



The Ancient Middle East



Sir Chock Encabo
Lecture for 3rd Yr AS Student





Mesopotamia:
"Land Between
the Two Rivers"

Indo-European Migrations :



The Middle East: “The Crossroads of Three Continents”

The Ancient Fertile Crescent



The Middle East: “The Cradle of Civilization”

Sumerian Civilization



- The first Sumerian cities emerged in southern Mesopotamia around 3200 B.C.

- Nomadic herders settled in the Southern part of Mesopotamia and gradually changed the farming way of life

- They built dams and dikes to keep the rivers from flooding their fields.

- The farming villages emerged along the river and grew into 12 city-states





Sumerian Religion -

the belief in many gods

Anthropomorphic Polytheistic

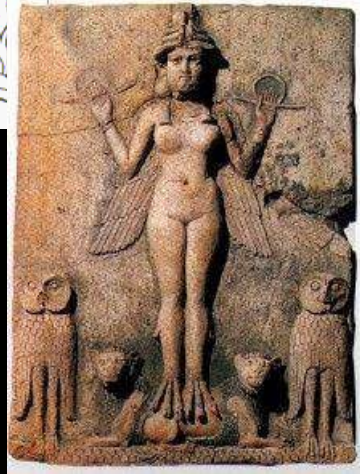


- Enki - the god of rain
- Marduk - principal god of Babylon
- Ashur - god of the Assyrian empire
- Gula (in Sumerian) or Shamash (in Akkadian) - sun god and god

of justice

- Ishtar - goddess of war
- Ereshkigal - goddess of the underworld
- Nabu - god of writing
- Ninurta - Sumerian god of war and god of heroes
- Iškur - god of storms
- Pazuzu - an evil god who brought diseases which had no known cure

