

River Valley Civilizations...

the beginnings of a new era

The Tigris and Euphrates Rivers

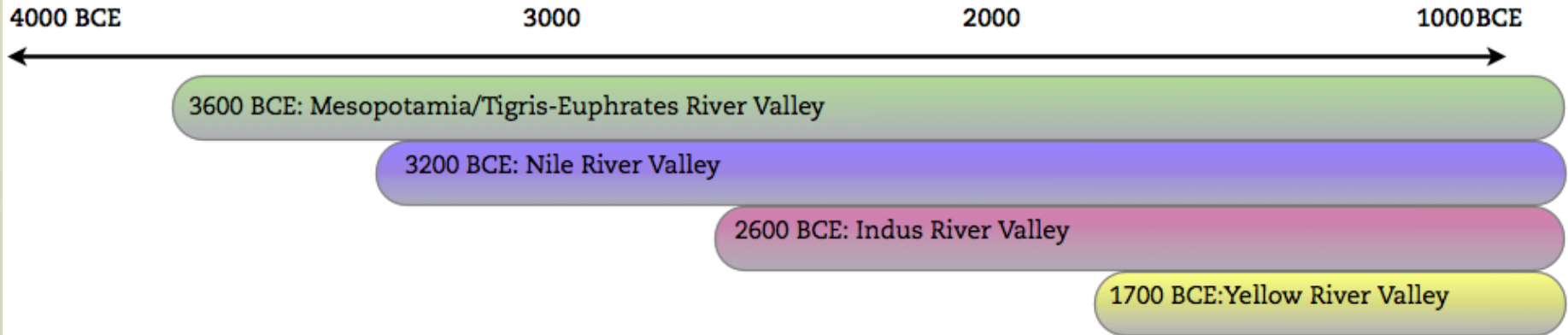
The Nile River

The Indus River

The Yellow River



The Emergence of Early River Valley Civilizations



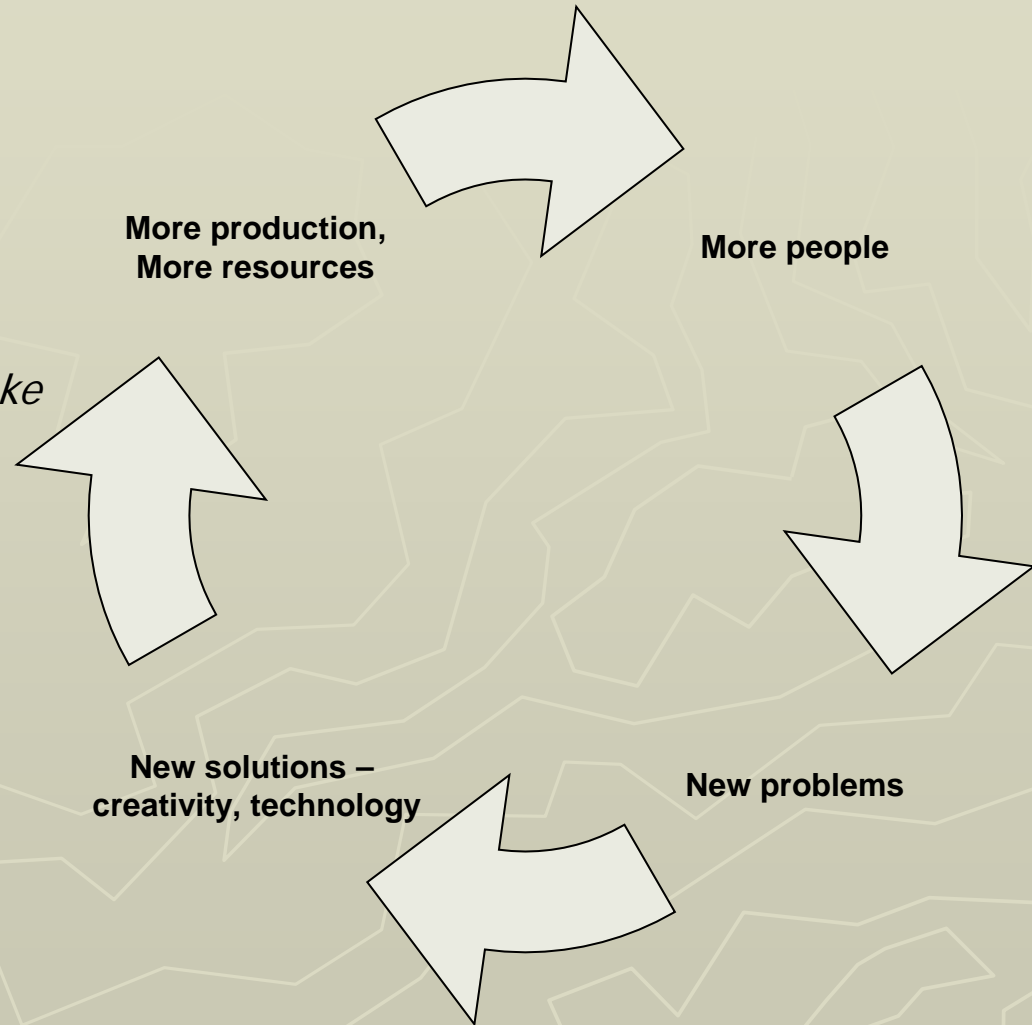
Turn and Talk:

