

What is Geography?

... and how it all began.

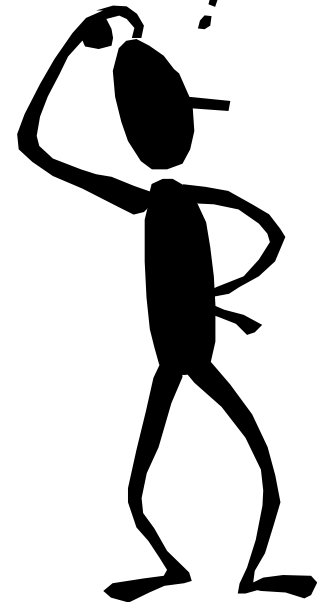


Two Minute Quick-Write

Identify the last time
you were a geographer
and explain the setting
and situation

Defining Geography

- Geography began as something we do
- Created by the ancient Greeks about 400 BC
 - GEO- meaning “the earth”
 - GRAPHY- meaning “to write or describe”
 - ? GEOGRAPHY= describing characteristics of the earth



Why the Greeks?

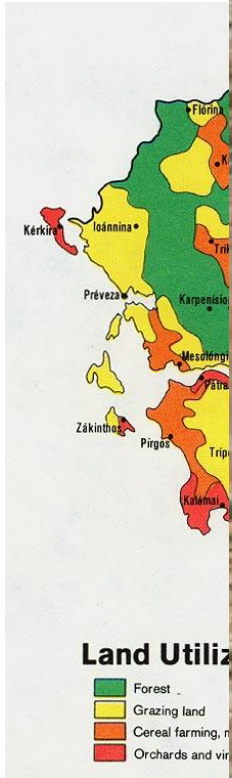


LEGEND
 Risk due to soil erosion
 Risk due to soil erosion
 Risk due to salinization

