

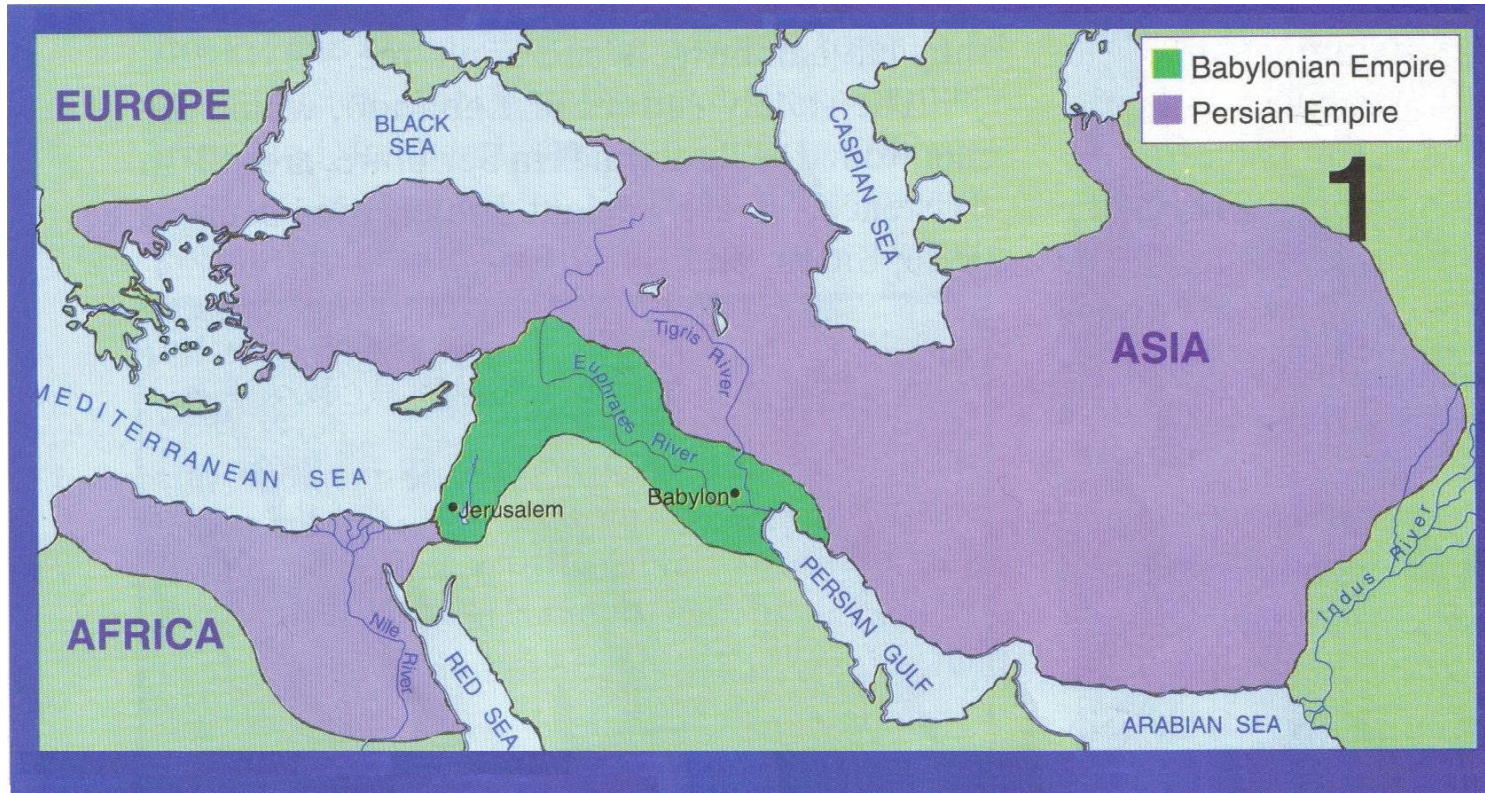
Mesopotamia

The Fall and Rise of Persia



The End of Mesopotamia

- Mesopotamia would eventually fall to the Persians in 539 BCE.



The Babylonian and Persian Empires

Before Europe became important to world history, great empires arose in the Middle East. The last two were the Babylonian Empire and the Persian Empire. The Persian Empire included a small portion of Europe and extended all the way to India in the east.