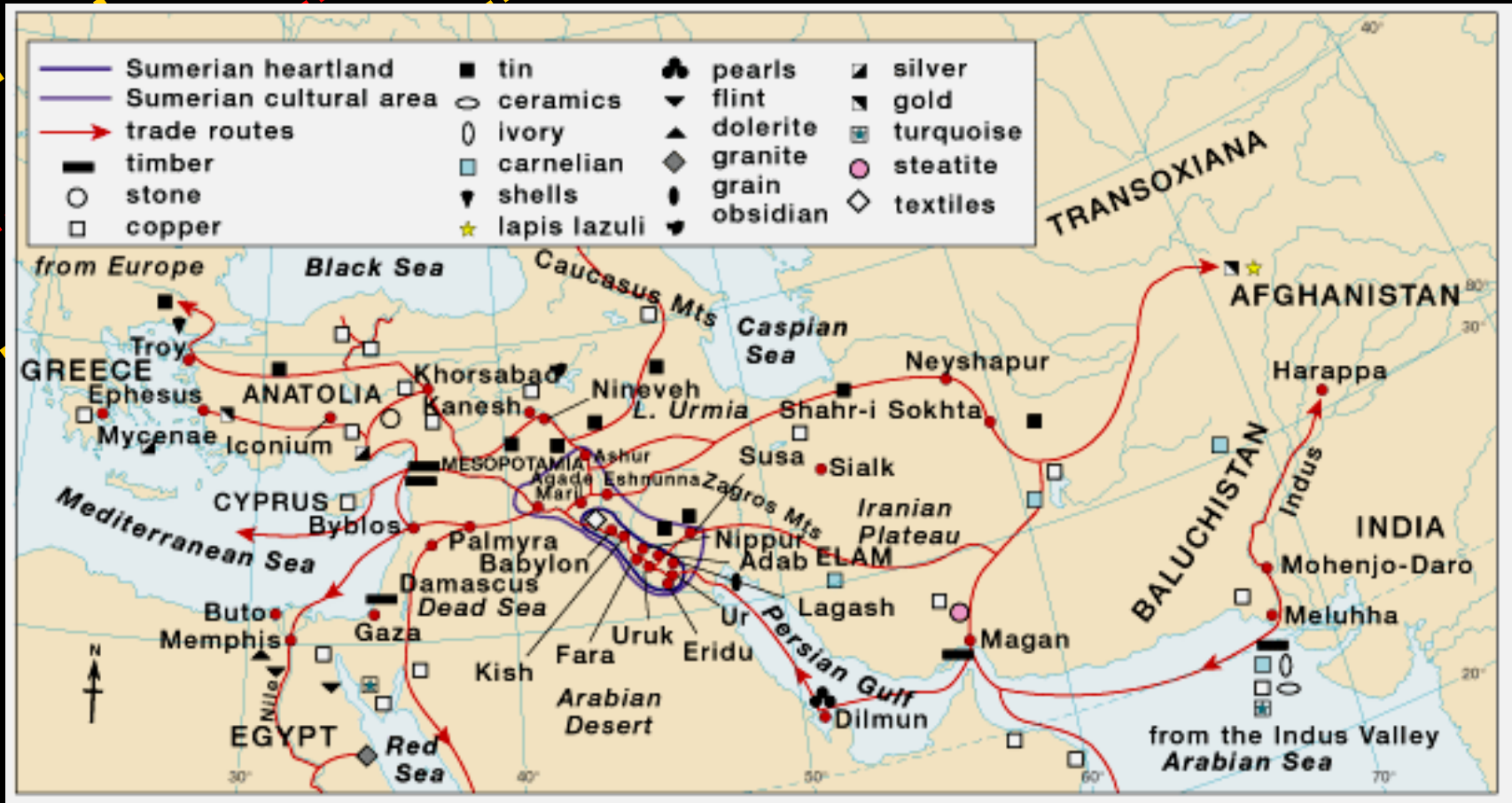
Enki



Innana

GOVERNMENT	SOCIAL STRUCTURE	RELIGION
<p>City-states with hereditary rulers.</p> <p>Ruler led army in war and enforced laws.</p> <p>Complex government with scribes to collect taxes and keep records.</p>	<p>Each state had distinct social hierarchy, or system of ranks.</p> <p>Most people were peasant farmers.</p> <p>Women had legal rights; some engaged in trade and owned property.</p>	<p>Worshipped many gods.</p> <p>Believed gods controlled every aspect of life.</p> <p>Saw afterlife as a grim place. Everybody would go into darkness and eat dust.</p> <p>To keep the gods happy, each city built a ziggurat, or pyramid temple.</p>

Mesopotamian Trade



“The Cuneiform World”

Cuneiform: “Wedge-Shaped”














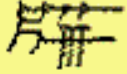




Writing

- The Sumerians used a system of record-keeping that used baked clay
- These tablets are invaluable record of history of the Sumerian and of later peoples of Mesopotamia

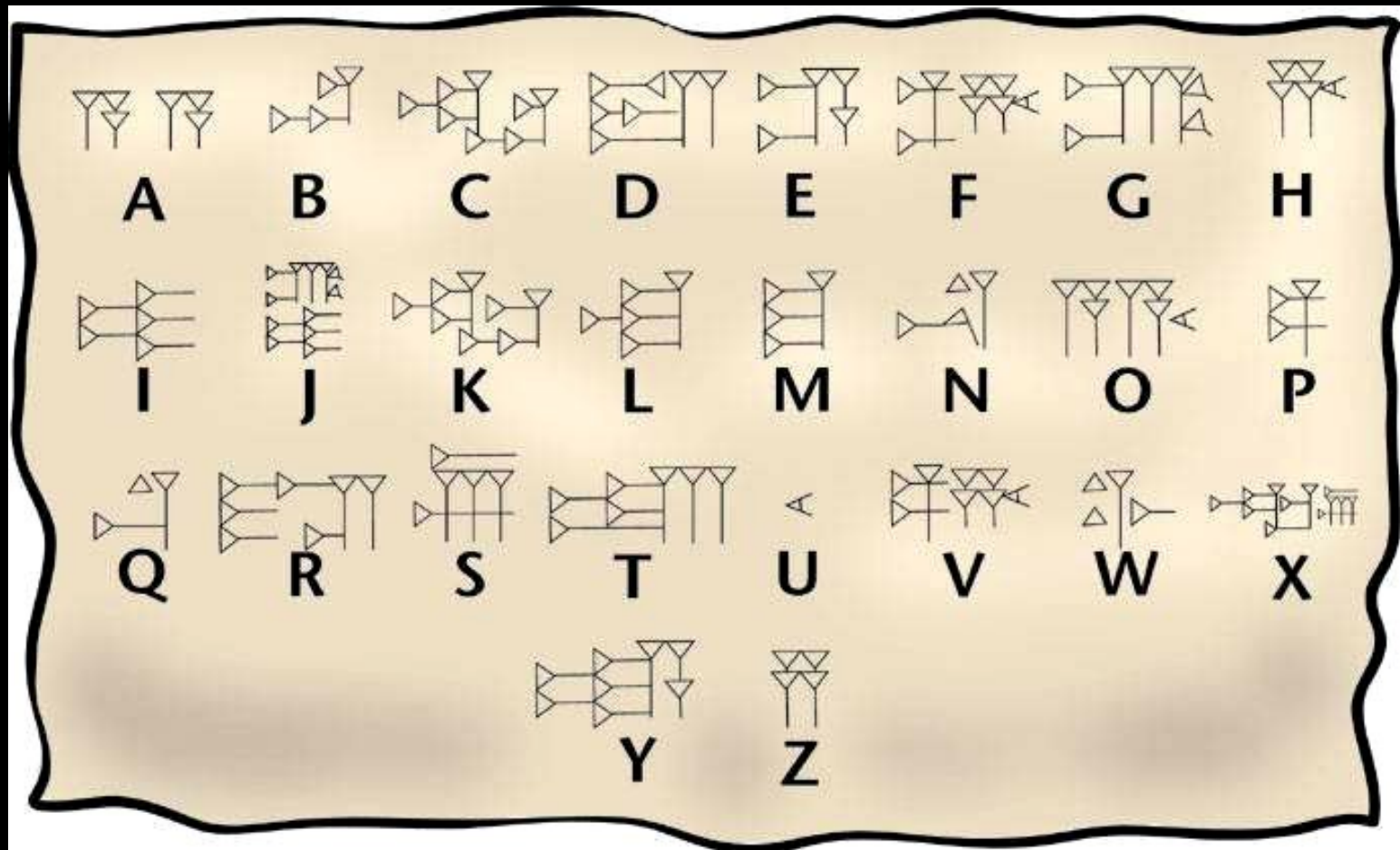


Cuneiform Writing

Development of Cuneiform, 3000 B.C.–600 B.C.

