

1: Ancient Civilizations (SW Asia)

The earliest urban societies emerged during the early fourth millennium BCE, in southwest Asia, particularly in Mesopotamia. As people came together into larger cities, they sought a way to resolve conflicts, and began to recognize political authorities.

This led to the development of literate, urban complex societies. Small sites, home to 2000 people, are characterized by circular buildings, painted pottery, female figurines, stone stamp seals, obsidian objects, and clay sling bullets. Draft animals enabled deep plowing, a dairy-rich diet may have increased female fertility, while increased morbidity from infectious diseases in the warmer climate may have encouraged higher birthrates. A few sites are much larger. Evidence for trade includes pottery production centers at Arpachiyah Iraq and Chagar Bazar Syria, and obsidian from sources in central and eastern Turkey. Evidence for warfare is minimal, but stone wrist-guards and sling missiles indicate either hunting or conflict, or both. There are no clear Halaf ritual buildings, and burial treatments vary widely. Female figurines may indicate fertility concerns. Social stratification is minimal. Early stone stamp seals and sealings suggest that some people felt it necessary to control or proclaim ownership, a trend that increased through time. Simultaneous with Halaf development, Lower Mesopotamia was first settled, aided by bc by irrigation canals leading from the Euphrates. Sites from this era, the Ubaid period after Tell al-Ubaid, Iraq are found earliest in Lower Mesopotamia, later spreading into adjacent regions, exemplified by substantial buildings, grain storage, and pottery. Many aspects of later Mesopotamian civilization originate in the Ubaid: Surpluses of cereals, flour, fish, wool, and textiles were consumed by temples as offerings or redistributed to temple-workers, or used as capital by temple-sponsored commercial and trade entrepreneurs. By the later 4th millennium bc, tens of thousands of people at Uruk were served by temples, administrative buildings occupied by priests and officials, open spaces for gatherings or worship, specialized craft production zones, and ordinary housing. The Invention of Writing Pre-writing systems involved tokens and seals, slowly developing into an accounting system. Texts include economic and administrative records dealing with grain, flocks, and land; lists of professions, city or place names, and types of animals. The earliest are found only at Uruk, suggesting its origin place. Cuneiform remained in use until around the time of Christ. Another administrative technology was the cylinder seal, impressed into clay to identify parties in administrative activity and control access to containers and storerooms. During the Early Dynastic period 2500 bc, independent city-states each controlled an agricultural hinterland. Cuneiform king-lists first appear, as do economic, religious, literary, and lexical texts in the Sumerian language. Canal construction and maintenance was performed by urban authorities. Food and textiles comprised local trade, while metals, semi-precious stones, and woods were obtained from Iran, Anatolia, the Levant, and the Persian Gulf. Despite independent status, these interactive Sumerian polities shared similar material culture. Sargon of Akkad 2300 bc created this empire by conquering Sumerian cities, Upper Mesopotamia, southeast Anatolia, and southwest Iran. The Akkadian empire collapsed into a period of regionalization, out of which the Third Dynasty of Ur, or Ur III Empire, emerged, controlling the region from 2000 bc, reviving Sumerian culture with a ziggurat, temples, royal tombs, and a large bureaucratic administration. Ruling from Susa, where monumental buildings and inscriptions were produced, Elamite kings held control for some decades. A region-wide disintegration affected Southwest Asia at the end of the 3rd millennium BC. This suggests a common factor, possibly climate change. Additionally, the high degree of economic integration between these early polities may have created a domino effect. Mesopotamian kings, including Hammurabi of Babylon, traced their origins to the Amorites, Semitic desert intruders. Transcaucasian migrations began in the early 3rd millennium bc and by 2000 bc, Hurrian communities of the Mittani state dotted Upper Mesopotamia. Amorite kingdoms were established at Babylon, Kish, and Uruk. Larsa, ruled by king Rim-Sin 1800 bc, at first dominated them. Upper Mesopotamia and the Levant The city of Mari, before its destruction by Hammurabi, lay at a key position on east-west and north-south trade routes. The Levantine Middle Bronze Age saw a reversal of earlier urban decline, with evidence for fortification and temple-building, trade and commerce. Archaeological investigation of the Hittite capital, Hattusa Turkey, is

