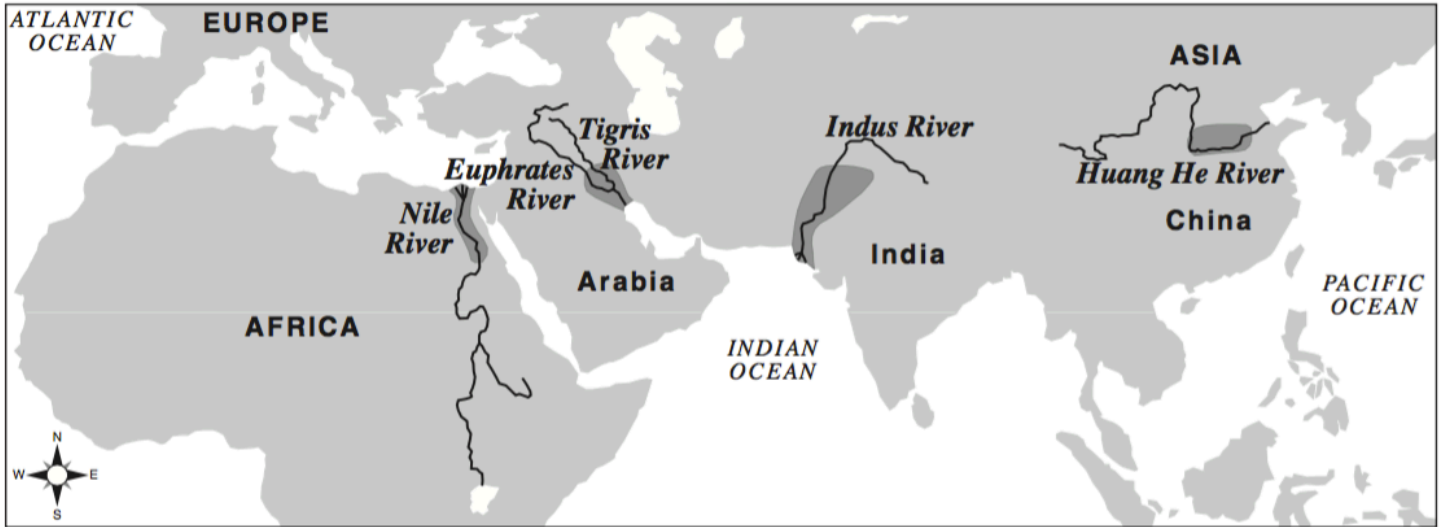


Questio: _____

FERTILE FOUNDATIONS



THE BIG FOUR RIVER VALLEYS

- _____ (several civilizations): _____ & _____
Rivers – Modern Iraq & E Syria
- _____ Civilization (aka Harappan Civilization): Indus River – Modern Pakistan & NW India
- Egypt & Nubia: _____ River – Modern Egypt and Sudan
- _____ & _____ China: _____ River (aka Huang He River) – Modern NE China
- River valleys = Fertile: seasonal floods deposit _____ into the soil, making surplus possible
 - Silt = sediment carried by river water, somewhere between sand and clay, full of nutrients
- Rivers can also facilitate travel and trade

CONTROL OVER WATER

- Excessive _____ can destroy settlements and crops, and even cause deaths
- Infrequent flooding leaves crops without sufficient _____
- Solution = _____ systems for bringing water to crops & _____ to hold back flood waters
- Required organization and coordination → _____ develop to oversee and direct
- Some easy to control water (Egypt, Indus), some difficult (Mesopotamia, China)

CITY-STATES – CASE STUDY: THE SUMERIANS

- _____ = the earliest civilization, located in Southern Mesopotamia, a collection of _____
- Each city-state had one central city that controlled the lands surrounding it
 - City: Center of political and military control as well as trade and religious ritual
 - State: Wider lands which included many small villages and agricultural land

- Politically _____ but culturally united
 - Different rulers but shared language, religion, customs, trade
 - Spoke Sumerian, a language _____ (not related to any other known language)



THE FIRST KINGDOMS

- Mesopotamia
 - 2334 BCE: _____, Semitic-speaking people from the desert, settled in northern Mesopotamia and soon conquered Sumer in the south
 - Created the first kingdom built on conquest, with Kings evolving from warrior leaders
 - Sometimes called world's first Empire: a state ruling over multiple territories and peoples
- Egypt
 - Nile _____ evolved into Egyptian Priest Kings, seen as connected to the gods
 - 2686 BCE: Upper and Lower Kingdoms united as one, forming Old Kingdom Egypt
 - Priest King evolved into _____, seen as a living god
- China
 - 2200 BCE: Ancient legends claim the Xia dynasty was founded by _____ the _____, organized large-scale flood control projects to tame the Yellow River
- General theme: Over time, shift from importance of religious leaders to military leaders in control of government, especially in areas exposed to frequent warfare