	Meaning of Pictograph					
	Ear of Barley	Head and Body of Man	Fish	Bird	Bowl of Food	Stream of Water
Pictographs c. 3000 B.C.						
Rotated Position Pictographs c. 2800 B.C.						
Cuneiform Signs c. 600 B.C.						

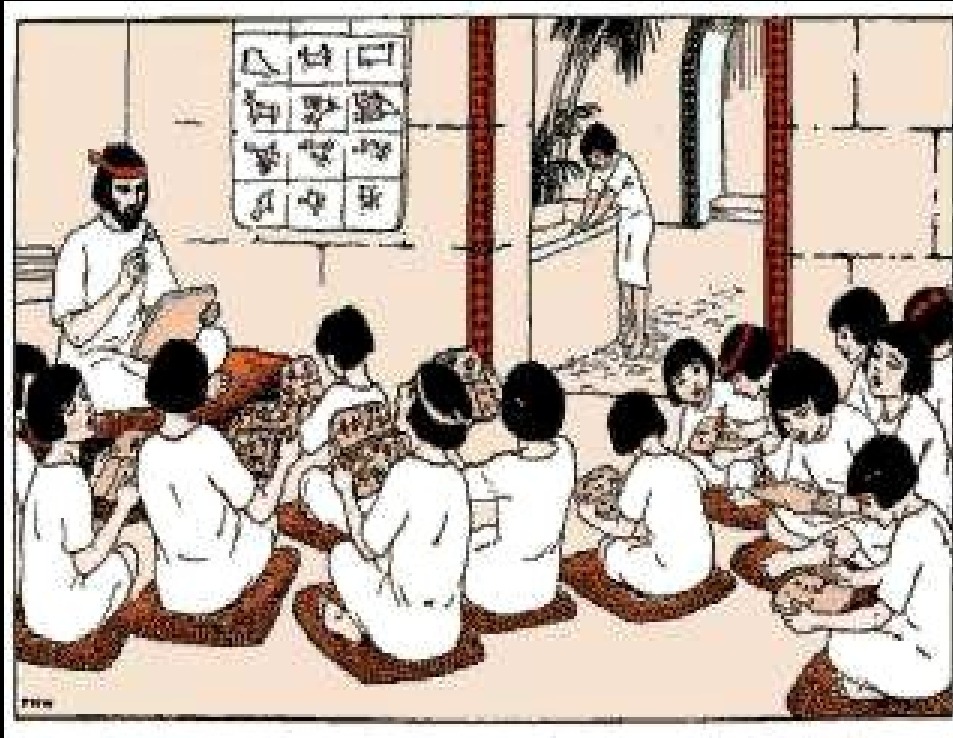
Deciphering Cuneiform



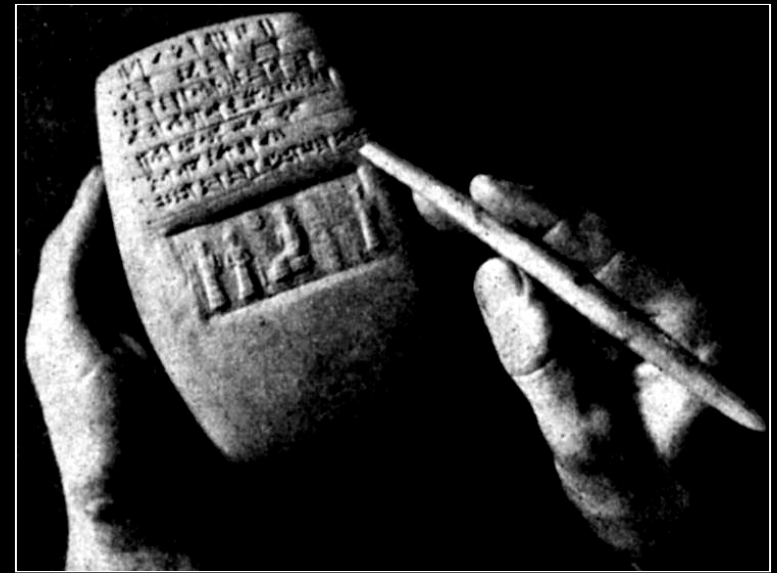
Schools were established:

