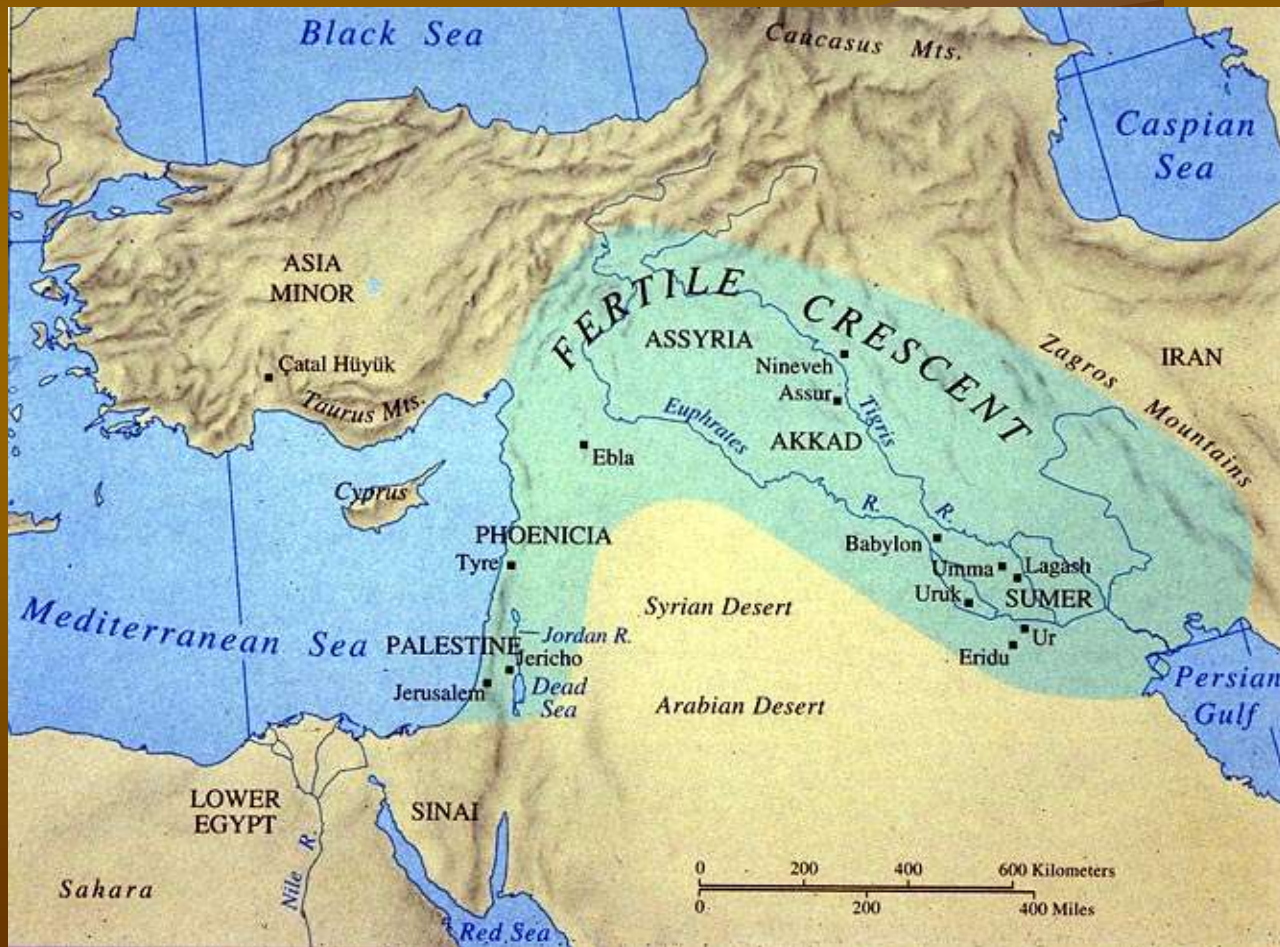


EARLY RIVER VALLEY CIVILIZATIONS

BRET ARATA &
