

# Prehistory – River Valley Civilizations

# I. Paleolithic (Old Stone Age) (2 million to 12000 BCE)

## A. More Advanced Humans

## B. Hunters/Gatherers



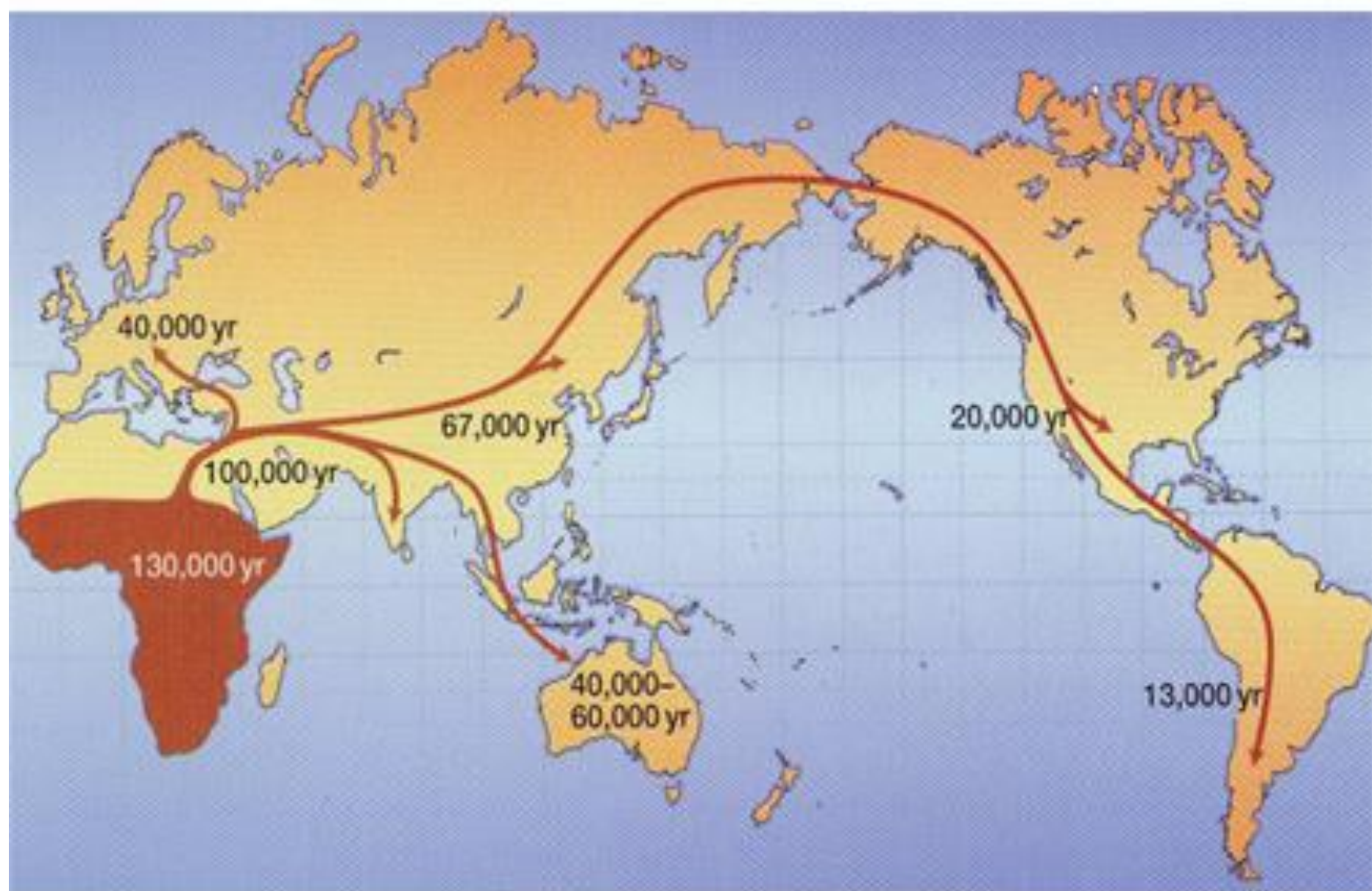
# I. Paleolithic (Old Stone Age) (2 million to 12000 BCE) *CONT*

## C. Migration

1. Where???

D. 14,000 years ago (approx. 12,000 BCE) end of last GREAT ice age

E. More movement



# Discussion Question

- Discuss some advantages AND disadvantages of the lifestyle of Hunters/Gatherers?

