

Ancient Civilizations Geography Recap



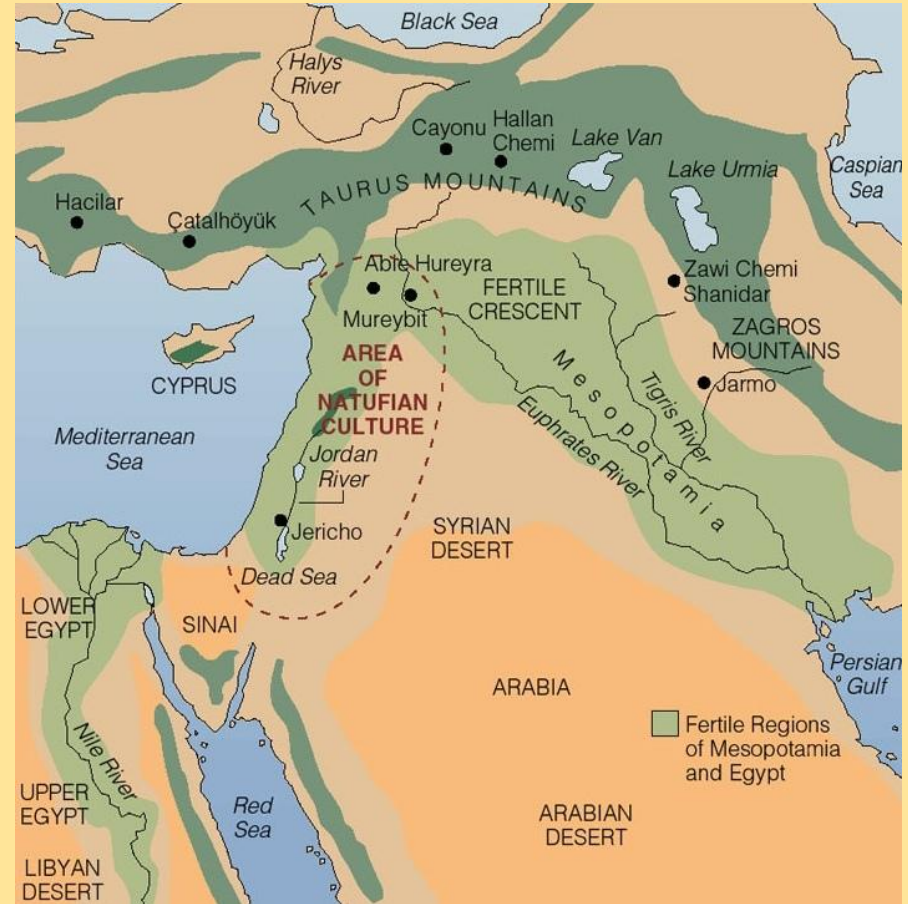


First Four River Valley Civilizations

- Mesopotamia, Egypt, Indus River Valley, China
- First to settle because of the access to fresh water and fertile soil.
- Fertile soil led to food surplus which led to job specialization.
- Most difficult challenge of river valley civilizations was managing flooding.

Mesopotamia

- Located in the 'Fertile Crescent' region between the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers.
- Built dams and levees to hold water during floods then irrigated with canals during dry seasons.
- Built using mud bricks.
- Used boats and the Persian Gulf to trade for resources they lacked, especially wood.





Greece

- Located on the Balkan Peninsula in the Mediterranean Sea.
- Rocky soil and a rugged, mountainous terrain led to:
 - Terrace farming.
 - Relying on the sea for fish and trade.
 - Many independent city states rather than one large, unified nation because of difficult travel.