ADAM AGAGAN

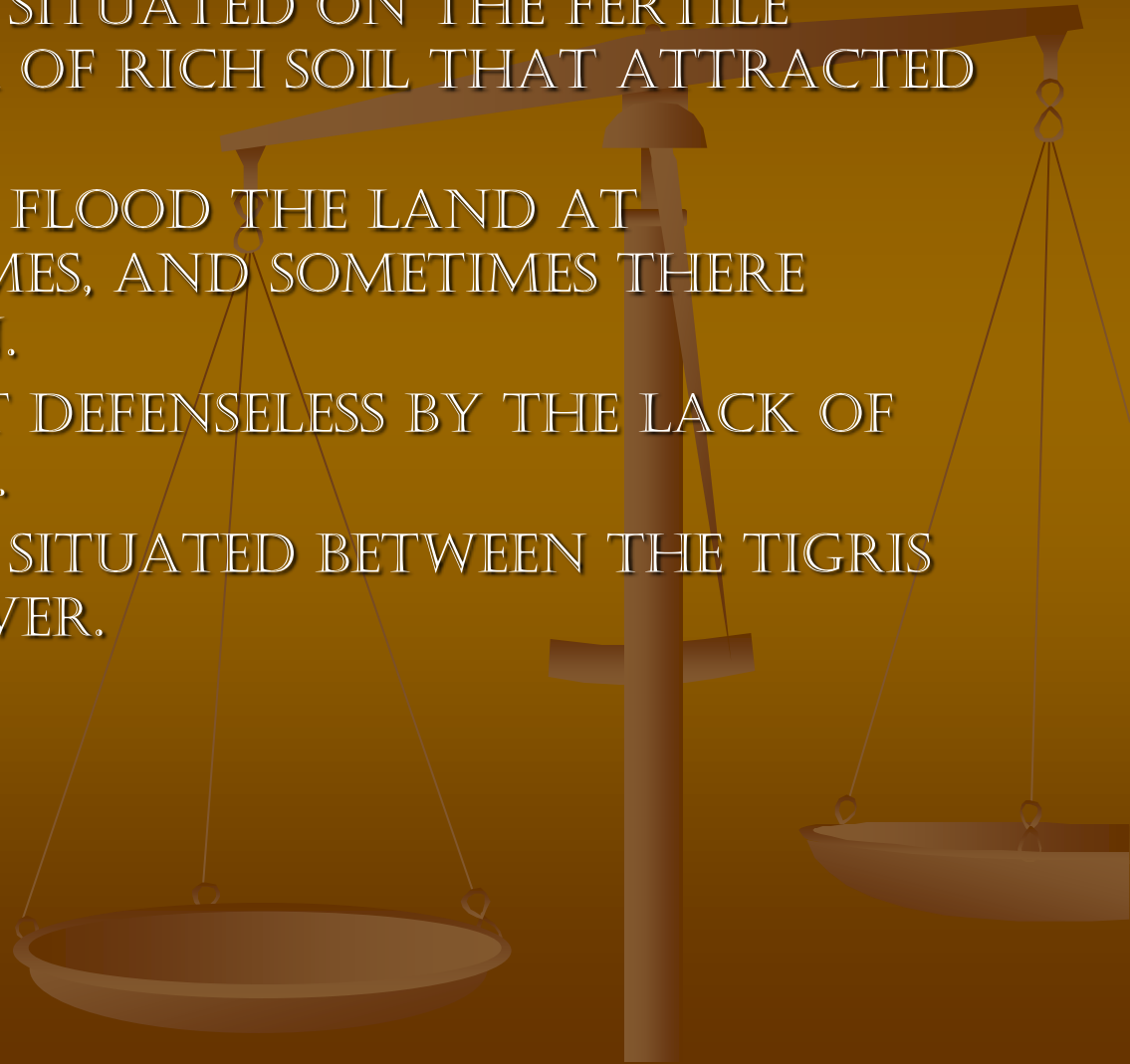
MESOPOTAMIA

■ 3600 B.C.–250 B.C.