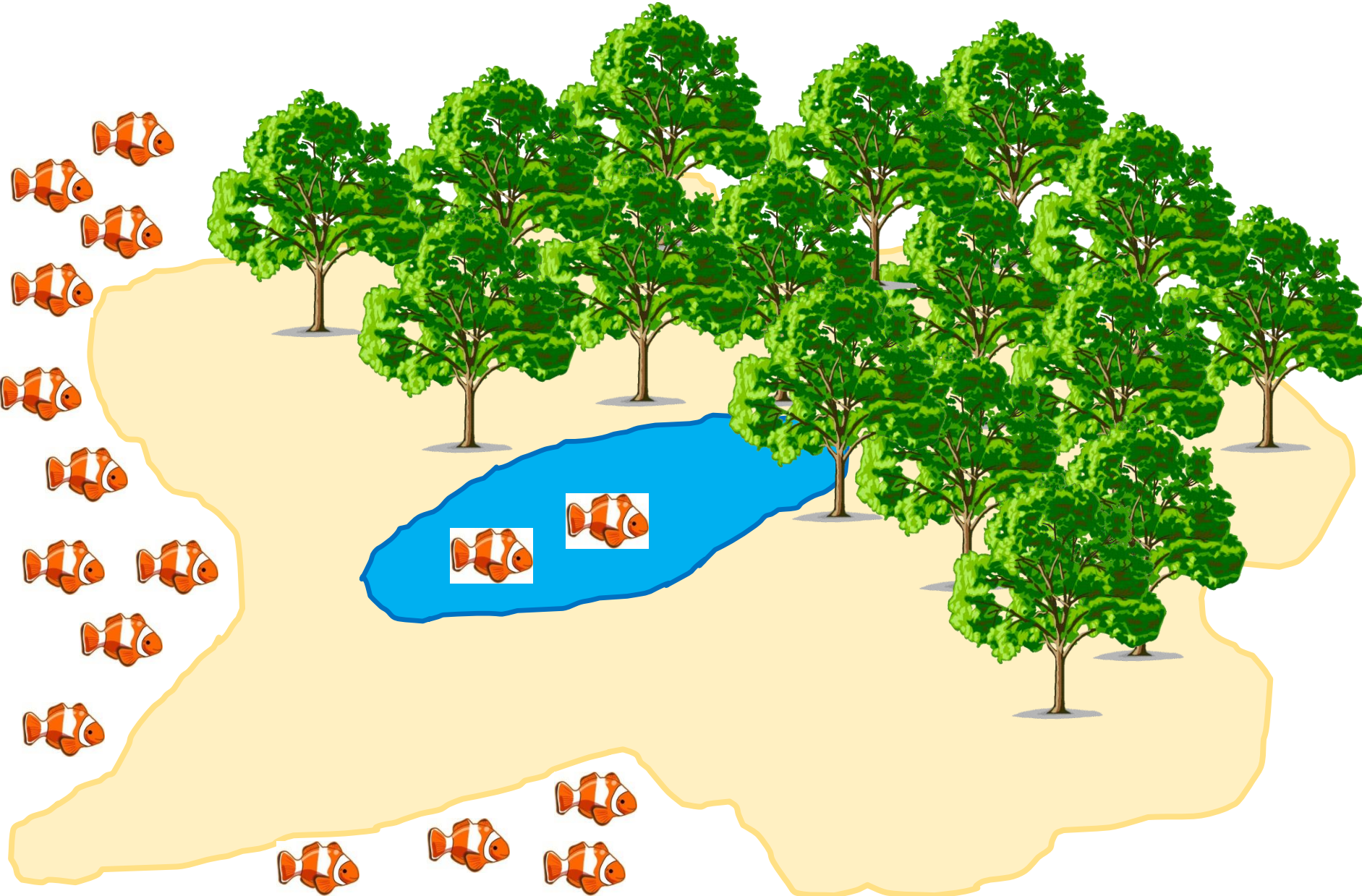


0 100 meters

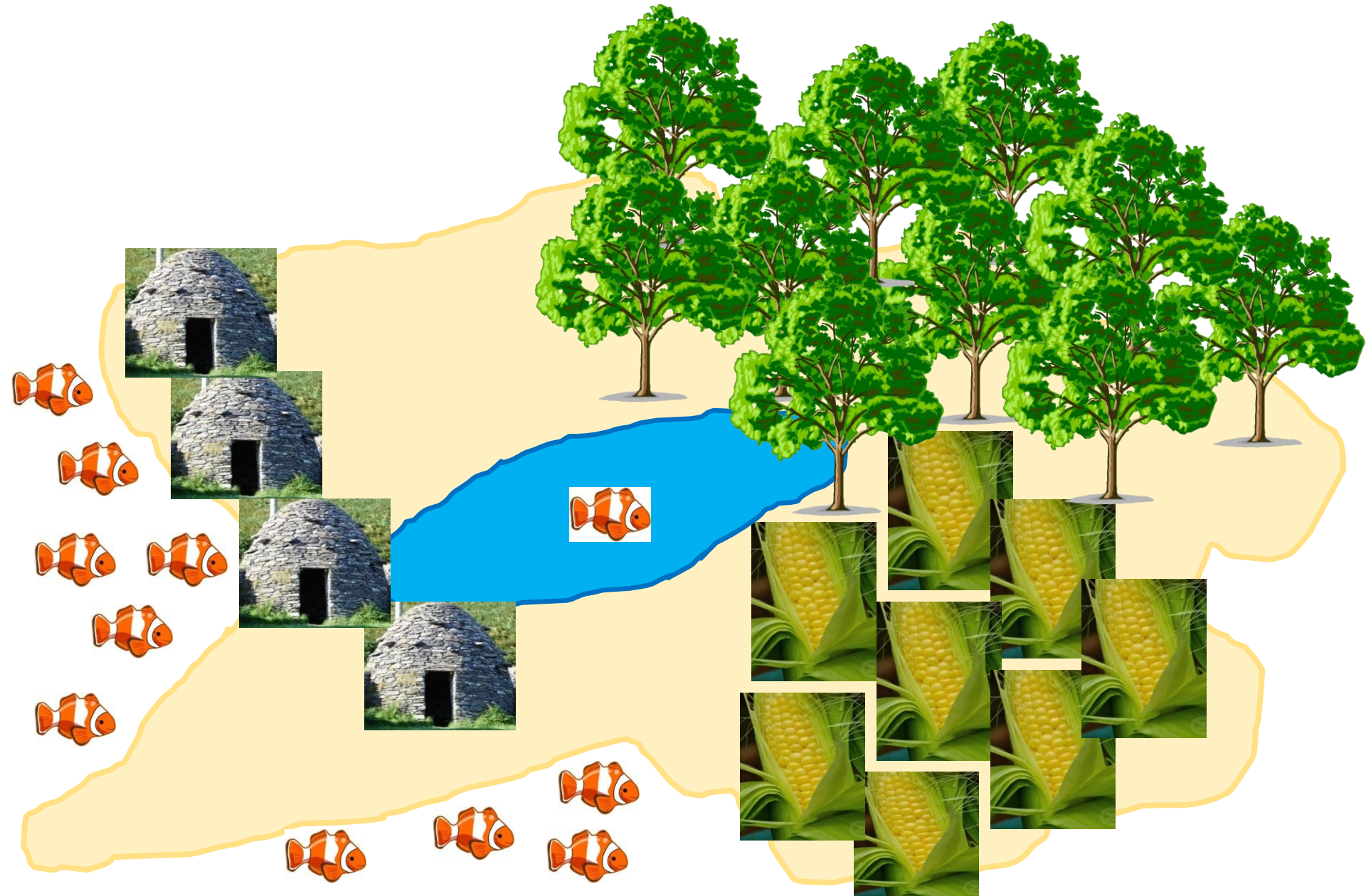