- Only few people (particularly the boys) were trained to write cuneiform
- They were sons of upper-class professionals (priest, temple and palace officials, army officers, sea captains and other scribes)
- The students who learned the art could work as scribes for the temple, the royal court or wealthy merchants

Sumerian Scribes



“Tablet House”



Sumer falls to conquerors

- They did not form a strong and unified government
- War between city-states
- Sargon the Great was the ruler of the kingdom of Akkad who invaded the city-states
- He established the world's first empire
- His empire stretched from the Persian Gulf to the Mediterranean Sea
- The empire lasted for only about 100 years

The Ancient Fertile Crescent



The Middle East: “The Cradle of Civilization”

Sumer falls to conquerors

- Ur was the city-state that was able to regain power and ruled both Sumer and Akkad
- Hammurabi was the ruler from Babylonia who conquered and united the whole Mesopotamian Peninsula

Sumerian Cylinder Seals

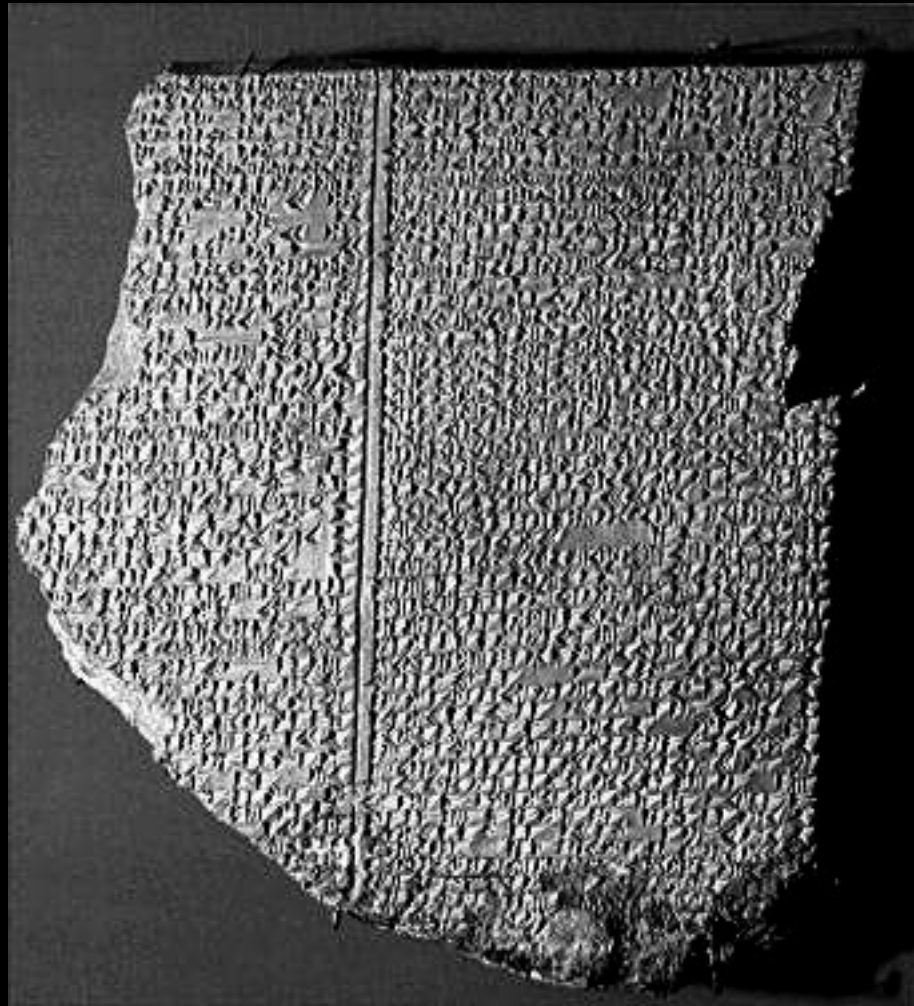


Gilgamesh

- The Mesopotamians believed that the dead descended to a gloomy underworld
- Epic of Gilgamesh was one of the earliest literary works.