ENVIRONMENT OF MESOPOTAMIA

- MESOPOTAMIA WAS SITUATED ON THE FERTILE CRESCENT, AN AREA OF RICH SOIL THAT ATTRACTED SETTLERS.
- THE RIVERS WOULD FLOOD THE LAND AT UNPREDICTABLE TIMES, AND SOMETIMES THERE WOULD BE NO RAIN.
- THE LAND WAS LEFT DEFENSELESS BY THE LACK OF NATURAL BARRIERS.
- MESOPOTAMIA WAS SITUATED BETWEEN THE TIGRIS AND EUPHRATES RIVER.



LIFE IN MESOPOTAMIA

- MESOPOTAMIANS WERE POLYTHEISTIC AND BELIEVED IN FOUR CREATOR GODS: AN, ENLIL, NIN-KHURSAG, AND ENKI.
- THEY WORSHIPPED AT TEMPLES CALLED ZIGGURATS, AS SHOWN IN THE PICTURE.
- EACH CITY-STATE WAS INDEPENDENT OF EACH OTHER. PRIESTS AND NOBLES RULED OVER ALL. RELIGION AND GOVERNMENT WERE INTERTWINED.



TECHNOLOGY AND UNIQUENESS

- SOME OF THE CONTRIBUTIONS TO TECHNOLOGY THAT MESOPOTAMIANS MADE WERE LEVEES, THE WHEEL, THE PLOW, THE SAIL, A CALENDAR, AND THE FIRST WRITTEN LANGUAGE.
- MESOPOTAMIA HAD THE FIRST CODE OF LAWS, HAMMURABI'S CODE. THIS CODE WAS BASED ON THE IDEA OF AN EYE FOR AN EYE. ALSO, MESOPOTAMIAN MEN USUALLY SPORTED A LONG, CURLY BEARD.



MESOPOTAMIAN CHALLENGES

- MESOPOTAMIA WAS ENVIRONMENTALLY CHALLENGED.
- THE TIGRIS AND EUPHRATES FLOODING WAS UNPREDICTABLE, FOLLOWED BY PERIODS OF DROUGHT.
- MESOPOTAMIA WAS LEFT WITH NO NATURAL DEFENSES.
- THE RESOURCES OF THIS REGION WERE REGIONALLY SPARSE.



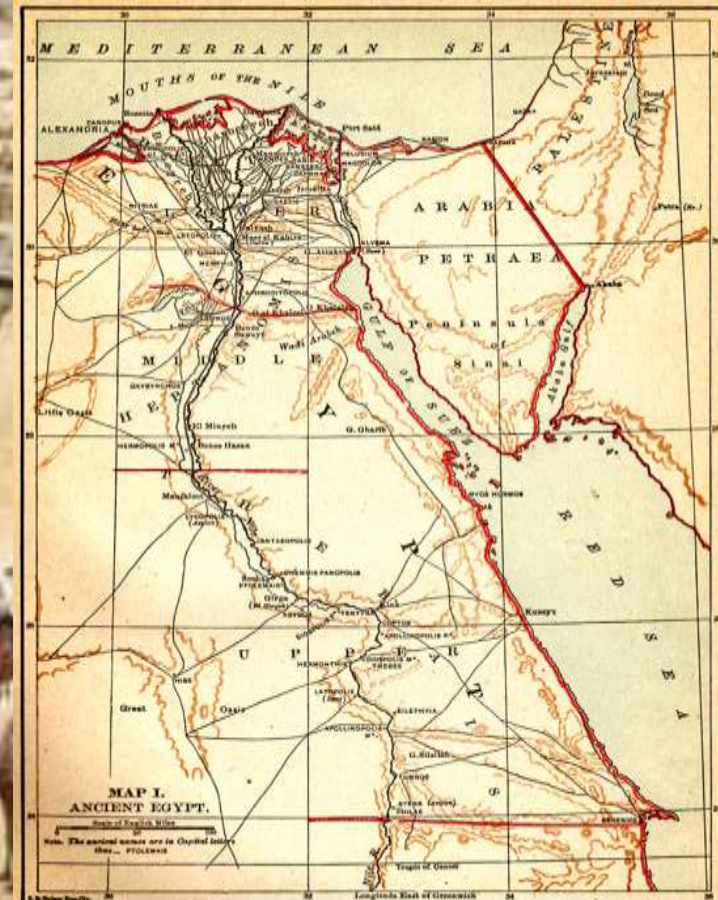
Egypt

(3000 B.C.-1523 B.C.)



