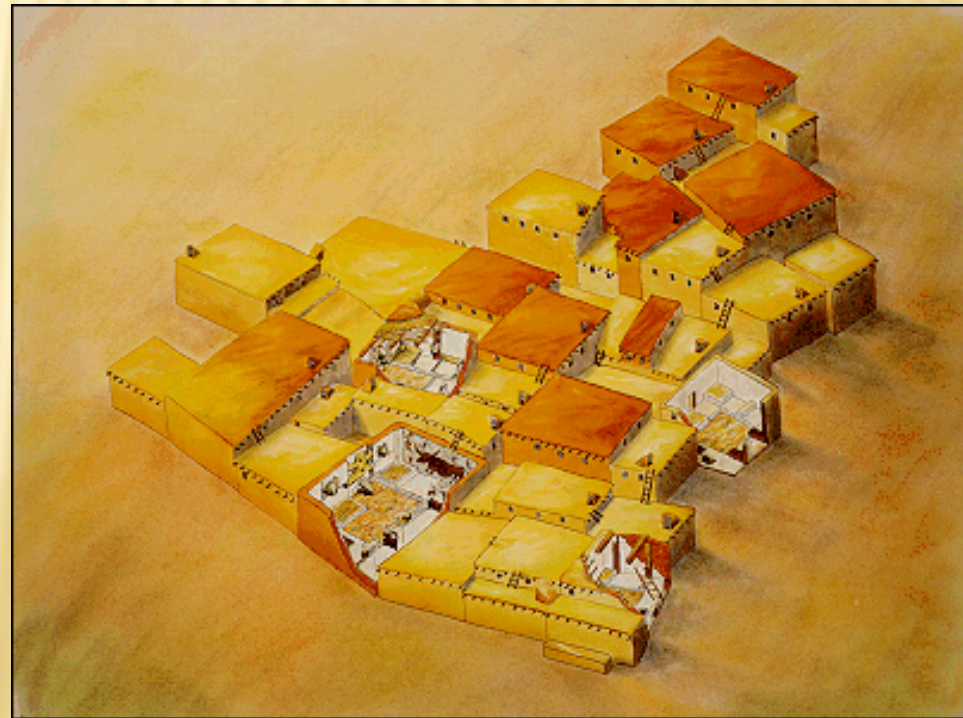# EARLY CIVILIZATIONS... THE WHY OF THE WHERE

The city of Ur, Sumer (Mesopotamia; present day Iraq)

Catal Hoyuk (in present day Turkey)



✖ What differences do you see between these places? How would life be different in each one? Which one lines up more with your idea of "civilization" and why?

# Brainstorming…. What words come to mind when you hear the word <span style="color:red">civilization</span>?

- With your Turn and Talk partner, list out the first several words or images that come to mind.

- Where do you think these ideas come from?

- Where do we get our ideas of what is "civilized"?

# Think-Pair-Share

- Does civilization mean better?

- Were cavemen civilized?

- Is being civilized the same thing as living in a civilization?

- Are there communities of people today who are not civilized?

# CIVILIZATION DEFINED...

* *The term "civilization" is used to describe larger groups of people living together in one place in more complex societies with social hierarchies and specialization of labor.*

* During this era, between 4000 and 1000 BCE, this new way of living began to develop in different parts of the world.

* **Turn and Talk:** What do you think the terms "social hierarchies" and "specialization of labor" mean?

# THINKING ABOUT CHANGE...

+ How were humans living before civilizations?
+ What makes living in a civilization different from living in a foraging community?
+ What did you see in the pictures in the opening activity that made you think one place was more of a civilization than another?
+ What does a place have to have to be a civilization?
+ How did people get food in foraging communities? What about in civilizations?

| Foraging Communities | Civilizations |
| --- | --- |
| | |

# Change over time…..

If one X = 1,000 years, then Era 1 lasted this long:

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Era 2 only lasted this long:

XXX

- Why is one Era so much longer than the other?
- What makes an Era an Era?

- What is this map about?  What is it showing you?
- How do you know this?
- What does it mean that this map is "not to scale?"

# TURN AND TALK:

Read these two definitions of civilization.  With your Turn and Talk partner, discuss how they are both different and similar.

* The term "civilization" is used to describe larger groups of people living together in one place in more complex societies with social hierarchies and specialization of labor.  During this era, between 4000 and 1000 BCE, this new way of living began to develop in different parts of the world.

