

Lesson 1: Fertile Crescent

The Beginnings of Mesopotamia

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Where Civilizations Began...

3500 b.c.: first civilizations develop.

Civilization: group of people who have a complex and organized society.

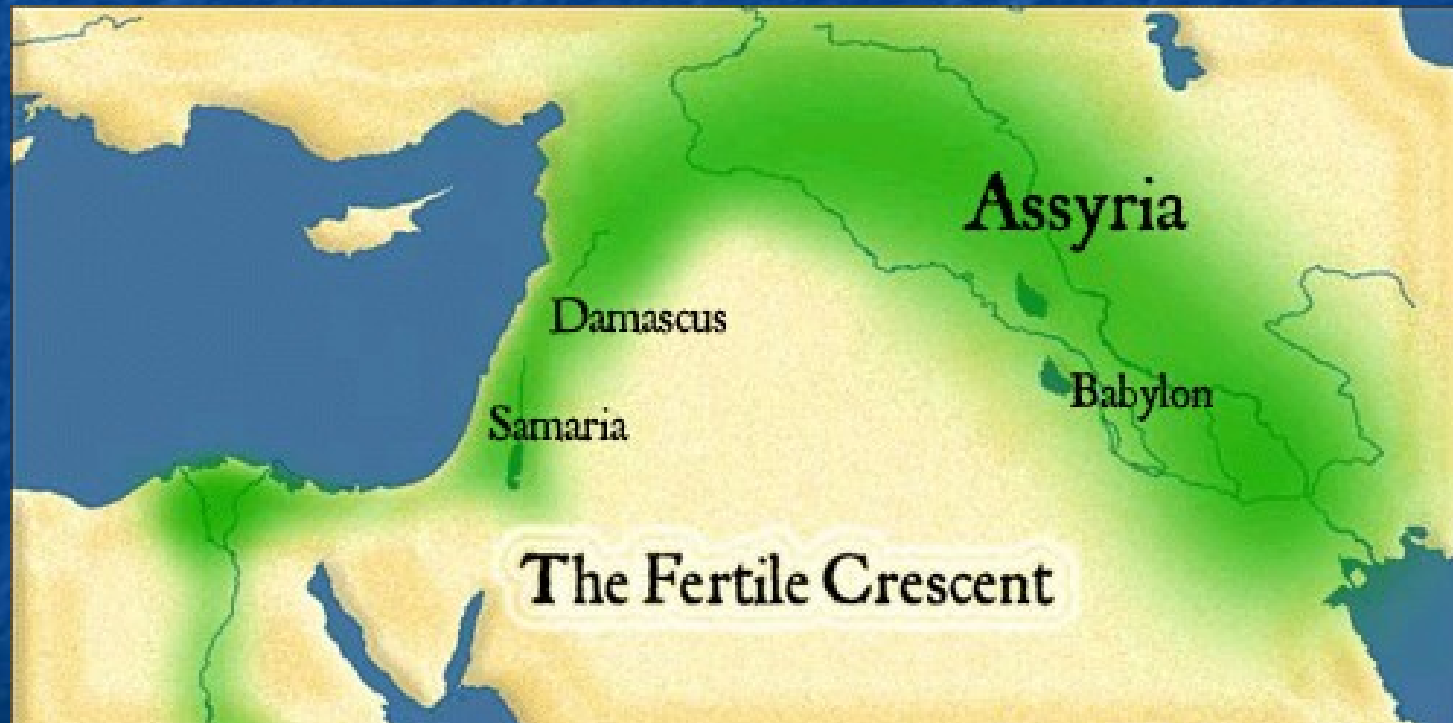
- Own customs
- Own food supply
- social divisions
- Own Government
- Own religion
- Technology

Southwestern Asia

- Mediterranean Sea to the Persian Gulf**
- Rich, fertile Soil
- This Land called the **Fertile Crescent**

- Present Day: Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Israel.

Map of Fertile Crescent



Environment of Fertile Crescent...