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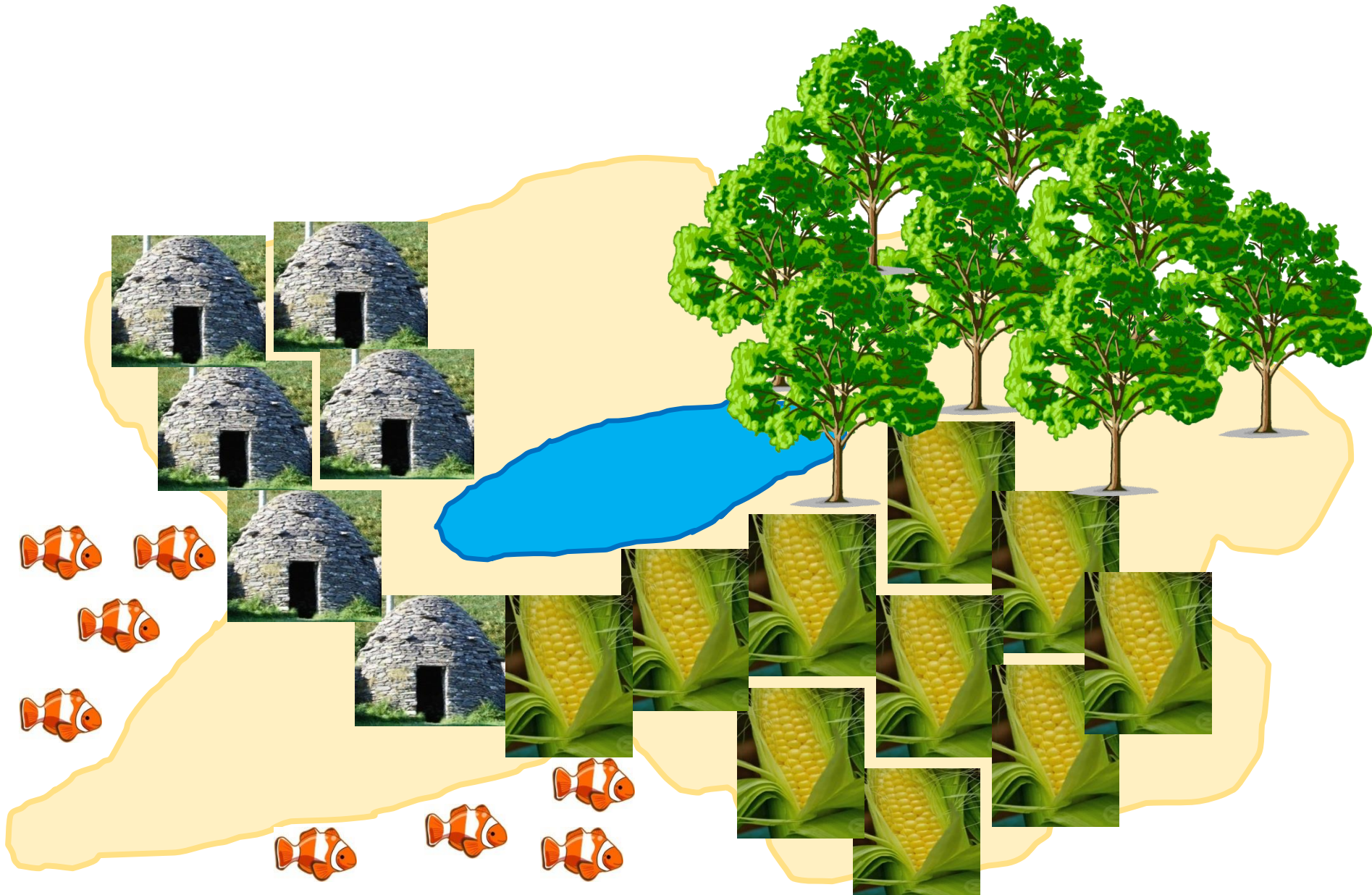
Greek Isle 500 BC



