

# Mesopotamia

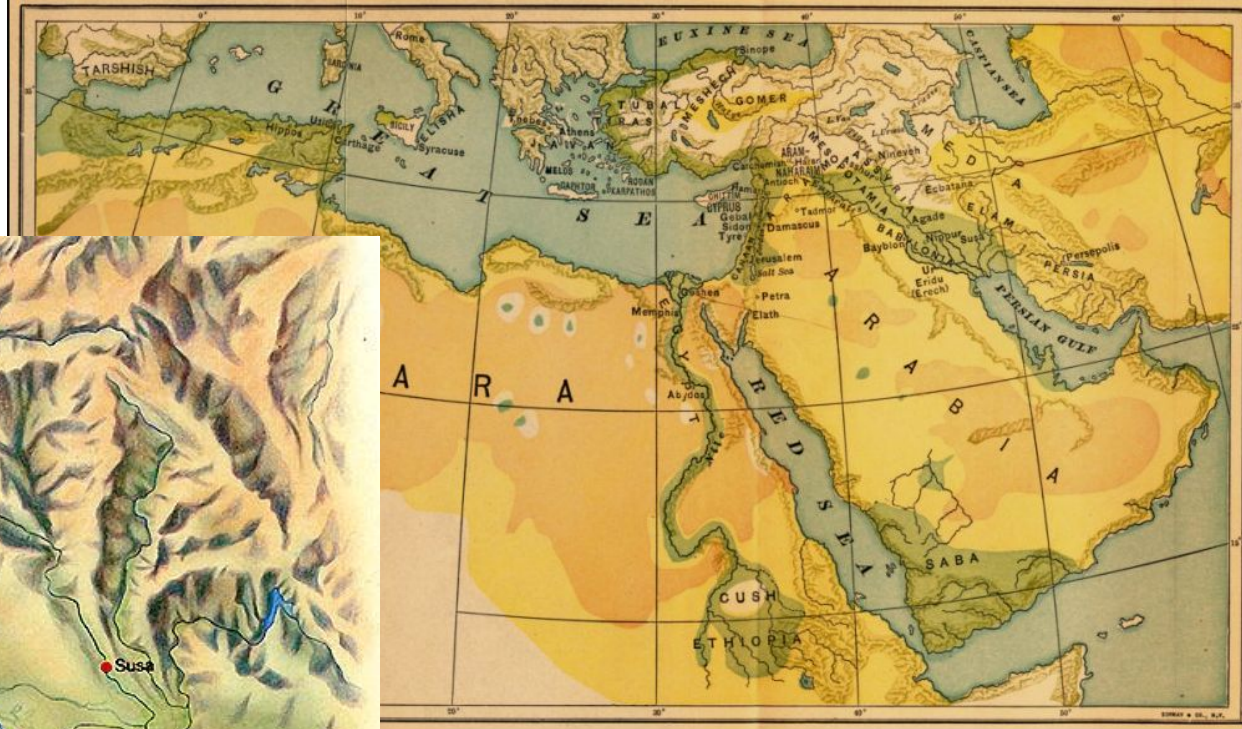
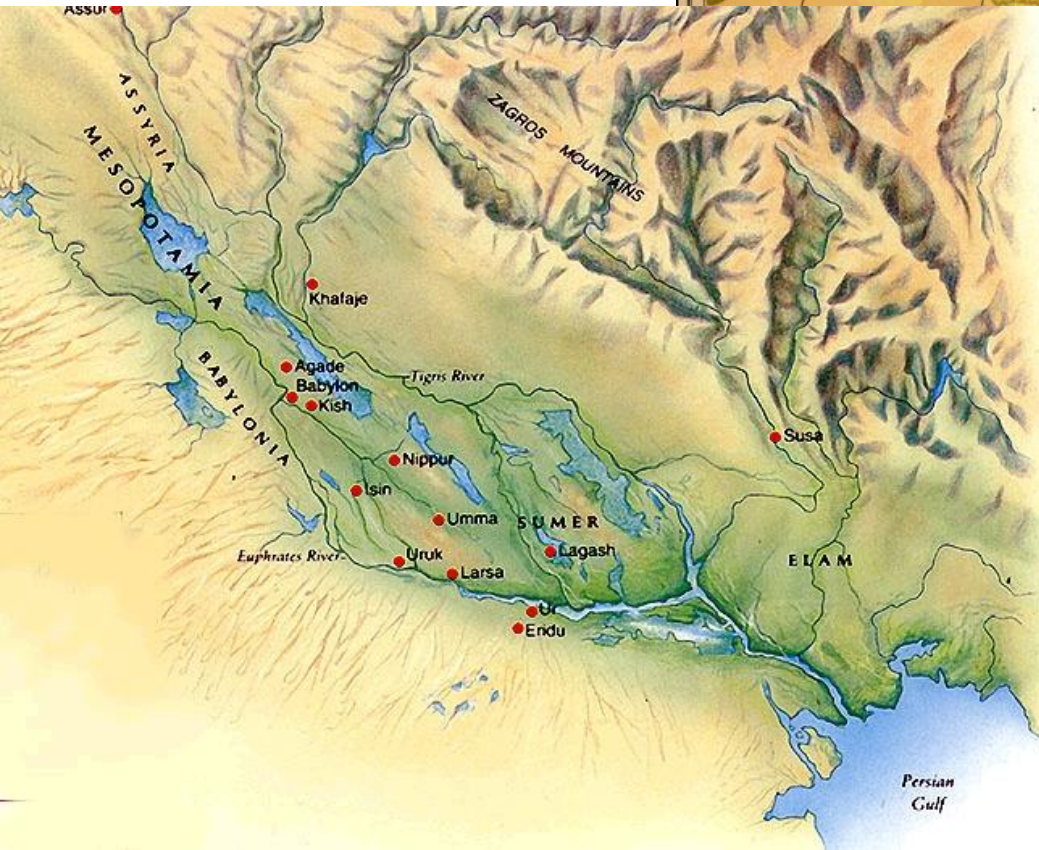