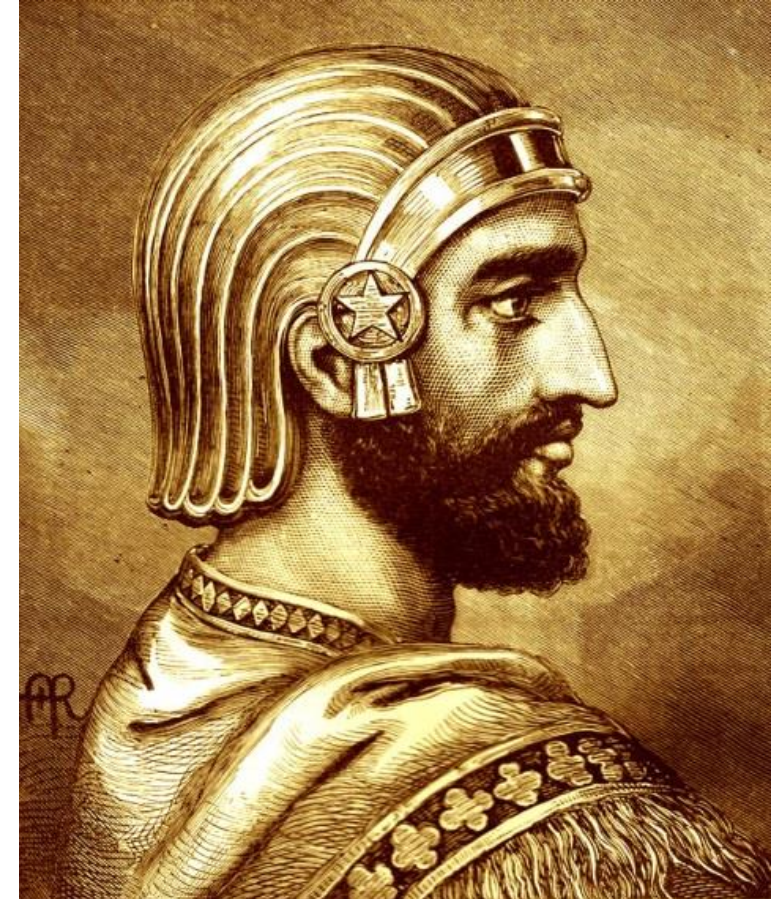
The Persian Empire

- Chaldean king, Nebuchadnezzar II, rebuilt Babylon as the center of the Mesopotamian Empire and despite his reputation as a warrior king he will forever be remembered as a builder king who made Babylon one of the most beautiful cities in the world.
- In 539 BCE the Persian King Cyrus led a Persian invasion on Mesopotamia and conquered Babylon.
- Unlike his predecessors he showed remarkable restraint and wisdom and allowed captive Jews to return to Israel.



Cyrus the Great

- Cyrus was a different leader of Mesopotamia as he was known for being wise and compassionate to his new empire.
- He was merciful and for this the Medes (with whom he conquered Babylon), the Babylonians and the Jews all accepted him as ruler.
- Cyrus seemed to have respect for the previous civilizations as he used Assyrian, Babylonian and Egyptian designs for building his palaces.



THE PERSIAN EMPIRE, 500 B.C.



Location Explain why the Royal Road was constructed and why it was constructed where it was.