- By what time in Era 2 were all four river valley civilizations in existence?
- What do you think was going on in each of these places before their civilizations developed? For example, do you think there were people living in the Indus River Valley in 3000 BCE? If so, why wasn't it considered a civilization yet?

Why 4,000 BCE?

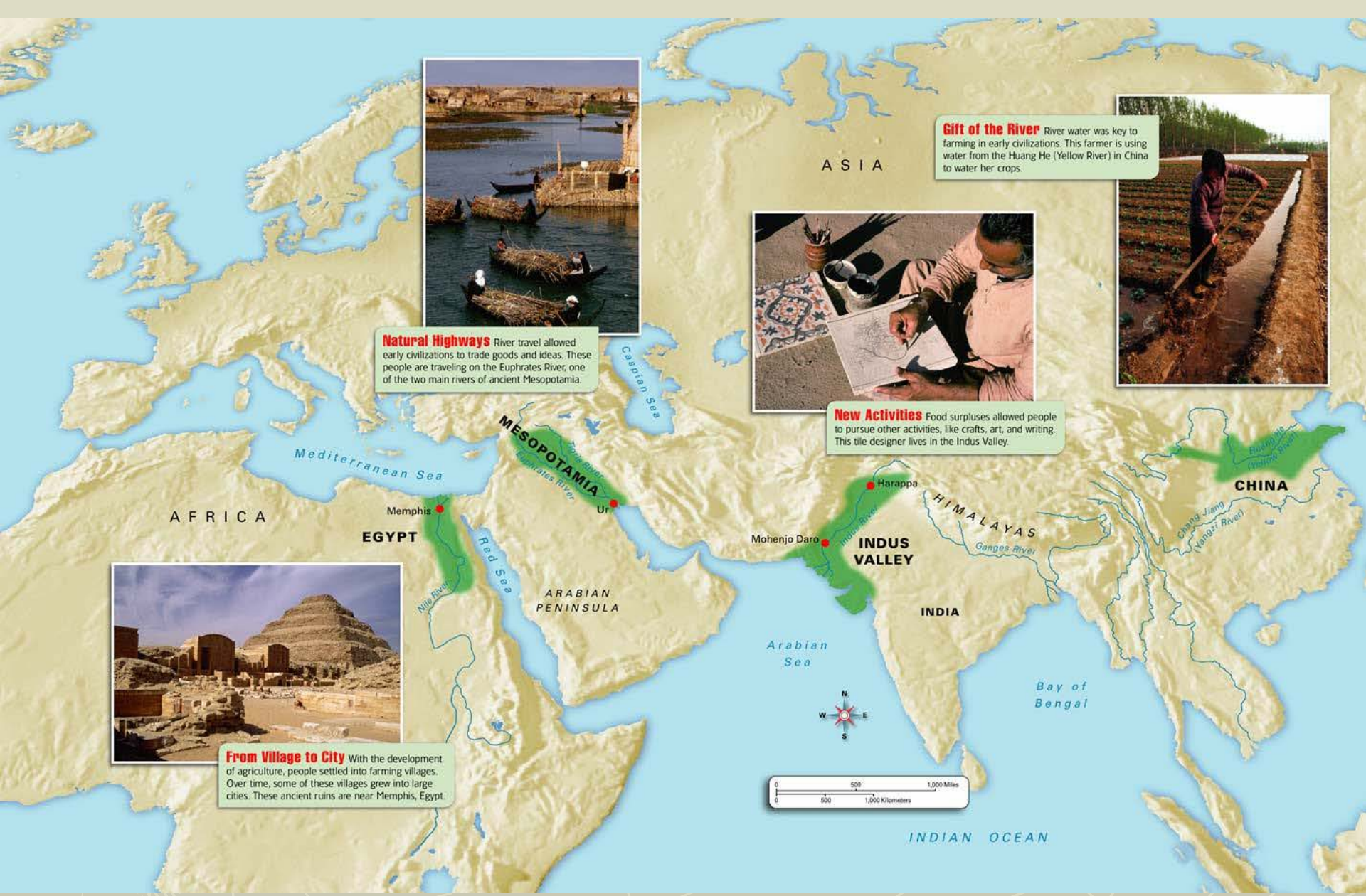
- ▶ Farming, in one form or another, had been around for between 5 and 6 thousand years. So why did civilization develop in 4,000 BCE (*give or take a couple of centuries!*)?