Near the Mediterranean Sea...(NORTH)

- Forests: good habitat for...

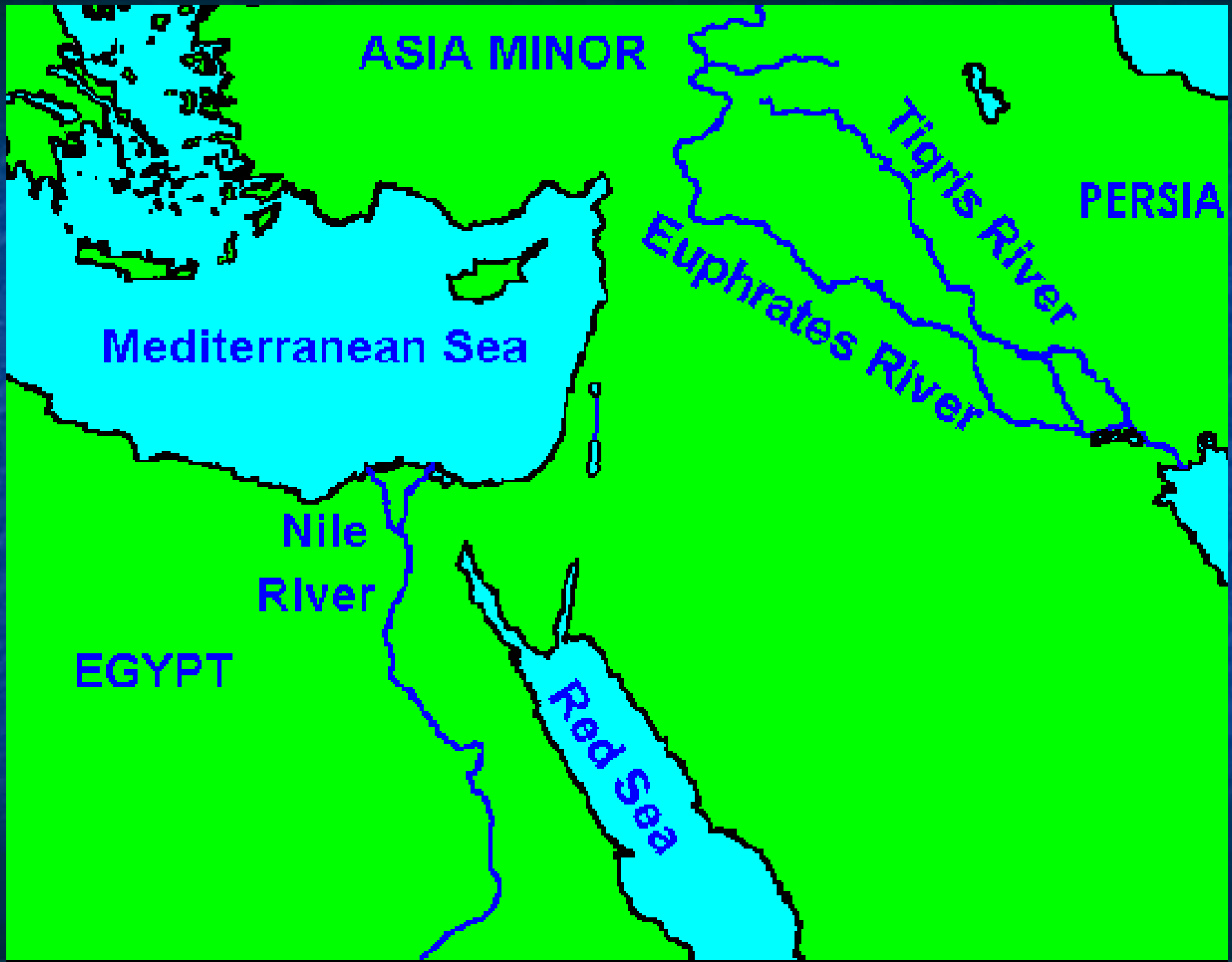


Further South...
Grasslands.
Good habitat
for...