## II. Neolithic (New Stone Age) (10,000-4000 BCE)

### A. Agricultural Revolution

1. Invention of agriculture
2. Initially developed in the Middle East and independently arose in India, N. Africa, Americas, Asia and Europe
3. Transformation took time

# Neolithic (New Stone Age) (10,000-4000 BCE)

## *CONT.*

### 4. Specialization of Labor

- a) New classes

### 5. Pastoralist

# Neolithic (New Stone Age) (10,000-4000 BCE) *CONT.*

5. Technological Innovations

6. Role of women



# Discussion Question:

- What were some of the benefits of the Neolithic Revolution for humans? What were some of the drawbacks? Would YOU have chosen to settle and begin farming?

# Class Discussion

- Is the term Civilization a synonym for good?
  - For each of these characteristics of early civilization, identify benefits and disadvantages:
    - Gender inequality
    - Slavery
    - Warlike
    - Divisions in social-class – have/have nots
    - Diseases
    - Ruler and ruled
    - Destruction of environment

# III. Civilization *CONT*

A. Why Civilization?

B. Definition

1. Must contain all of the following:

a) ???

b) ???

c) ???

d) ???

e) ???

f) ???

g) ???

# IV. Characteristics of River Valley Civilizations

## A. The “Big” 4 and the Americas

1. Mesopotamia (Tigris and Euphrates)
2. Egypt (Nile)
3. Mohenjo-daro / Harappa (Indus)
4. China (Hwang He or Yellow)
5. Chavin (Andean South America)
6. Olmecs (Mesoamerica)

## The Four Old-World River Valley Cultures





# Mesopotamia



# Egypt





# India



# China



# Small Group Discussion Question:

- What do most/all of these River Valley Civilizations have in common? What are some key differences between the RVCs?

# IV. Characteristics of River Valley Civilizations

## *CONT*

### B. Favorable Location and Access to Resources

1. Example: Hittites and Iron

### C. Independent Development vs. Borrowing

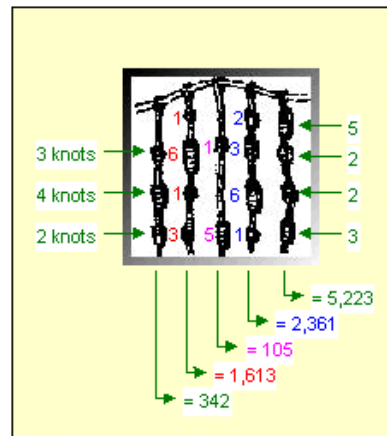
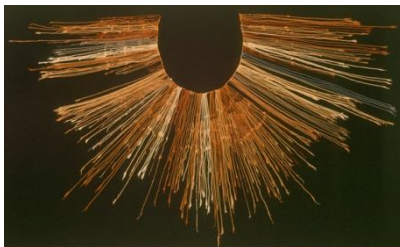
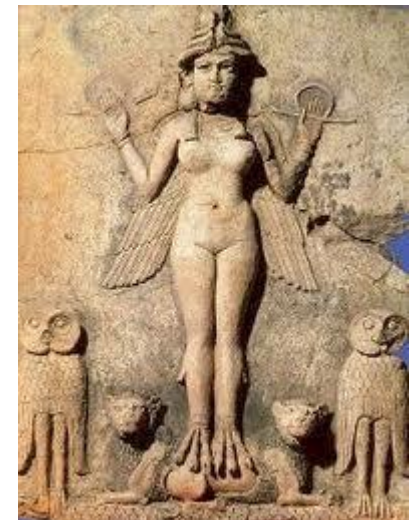
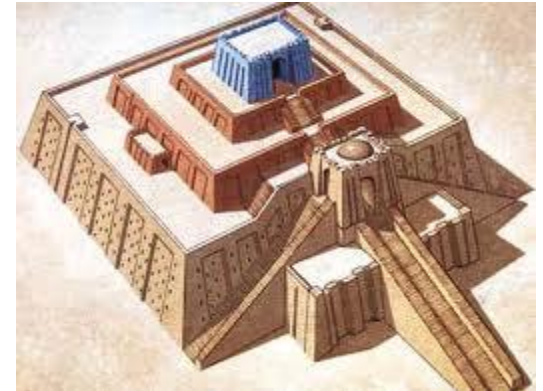
1. Despite trade and connections...



