

A History of Knowledge

Oldest Knowledge

What the Sumerians knew

What the Babylonians knew

What the Hittites knew

What the Persians knew

What the Egyptians knew

What the Indians knew

What the Chinese knew

What the Greeks knew

What the Phoenicians knew

What the Romans knew

What the Barbarians knew

What the Jews knew

What the Christians knew

Tang & Sung China

What the Japanese knew

What the Muslims knew

The Middle Ages

Ming & Manchu China

The Renaissance

The Industrial Age

The Victorian Age

The Modern World

What the NearEast knew

Piero Scaruffi

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What the Near-East knew

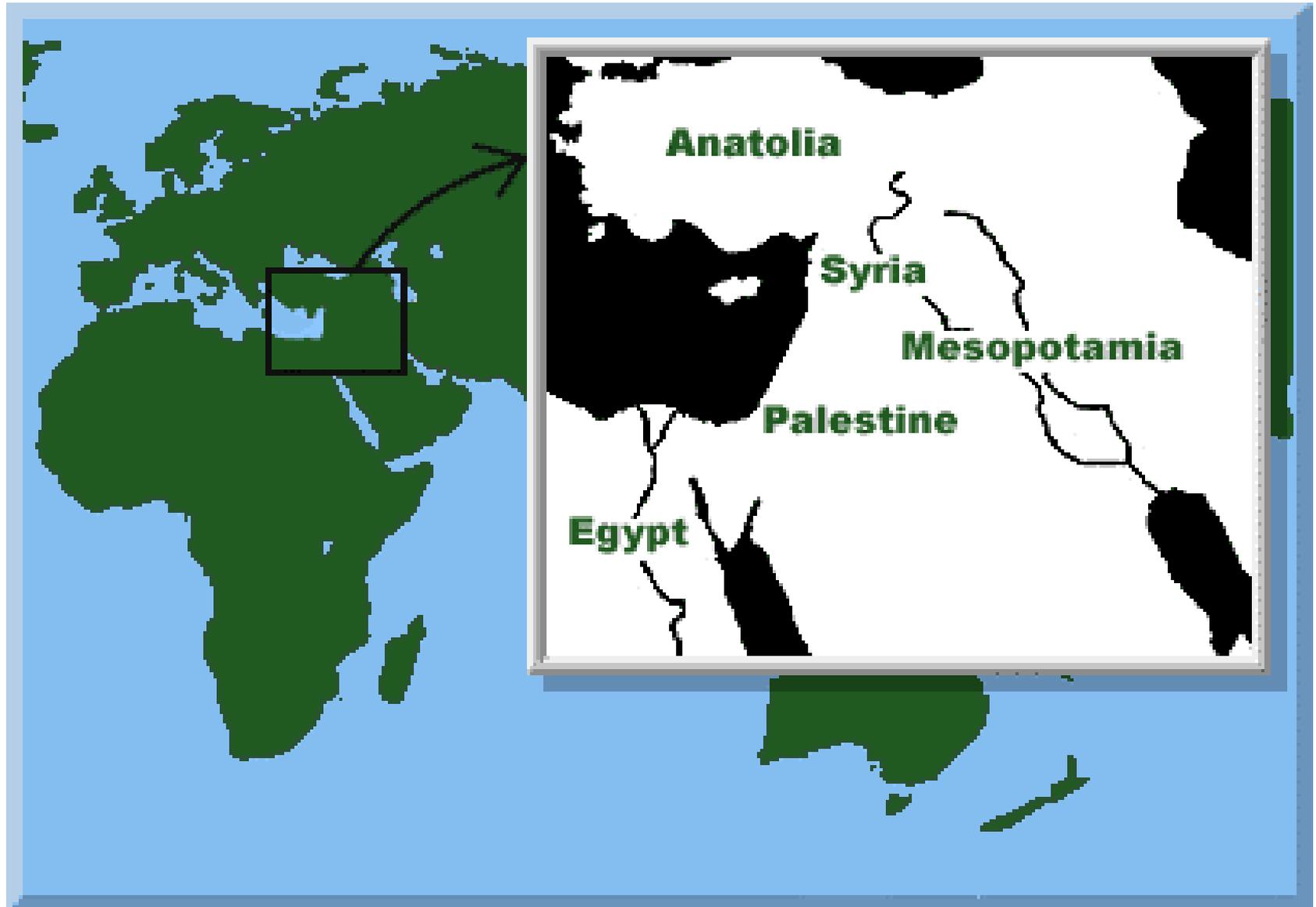
- **Bibliography**

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- **Arthur Cotterell: Penguin Encyclopedia of Ancient Civilizations (1980)**
- **Michael Roaf: Mesopotamia and the Ancient Near East (1990)**
- **Hans Nissen: The Early History of the Ancient Near East (1988)**
- **Annie Caubet: The Ancient Near East (1997)**
- **Alberto Siliotti: The Dwellings of Eternity (2000)**
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- **Bernard Lewis: Race and Slavery in the Middle East (1992)**

Ancient Civilizations

- **River valleys**
 - **Water means:**
 - **drinks,**
 - **fishing/agriculture/livestock (food),**
 - **transportation**
 - **energy**

