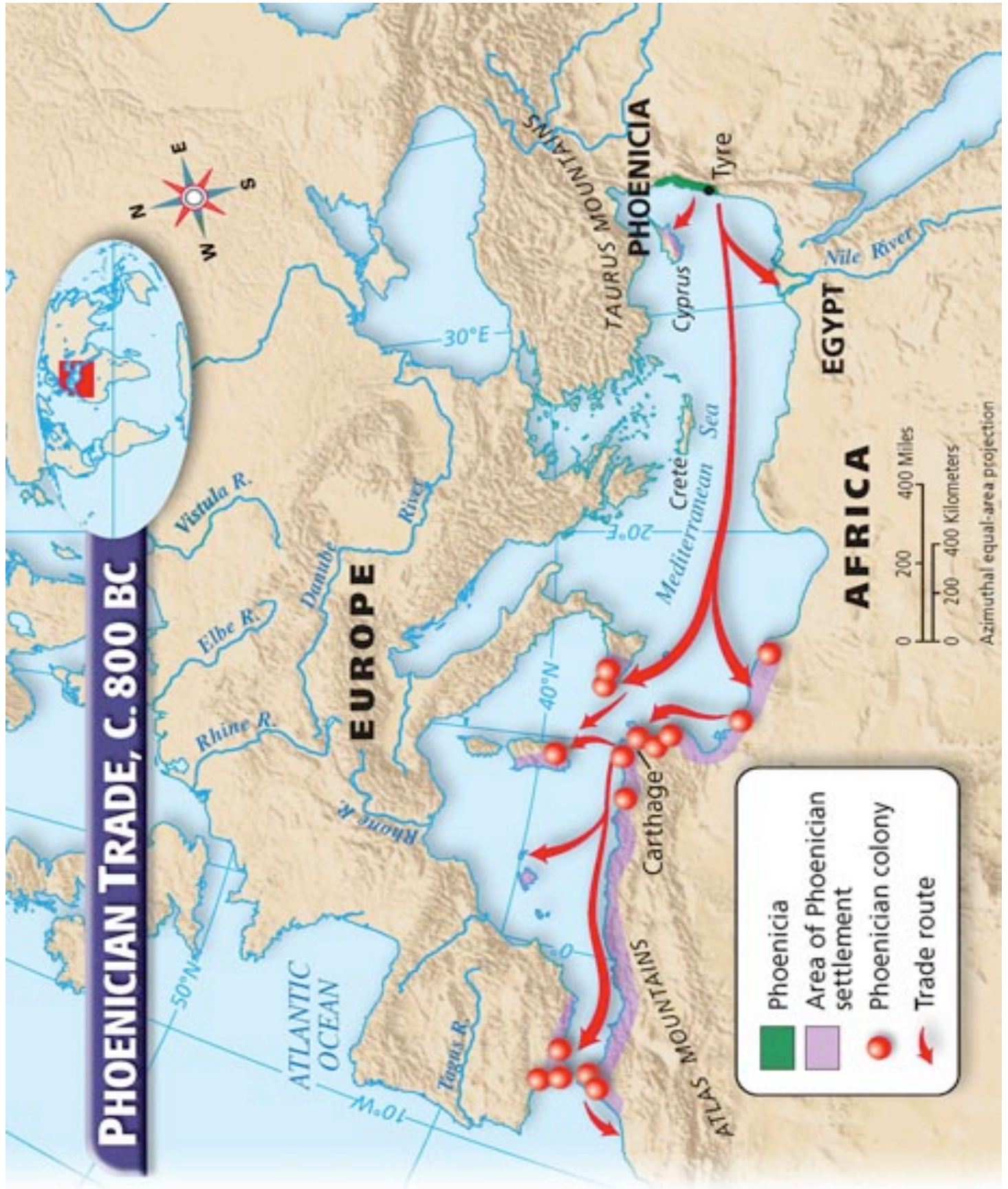
## THE CHALDEAN EMPIRE



# Phoenicians

- Greatest achievement was the Phoenician alphabet
- Developed one of the world's first alphabets and it consisted of 22 letters
- adopted by many through trade, it was important as the foundation for modern English alphabet
- Also known for trade throughout the Mediterranean which brought them much wealth
- The Phoenicians also established colonies throughout the Mediterranean
- This brought valuable raw materials to the Phoenician cities and gave them access to more markets
- It also led to the exchange of ideas
- The Phoenicians were called the “carriers of civilization” for spreading ideas and culture through their trade

# PHOENICIAN TRADE, C. 800 BC



## QUICK FACTS

# ALPHABET

The Phoenician alphabet, adopted and modified by the Greeks and then the Romans, developed into our modern alphabet.