ongoing. Over 10, texts have come from temples and the royal citadel. The proto-Hittites arrived around bc, when there is evidence for incursions of new peoples. The Hittite empire collapsed c. Excavations uncovered a palace, clay tablets, an acropolis with two temples, and a city with two-storied elite houses. For years, the Mittani state was regionally dominant, populated largely by ethnic Hurrians. From then until the late 14th century bc, little is known. After this, Ashur rose to dominance as the Assyrian capital. A series of powerful rulers extended territory, trade, and control. Kassite Babylonia After Babylon fell in bc, the Kassites rose there, and Babylon was capital of a larger region called Babylonia. Under Kassite rule 1762-1155 bc, Babylonia was stable. Conflicts with Assyria and Elam and raids by Aramaean pastoralists led to end of the Kassites between 1155-1100 bc. A dark age lasted up to years. Iron was scarce until about bc, when steel technology was adopted. Among the Sea Peoples active c. Their Aegean origins are seen in locally made but Mycenaean-style pottery found in early site levels. Philistine cities engaged in large-scale trade, especially with Egypt. Phoenician cities in the central Levant such as Tyre and Sidon Lebanon exported produce, timber, purple dye and supplied elite manufactured goods to Assyrian and Israelite rulers, and beyond. They developed an alphabet before bc that inspired Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek. They maintained Late Bronze Age architectural traditions, royal names, and hieroglyphic script. As elsewhere, increasing dominance by Assyria was a concern, and in the late 8th century bc all the Neo-Hittite states were destroyed or conquered by the Assyrian king Tiglath-pileser III.

2: ancient southeast asian civilizations

Asia Southwest Asia indigenous peoples of the Orissa Ati woman, the Philippines, The Negritos were the earliest inhabitants of Southeast Asia.

Several Asian nations face many of those problems. Although its annual growth rate of 1. Some of the Asian nations are growing at even higher rates than the average for Asia, particularly in Southwest Asia. Growth of population in Asia: A little over six billion people inhabit our planet today; more than 60 percent of which live in Asia. During the medieval times both countries grew rather slowly and erratically responding periodically to famines, wars, and times of prosperity. China and India crossed the one-billion mark in In as North America was first being settled by Europeans there were already more people in Asia than there are in North America today. Most of the growth will be in South Asia where population will leap from 1. The rate in East Asia, for example, is less than half that of Southwest Asia, whereas East Asia registered lowest rates. The annual rate of population increase is a function of the prevailing fertility and mortality patterns. There are, however, marked variations in the Muslim nations of Southeast Asia as well, for example, Indonesia or Malaysia, which have non-Muslim minorities, birth rates tend to be lower. Given the high birth rates, and generally low death rates in Southwest Asia, their rates of population increase among the highest in the world. Within Asia there are significant variations in population distribution. With a few exceptions Cambodia, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, and Turkmenistan these nations are small in area as well. But the absolute or total population figure may also give an inadequate picture of population pressure. The statistical density for the land area of the world is about persons a sq mile 42 per sq km. The figure for Asia rises to a sq. However, such averages have little practical value. For example, they include figures for un-productive mountains and wastelands as well. The concept of average density of population is practically un-illuminating for Asia as a whole, as a large part of the continent consists of land that discourages settlement—hot deserts, high plateaus and rugged mountains. Japan and a few of the Middle East countries are the exceptions. Japan can maintain a very high level of well-being by exporting manufactured items to world markets competitively and Persian Gulf countries by exporting their valuable resource of oil. The notable examples are: Significantly, an important factor to note is that population densities have been, in general, on the increase everywhere in the continent, as elsewhere in the world. The Structure of Population: Young people and women are treated differently than the old people. The proportions of people at these ages will inevitably affect the working of society. An interesting demographic fact is that male babies outnumber the females at birth. In economically developed nations, where maternal mortality is low and where infant girls receive as much care as do the male infants, the male death rates are higher than those of the females at every stage of life. The numerical excess of male at birth is, in consequence, gradually reduced until females outnumber males in the older age-groups. The main reason is the comparative neglect and poor treatment of the females in most of Asia. In Baharain they are 59 percent of the population, and in Kuwait This excessive predominance of males in these nations is unusual, although the major reason is the presence of a large number of immigrant male workers from South and Southeast Asian countries who are employed in these oil-rich nations. In several other nations males also outnumber the females e. Nepal that contains sizable Muslim minorities. Japan envoys now one of the highest longevity-rates in the world. Nearly 15 percent of its population is 65 or over in age. Population Policies in Asia: Some of the countries had just gained independence, and were faced with economic reconstruction at a time when mounting population pressures rendered their task difficult. India became the first major nation to adopt a public policy aimed at achieving reductions in birth rates in when the government formulated its first five-year plan Its rate of population increase now approximates that of the western nations at 0. These policies in general, have been successful. The abortion laws were liberalized and measures taken by the government to offer disincentives to families with more than two children.

3: Population in Asia: Growth, Distribution, Structure and Other Details

Early Societies in Southwest Asia Mesopotamia (from the Greek: "between the Rivers") refers to the fertile lands in the valleys of the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers. It receives little rainfall, but the rivers themselves often flood and bring large amounts of fresh water into the area.