Environment of Fertile Crescent

- East: Zagros Mountains
- West: Deserts
- Central: Plain bordered by two Rivers--
Tigris and Euphrates





Forests

Assyria

Zagros
Mountains

Damascus

Plains

Deserts

Babylon

Samaria

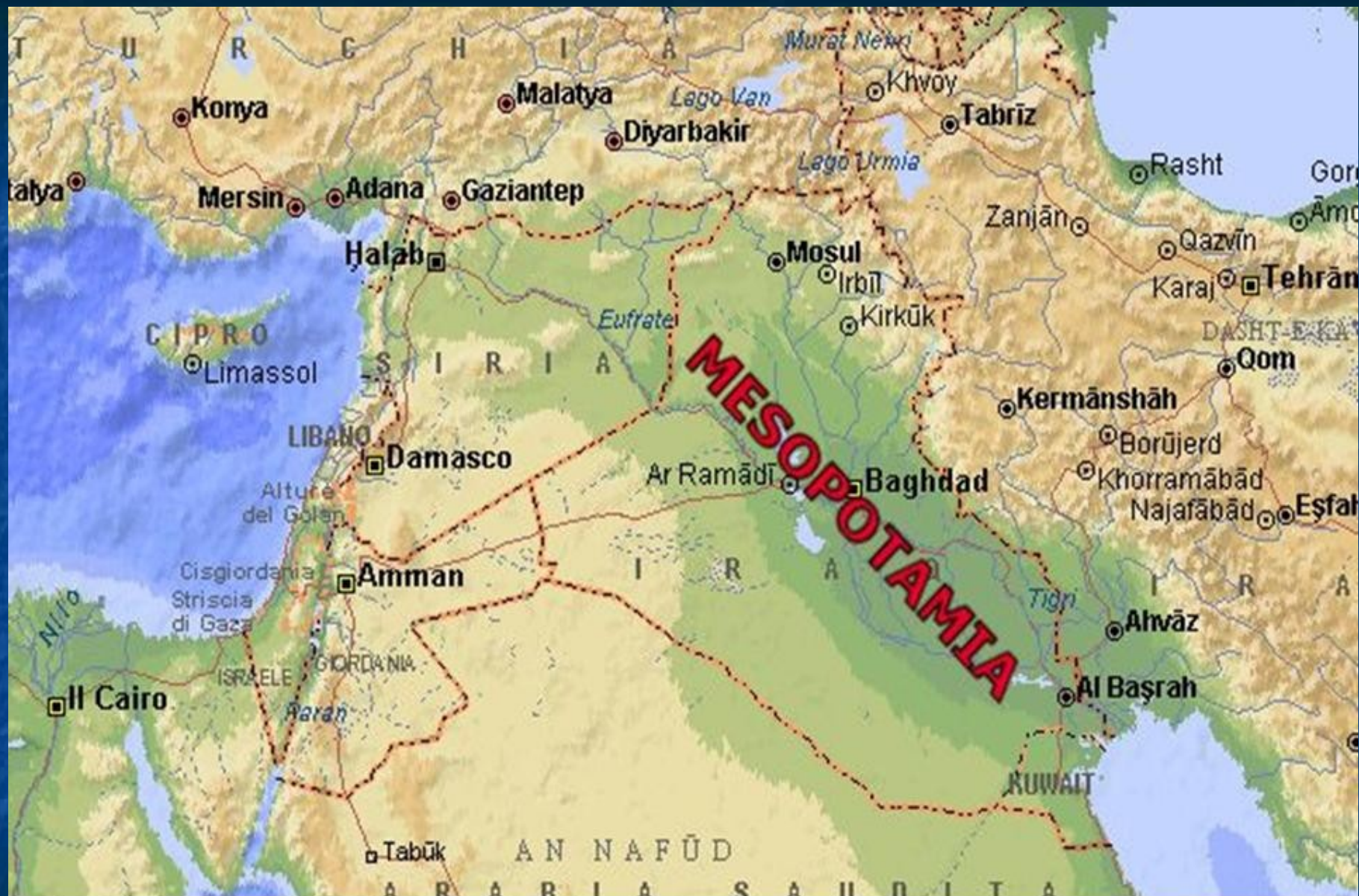
Grasslands

The Fertile Crescent

Mesopotamia

- “Land between the Rivers”
- Mesopotamia located between the Tigris River and the Euphrates River