Egyptian Map

- The Egyptian was situated along the Nile, in northeast Africa, hence the name “Gift of the Nile.” The Nile, over 4100 miles long, flows north into the Mediterranean Sea.
- Egypt was surrounded by harsh, unforgiving deserts on all sides, preventing much trade, but protecting the people within.
- If flooding was a little bit off the results would be catastrophic.



Egyptian Government



- The Egyptian government was a theocracy, ruled by a single person, the pharaoh.
- The pharaoh was seen as a god. The pharaoh was usually a male, but there has been female pharaohs of Egypt, such as Cleopatra and Hatshepsut.
- The word pharaoh means “great house”.

Egyptian Religion

- The Egyptians had a polytheistic religion, which means they worshiped more than one god or being.
- They believed in the after life, a place that they go to when they died. They weighed the heart of a deceased person to determine if they would have a good afterlife.
- They practiced mummification, the embalming of the corpses of the deceased

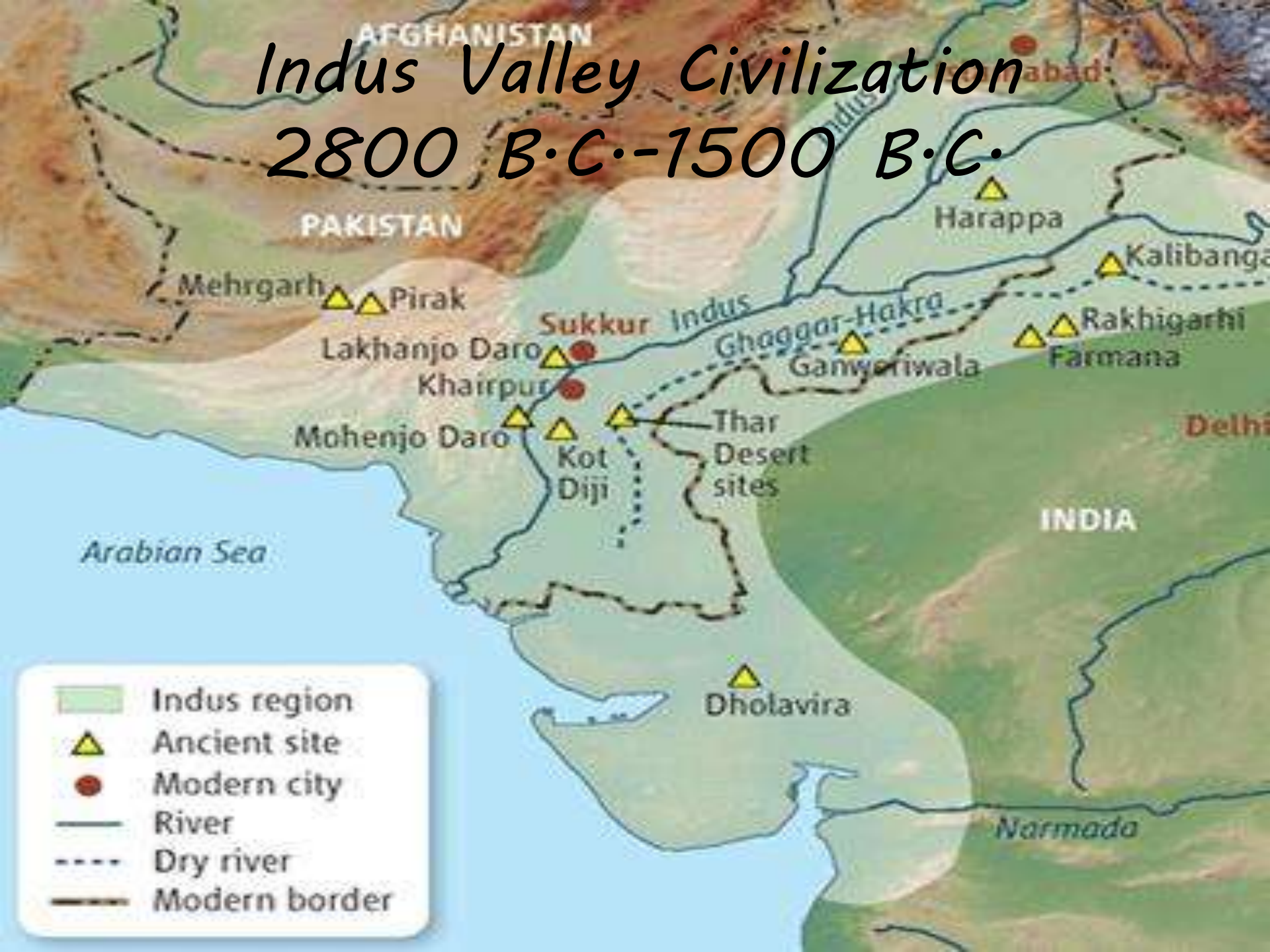


Egypt's Uniqueness



- The Egyptian doctors were the finest of the ancient world. They were well educated of the human anatomy.
- They knew how to check a person's pulse. They even knew to put a splint on a person's arm.
- They performed surgery in some cases. These doctors were very helpful in the process of mummification when it was used on dead people who had died.
- The Egyptians were the first to develop a calendar.
- They also developed mathematics and were known for their medicine.

Indus Valley Civilization 2800 B.C.-1500 B.C.



Indus Valley Environment

- The Indus valley was located in the subcontinent Asia minor. The two rivers that provided water to this civilization were the Ganges and Indus rivers.
- The cities in the Harappan civilization were organized in to a grid-like landscaping.



Indus Valley Government and Religion

- Archeologist think that the government of the civilization was a theocracy.*
- From the excavations and artifacts found in the civilization, archeologists and historians have guessed that the religion of the Indus is connected to modern-day Hinduism.*