***What similarities and differences can you see between the three sets of letters shown here?***

### Phoenician

𐤀 𐤁 𐤂 𐤃 𐤄 𐤅 𐤆 𐤇 𐤈 𐤉 𐤊 𐤋 𐤌 𐤍 𐤎 𐤏 𐤐 𐤑 𐤒 𐤓 𐤔 𐤕 𐤖 𐤗 𐤘 𐤙 𐤚 𐤛 𐤜 𐤝 𐤞 𐤟 𐤠 𐤡 𐤢 𐤣 𐤤 𐤥 𐤦 𐤧 𐤨 𐤩 𐤪 𐤫 𐤬 𐤭 𐤮 𐤯 𐤰 𐤱 𐤲 𐤳 𐤴 𐤵 𐤶 𐤷 𐤸 𐤹 𐤺 𐤻 𐤼 𐤽 𐤾 𐤿

### Greek

Α Β Γ Δ Ε Ζ Η

### Latin

A B C D E F G H



# Hebrews/Israelites

- Located in **modern day Israel**
- Hebrews are **ancestors of people called Jews**
- **Founded the religion of Judaism**

# JUDAISM

- It was the first monotheistic religion
- The Torah is the most sacred text
- The Hebrew Bible is called the Old Testament in the Christian Bible
- Most important laws Ten Commandments
- All Hebrews can be traced back to what ancestor, Abraham
- Hebrews became known as the Children of Israel or Israelites

## World Religions

### SACRED TEXTS

# The Torah

**About the Reading** The Torah, one of Judaism's most sacred texts, includes the first five books of the Hebrew Bible. It includes descriptions of the laws Jews are expected to follow and a history of the Jewish people up to the death of Moses. Among the events described in the Torah is the Exodus, the freeing of the Jews from slavery in Egypt. In this passage from the Torah, God instructs Moses to lead his people to freedom.

**AS YOU READ** Pay attention to the instructions God gives to Moses.

A Torah scroll encased in a decorative case ▶



And the LORD said: "I have surely seen the affliction of My people that are in Egypt, and have heard their cry by reason of their taskmasters; for I know their pains; and I am come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land unto a good land and a large, unto a land flowing with milk and honey; unto the place of the Canaanite, and the Hittite, and the Amorite, and the Perizzite, and the Hivite, and the Jebusite. And now, behold, the cry of the children of Israel is come unto Me; moreover I have seen the oppression wherewith the Egyptians oppress them. Come now, therefore, and I will send thee unto Pharaoh, that thou mayest bring forth My people the children of Israel out of Egypt." And Moses said unto God: "Who am I, that I

should go unto pharaoh, and that I should bring forth the children of Israel out of Egypt?" And He said: "Certainly I will be with thee; and this shall be the token unto thee, that I have sent thee: when thou hast brought forth the people out of Egypt, ye shall serve God upon this mountain." And Moses said unto God: "Behold, when I come unto the children of Israel, and shall say unto them: The God of your fathers hath sent me unto you; and they shall say to me: What is His name? what shall I say unto them?" And God said unto Moses: "I AM THAT I AM"; and He said: "Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel: I AM hath sent me unto you."

