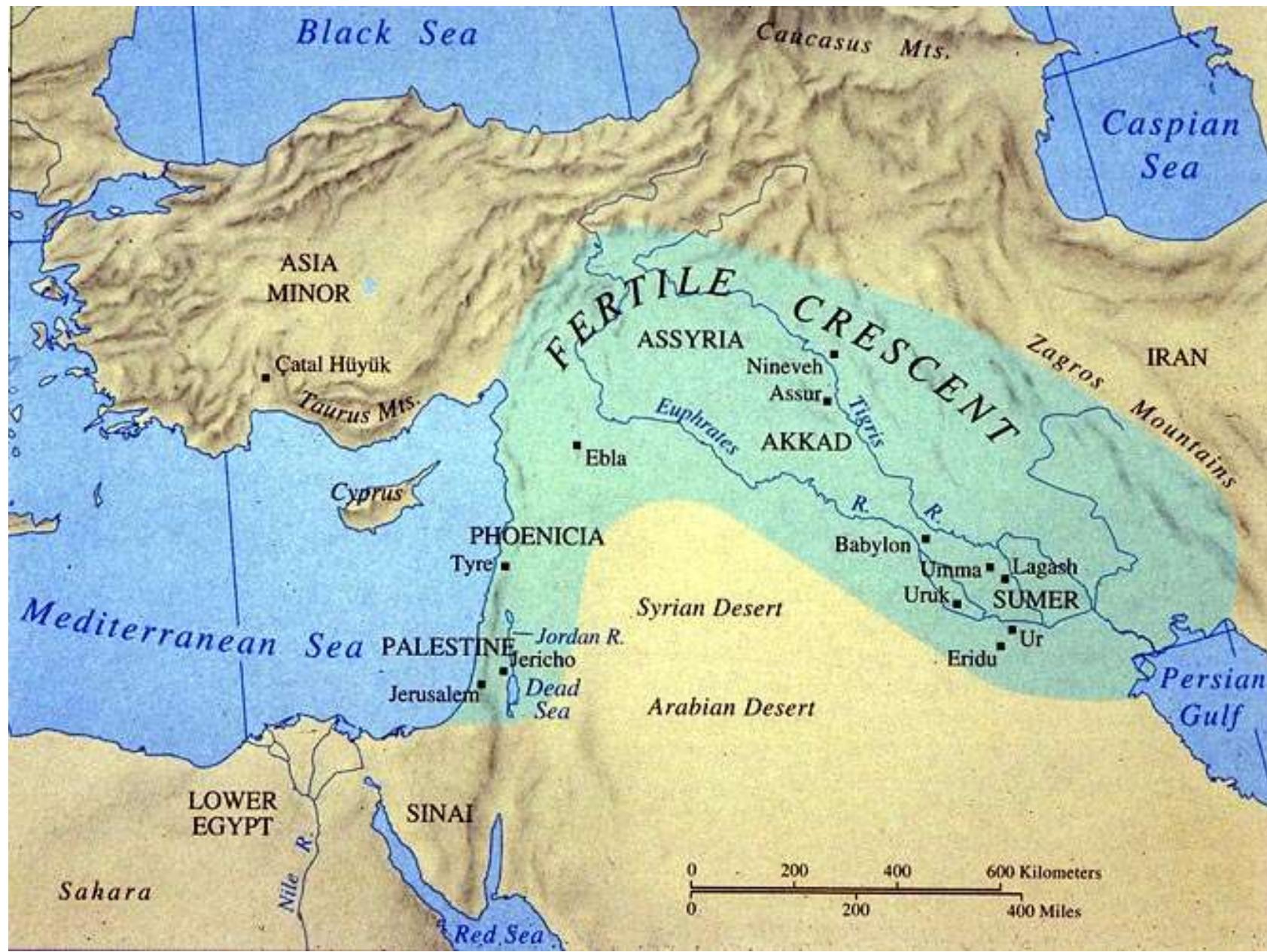


Mesopotamian Civilization



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

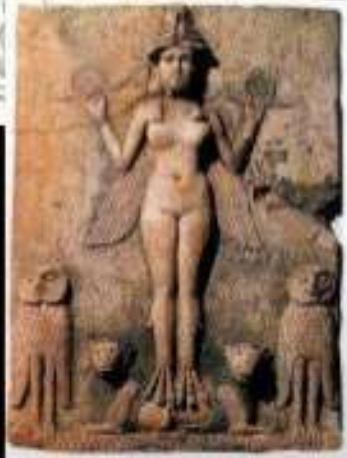


Sumerian Religion - the belief in many gods

Anthropomorphic Polytheistic



Enki

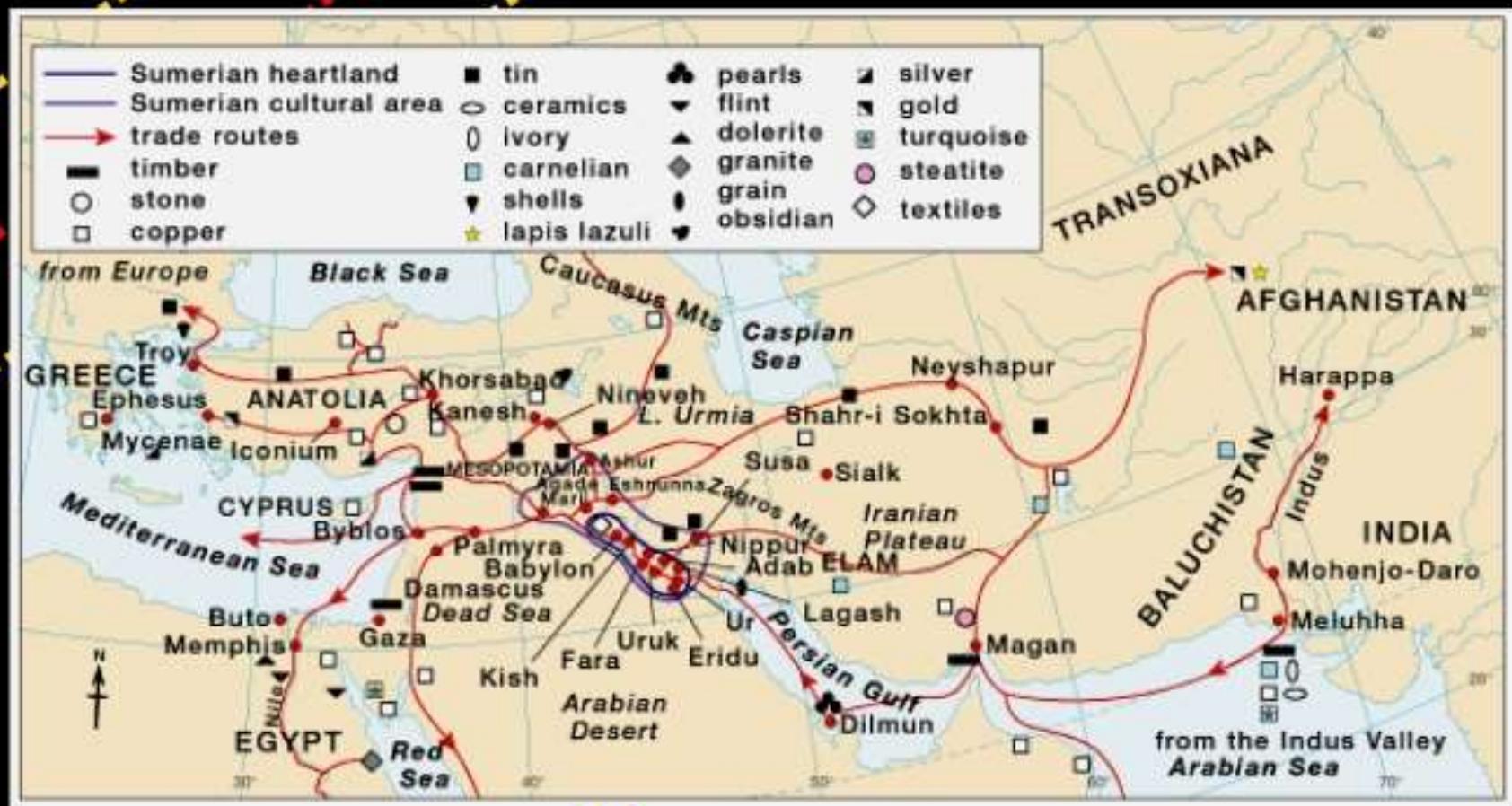


Innana

- 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

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>Worshiped 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”

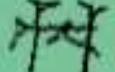
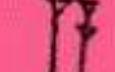
Writing The Sumerians used a system of record-keeping that used baked clay