1st Civilization



A contemporary map of Iraq and the surrounding region showing Mesopotamia (literally, "between rivers").

Climate and Rivers

Climate of Area

- Not Ideal for Farming
- Summers: Long, hot, and dry (120 d. Far.)
- May-Oct.: No Rain
- Nov.-April: rain comes as downpour or brief sprinkle

PROBLEM:



- Not Enough Rain for Crops to grow

Solution

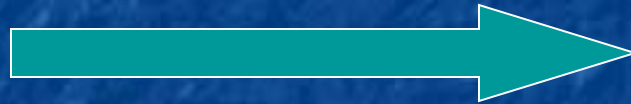
- Farmers move South (5000 b.c.)

Which is Easier to Grow Crops In?



The Move Southward

Plateau



Plain



Rivers

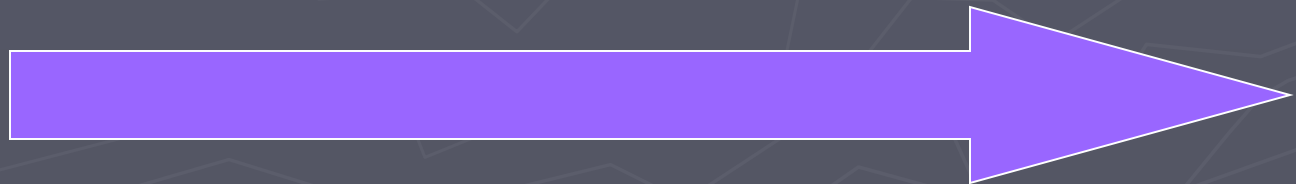
- ▶ Permanent Source of Fresh Water

****Essential for Human Development****

- ▶ Fish for Food



- ▶ Soil very rich because rivers over-flowed often





Problem

- ▶ Low Rainfall

Solution

- ▶ **Irrigation**



The People

People of Mesopotamia

- Problem Solvers
- 2 Natural Resources: Water and Soil
- Building: cut reeds from Marshy Areas and built huts
- Bricks: mud and straw