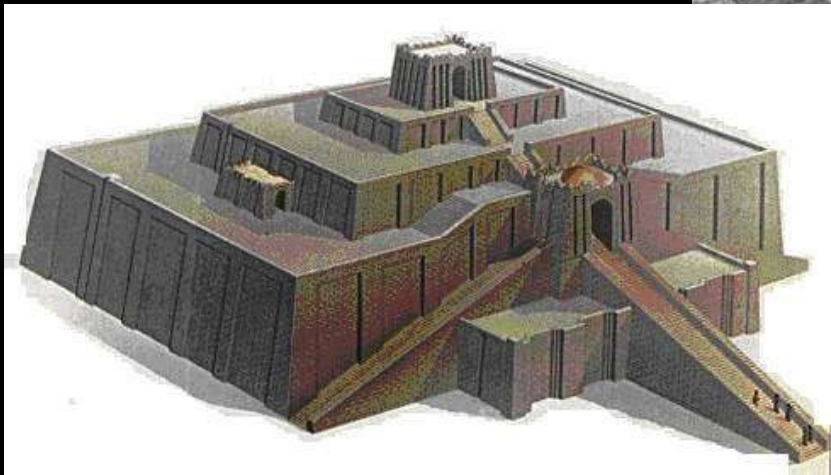


Gilgamesh Epic Tablet: Flood Story

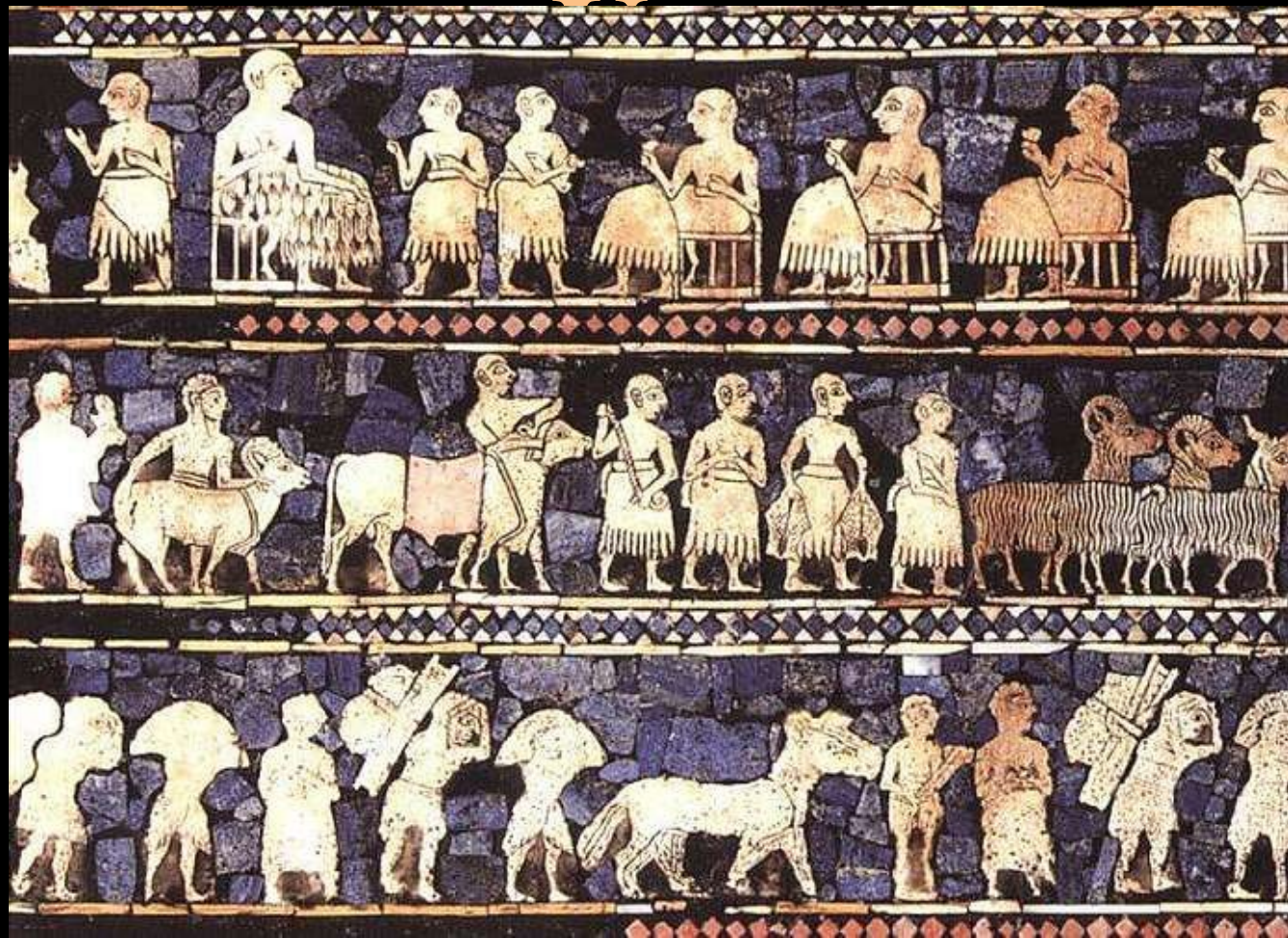


Ziggurat at Ur

- Temple
- “Mountain of the Gods”