Darius

521 BCE – 486 BCE



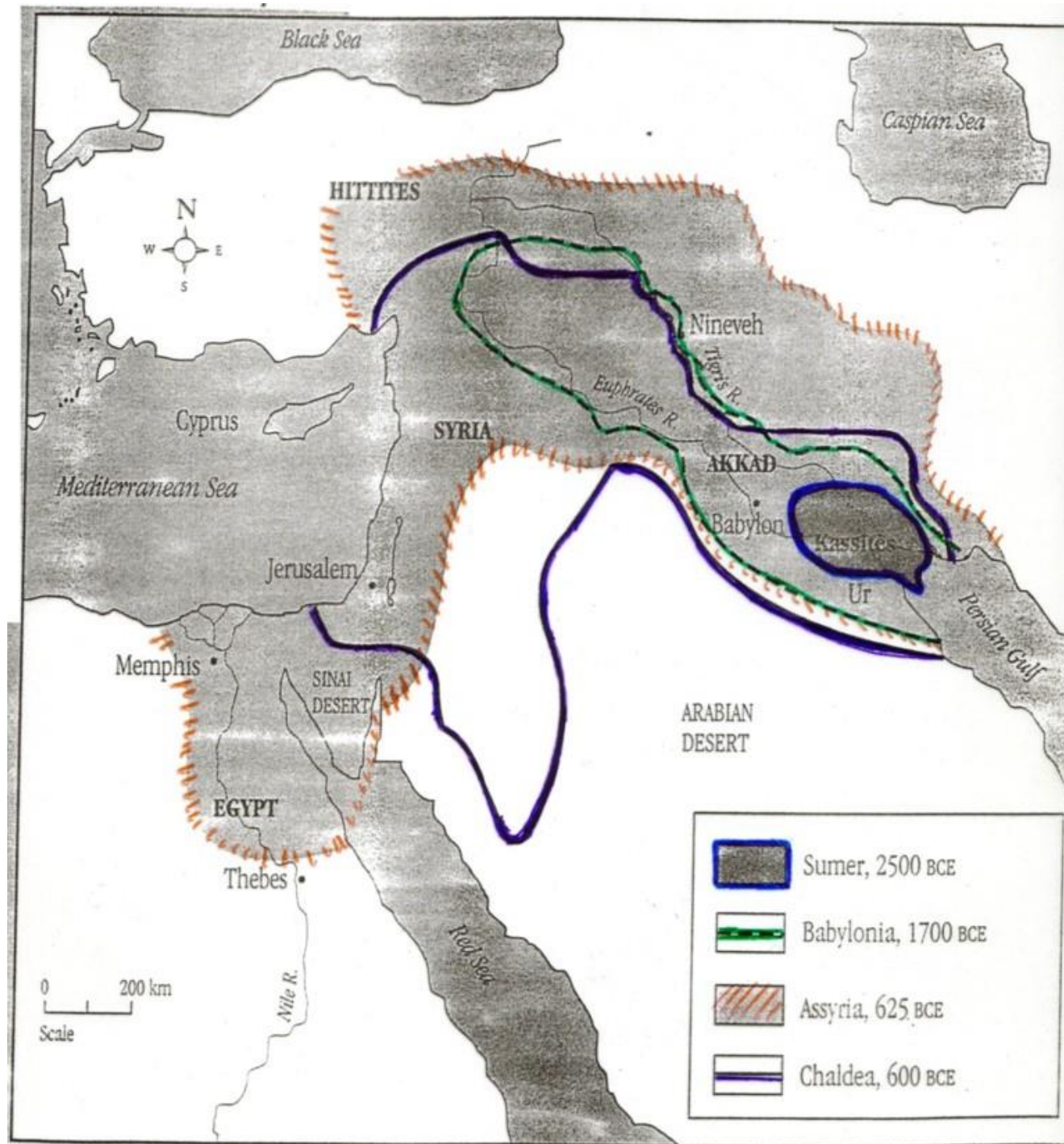
- He improves the government by dividing the empire into 20 provinces called **satrapies**.
- The governors (**satraps**) collected taxes, provided justice and recruited soldiers.
- An efficient communication system sustained the Persian Empire. Officials easily traveled through the empire on the well-maintained Royal Road and side roads dotted with way stations that provided food, shelter, and fresh horses. The **Royal Road** stretched from Lydia to Susa, the empire's chief capital.



The Decline of the Persian Empire

- Much of the empire's power depended on the military. By the time of Darius, Persian kings had created a standing army of professional soldiers from all over the empire. At its core were a cavalry force and an elite infantry force. They were known as the Immortals because whenever a member was killed, he was immediately replaced.
- After Darius, the Persian empire fizzled as kings became isolated in the now heavily taxed provinces. Because the kings were polygamous their sons often had little power but many engaged in plots to take the thrones which further weakened the monarchies.





■ Major Advancements:

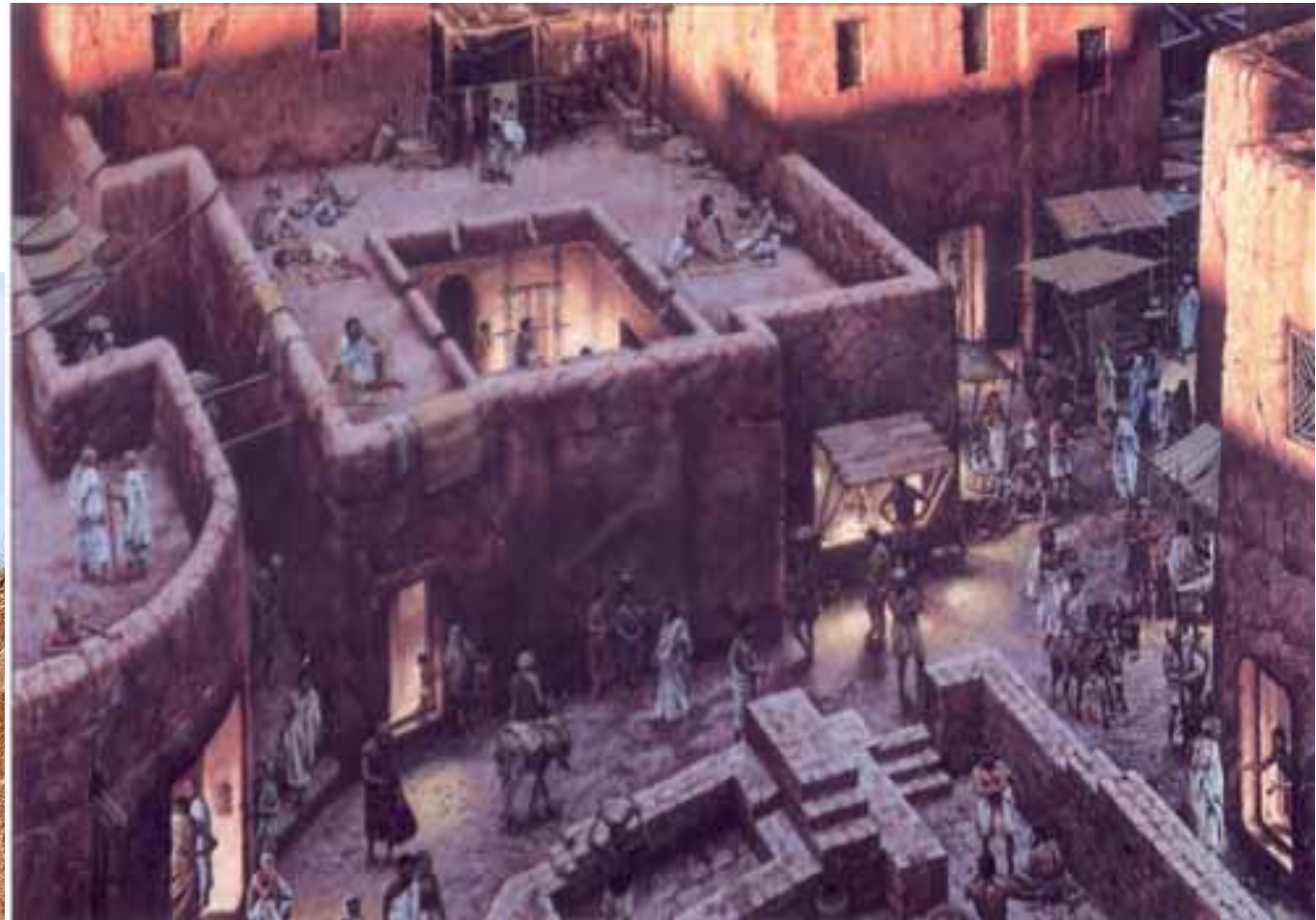
The Wheel	Sumerians built wheeled wagons and chariots to replace sleds. Farmers could transport more.
Metallurgy	Prior to the Bronze age, copper was used . Someone discovered accidentally you could smelt copper and tin together. Bronze is inexpensive to produce.
Mathematics	Sumerians could count in tens but preferred a unit of 60. Used to build canals keep records and for taxes.
Time	Studied the stars, divided year into 12 months, Chaldeans made calendar more accurate.



Gold Bowls & Necklace



Homes



The image shows four ancient coins. On the left are two gold coins, one of which features a standing figure holding a staff and a scepter. On the right are two silver coins, one of which shows a profile of a head wearing a crown. The coins are arranged in a cluster, with some overlapping.

ancient gold
and silver coins

The world's first coins. About 700 B.C., the Lydians came up with an even better idea than trading with bars. Lydia minted (or made) the world's first coins. Instead of bars of metal, the Lydians made rough, rounded coins of the same metals with seals stamped on both sides of them. The seals nearly covered the sides of the coins. A dishonest person would have a harder time cutting a piece of metal from a coin than he would from a bar. The coins encouraged honesty on the part of both the buyer and the seller. They were also much easier to handle than bars.