- ▶ How does this feedback loop help answer the question above?





Flashback... What do you notice about the latitude of these civilizations? Why does this matter?



Stop and Jot- Why rivers? Why these rivers in particular?



Tigris River



Nile River

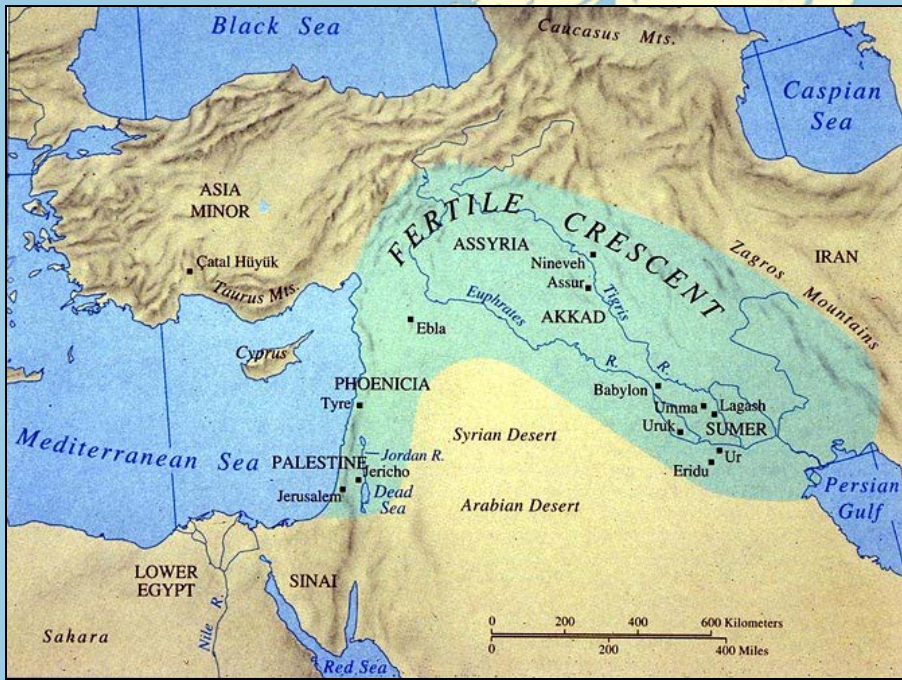


Indus River



Yellow River

**Study these modern photographs of the four river valleys.
List the similarities you see. Turn and Talk: Why do the similarities matter?
Why rivers and not lakes? What's special about rivers?**