# IV. Characteristics of River Valley Civilizations *CONT*

## C. Similarities

1. Technology
2. Monumental Building / Specialization / Division of Labor
3. Arts promoted by religious and political elites
4. Writing Systems





# IV. Characteristics of River Valley Civilizations *CONT*

5. Trade
6. Complex political structures
7. Creation of Legal Codes
  - a) Hammurabi's Code
  - b) Code of Ur-Nammu
8. Creation of new religions
  - a) Vedic religions
  - b) Hebrew monotheism
  - c) Zoroastrianism



# Writing

**Papyrus Sheets**



**Cuneiform Tablet**





# Hieroglyphs



# Writing Forms

Sumerian Writing

an	𒀭	𒀮	𒀯	𒀰
en	𒂍	𒂎	𒂏	𒂐
gin	𒄍	𒄎	𒄏	𒄐
lu	𒆍	𒆎	𒆏	𒆐
me	𒌍	𒌎	𒌏	𒌐
nam	𒂍	𒂎	𒂏	𒂐
nu	𒂍	𒂎	𒂏	𒂐
ur	𒂍	𒂎	𒂏	𒂐
ur	𒂍	𒂎	𒂏	𒂐
ur	𒂍	𒂎	𒂏	𒂐

Hieroglyphics



# Writing Forms

# Sanskrit

Table 1. The 100 most frequent characters in the English language (from [10]).									
Frequency		Rank		Character		Frequency		Rank	
Count	Percentage	Rank	Frequency	Count	Percentage	Rank	Frequency	Count	Percentage
1	13.00	1	e	26	0.42	96	z	1	0.01
2	12.70	2	t	27	0.41	97	y	2	0.02
3	12.68	3	a	28	0.41	98	x	3	0.02
4	12.71	4	i	29	0.41	99	w	4	0.03
5	12.69	5	n	30	0.41	100	v	5	0.03
6	12.67	6	o	31	0.41		u	6	0.03
7	12.65	7	d	32	0.41		j	7	0.02
8	12.63	8	r	33	0.41		k	8	0.02
9	12.61	9	s	34	0.41		q	9	0.01
10	12.59	10	h	35	0.41		l	10	0.04
11	12.57	11	c	36	0.41		p	11	0.04
12	12.55	12	m	37	0.41		b	12	0.04
13	12.53	13	g	38	0.41		f	13	0.04
14	12.51	14	l	39	0.41		g	14	0.04
15	12.49	15	u	40	0.41		a	15	0.05
16	12.47	16	k	41	0.41		m	16	0.05
17	12.45	17	p	42	0.41		h	17	0.05
18	12.43	18	f	43	0.41		d	18	0.05
19	12.41	19	v	44	0.41		r	19	0.05
20	12.39	20	b	45	0.41		s	20	0.05
21	12.37	21	t	46	0.41		o	21	0.05
22	12.35	22	n	47	0.41		i	22	0.05
23	12.33	23	e	48	0.41		a	23	0.05
24	12.31	24	r	49	0.41		u	24	0.05
25	12.29	25	s	50	0.41		j	25	0.02
26	12.27	26	h	51	0.41		k	26	0.02
27	12.25	27	c	52	0.41		q	27	0.01
28	12.23	28	m	53	0.41		l	28	0.04