* A type of society characterized by all or most of the following features: dense population, agricultural economy, cities, complex social hierarchy, complex occupational specialization, centralized state, monumental building, a writing system, and a dominant belief system.

    http://worldhistoryforusall.sdsu.edu/shared/glossary.htm

# HOW DID PEOPLE LIVE OUTSIDE THESE CIVILIZATIONS?

**These were the first civilizations, but they were NOT THE ONLY places people lived.**

**Think about this definition of civilization:**

> **a type of society characterized by all or most of the following features: dense population, agricultural economy, cities, complex social hierarchy, complex occupational specialization, centralized state, monumental building, a writing system, and a dominant belief system**

http://worldhistoryforusall.sdsu.edu/shared/glossary.htm

## Stop and Jot:

**With this definition in mind, and using your prior knowledge, how do you think people lived in other places outside of these civilizations?**

Be prepared to share your answers and reasoning with the class.

- These civilizations were the first to develop in the world (as far as we know).
- What do you notice about where they were located? Why do you think that is the case? Stop and Jot and then Turn and Talk.

# GEOGRAPHIC LUCK

- What do you think the term "geographic luck" means?

- Working with your Turn and Talk partner, list out some of things you think a place would have if is "geographically lucky."

- Get ready to share your ideas for the class list.

# GEOGRAPHIC LUCK (According to Jared Diamond)

- Jared Diamond's basic theory is that some countries developed more rapidly than others and were able to expand and conquer much of the world because of **geographic luck**. The underlined resources available to them coupled with the native species and climate provided by their geography led them to become more agricultural and less reliant on hunting and gathering for sustenance.

- This agrarian lifestyle, in turn, allowed for the development of "specialists" within the civilization who could work on developing and perfecting the technologies necessary to make these civilizations more profitable, stronger, and more powerful than others around them. Diamond asserts that those living in temperate climates with indigenous animals that could be domesticated were more likely to develop advanced civilizations.

- Re-visit your list of predictions about what a geographically lucky place would have.  What would you add to your list now?

Natural Resources

Native Species

Geographic Luck

Climate

?
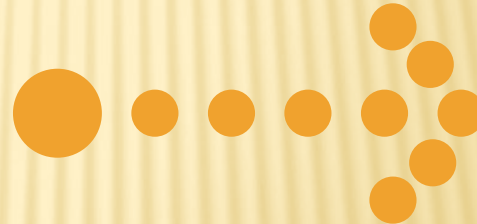
# ANALYZING GEOGRAPHIC LUCK....

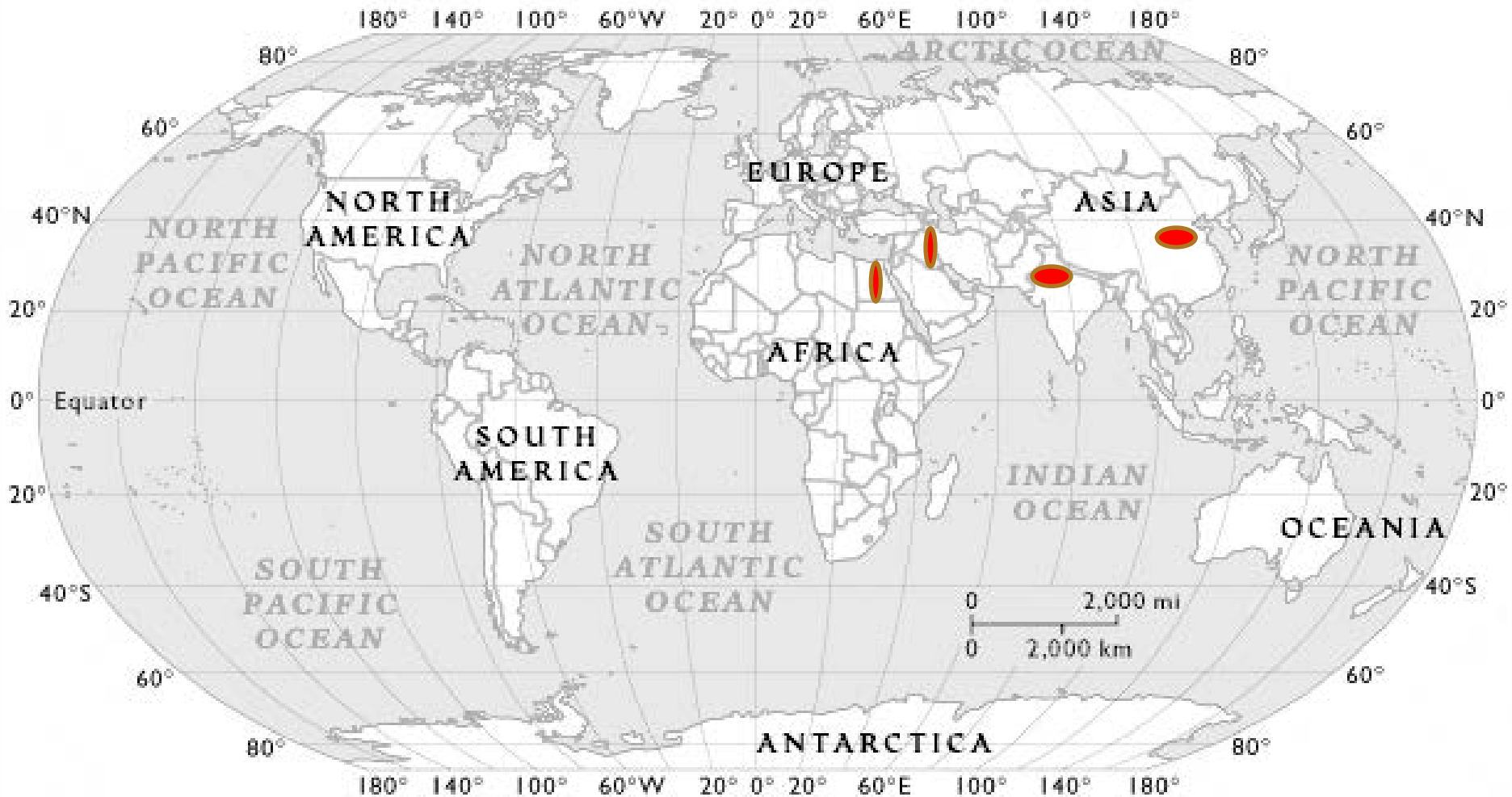| | Continent and Region | Latitude | Climate Zone | # of Large-seeded grasses | Large mammals for domestication by 1000 BCE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Nile River Valley Civilization** | | | | | |
| **Tigris and Euphrates Civilization** | | | | | |
| **Indus and Ganges Civilization** | | | | | |
| **Yellow River Civilization** | | | | | |
| **Complete these last two with the whole class.** | | | | | |
| **Mississippi River** | North America, runs north to south | Approximately 29 – 44 degrees North | Temperate | 4 | 0 |
| **Amazon River** | South America, runs west to east | Approximately 5 North to 20 degrees South | Tropical | 2 | 0 |