Indus Technology and Uniqueness

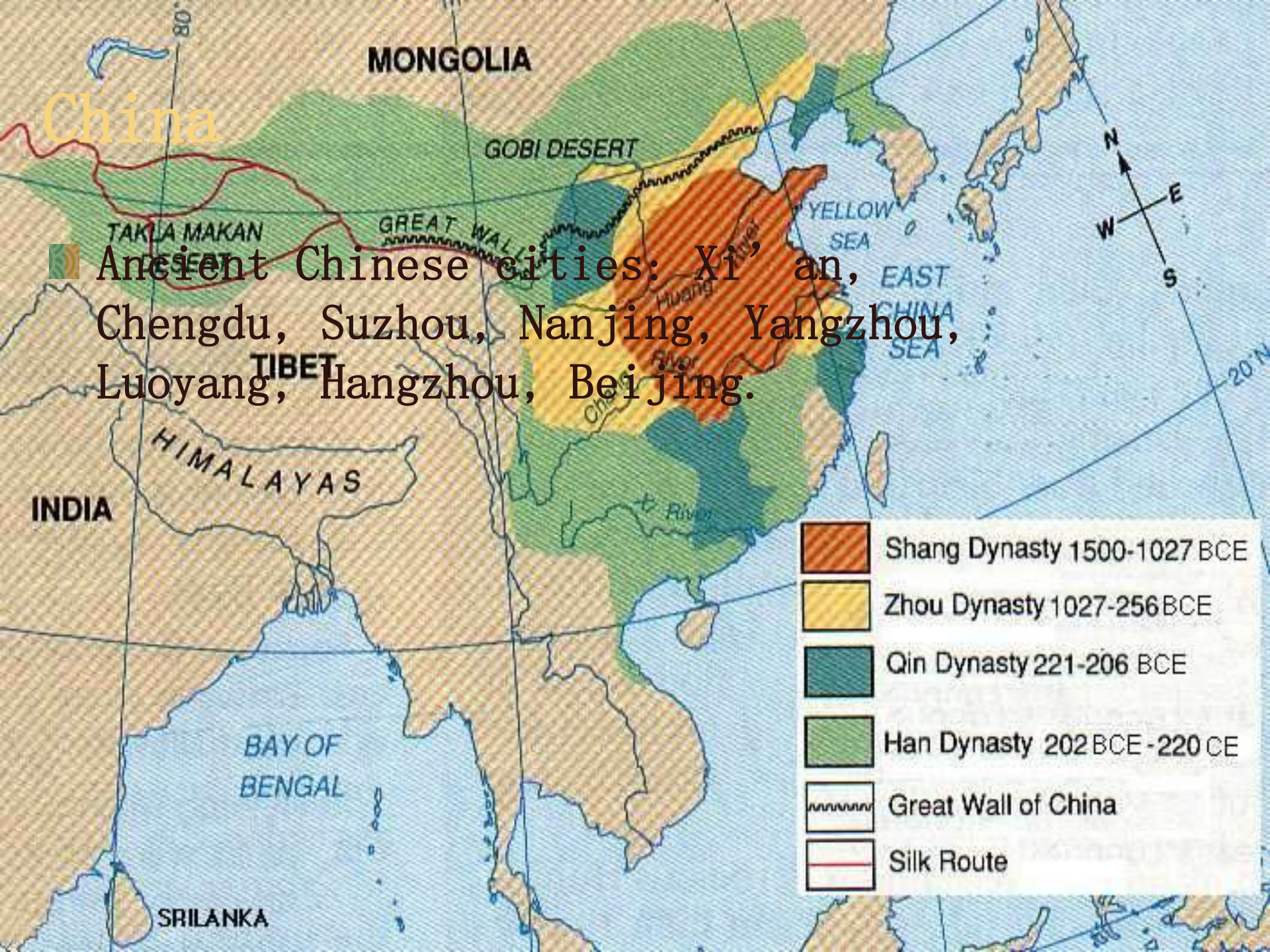
- The Indus valley civilization is known for their organization of their cities, which was way beyond their time.*
- They were the first to develop a system of indoor plumbing.*
- The written language of the Indus Valley has not been deciphered by archeologists.*



Harappan Environmental Challenges

- *Environmental challenges that the civilization faced were unpredictable flow of the two rivers, the timing of the monsoon wind that helped provide a good harvest time.*





China

Ancient Chinese cities: Xi'an, Chengdu, Suzhou, Nanjing, Yangzhou, Luoyang, Hangzhou, Beijing.

- Shang Dynasty 1500-1027 BCE
- Zhou Dynasty 1027-256 BCE
- Qin Dynasty 221-206 BCE
- Han Dynasty 202 BCE - 220 CE
- Great Wall of China
- Silk Route

Chinese Government

- China was a monarchy, ruled by an emperor.
- The emperor was part of a royal family, hence they had dynasties.
- The first dynasty was the Xia dynasty.
- Other dynasties include, but are not limited to, the Shang and Zhou dynasties



Chinese Environment

- Ancient China was nestled in between the Huang He and the Yangtze rivers.
- The Chinese faced unpredictable flooding from the Huang He, isolation from trade, and invasions from the north and west.



Chinese Religion

- Family was closely tied with religion.
- The Chinese used oracle bones to consult the gods on questions in their lives.
- The spirits of deceased family influenced good fortune upon members of the living family.



China's Uniqueness

- China developed a system of writing where no matter what language you spoke in China, they all used the same symbols.
- The Chinese built roads and canals for trade, invented coin money, and used blast furnaces to smelt iron.
- The Chinese developed a system of feudalism, in which nobles are granted land belonging to the king.