Currency



Toys and Games



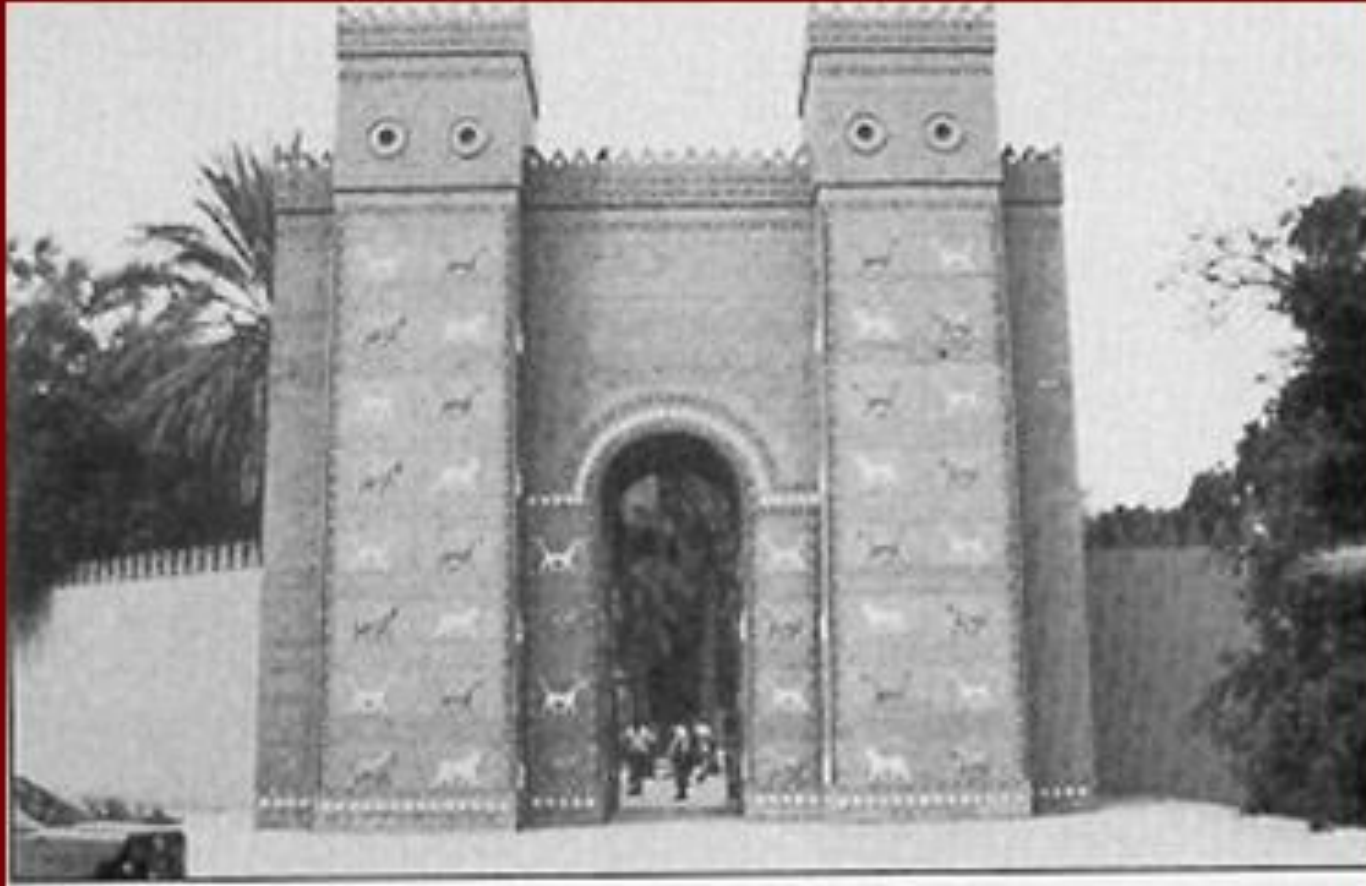
examples of Sumerian craftsmanship





Board Game – Cuneiform Tablet





The Rebuilt Ishtar Gate in Babylon
Daniel and the Jewish captives were led through this gate
twenty-five centuries ago

<http://www.jaysnet.com/v666babylon2.jpg>



Tower of Babylon

Tower of Babel

- Ancient stories about why there are different languages and belief systems.