You will use your copy of this graphic organizer to take notes on as you view the next few slides.  Think about the resources available to each civilization.
<u>Pay close attention to the different location names that are used.</u>
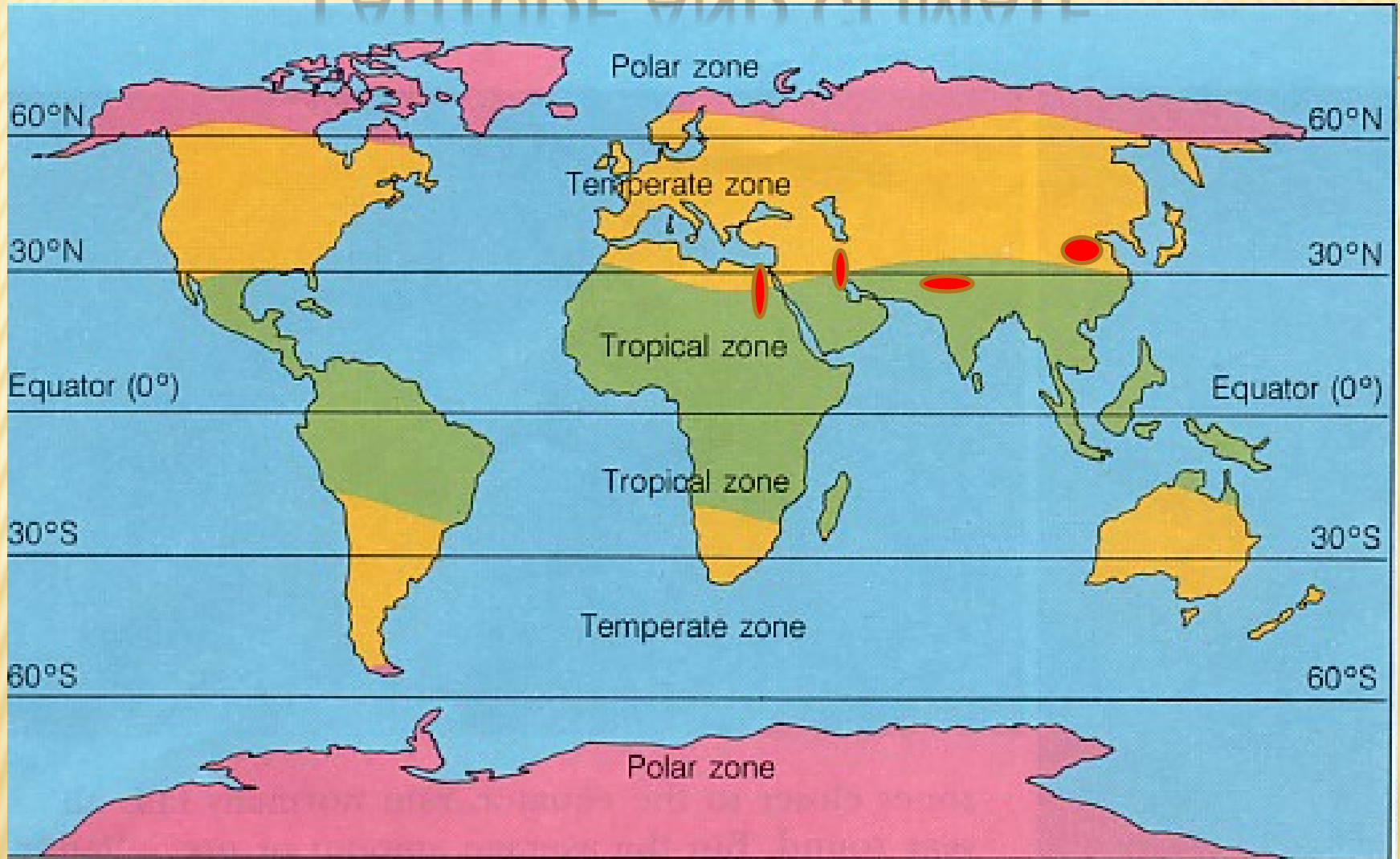
# CONTINENT AND REGION