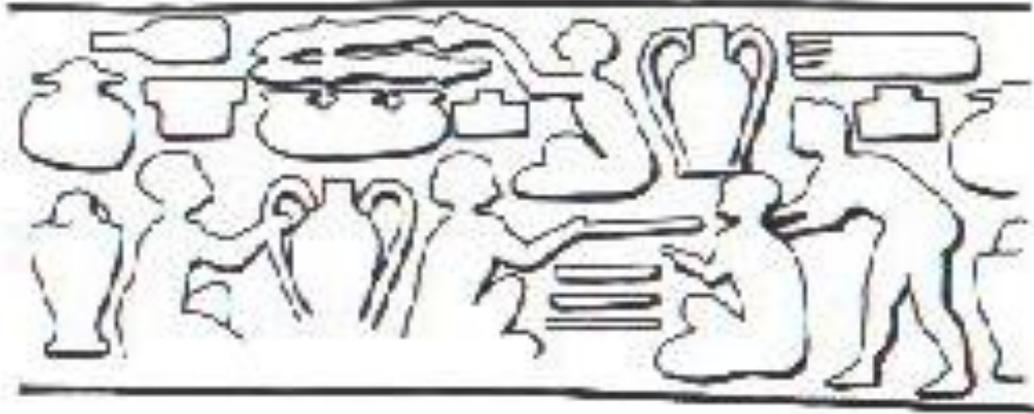
The Ancient Near East



Ancient Near East

- **The evolution of knowledge**
 - **End of the ice age**
 - **Climatic changes**
 - **Hunters follow game that moves to new areas (e.g., northern Europe)**
 - **Others turn to farming and hunting new game (cattle, sheep)**
 - **Technology (“what farmers need”)**
 - **Deforestation**
 - **Irrigation**
 - **Pottery**
 - **Copper/bronze**
 - **Wheel**
 - **Yoke/ seeder plow**
 - **Cities**

Ancient Near East



Mesopotamia seal showing women preparing food
(Henry Hodges)

Ancient Near East

15000 BC: end of the ice age

12000 BC: small urban centers develop in Mallaha (Jordan valley) and Mureybet (Syria), houses in pits: Natufian culture

9500 BC: agriculture (sowing and harvesting)

8500 BC: 700m-long walls of Jericho (Jordan valley), houses on the surface of the ground, built of stone (2-3000 people)

8000 BC: domestication of animals, pastoral nomadic life

7500 BC: Catal Huyuk (Taurus mountains in eastern Anatolia), a city built on trade (not agriculture) obsidian trade, metalwork, no city streets, terraced roofs, wall paintings, built of mud (5-7000 people)

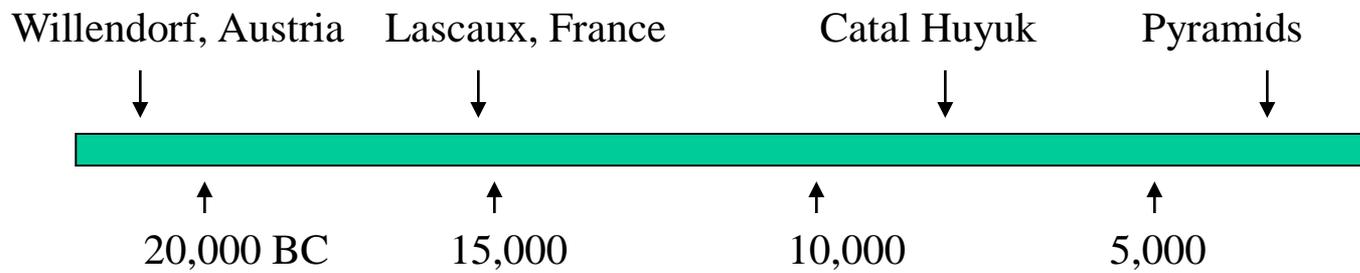
Ancient Near East

Spreading of agriculture



Ancient Near East

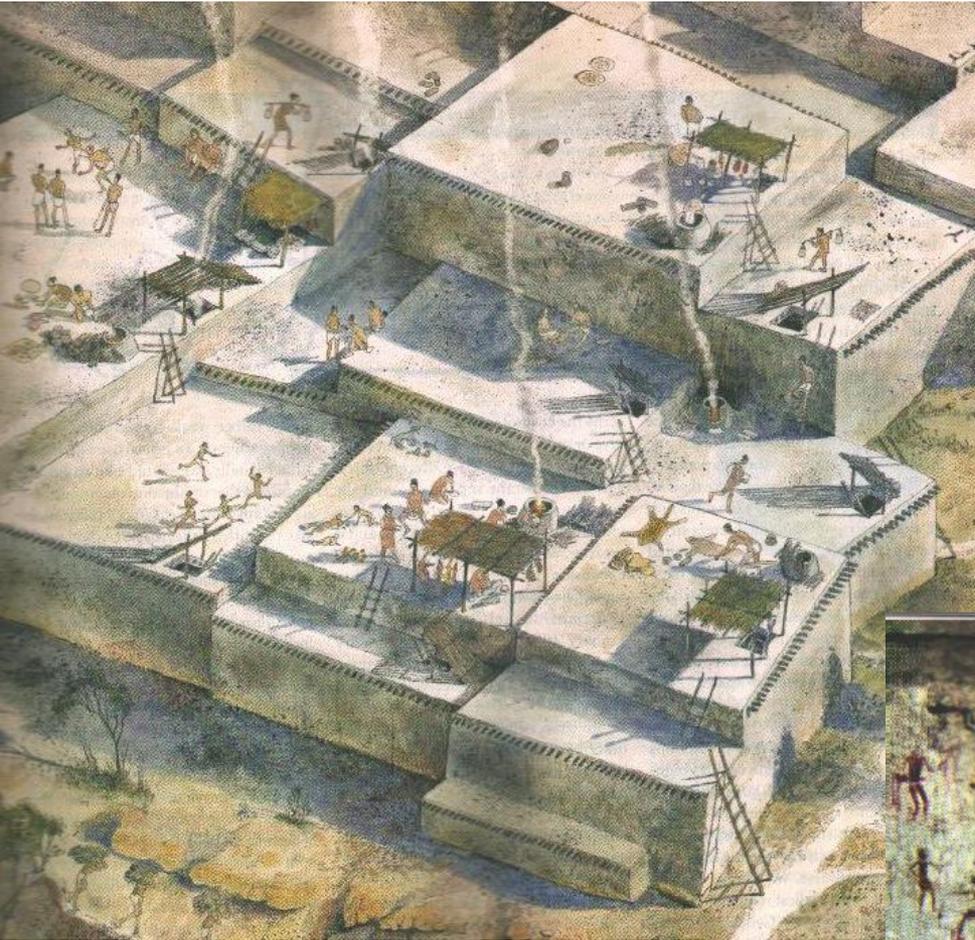
- **Catal Huyuk (Taurus mountains in eastern Anatolia)**
 - a city built on trade (not agriculture)
 - obsidian trade
 - metalwork
 - no city streets
 - terraced roofs
 - wall paintings
 - built of mud
 - 5-7000 people
 - burials under houses
 - murals and figurines