- These tablets are invaluable record of history of the Sumerian and of later peoples of Mesopotamia

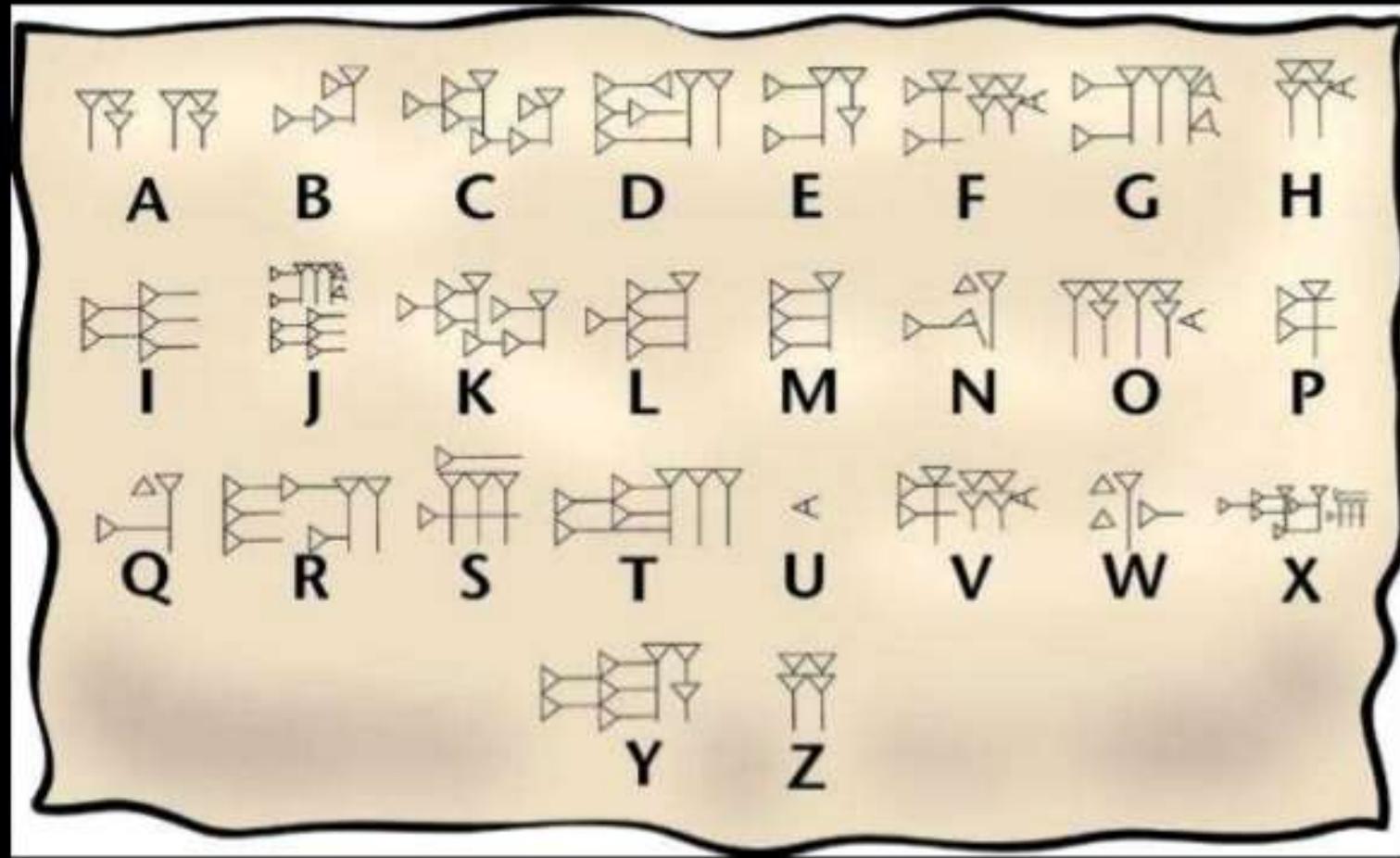


Cuneiform Writing

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.						