Rome

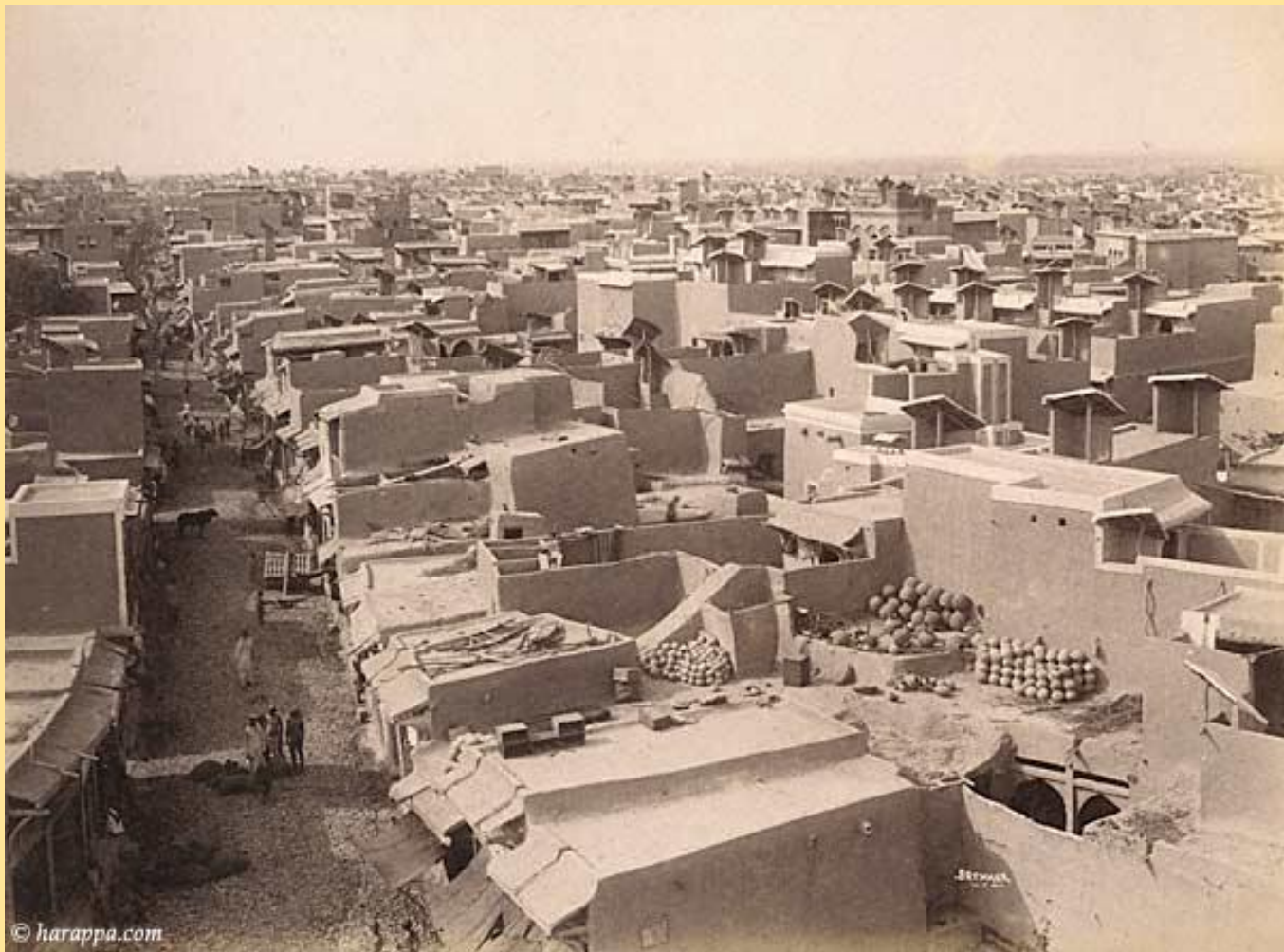
- Located on the Italian Peninsula in the Mediterranean Sea.
- Started along the Tiber River.
- Mediterranean Sea was Rome's most important physical feature because of its access to resources and trade.
- Apennine Mountains provided protection and fresh water that flowed into aqueducts.
- Aqueducts were canal 'ramps' that created a steady flow of water used for a plumbing/sewage system.
- Romans are known for movement and expansion by building extensive roads.





Indus River Valley

- Located in India along Indus and Ganges Rivers.
- Monsoons brought rainwater that allowed agriculture to develop in places other than near rivers.
- Cities were built in grid patterns with sewer systems.
- Buildings were built close together with flat roofs so they could climb on top and take advantage of breezes to stay cool.
- Thar Desert, Himalayan and Hindu Kush mountains offered protection.