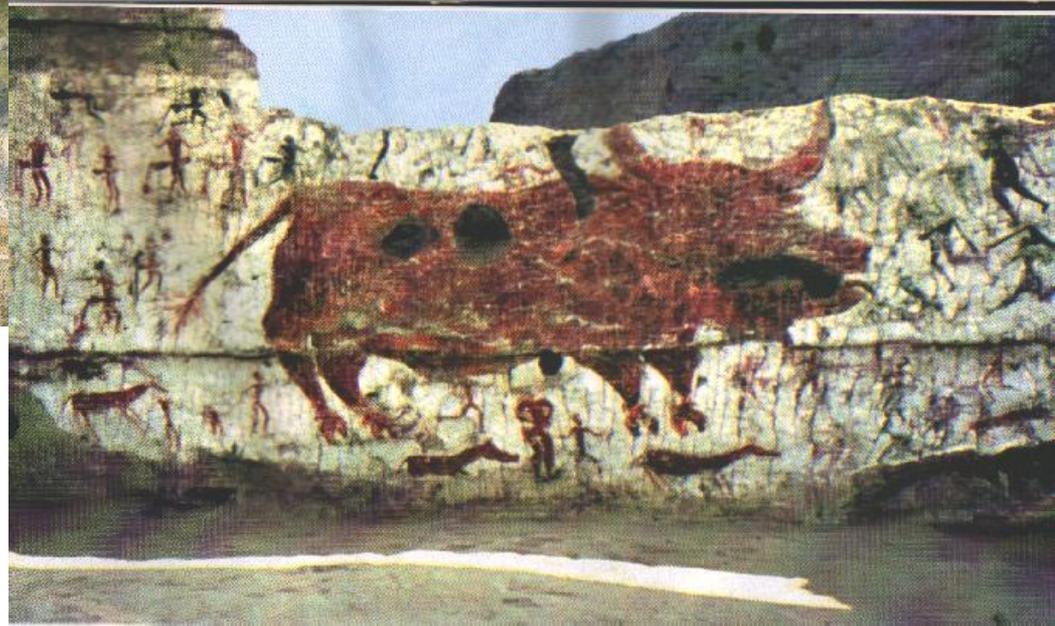
Catal Huyuk



Catal Huyuk



Plants include varieties
from 100s of kms away.



Catal Huyuk



Female figurines
Mother goddess

A 12cm figurine of a woman on a throne
with two leopards on either side of her,
the head of the baby already visible
(Catal Huyuk, 5000BC)