29	12.21	29	g	54	0.41		p	29	0.04
30	12.19	30	l	55	0.41		b	30	0.04
31	12.17	31	u	56	0.41		f	31	0.04
32	12.15	32	k	57	0.41		g	32	0.04
33	12.13	33	p	58	0.41		a	33	0.05
34	12.11	34	f	59	0.41		m	34	0.05
35	12.09	35	v	60	0.41		h	35	0.05
36	12.07	36	b	61	0.41		d	36	0.05
37	12.05	37	t	62	0.41		r	37	0.05
38	12.03	38	n	63	0.41		s	38	0.05
39	12.01	39	e	64	0.41		o	39	0.05
40	11.99	40	r	65	0.41		i	40	0.05
41	11.97	41	s	66	0.41		a	41	0.05
42	11.95	42	h	67	0.41		u	42	0.05
43	11.93	43	c	68	0.41		j	43	0.02
44	11.91	44	m	69	0.41		k	44	0.02
45	11.89	45	g	70	0.41		q	45	0.01
46	11.87	46	l	71	0.41		l	46	0.04
47	11.85	47	u	72	0.41		p	47	0.04
48	11.83	48	k	73	0.41		b	48	0.04
49	11.81	49	p	74	0.41		f	49	0.04
50	11.79	50	f	75	0.41		g	50	0.04
51	11.77	51	v	76	0.41		a	51	0.05
52	11.75	52	b	77	0.41		m	52	0.05
53	11.73	53	t	78	0.41		h	53	0.05
54	11.71	54	n	79	0.41		d	54	0.05
55	11.69	55	e	80	0.41		r	55	0.05
56	11.67	56	r	81	0.41		s	56	0.05
57	11.65	57	s	82	0.41		o	57	0.05
58	11.63	58	h	83	0.41		i	58	0.05
59	11.61	59	c	84	0.41		a	59	0.05
60	11.59	60	m	85	0.41		u	60	0.05
61	11.57	61	g	86	0.41		j	61	0.02
62	11.55	62	l	87	0.41		k	62	0.02
63	11.53	63	u	88	0.41		q	63	0.01
64	11.51	64	k	89	0.41		l	64	0.04
65	11.49	65	p	90	0.41		p	65	0.04
66	11.47	66	f	91	0.41		b	66	0.04
67	11.45	67	v	92	0.41		f	67	0.04
68	11.43	68	b	93	0.41		g	68	0.04
69	11.41	69	t	94	0.41		a	69	0.05
70	11.39	70	n	95	0.41		m	70	0.05
71	11.37	71	e	96	0.41		h	71	0.05
72	11.35	72	r	97	0.41		d	72	0.05
73	11.33	73	s	98	0.41		r	73	0.05
74	11.31	74	h	99	0.41		s	74	0.05
75	11.29	75	c	100	0.41		o	75	0.05

# Ancient Chinese

[illegible]

# IV. Characteristics of River Valley Civilizations

## *CONT*

### D. Differences

1. Egyptian economy
2. Distinctive Writing Systems
3. Monumental Building
4. Chinese Intellectual Life

### Partner Question:

What would allow China to emphasize education over other pursuits? Explain.