The Royal Standard of



Mesopotamian Harp



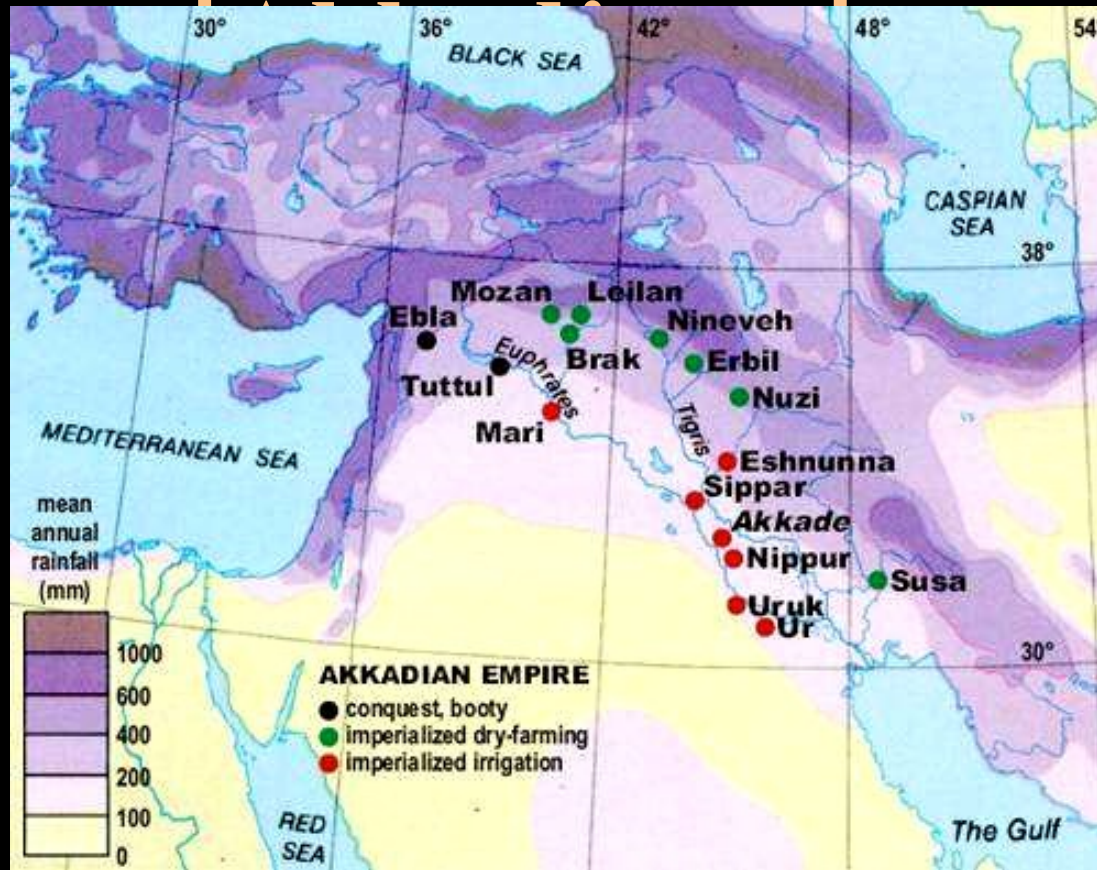
Board Game From Ur



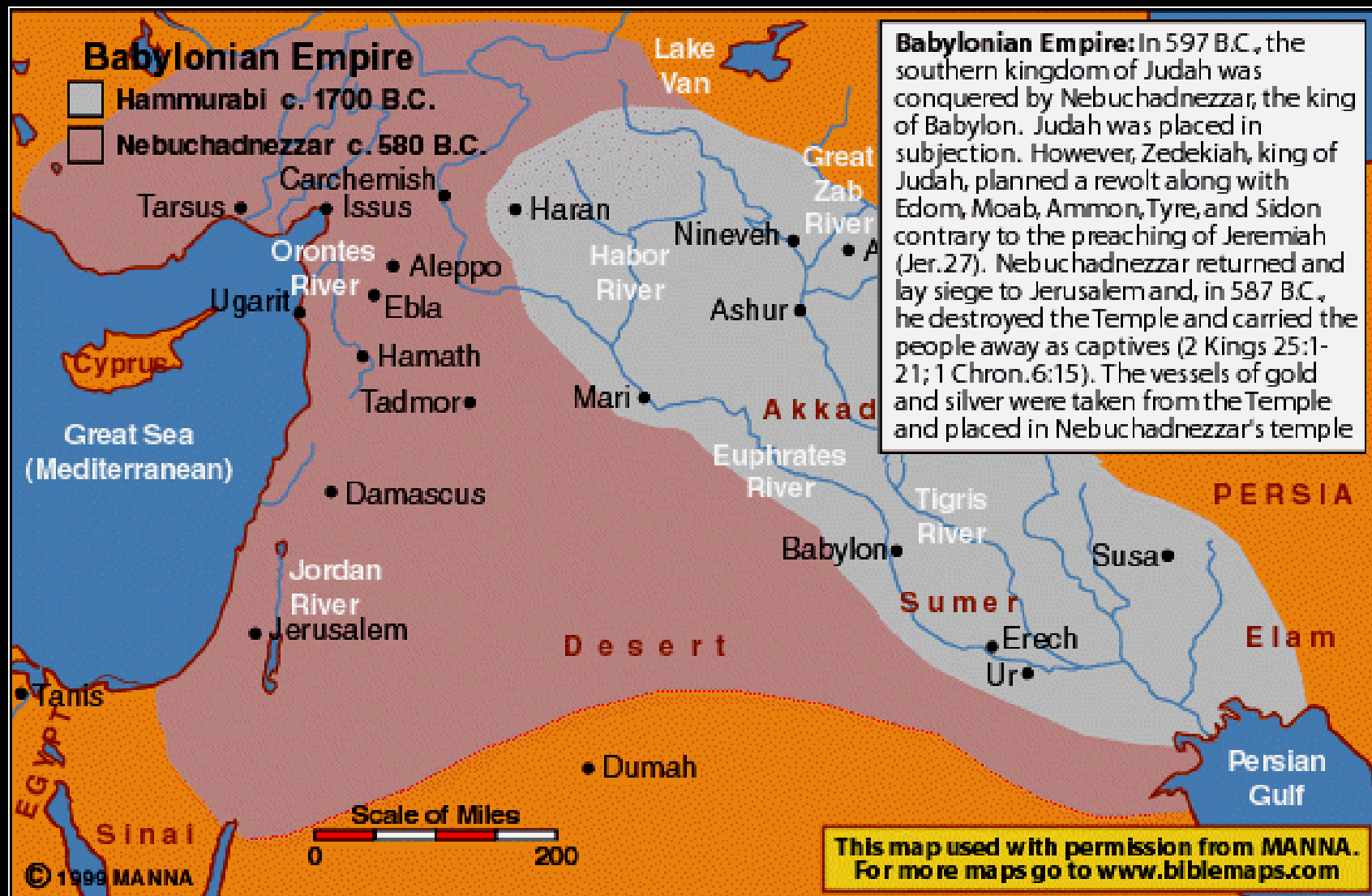
Sophisticated Metallurgy Skills



Sargon of Akkad: The World's First Empire



The Babylonian Empires



Hammurabi's

[r. 1792-1750 B. C. E.]

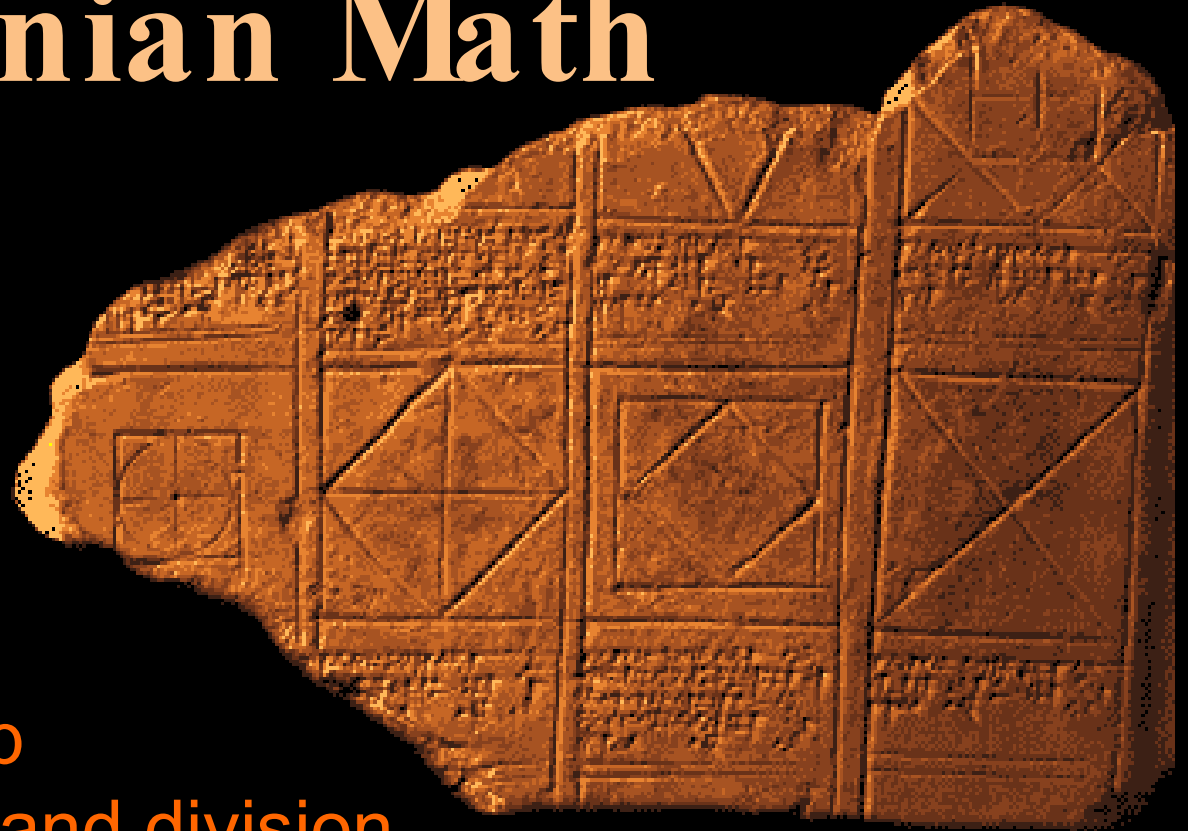
Code



Hammurabi, the Judge














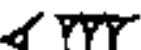







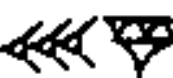



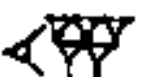












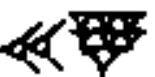






















Babylonian Math



- They drew up multiplication and division tables and making calculations using geometry