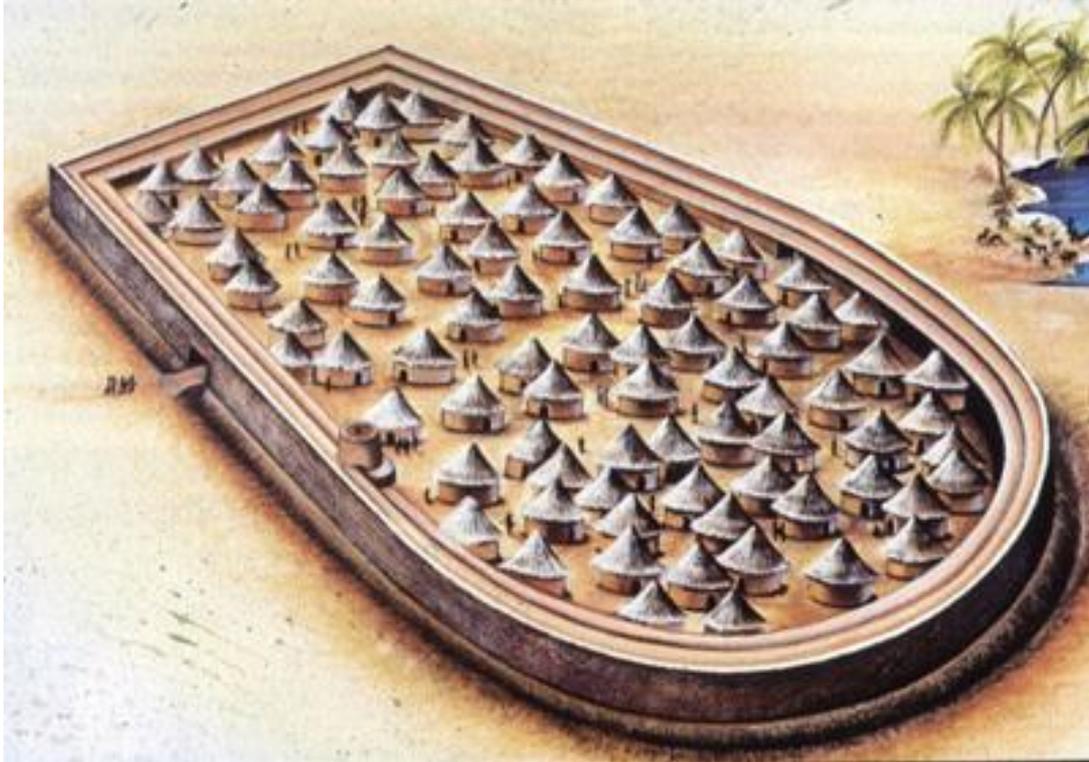
Basur Huyuk



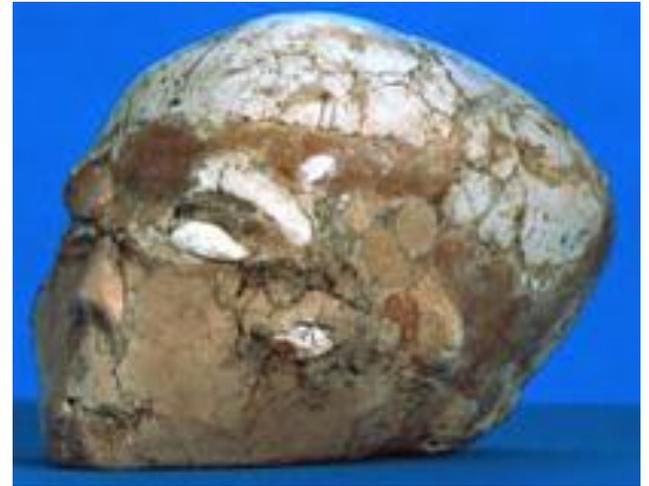
Board game from Başur Höyük
(3,100–2,900 BC)



Jericho



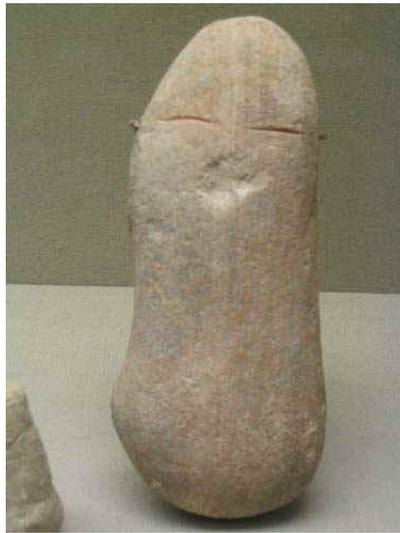
(Reconstruction by UNC)



Plastered skull (6,000BC)

Sha'ar Hagolan

(Israel, Yarmukian culture, 6-7,000 BC)



(Metropolitan Museum)

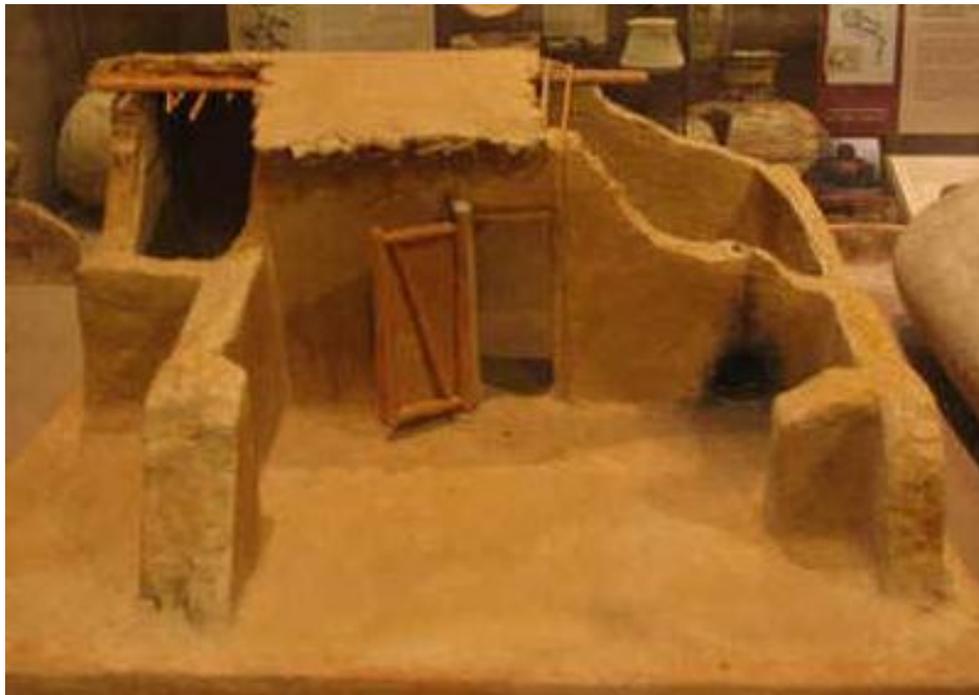
Cyprus

Khirokitia (5500 BC): first city street

- **Wheat**
 - **8,000 BC: Wheat evolves in southern Caspian plains or southeastern Turkey**
 - **7,000 BC: Wheat in Mesopotamia**
 - **Population explosion caused by cultivated grain**
 - **5,000 BC: Wheat in Egypt**
 - **4,000 BC: Wheat in India**
 - **3,000 BC: Bread in Egypt**
 - **3,000 BC: Wheat in continental Europe**
 - **2,500 BC: Wheat in China**
 - **2,000 BC: Wheat in Britain**