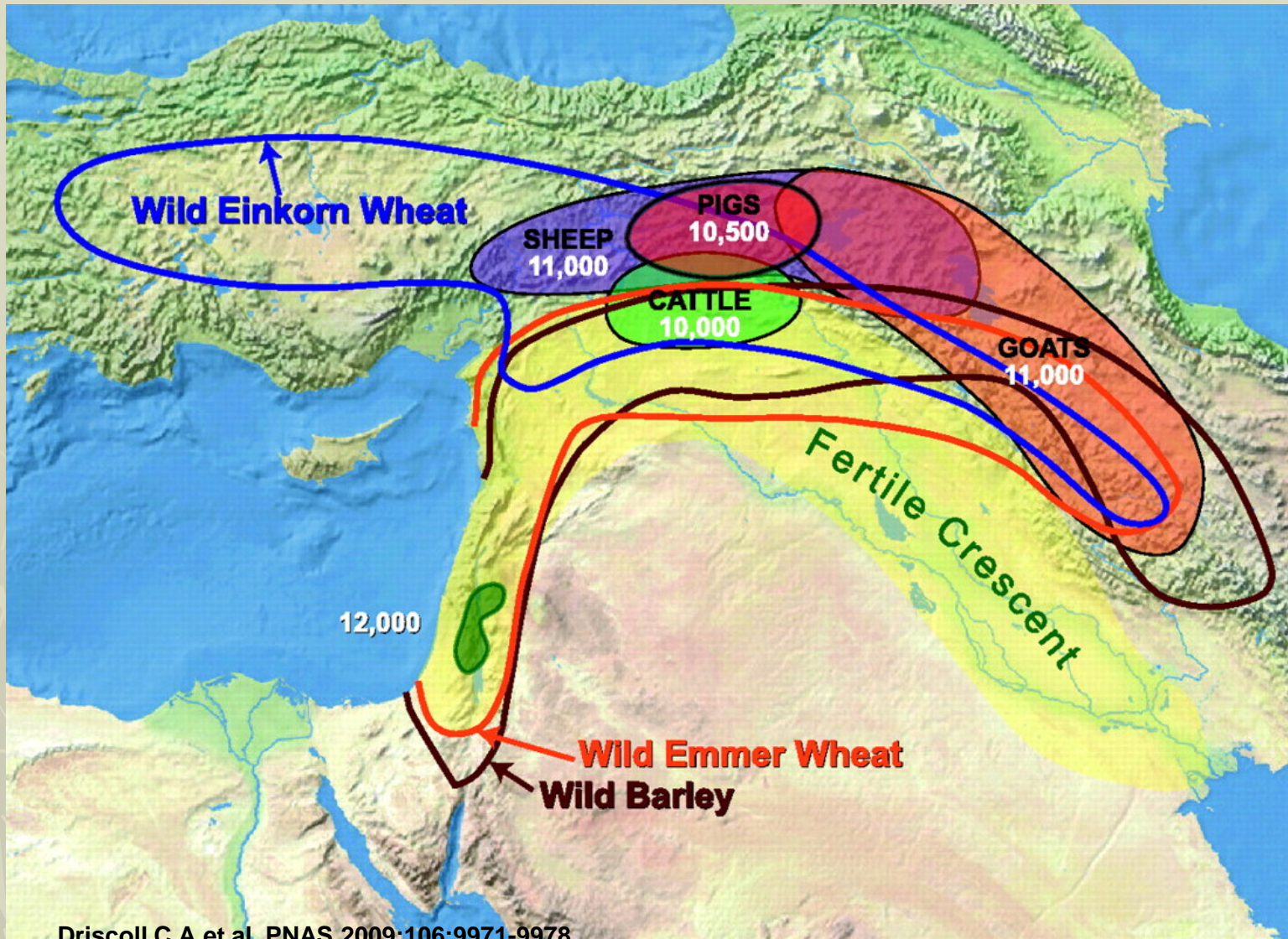


Map not to scale

Copyright © 2009 www.mapsofworld.com

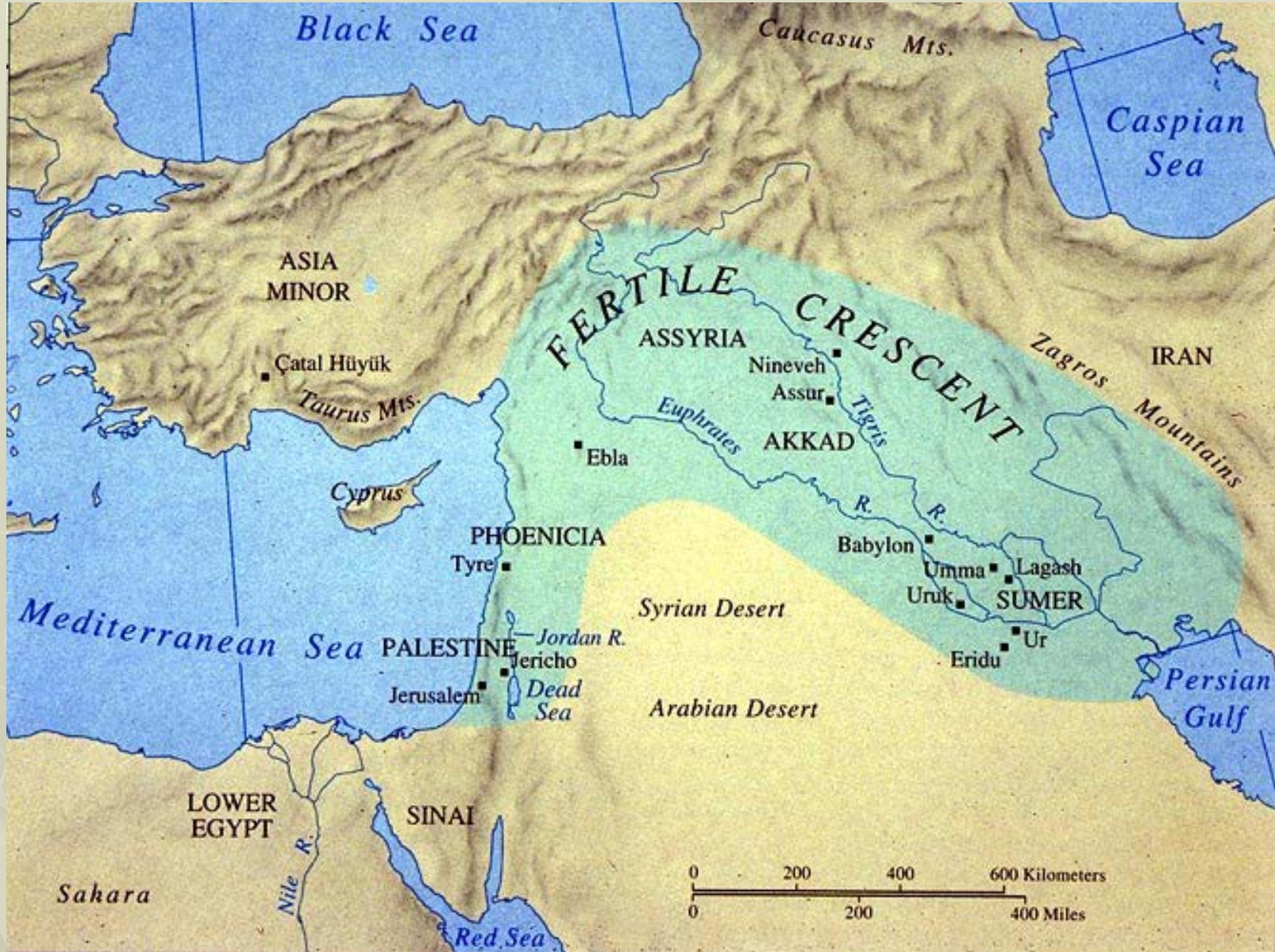
Map Skills – Find the Mediterranean, Black, and Caspian Seas on the map of the Fertile Crescent. Now find them on the larger map of the world.