—Exodus 3:7–14, Masoretic Text

**Analyze** What does God promise to Moses?



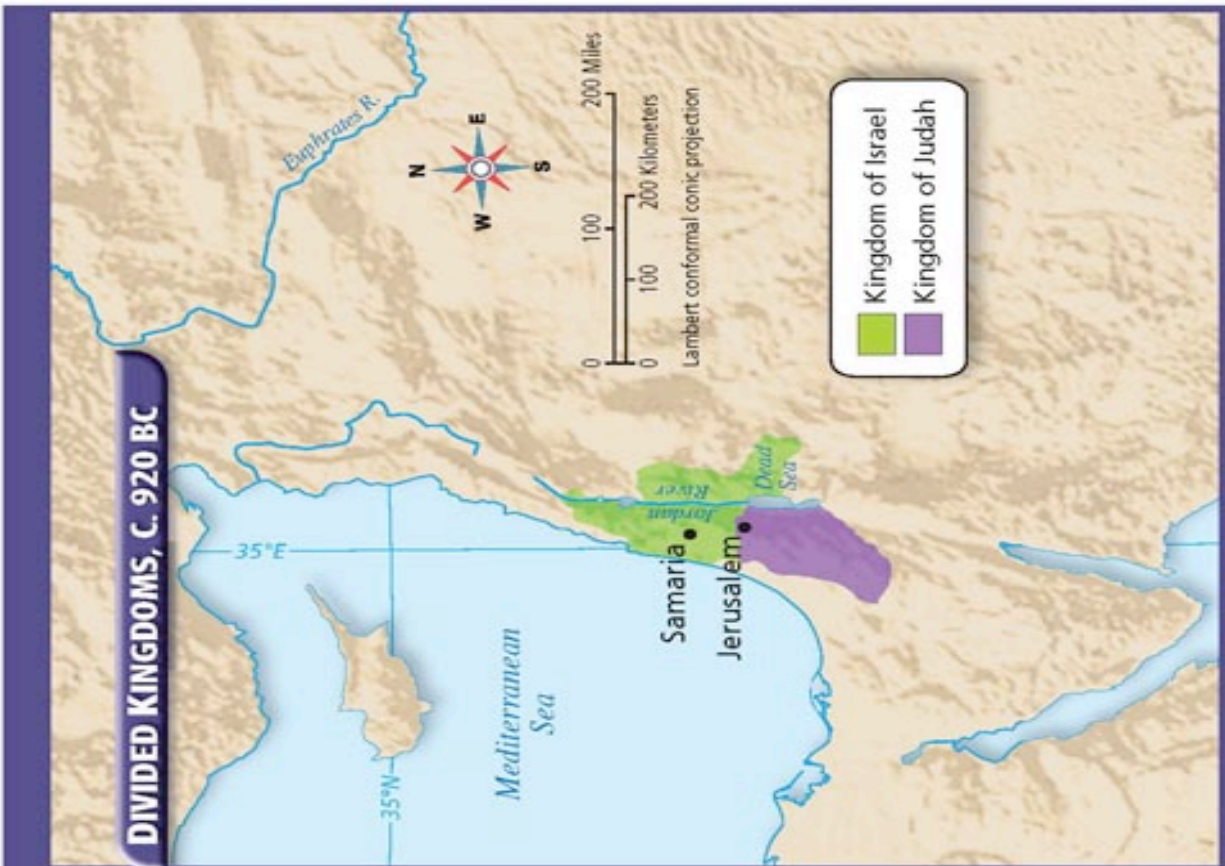
▶ A Jewish teen holds a pointer called a yad as she reads from a Torah scroll.