5,000 years ago, in the Middle east came the first cities (ever)





# Fertile land



# Mesopotamia = “between two rivers”



Euphrates River



Tigris River



# Agriculture!

The land between these two rivers was **rich**

Crops grew **easily** and in bounty

Agriculture lead to ability for population to **explode**



# Cities created through sharing

Shared **crops** (food). This system allowed for a new **class**: workers.

workers:

- **builders**,
- metal workers,
- merchants

Finally you can be something other than a **farmer**!

We call this **urbanism**





# Ex. Uruk (city)

Early city in Mesopotamia

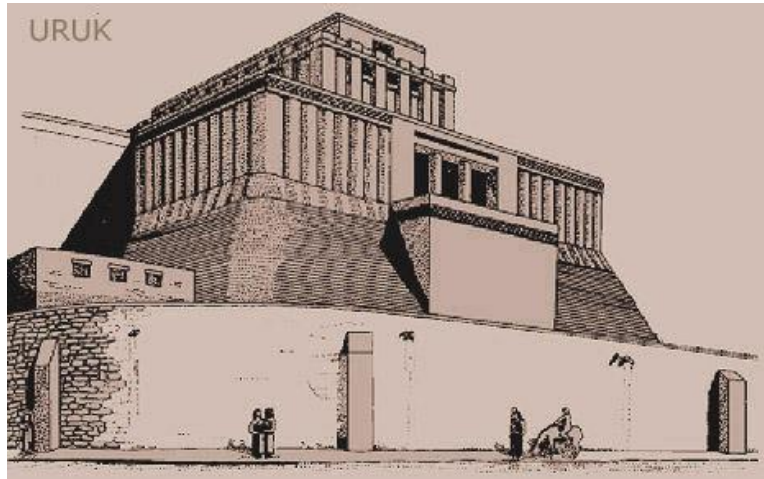
Rich soil (**agriculture**) and sharing society allowed for dense population (**urbanization**).