Mesopotamia

**9000 BC: Jarmo culture (eastern Iraq/western Iran):
the world's first farmers, no pottery yet**



Pre-pottery house of Jarmo
(9-7,000 BC)
(Oriental Institute, Chicago)

Mesopotamia 7000 BC-5000 BC



Syria

6000 BC-5200 BC: Halafian culture (circular domed buildings, fine pottery with geometric motifs)

Mesopotamia

7000 BC: Hassuna culture (north Iraq): ceramic pottery, **geometric motifs**

6200 BC: Samarra culture (north Iraq): **symbolic motifs on pottery, planned settlements, **egalitarian** society, **funerary** objects**

6000 BC: Ubaid culture (south Iraq): irrigation, riverside settlements

5300 BC: Eridu culture (south Iraq): **hierarchical social organization, **monumental** buildings (first ziggurats) , copper casting, river sailboats**

Hassuna



Hassuna pottery (6,200 BC)
(Oriental Institute, Chicago)



Hassuna house (5,700 BC)
(Oriental Institute, Chicago)

Ubaid

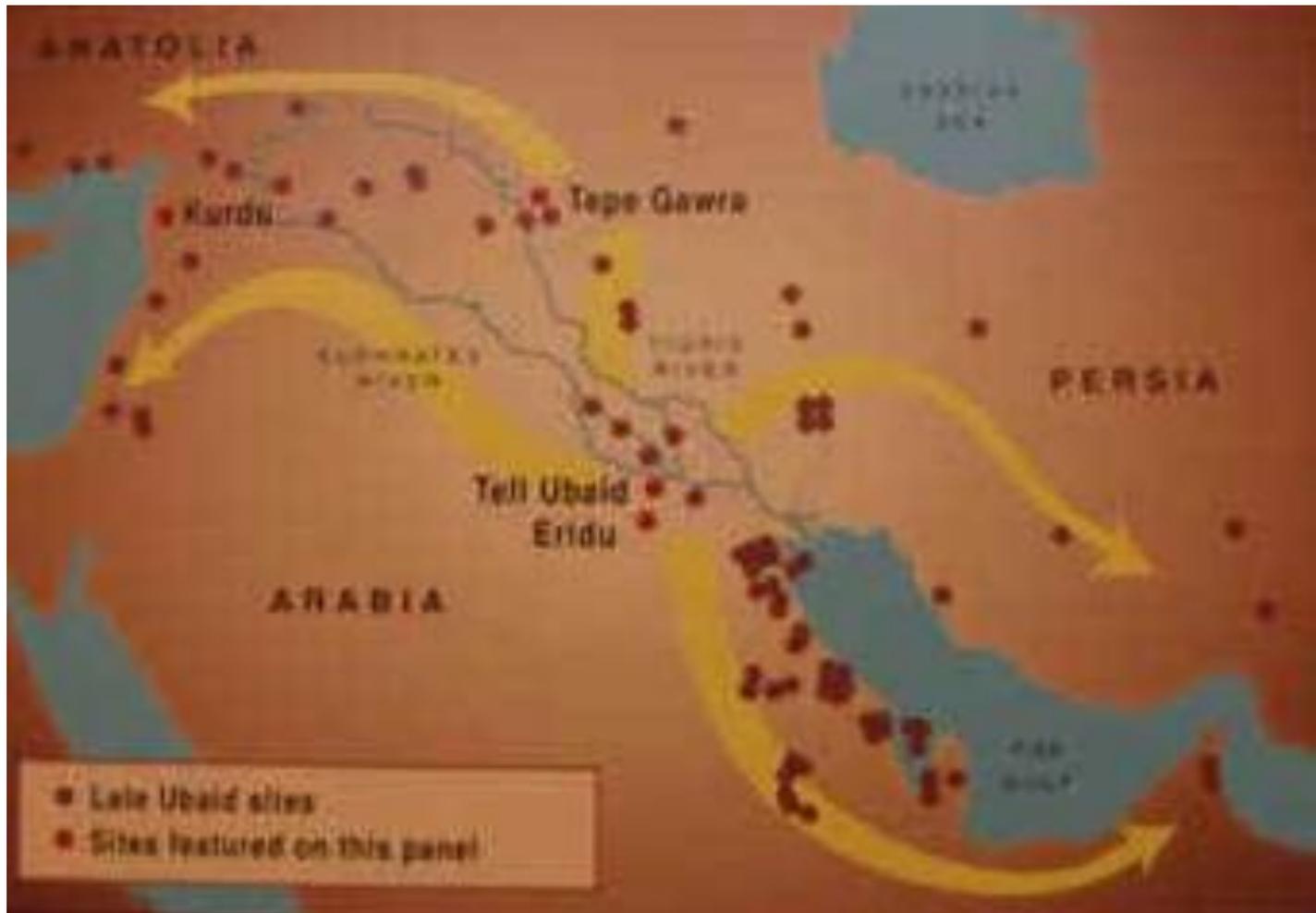


Ubaid 2-4 pottery (5,200-4,900 BC)
(Oriental Institute, Chicago)