China

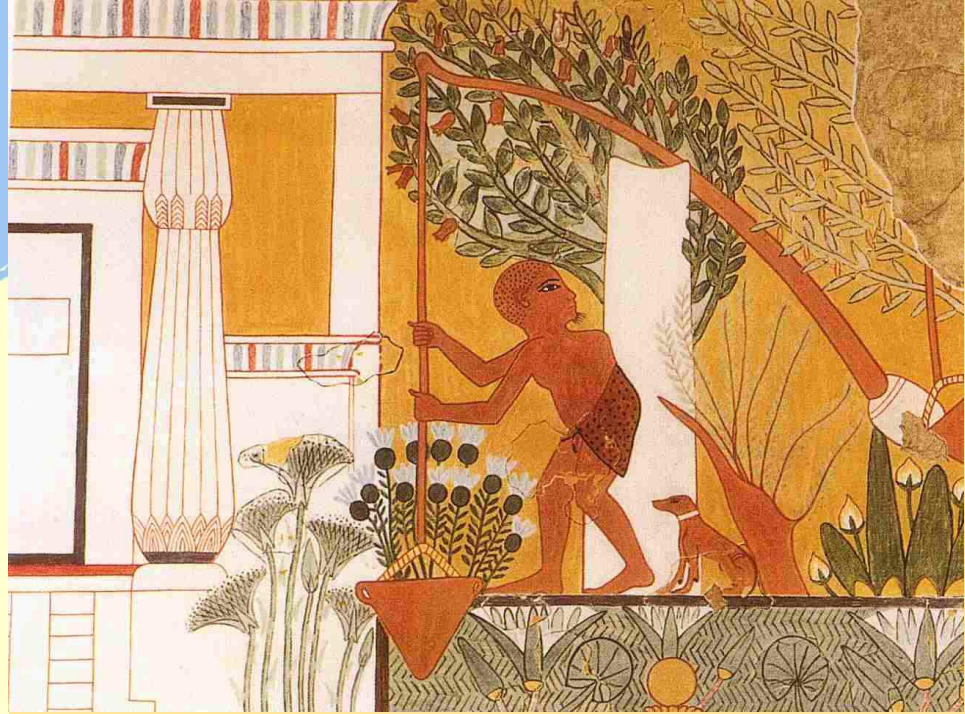
- Located in Asia along Huang He (Yellow) River and Chang Jiang
 - Rivers provided rich soil.
 - Yellow River known as China's Sorrow for the many people it killed, crops and settlements destroyed until they learned to manage flooding with canals.
- Taklamakan and Gobi Deserts, Himalayan Mountains offered protection but also restricted trade until the Silk Road developed.
- Used terrace farming to expand farmable land.
- North China Plain is where the majority of farmland was.



Egypt

- Located in Northern African region and Mediterranean region.
- Most cities developed along the Nile River because it provided fresh water and fertile soil inside deserts (protection) on either side.
- Nile delta, at the mouth of the river had the most fertile soil.
- Adapted to flooding by building canals. Used shadufs to relocate water.
- Access to the Mediterranean allowed for trade to develop.

Mediterranean Sea



Mayans



- Located on the Yucatan Peninsula in between the Gulf of Mexico in the Atlantic Ocean and the Pacific Ocean.
- Present day southern Mexico and parts of Central America.
- Geography varied:dry and arid, rainforests, swamps and the coastline.
- Little groundwater so modified by building underground reservoirs to store rainwater.
- Used slash and burn technique to increase farmable land.
 - Ash enriched the soil.





Aztecs

- Southern Mexico.
- Main physical challenge was that it was founded on a swampy island in the middle of Lake Texcoco.
- Adapted by building causeways, canals and chinampas.
 - Causeways-raised roads to get on/off the island.
 - Canals-criss-crossed city for trade and travel.
 - Chinampas-floating gardens made by piling soil on top of rafts made from reeds.





Incans

- Located in the Andes mountains in the western part of south america.
- Adapted by:
 - Building rope bridges to cross gorges.
 - Using a relay messenger system since travel was difficult.
 - Terrace farming.
 - Building using stone.
 - Using llamas and alpacas to transport goods.