Babylonian Numbers

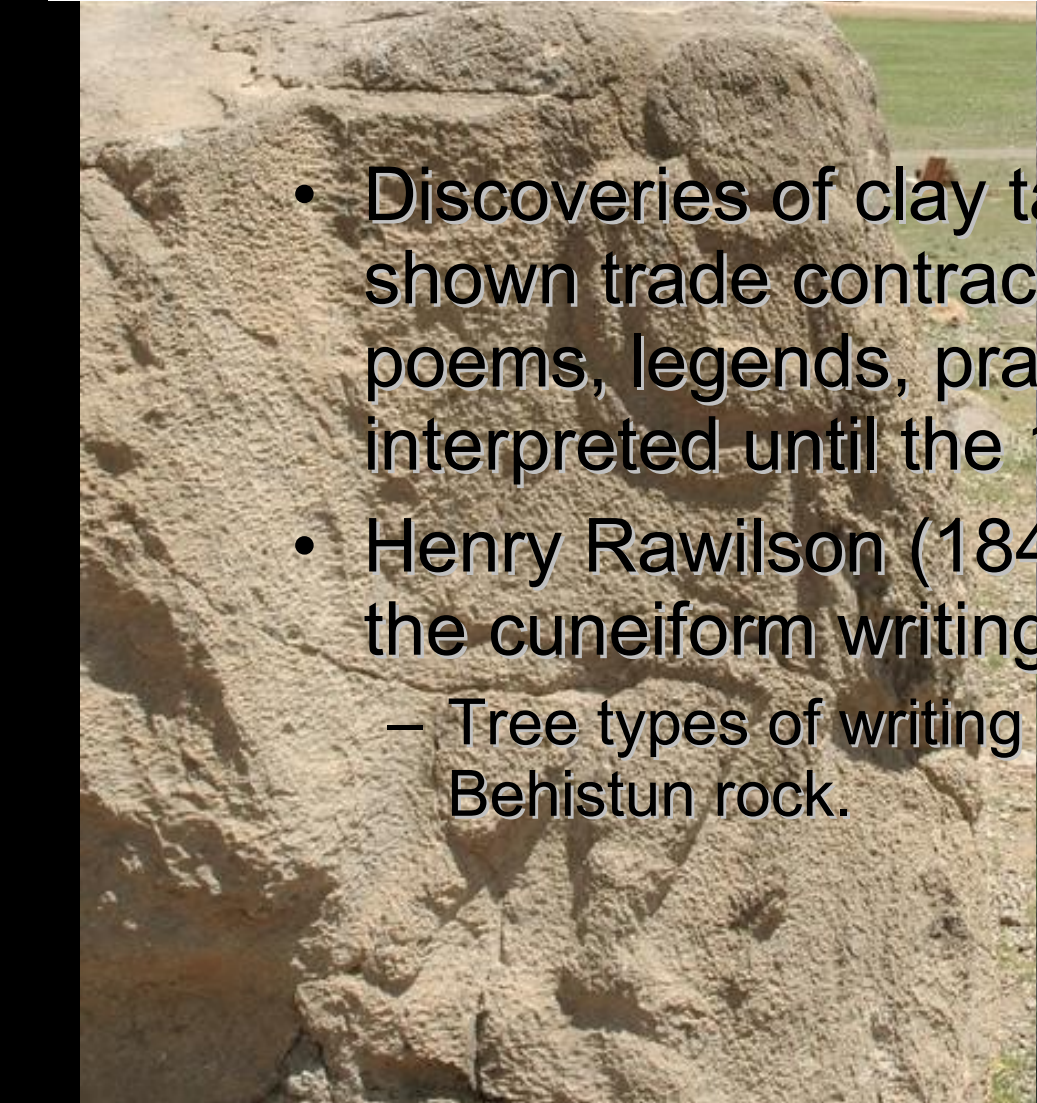
1		11		21		31		41		51	
2		12		22		32		42		52	
3		13		23		33		43		53	
4		14		24		34		44		54	
5		15		25		35		45		55	
6		16		26		36		46		56	
7		17		27		37		47		57	
8		18		28		38		48		58	
9		19		29		39		49		59	
10		20		30		40		50			

Mesopotamian Trade System

- The two rivers provided a way to ship goods
- The wheel and the sail improved transportation system
- Marketplace were present in Mesopotamian cities



Clay Tablets : History

- Discoveries of clay tablets in the Near East shown trade contracts, lists of rulers, maps, poems, legends, prayers and laws (not interpreted until the 19th Century)
 - Henry Rawilson (1840) discovered the key to the cuneiform writing.
 - Tree types of writing on a huge cliff, known as the Behistun rock.
- 
- 