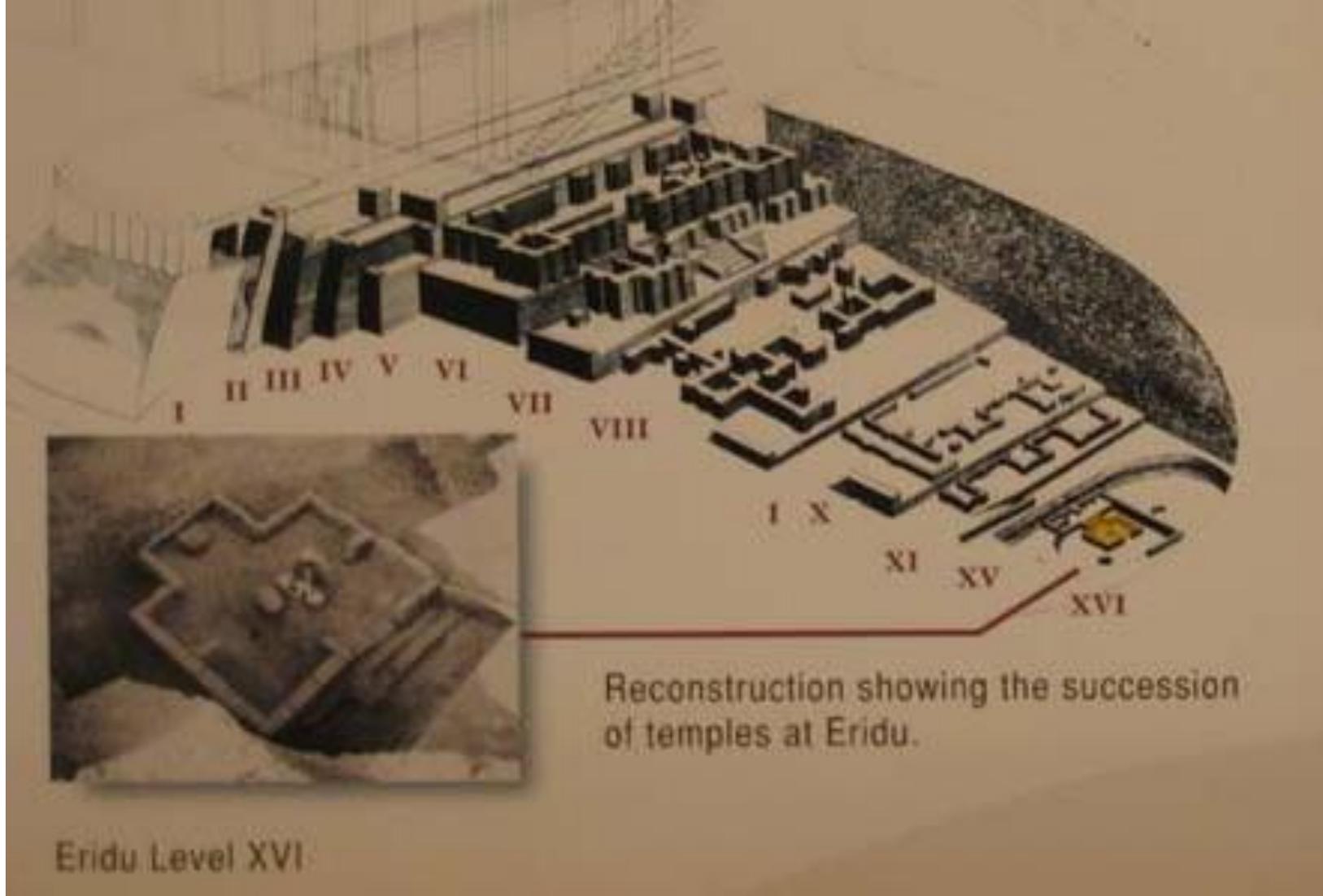
Oeili (Ubaid-1 culture, 5,800-5,200 BC)
(Oriental Institute, Chicago)

Late Ubaid culture



Spreading of Ubaid culture
(Oriental Institute, Chicago)