*Polar*- has the coldest with temperatures almost always below freezing.
*Temperate*- contains most of the Earth's land masses with more moderate temperatures and rainfall year-round.
*Tropical zones*- has the warmest average temperatures and gets the most rain.

http://www.webquest.hawaii.edu/kahihi/sciencedictionary/C/climatezone.php

# LARGE-SEEDED GRASSES

| Region | Number of large-seeded grasses (things like wheat, oats, etc.) | Sub-regions |
|---|---|---|
| West Asia, Europe, North Africa | 33 | 32 of the 33 in the Mediterranean zone, 1 in England |
| East Asia | 6 | |
| Sub-Saharan Africa | 4 | |
| Americas | 11 | 4 from North America, 5 from Mesoamerica, 2 from South America |
| Northern Australia | 2 | |

Adapted from Jared Diamond, Guns, Germs, and Steel, p. 140

# LARGE MAMMALS FOR DOMESTICATION

| Domesticated Animal | Estimated time of domestication | Region where domesticated |
|---|---|---|
| Dog | 10,000 BCE | Southwest Asia, China, North America |
| Sheep | 8000 BCE | Southwest Asia |
| Goat | 8000 BCE | Southwest Asia |
| Pig | 8000 BCE | China, Southwest Asia |
| Cow | 6000 BCE | Southwest Asia, India, North Africa |
| Llama, alpaca | 3500 BCE | Andes Mountains of South America |

Adapted from Jared Diamond, Guns, Germs, and Steel, p. 167

# LATITUDE AND CLIMATE

- What is latitude and why does it matter for civilizations?
- What is climate and why does it matter?
- How are latitude and climate connected?

- **Latitude** tells us where a place is in relationship to the equator and the poles.  In a way, it tells us how much sun a particular place gets, and that tells us something about the climate.
- **Climate** is the general pattern of weather and seasons in a place.
- The amount of sun and rain a place gets, and the seasons it has, is important for civilization, because it is important for farming and food production.  Can you farm at the North Pole?

# LARGE SEEDED GRASSES

**What are large seeded grasses and why do they matter for civilizations?**

✖ Large seeded grasses are plants like wheat, oats, and barley.

✖ These are plants that people can turn into food, and they have lots of calories.

✖ Because their seeds are large, they are easier to harvest, and people can also store their seeds for a longer time.

✖ Civilization depends upon a stable food source and being able to grow and store more than what is consumed. In other words, in order for lots of people to live together in one place, they need to have lots of food, and they need extra food.

✖ Large seeded grasses were easier to harvest and store than other plants, but not all parts of the world had these types of plants growing.

# LARGE MAMMALS AND DOMESTICATION

**What are large mammals, what is domestication, and why do they matter for civilizations?**

✖ Domestication is when an entire species or variety of animals is tamed, changed, and managed by people to meet a particular need.

✖ Not all large mammals can be domesticated.

✖ Large mammals suitable for domestication include horses, cows, pig, goats, and sheep.  Not all parts of the world had these mammals available.

✖ There are only 14 large mammals in the world suitable for domestication, and the majority of these originated in Eurasia.

✖ These large mammals can be used to carry things, pull things like wagons and plows, provide materials for clothing and tools, and to produce food.

# REFLECTION AND ANALYSIS:

In small groups, discuss each of these questions. Have a recorder write down your group's answers. Also have a spokesperson who is ready to explain your group's answers to the class.

✖ **What can we add to our original Geographic Luck list now?**

✖ **What evidence is there that supports Jared Diamond's theory that early civilizations were geographically lucky?**

✖ **What is it about rivers? Why did the four first large civilizations emerge around large rivers?**

✖ **What factors besides rivers seemed important in the development of civilizations?**