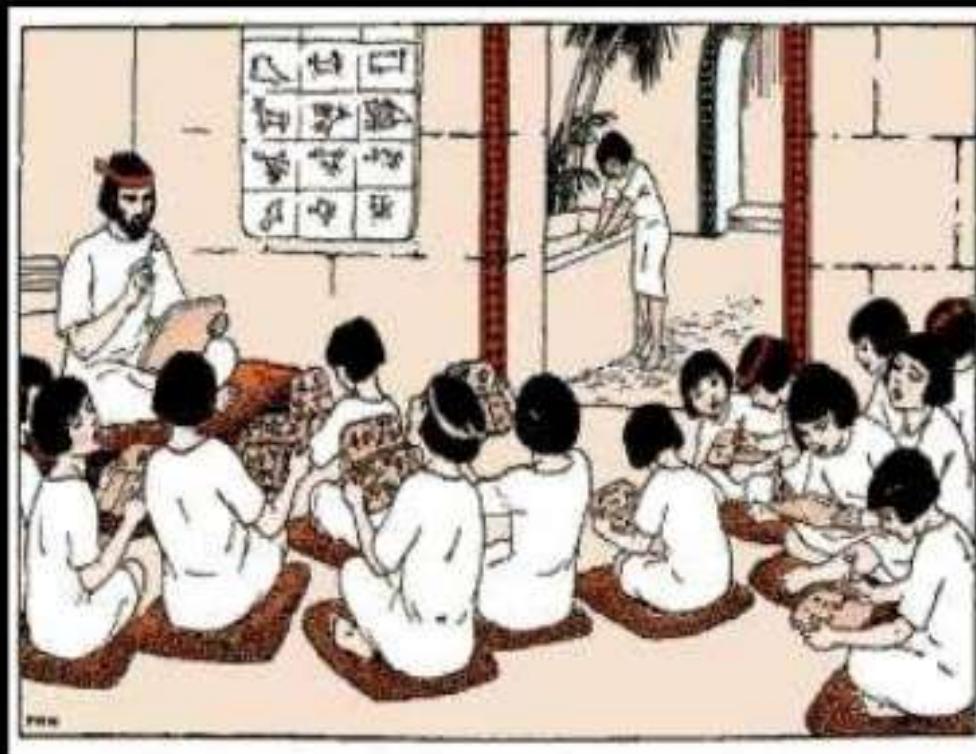
Deciphering Cuneiform



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”



Ziggurat





Figurines from Sumerians



Sculpture

- Mesopotamian sculpture features a distinct stylized aesthetic. As in most of the world's traditional visual art, figures are typically presented either front-on or side-on. Simple textures are often achieved through repetition of lines or dots.

Female
head of
UR



THE GAUDEA, THE PRINCE OF LAGASH



STANDRD OF UR



Ram (Billy Goat) and Tree, Offering Stand from Ur



Sumerian Bull's Head, Lyre from Tomb



Warka Vase



Votive tablet of UR, Nanshi



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

Akkadian Civilization

- This centralization was military in nature and the art of this period generally became more martial. The Akkadian Empire was begun by Sargon, who rose to power and founded the royal city of Akkad (Akkad has not yet been located, though one theory puts it under modern Baghdad).

- Head of Akkadian Ruler



CODE OF HAMMURABI

The CODE OF HAMMURABI reveals a society of strict justice. Penalties for criminal offenses were severe and varied according to the wealth of the individual. According to the code, there were three social classes in Babylonia: an upper class of nobles (government officials, priests, and warriors), the class of freemen (merchants, artisans, professionals, and wealthy farmers), and a lower class of slaves.





NEO BABYLONIA

After the last Assyrian ruler, the rule came to its end . The Babylon rose again and the old Mesopotamian culture flourished under Nebuchadnezzar made Babylon his capital. It became a fabulous city once again with his triumphs and architecture.

- City of Babylonia (babul means tower of god)
- It was very large i.e. 200 sq. miles. So it became a very huge size city with boundary wall. It had 250 towers, 100 bronze gates. The upper side of the boundary wall was so broad that a chariot could run easily.

Ishtar Gate: Ishtar= goddess of love, fertility and earth

Ishtar gate





- It was sacred to the goddess Ishtar and there was a grand approach to the temple complex.
- Beautiful glazed tiles were used on which figures of different animals including bull and horse are moulded in relief.
- The arrangement of figures to wall in Ishtar gate was rarely been surpassed in history of architecture.

Victory Stele of Naram-Sin

- The **Victory Stele of Naram-Sin** is a **stele** that dates to approximately 2254-2218 BC, in the time of the Akkadian Empire, and is now in the Louvre in Paris. The relief measures six feet in height and was carved in pink limestone