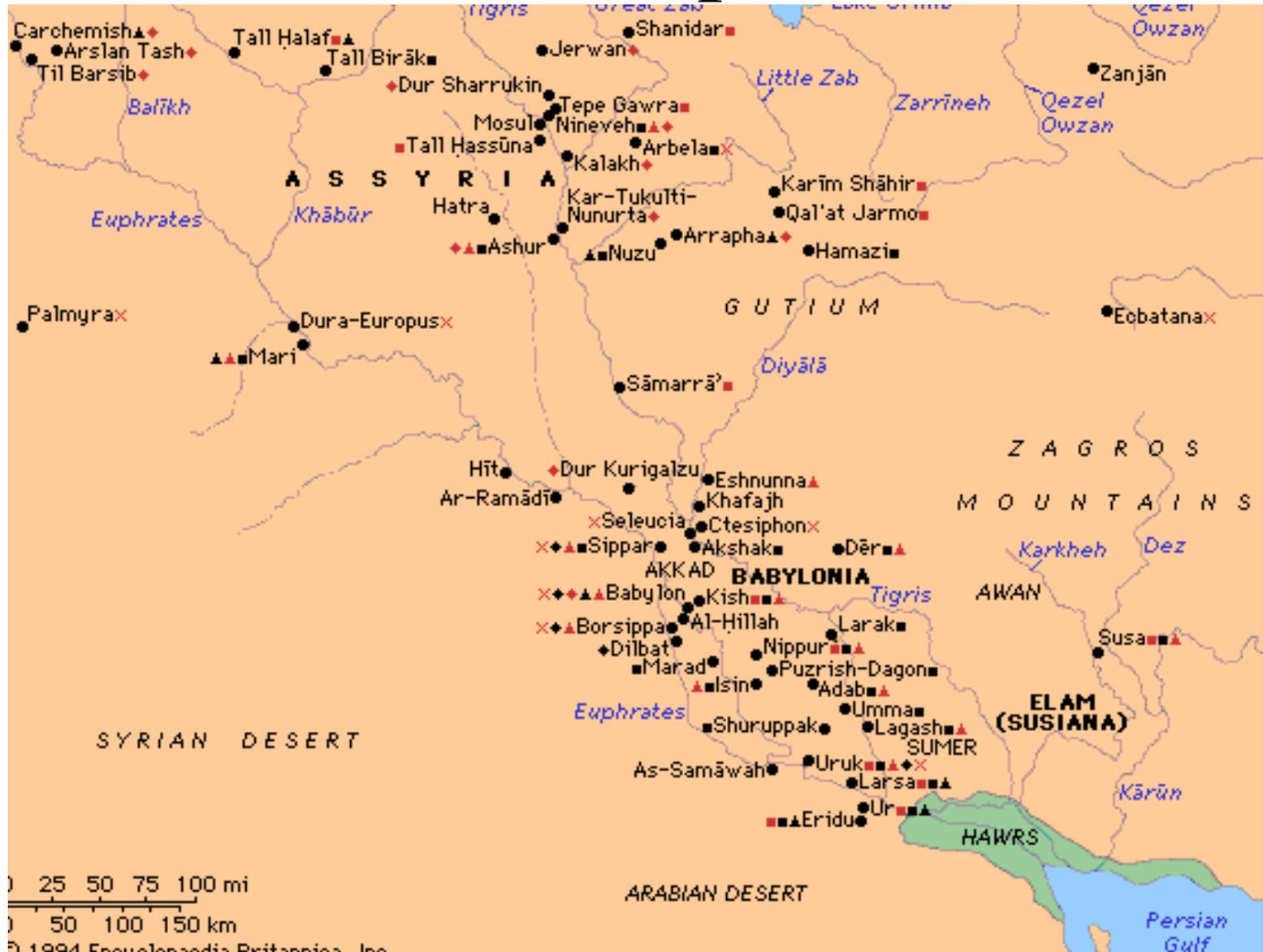
Eridu



Succession of Eridu temples over 5,000 years
(Oriental Institute, Chicago)

- 3500 BC: Sumerians control city-states between the lower Euphrates and Tigris rivers: Eridu, Ur, Uruk, Lagash, Umma, Nippur**
- 3300 BC: Sumerians of Uruk invent pictographic writing on clay tablets**
- 3200 BC: Sumerians invent the wheel**
- 3100 BC: Sumerians of Uruk invent cuneiform writing**
- 3000 BC: Sumerians employ mathematics on base 60 (360 degrees in a circle, 60 minutes in an hour)**
- 2900 BC: Uruk has 40,000 people and is divided in an administrative city and a residential city, while agriculture is delegated to the subjects outside the city**

Cities of Mesopotamia



2340 BC: Sargon I of Kish builds a new capital, Agade (Akkad, later Babylon), adopts the Semitic language Akkadian instead of Sumerian, conquers the Sumerian cities (the first “emperor” in history)

2330 BC: Sargon's daughter Enheduanna is a poetess

2180 BC: the Akkadian empire disintegrates

2112 BC: Neo-Sumerian renaissance (but ruled by Semitic kings)

2018 BC: the Sumerian empire disintegrates

1900 BC: Assur and Nineveh form an Assyrian kingdom

1800 BC: the Hittites discover iron and build the first weapons made of iron

1800 BC: the Babylonians employ a duodecimal system (a system based on 12 and 6) to measure time

The Hittites



1792 BC: Hammurabi is crowned king of Babylon

1595 BC: the Hittites raid Babylon

1500 BC: a caravan trader, Abraham, leads nomads (Hebrews) from Sumer to Canaan and then on to Egypt

1350 BC: Ugarit (in Syria) employs an alphabet of 32 letters

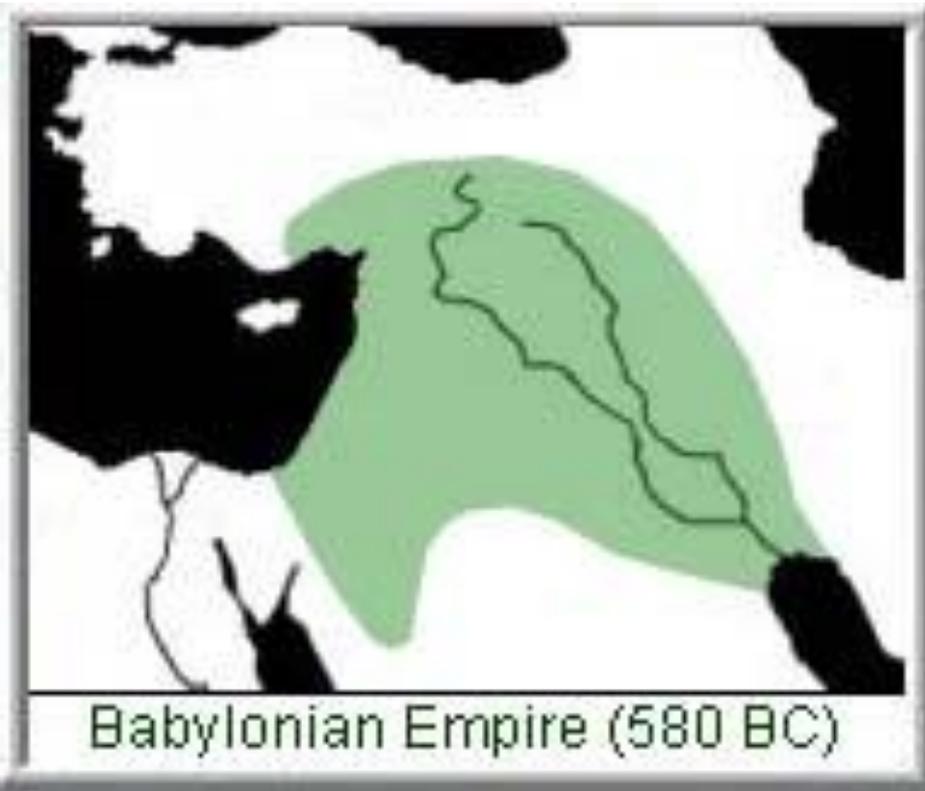
1250 BC: the Hebrews return from Egypt and establish a kingdom in Palestine