# ISRAEL AND JUDAH

KINGDOM OF ISRAEL, C. 930 BC



DIVIDED KINGDOMS, C. 920 BC



# Persians

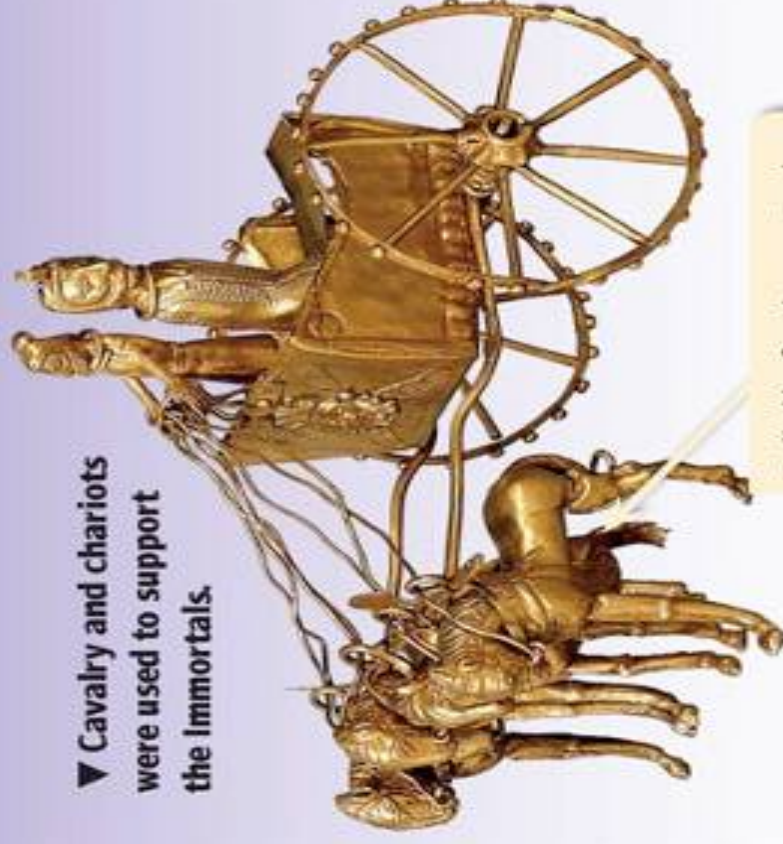
- Located in modern-day Iran
- Established one of the largest empires of the ancient world
- Built numerous roads, the longest one was named the Koyai Road
- World's first long highway, 1,500 miles

## The Persian Army

A strong army was the key to building a powerful empire. Led by Cyrus and Darius, the Persian army was one of the mightiest fighting forces in the ancient world. **What made the Persian army so strong?**



▼ Cavalry and chariots were used to support the Immortals.

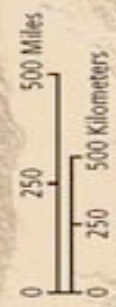


Pulled by four horses, Persian chariots could move swiftly but could not easily turn.

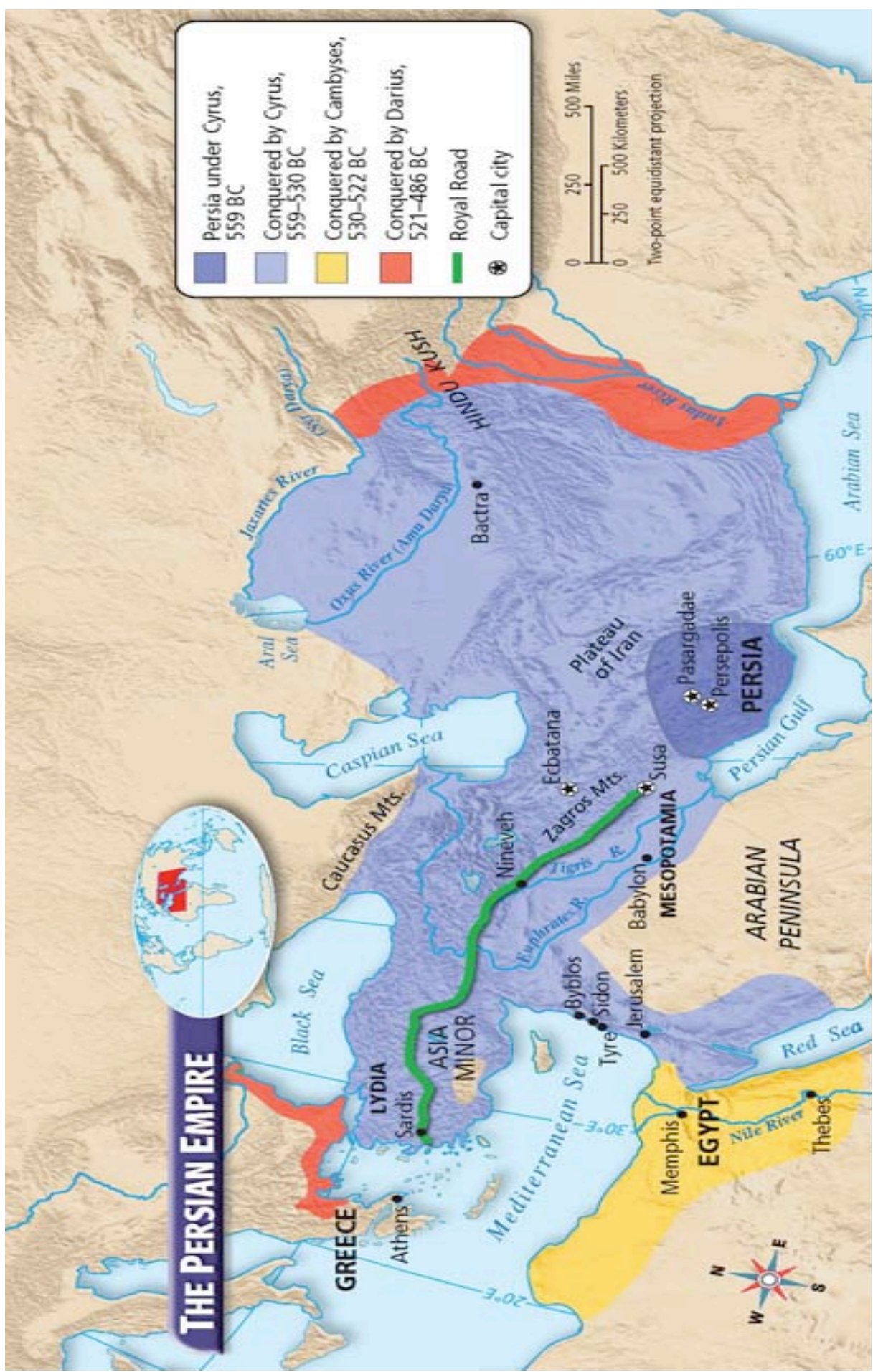
◀ A troop of highly trained soldiers called the Immortals was the heart of the army.