Greek Isle 475 BC



Greek Isle 450 BC



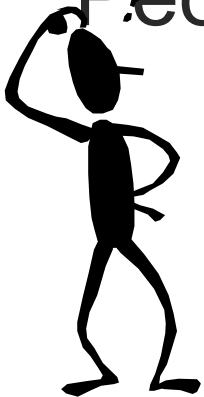
Greek Isle 425 BC



Why the Greeks?

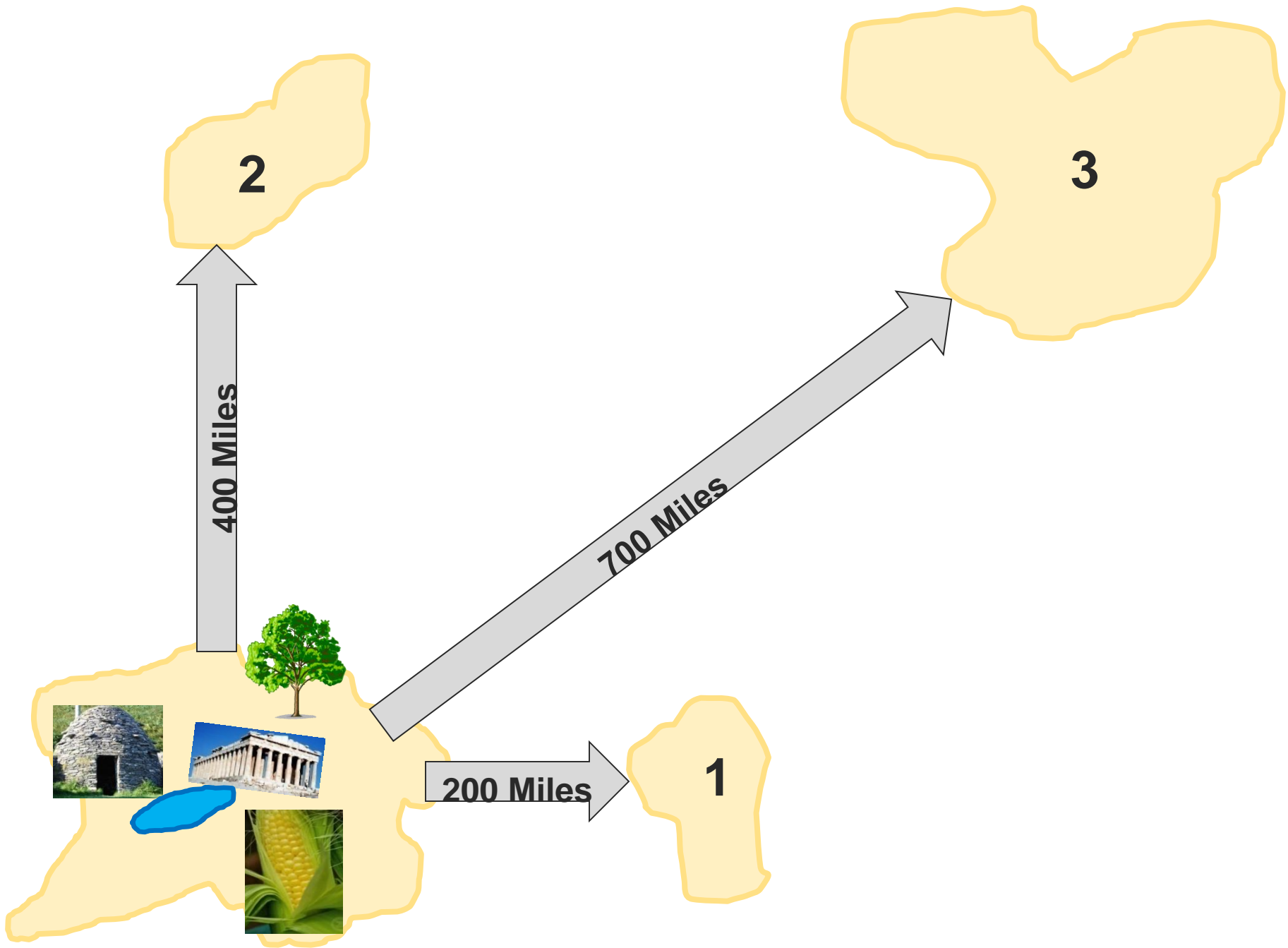
- The dry desert-like environment of their islands was not able to support a large and growing population
 - The already limited food, water, wood, stone, metals, etc. were running out at a very fast pace