Crops and Animal Domestication in the Fertile Crescent



Driscoll C A et al. PNAS 2009;106:9971-9978

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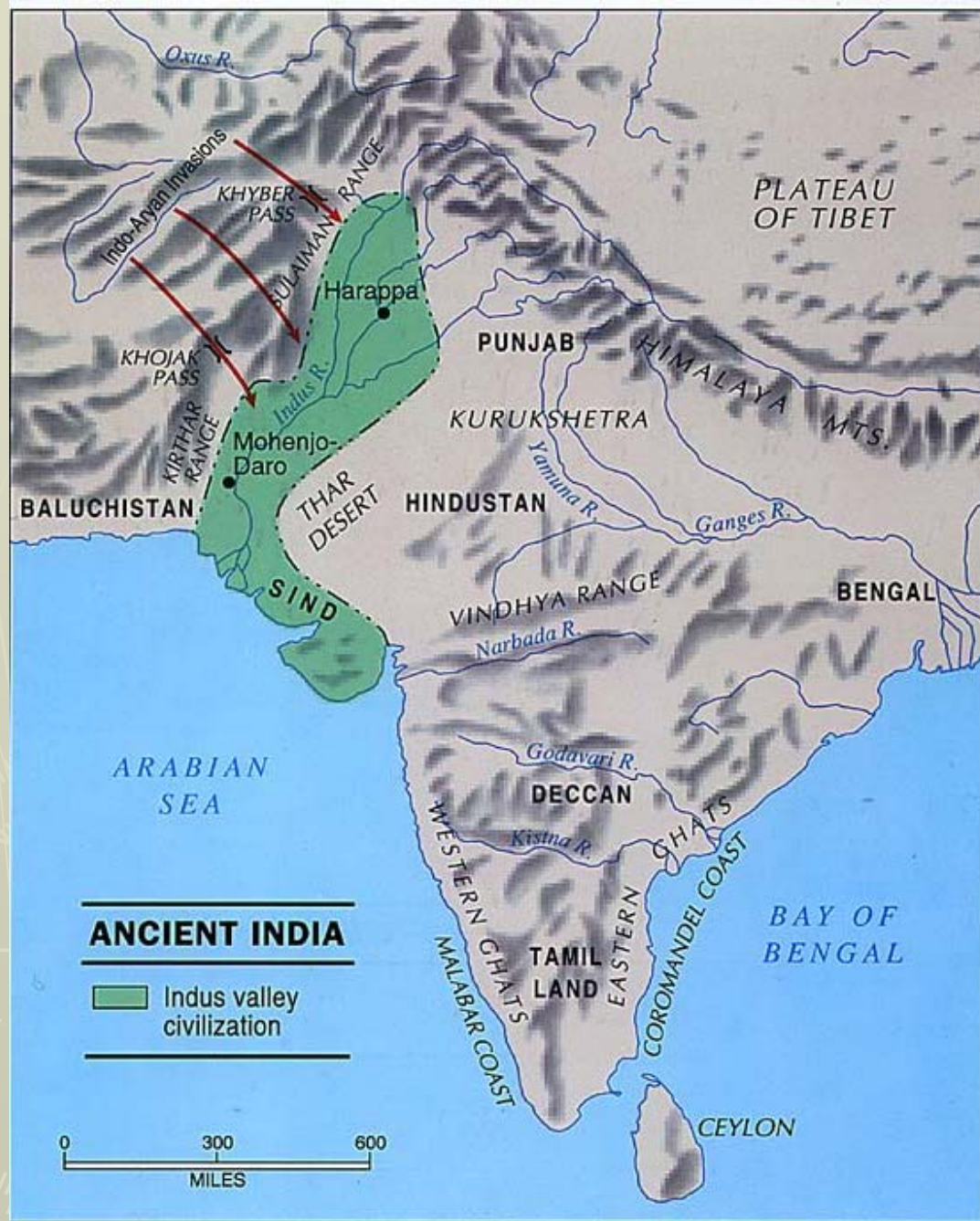
From <<http://www.utexas.edu/courses/classicalarch/images2/mapane.jpg>>

Find Catal Huyuk and Jericho, two sites you studied earlier, on this map. Which one is in the Fertile Crescent? Have you heard of any of the other cities on this map?



Turn and Talk:

- What kind of picture do you think this is?
- What clues can you use?
- What does it show?
- What do you think the green and yellow areas are?
- Where do you think most people live in this area?
- What is a delta?
- Why are deltas important?



Stop and Jot:

- Which civilization is shown on this map?
- How do you know?

Turn and Talk:

- What geographic features might have prevented this river valley from spreading northwest?
- How about to the southeast?



- What civilization was in the highlighted area on this map?
- What modern country developed out of this civilization over centuries?
- Look at all the rivers in the middle. Why do you think civilization didn't develop along one of these rivers? Turn and Talk and make your best guess.



- Find the Yellow River on this map.
- What do the different colors mean on this map?
- Turn and Talk- Use this information to modify your answer to the question: Why did civilization develop along the Yellow River and not some of the others?