DEVELOPMENT OF WRITING

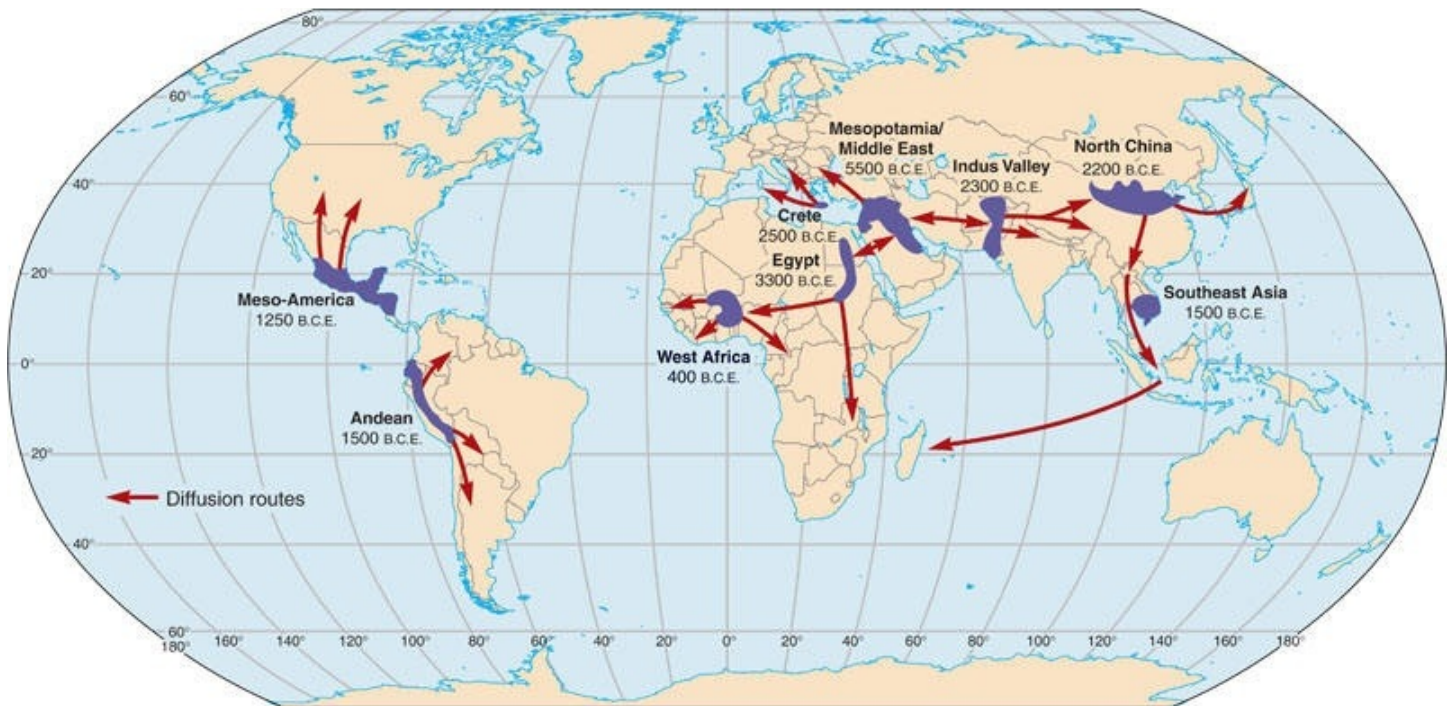
- Most early writing began as pictograms, symbols designed to look like the things they represent, but later developed into more abstract forms, and came to represent sounds rather than things
- Sumer: _____ was the first system of writing ever invented, used for many different languages of peoples in and around Mesopotamia
- Egypt: While not the first, _____ was the ancestor script of many modern scripts, including our own!
- Indus: Even though they had a writing system, experts have not been able to _____ it
- Shang China: While most systems were developed first for trade and record keeping, the _____ of China was used by oracles, practitioners of divination (methods of telling the future), who used the script to write questions on bones, heat the bones, and then interpret the cracks that formed to get answers

OTHER TECHNOLOGIES

- _____: 4000 BCE Mesopotamians strengthened soft copper with tin to make the alloy metal called bronze, used for durable tools and weapons, but very expensive because of the rarity of tin
- _____: 3500 BCE Sumerians began using wooden wheels, and wheeled carts by 3000 BCE, which dramatically improved transportation of large and heavy goods

TRADE NETWORKS

- Specialized labor + more efficient transportation (land and water) + geographic differences = Long-Distance Trade
- River valleys often resource poor, had to trade with neighbors for special raw materials like lumber, tin, textiles, skins, dyes, gold, gems, slaves etc
- Trade works best with healthy _____ relations, though often continues even during hostility and war
- Indus Valley traded with Southern/Eastern India and Mesopotamia
- Mesopotamia also traded with Asia Minor, Levant, and Egypt
- Egypt also traded throughout Eastern Mediterranean and upstream of Nile with _____ and along the coast of East Africa
- China had only very limited trade to the West but traded with their neighbors in East Asia
- Contact and trade leads to _____ – exchange of ideas and technology



RELIGIOUS BELIEFS

- Mostly _____ – belief in many gods (poly = many; theos = god)
 - _____ = collection of gods within a polytheistic system (pan = all)
 - Though less common, some examples of monotheism – belief in one god (mono = one)
- Influenced by agriculture
 - _____ still important as with Paleolithic, now focused on crops
 - Major themes = cycles of birth, death, and _____, just like crops and seasons
 - Most religions had stories of a major destruction by a _____, often sent by the gods