# Ex. Uruk (city)

Early city in Mesopotamia

Created temples called Ziggurats



Priests had power. Why?

Mesopotamian gods **angry and mean** - once destroyed civilization using a flood because people were making too much noise

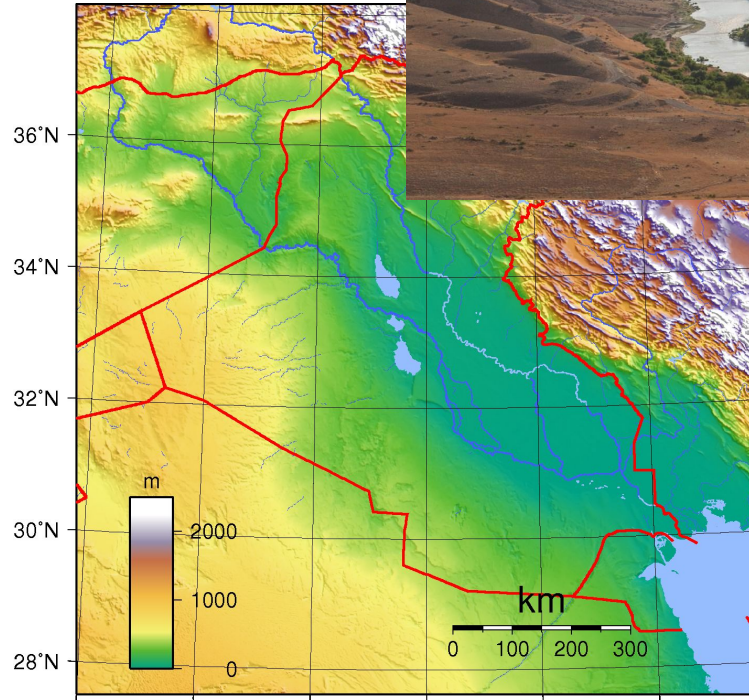
Priests were trusted with **keeping these gods happy**



# More on floods

Sumerians thought it was **gods** who caused flooding

Science tells us that the region was **prone** to **random** flooding because the land was so **low**.



Tigris river



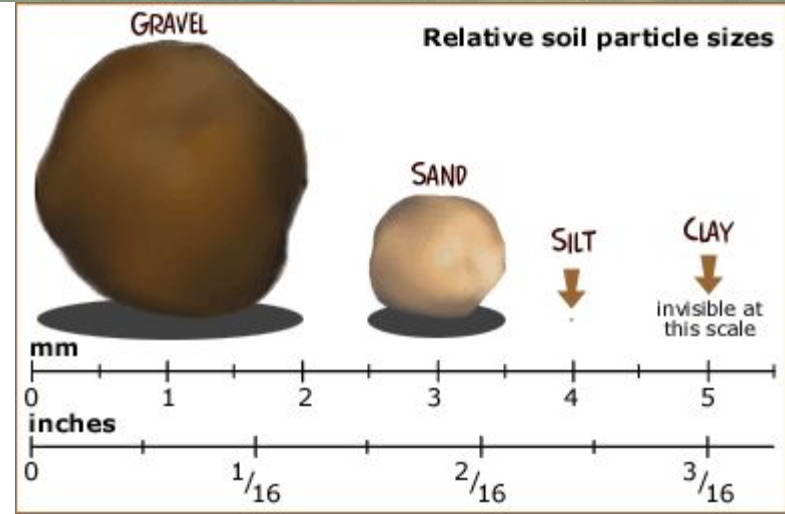
# Floods are not all bad

Floods are what made Mesopotamia so great in the first place!

The frequent and random flooding covered the land in silt

Silt is nutrient rich soil

This made agriculture so easy in Mesopotamia!





# Recap

With the person beside you, answer the following questions:

Where did the first civilizations start?

---

What cause population to explode?

---

How did the environment help agriculture?

---

The first cities contained many buildings and features that made it unique. In the space below, draw a map or picture of an early city. Be sure to include at least 3 of the following: *Town center, Ziggurat, a river, walls, farmland, houses/buildings*