Two Groups of People

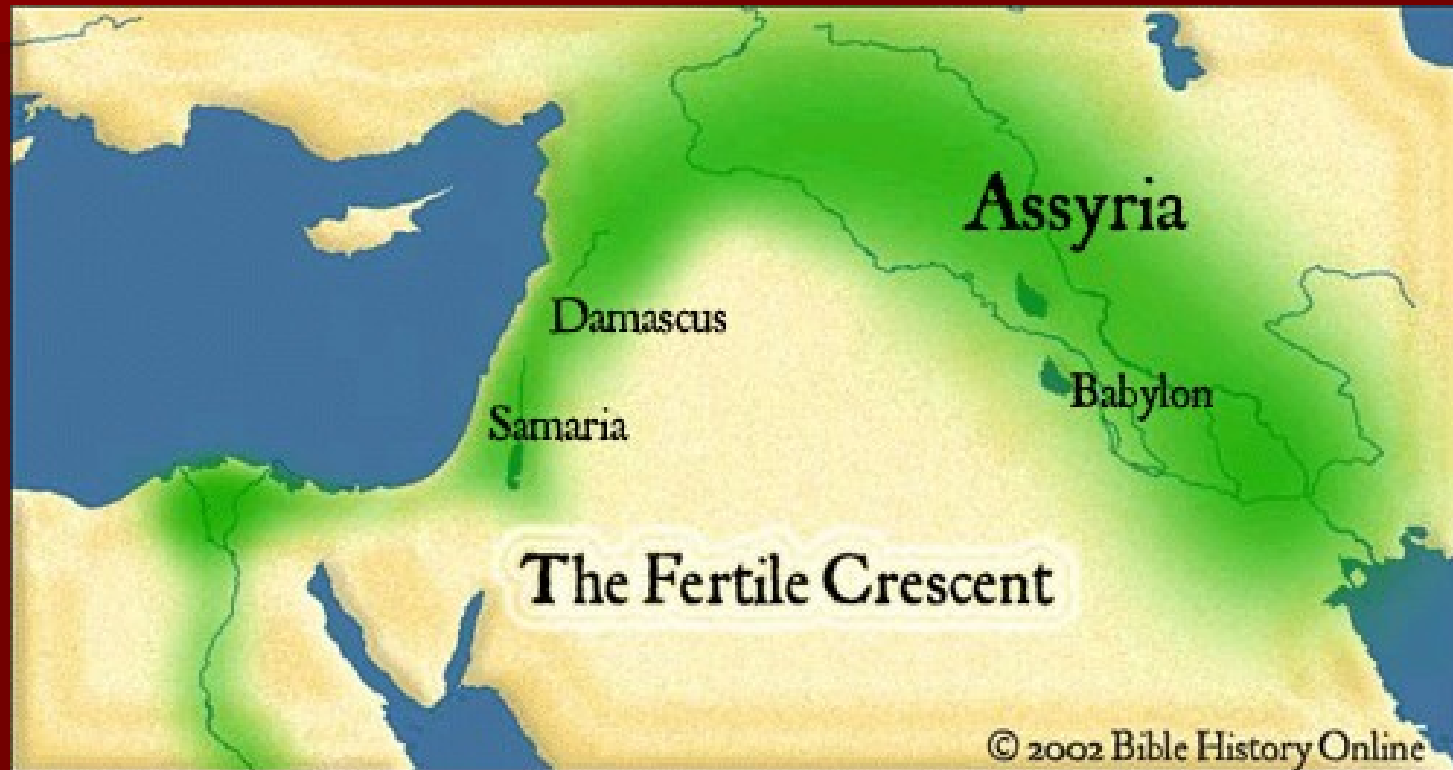
■ Farmers

- Barley
- Millet
- Wheat
- Dates
- Onions
- Garlic
- Lettuce
- apples

■ Herders

- Goats
- Cattle
- Sheep

Transportation



On the Rivers

Farming techniques

Highly Developed

****Surplus: Major Step toward Civilization****







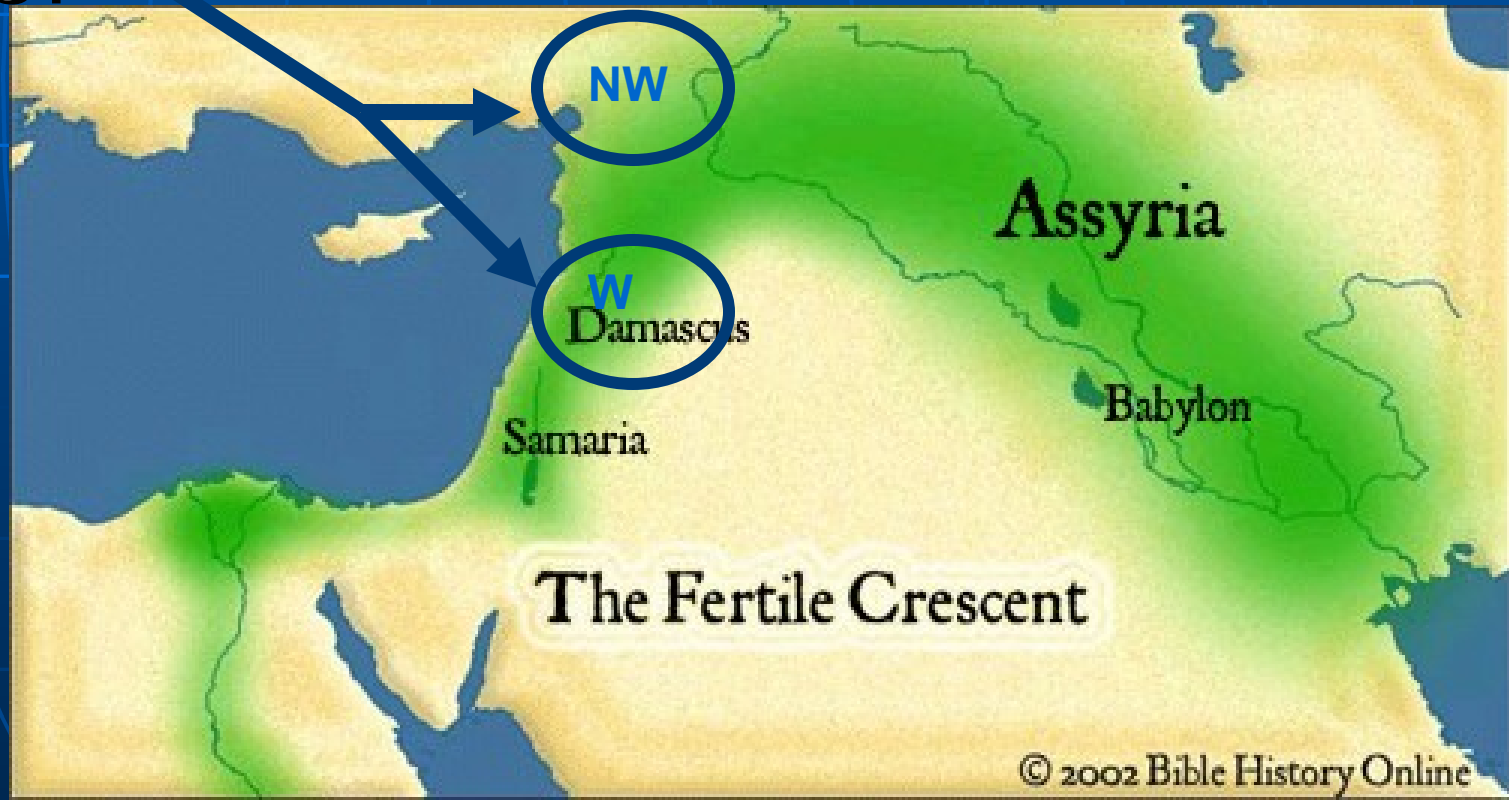
Growth of City States and Trade

Process of the effect of Farming

1. As farming methods IMPROVE
2. People THRIVED
3. Population GREW

New Settlers Arrive...

- New Settlers arrive from two parts of the Fertile Crescent. Which two parts?



As More People thrived, villages turned into: CITY-STATES

- Examples of City States:
 - Uruk
 - Kish
 - Lagash
 - Nippur
 - Umma
 - Ur

City State

- An individual UNIT, complete with its own form of GOVERNMENT and TRADITIONS.
- Mesopotamia is a REGION, which means there is no one single POWER controlling all of it.
- Because of SURPLUS FOOD, not everyone has to farm anymore.

As a result, people can do other jobs:

- Government
- Religious Leader
- Artisans
- Craftspeople

- These people would trade their SERVICES for FOOD. (Not money)
- People used TRADING to get the things they lacked
 - Copper
 - Stone
 - Wood

Traders

- Traders used BOATS to trade on the RIVER.
- The Gateway to the wider world was the PERSIAN Gulf

Also a way to spread Mesopotamian CULTURE to other parts of the world.

And to bring other CULTURES into Mesopotamia

TIME LINE

7,000 b.c. People arrive in Fertile Crescent.

3,500 b.c. First Civilization in Fertile Crescent

3,500 b.c. City-States of Mesopotamia rose