1250 BC: the Assyrian army employs iron weapons

1000 BC: the Phoenicians control trade in the Mediterranean

612 BC: Babylonia and Media destroy the Assyrian empire

Babylonia and Assyria



<http://victorian.fortunecity.com/kensington/207/mideast2.html>

600 BC: Zarathustra founds a new religion in Persia

600 BC: Aramaic (a Semitic language) is the "lingua franca" of Syria and Palestine

550 BC: Cyrus Achaemenian seizes power in Media and founds the Persian empire

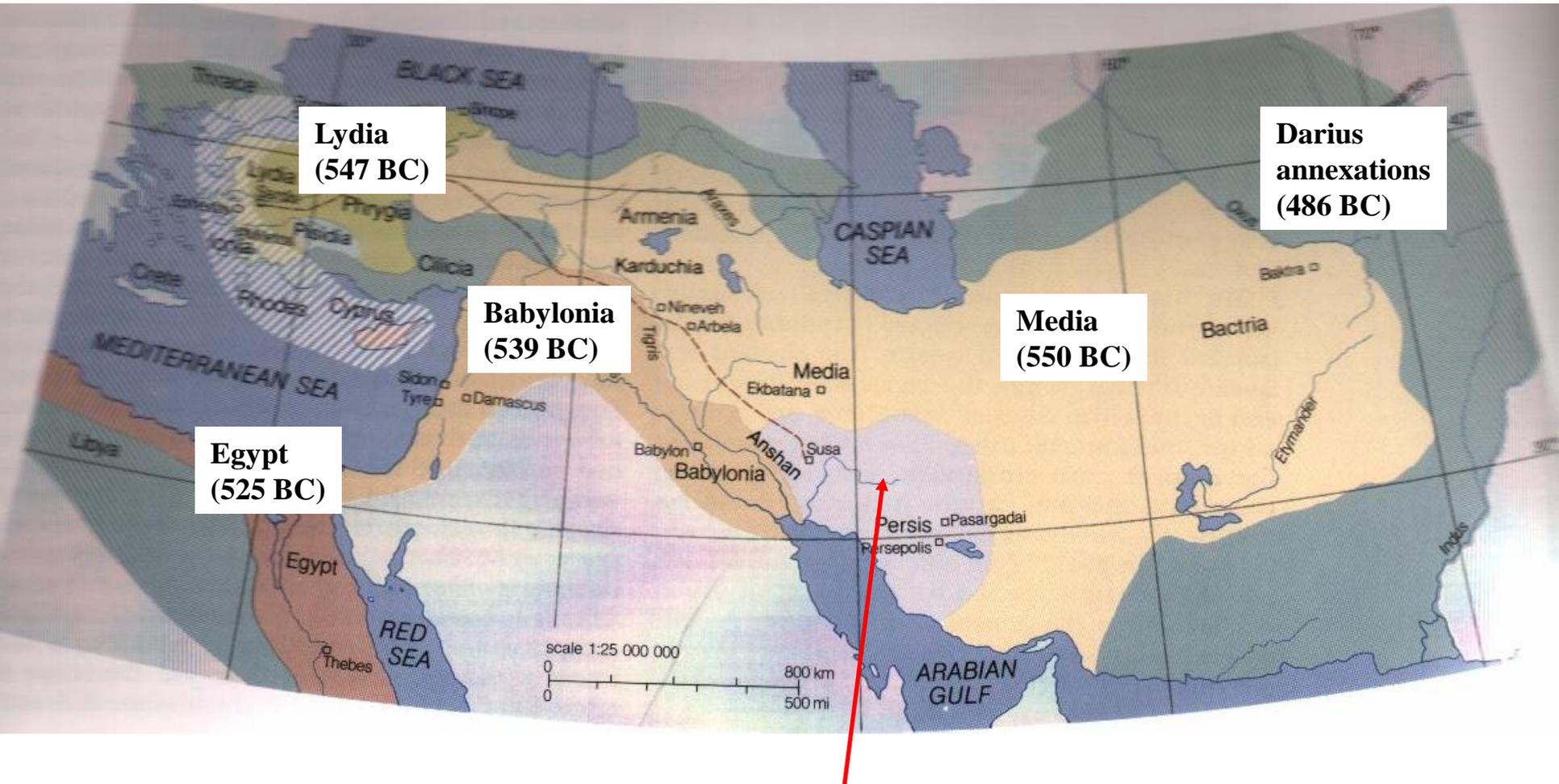
521 BC: Darius expands the Persian empire beyond the Indus River

500 BC: Darius makes Aramaic the official language of the Persian empire

490 BC: Darius of Persia attacks mainland Greece

333 BC: Alexander invades the Persian empire

The Persian Empire



Lydia
(547 BC)

Darius annexations
(486 BC)

Babylonia
(539 BC)

Media
(550 BC)

Egypt
(525 BC)



Persian Homeland

Hellenistic empires



What the Near East knew

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- See nearsum.ppt