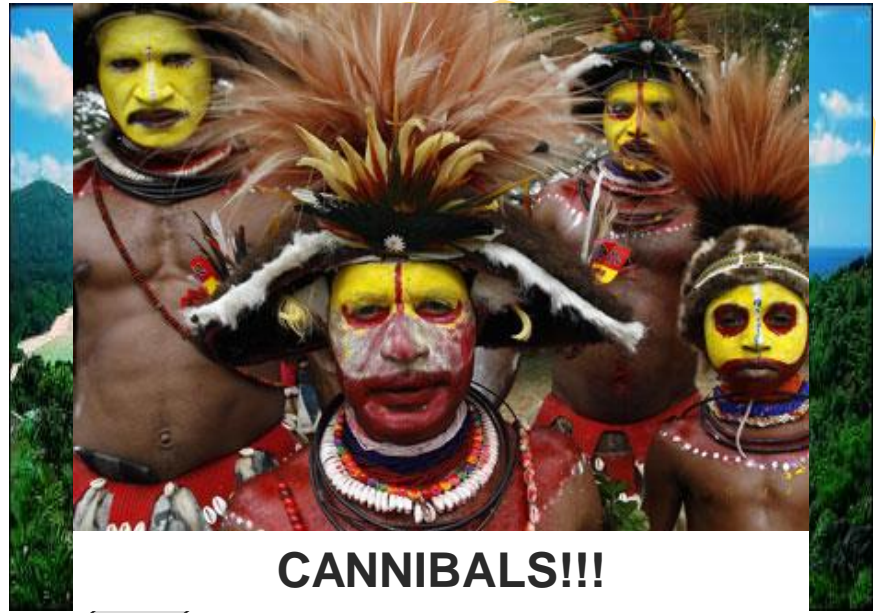
■ People had to do something... but what?