Defining and Describing Civilization Part 2:

- **Below are the definitions we used in the last lesson to help us understand civilization.**
- **You will get a handout now with an expanded description of what civilization means.**
- **Which one of the definitions below is closest to what is described on your handout?**

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

Characteristics of Civilizations	What this looked like in river valley civilizations:
Cities	Cities supported large populations of over 30,000 people
Specialization	Some people living in cities took full-time specialized jobs (artisan, merchant, soldier, priest) because they were supported by farmers from the surrounding community.
Hierarchy	A class system emerged where certain men (and sometimes women) held all the power. They were called <i>elites</i> . Men began to dominate in politics and women became more responsible for the life at home. This system is called <i>patriarchy</i> .
The State	One city usually ruled over all others in a civilization. A king or pharaoh with a small group of officials controlled the rest of society.
Networks of Trade	Many civilizations traded within and outside of their borders. Technology, food, and language spread from Mesopotamia outward to Egypt, India, and China.
Technology	Technology changed much more rapidly than in Era I. People developed metals like bronze and use those build things like wheeled carriages.
Monuments	Large buildings were constructed like city walls, temples, palaces, and tombs for powerful rulers.
Spiritual Beliefs and Laws	Spiritual beliefs and laws became richer and more complex.
Creativity	Individuals worked with the ruling class to study astronomy, mathematics, sciences, and engineering.



Sumer, in Mesopotamia, Tigris and Euphrates



Ancient Egypt, Nile River

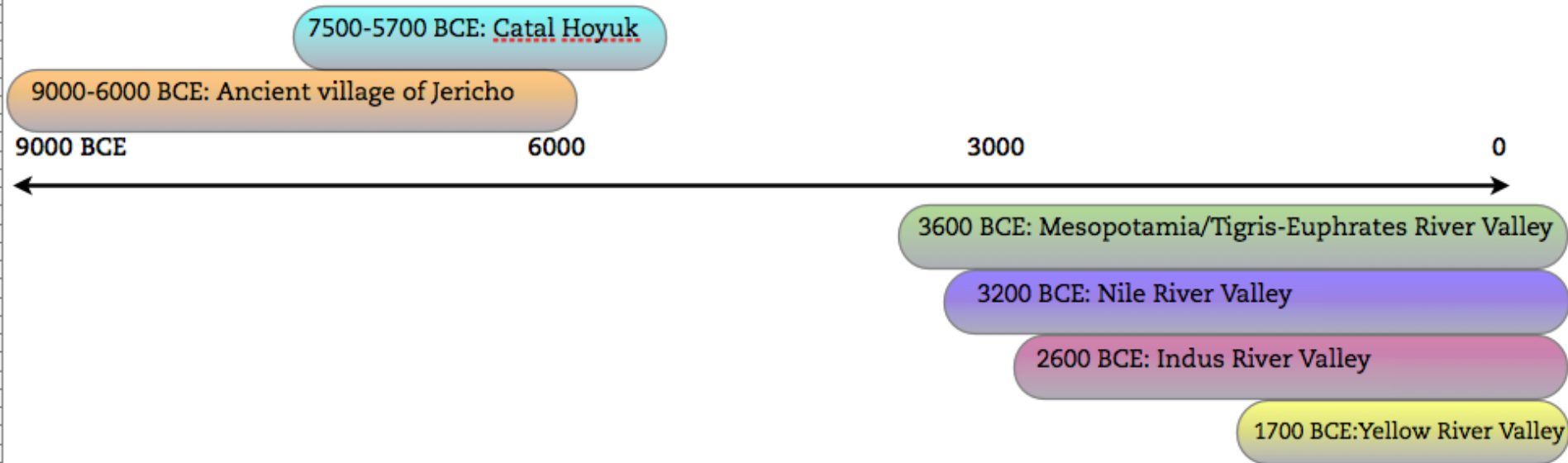


Mohenjo Daro, Indus River



Yellow River, current day China

Early Human Settlements and the Emergence of Early River Valley Civilizations



- Turn and Talk: What do you notice about this revised timeline?
- How long did it take, for example, for civilization to develop in the Tigris/Euphrates valley after villages like Jericho emerged?



The city of Ur, Sumer
(Mesopotamia)

Cities
Specialization
Hierarchy
The State
Networks of Trade
Technology
Monuments
Spiritual Beliefs and Laws
Creativity

- Study the artist's rendering of Ur (a city in Sumer) above.
- What evidence do you see for any of the characteristics of civilizations?

BTW.... People still live near these rivers... the cities have gotten a little bigger though!



Cairo, Egypt... on the Nile River



Chongqing, Sichuan, China
on the Yellow River