# THE PERSIAN EMPIRE

- Persia under Cyrus, 559 BC
- Conquered by Cyrus, 559-530 BC
- Conquered by Cambyses, 530-522 BC
- Conquered by Darius, 521-486 BC
- Royal Road
- Capital city



Two-point equidistant projection



## FACES OF HISTORY

# ZOROASTER

c. 628–c. 551 BC



Although Zoroaster founded a religion that attracted millions of followers, historians do not know much for certain about his life.

They are not even sure when Zoroaster, also known as Zarathushtra, lived. Ancient writings suggest that he was born in a rural community in what is now Iran and that he grew up to become a priest. The same sources say that he began to roam the world in search of wisdom in his early 20s. At age 30, Zoroaster received a vision from the god Ahura Mazda. In this vision, the god revealed teachings that Zoroaster was to share with other people. Zoroaster later recorded those teachings in writings that became the heart of the *Avesta*.

Spreading his new religion brought Zoroaster into conflict with many people. He faced opposition both from townspeople, who followed an older polytheistic religion, and from nomads, whose way of life Zoroaster distrusted. Despite the opposition from these groups, his teachings spread throughout the Persian Empire.

**Draw Conclusions** Why might historians know relatively little about the life of Zoroaster?



## Civilization Develops in the Fertile Crescent

Flat land and river floods allow farming.

Complex society with government and religion develops in Sumer.

Military empires conquer and rule parts of the Fertile Crescent.

Societies develop new laws, patterns of trade, and religions.

## Main Teachings of Judaism

- Monotheism—the belief in only one God
- Justice and Righteousness—treating others well and always doing what is right
- Ethics—living according to a set standard of behavior
- Obedience—following God's laws as set forth in the Torah

## Peoples of the Fertile Crescent

### Sumerians

- Created world's first civilization
- Invented cuneiform and the wheel

### Akkadians

- Built the world's first empire

### Babylonians

- Built the city of Babylon
- Issued Hammurabi's Code

### Hittites

- Made iron ornaments

### Assyrians

- Formed a military society

### Chaldeans

- Rebuilt Babylon

### Phoenicians

- Traded across the Mediterranean
- Developed an alphabet

### Hebrews

- Practiced Judaism
- Established the Kingdom of Israel

### Persians

- Formed a huge empire
- Built roads