Greek Isle 400 BC

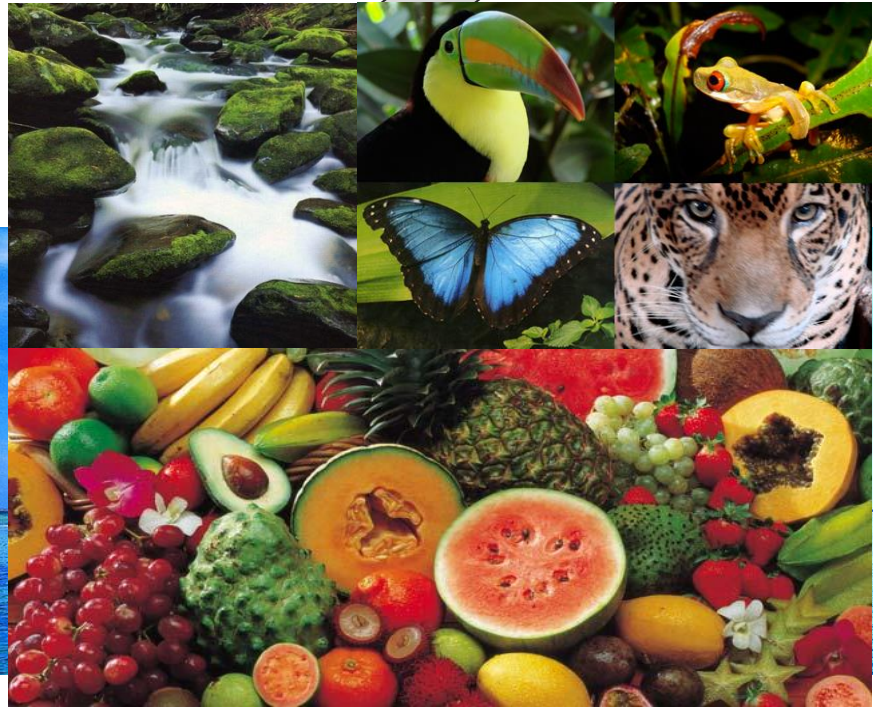






CANNIBALS!!!

400 Mi



Why the Greeks?

- The Greeks became the first real explorers of the world
 - Drew pictures, wrote journals, and made maps about what they explored
 - Describing characteristics of t



Fathers of Geography

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Fathers of Geography



responsible for

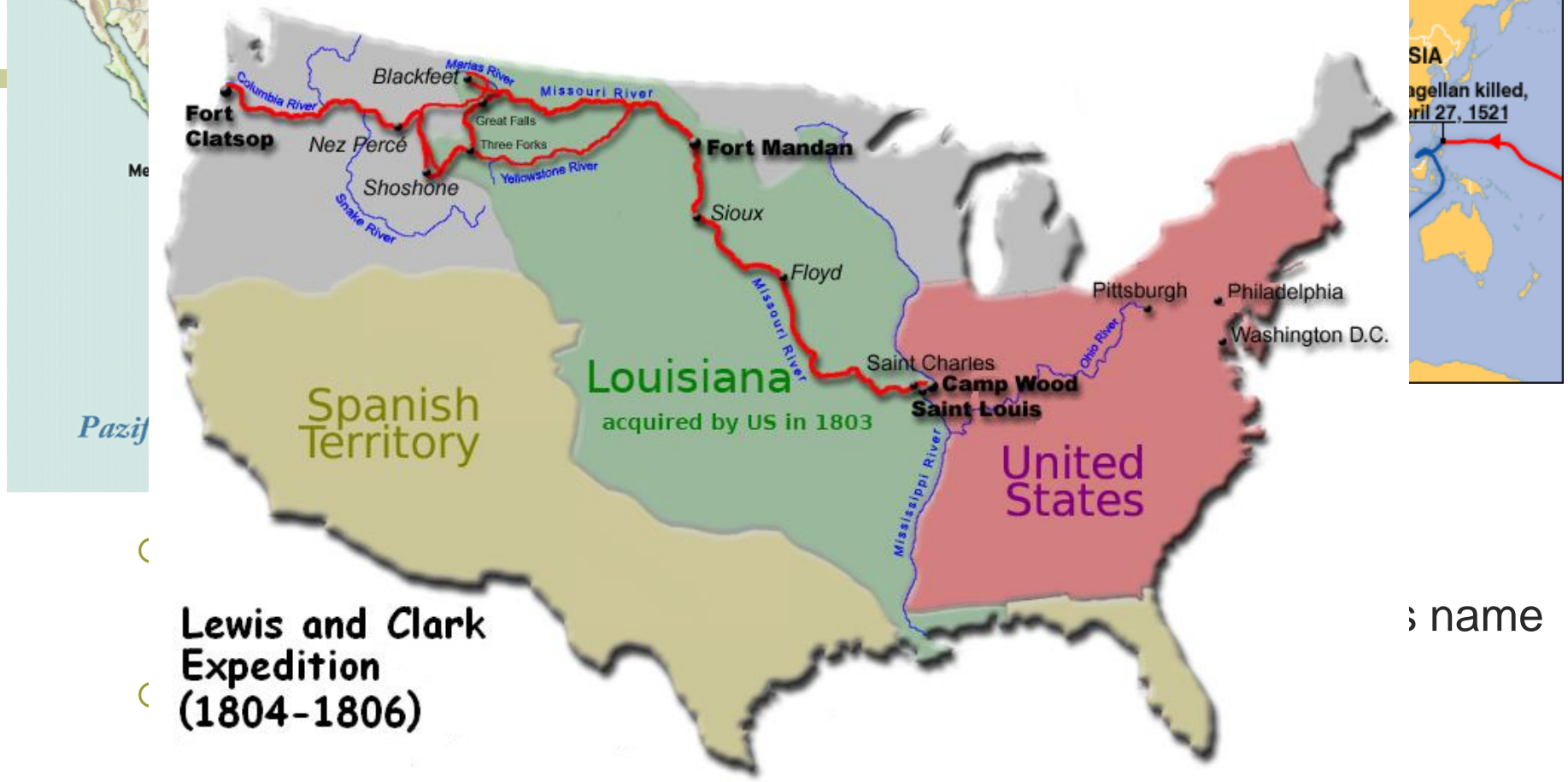
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Lewis and Clark Expedition (1804-1806)