Millstones

- Innovations for making flour



millstones



Ancient Ovens

ancient oven

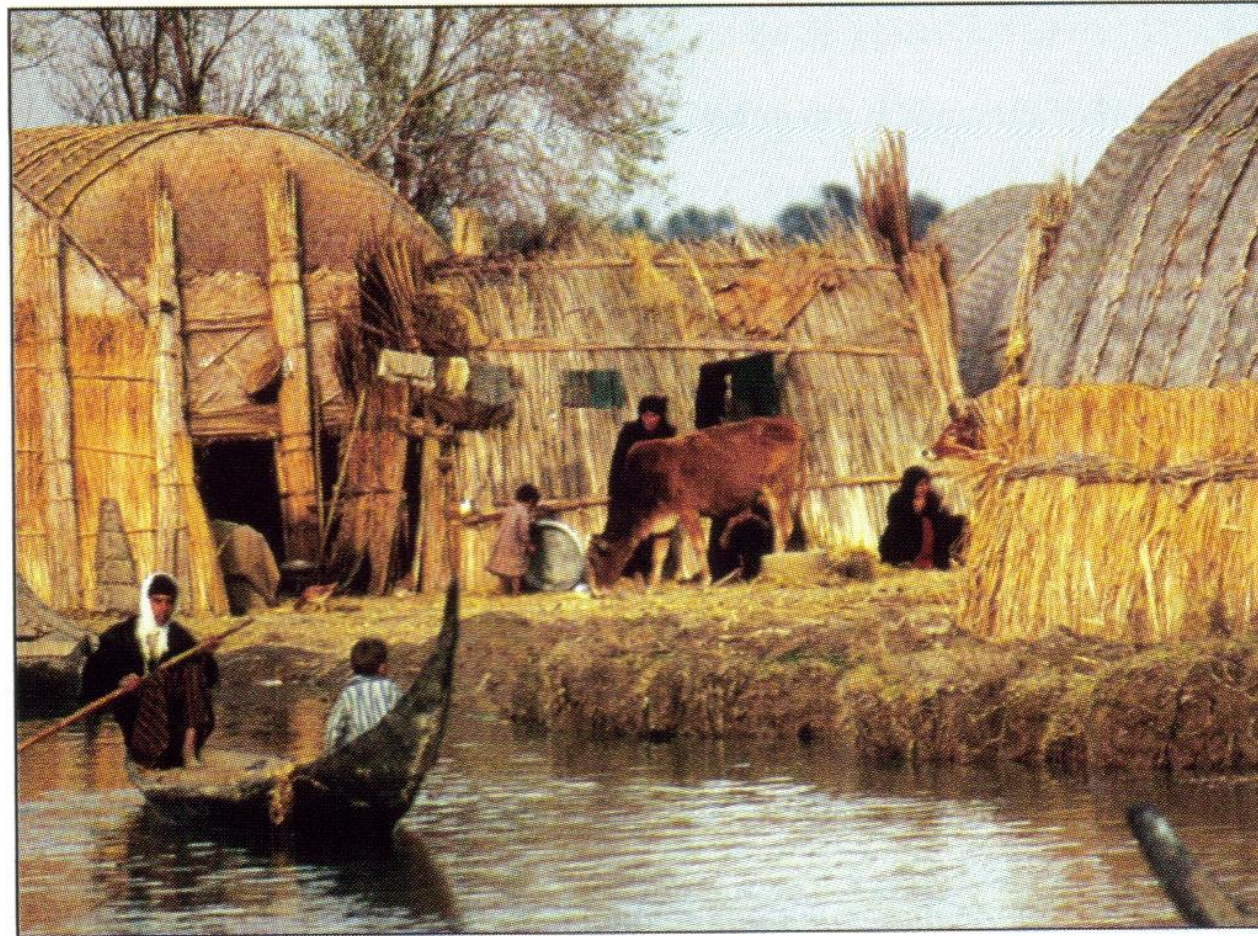




◀ *In the marshes of southern Mesopotamia, small boats were made of reeds and covered in bitumen, a thick, sticky tar. Today, people in the marshes use wooden boats.*



▼ *Homes in the marshlands of southern Mesopotamia were made from bundles of reeds tied together, much like some are today.*



Mesopotamian Economy

- Civilization appears when agriculture is utilized to make life easier and less dependant on hunting for food. The use of a form of writing is also used when determining what is “civilization”.