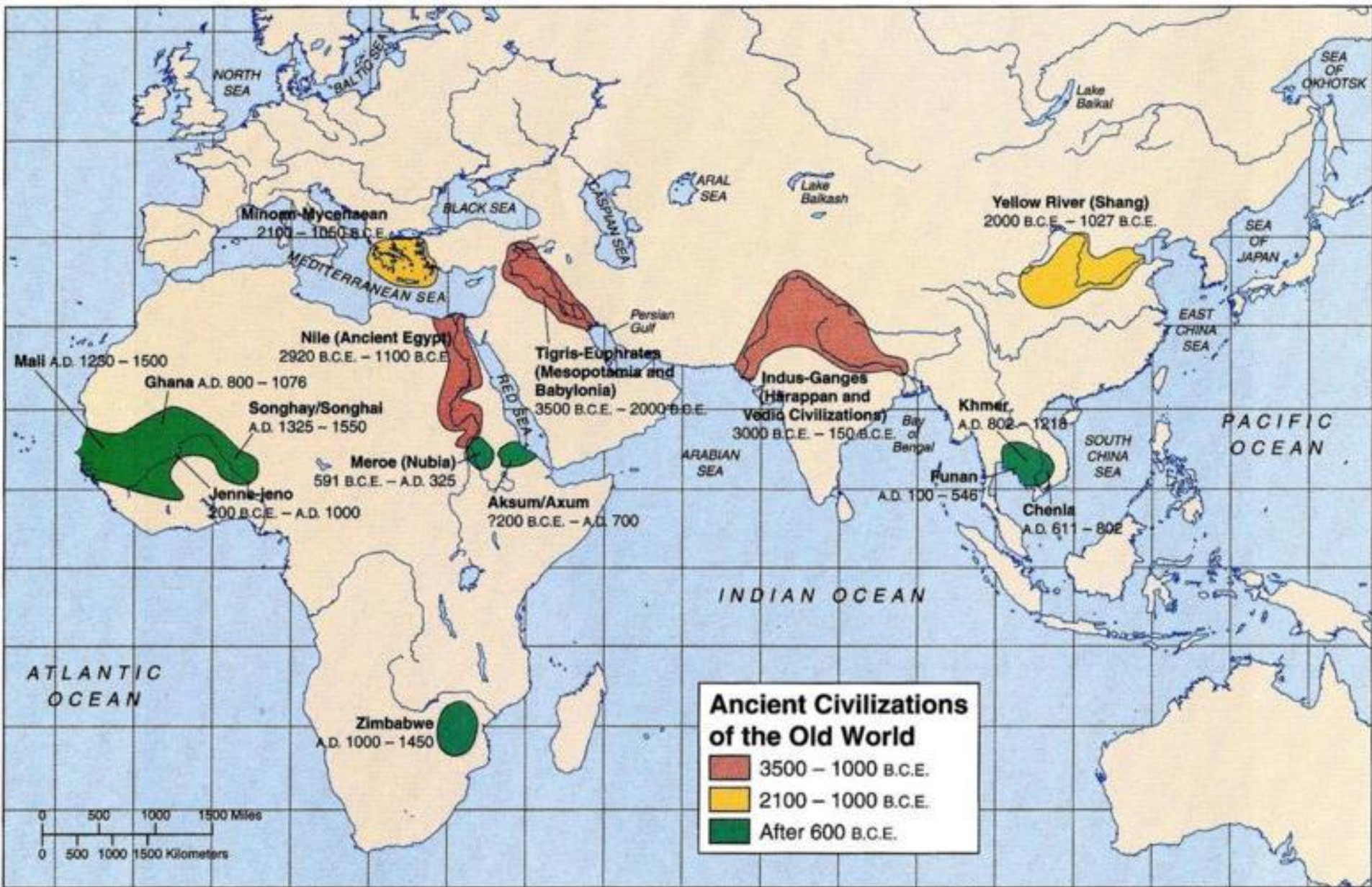


# IV. Characteristics of River Valley Civilizations *CONT*

## E. Decline of River Valley Civilizations



# Ancient Civilizations of the Old World



# Small Group Discussion Question:

- What did the first River Valley Civilizations leave behind? How were the civilizations that followed them effected?



# V. Conclusion

- A. RVCs created...
- B. Civilization created division BUT trade created interconnection
- C. Major Similarities / Major Differences

# Closing Task

- A. Identify and explain ONE similarity of the early River Valley Civilizations.
- B. Identify and explain ONE difference of the early River Valley Civilizations.
- C. Identify and explain ONE legacy of the early River Valley Civilizations.