; name

- Lewis and Clark
 - Explored Western United States

Doing Geography

- So... How do we “do” geography?
 - Meaning...How do we describe the earth?
 - Observe the world around us
 - Use our five senses
 - Describe the world using maps, graphs, charts, diagrams, and models
- Always think of the early Greeks and what necessitated their desire to explore

The Geography Process

- Step 1- Exploration
 - Explore some part of the earth
 - Actually traveling there, watch a video of it, reading about it, etc.
- Step 2- Discovery
 - Find out something “**new**” to you
 - Learn about someone or something you didn’t know before
- Step 3- Observation
 - Use your 5 senses to study your discovery
 - Inspect and study the details of someone, something, or some place
- Step 4- Description
 - Make a description based on your observations
 - Tell the facts/ details about... **Someone, Something, or Someplace**
 - Verbally, in writing, through pictures, maps, graphs, charts, etc.
 - “**Describing characteristics of the Earth**”

[Geography as a Field of Study]

- Study of where things are found on Earth's surface and the reasons for those locations
- Focused on answering “Why what is Where”
 - Where things are located
 - How they got there
 - Why they are there
 - Where they are going (the future of the what)

[Geography as a Field of Study]

- Geographers look at the world spatially
 - Most interested in looking into space (areas)
 - Identify, explain, and predict the human and physical patterns that develop across space over time
 - Interactions among spaces and places
- Develop models to try to explain a complicated world
 - Models are usually generalizations that must concede exceptions

[Modern Fields of Geography]

- Physical Geography
 - Concerned with spatial analysis of the Earth's natural phenomena
 - Where and why patterns of climate, soil, and topography exist
- Human Geography
 - Concerned with spatial analysis of human patterns and their interactions with the Earth
 - Where and why patterns of religions, governments, languages, populations, and economies exist

[Modern Fields of Geography]

- Carl Sauer's "Cultural Landscape" (1925)
 - Area fashioned from nature by a cultural group
 - "Culture is the agent, nature is the medium, the cultural landscape is the result"
 - How humans interact with the world around them and the impact of this interaction
- George Perkins Marsh (1864)
 - Warned willful destruction of environment will have disastrous consequences