Siltation at the mouth of the Huang He extended the length of the river by about 35 km 20 miles between and Throughout the loessial uplands, some 40 million Chinese still live in cave-like or subterranean dwellings that are an especially appropriate response to the peculiar nature of loess and the absence of alternative building materials such as timber. Chang Jiang Yangzi River. The flow of the Chang Jiang is some 20 times greater than that of the Huang He. It is in the middle course of the Chang Jiang that the controversial Three Gorges Dam project is being constructed. Increasing clean energy, controlling floods, and stimulating economic development are but a few of objectives of the dam. Below the Three Gorges Dam are the great flood plains of the Chang Jiang as well as the major tributaries on its north and south banks. At the mouth of the river is the great and productive Yangzi delta and metropolitan Shanghai. With the completion of this project, disastrous floods are expected to be eliminated. The second worst flood of the past years struck the Chang Jiang valley in Summer and affected million people, killing some , and leaving 14 million homeless. On the adjacent infrared image, the extensive flooded area is shown in blue, other water areas in black, vegetation in red, and clouds in white. Zhu Jiang Pearl River Delta. Situated in Guangdong province just to the north of Hong Kong and Macao, the delta of the Zhu Jiang is the most significant farming area in southeastern China. Some regard it as one of the most productive and sustainable ecosystems in the world because of its integrated dike-rice paddy-fish pond agricultural system. Between and , land reclamation along the banks of the river and along the coast added farm land and space for fish ponds as well as created space for rapidly expanding settlements. Early Civilizations Looking at the map of historical borders and the map showing the major rivers highlights the important fact that the earliest hearths of Chinese civilization developed along its river valleys. The Shang dynasty c. Mountains and Deserts The west of China is comprised of mountains and deserts as well as plateaus that do not provide much arable land for agriculture. Throughout most of history, the civilization that grew up to the east in what is today China was not surrounded by other nearby major civilizations. To this extent the Chinese were "isolated" from competing civilizations although there was a broad and fluid frontier zone on the western margins. This geographical fact is important to remember when discussing the Western encroachment on China from the sea during the late imperial period. Although the mountains and deserts of the west limited contact between early imperial dynasties and other centers of civilization in the Inner Asia, Middle East, South Asia, and Europe, there were some important and notable exchanges of culture. The legendary Silk Road facilitated the exchange of goods and ideas between China and each of these areas. Historical Borders Like many other countries, the historical borders of china have varied over time. Bordering Nations China is at the core of a cultural sphere or region known as East Asia. The large number of countries with which China shares borders makes Chinese foreign policy especially complex unlike the U. Great Wall, Grand Canal, Terracing and Irrigation The Chinese attempted to correct perceived "deficiencies" in their physical geography by building massive civil engineering projects that would help bring about unity and provide defense as well as by countless smaller scale efforts at modifying their physical landscapes. Early walled ramparts were constructed of rammed or tamped earth. The brick-faced walls seen today were built much later during the Ming dynasty Although not a single continuous wall, the Great Wall and its associated military encampments and guard posts figured in attempts by many dynasties to manage the nomadic peoples, sometime referred to as "barbarians," who lived north of it on the grasslands or steppes. For the most part, the Great Wall should be viewed as a zone of transition " rather than a fixed border " between farming areas with sedentary villages and pasture lands with nomadic lifestyles. Constructed around AD to serve commercial as well as military considerations, the canal was extended several times, most notably to the Hangzhou in and eventually in to Dadu, the great Mongol Yuan dynasty capital. During the Ming and Qing dynasties which followed the Mongol dynasty, the Grand Canal ensured that Beijing, the great successor imperial capitals to Dadu, had

sufficient grain from the southern rice bowl areas. The Grand Canal is the longest artificial waterway in the world and has a long history of barge traffic along its course. Although many parts of it fell into disrepair over the years, today it is still possible to traverse the man-made Grand Canal from Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province northward km to Beijing. These human modifications traditionally focused on terracing hill slopes and controlling water via irrigation as well as reclaiming marginal land. In managing natural resources and expanding opportunities for the production of food, the Chinese have reclaimed, even created, land that in many areas of the world would have been considered impossible to farm. Creating level land through terracing of hill slopes. Throughout the rugged areas of northern and southern China, farmers over the centuries have sculpted the hilly land into step-like landscapes of terraces. Sometimes terraces are relatively natural features that need only be modified in order to produce level areas for planting, while in others extraordinary efforts must be carried out to move earth and rock, stabilize retaining walls, and create sluices for controlling the flow of water. Drainage control and water storage are as important as the level land itself.

4: Chinese Geography: Readings and Maps | Asia for Educators | Columbia University

Melting glaciers covered the land bridge between East Asia and the Americas with water, physically separating the inhabitants of these two worlds. Early humans in the Americas: adapted to different ecological niches and created new subsistence strategies.

The land between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers is called Mesopotamia. This land is very fertile. The agricultural development influences villages far away from Mesopotamia. As well as rich in agriculture, Mesopotamia is also rich in culture. The cultural ideas of the Mesopotamian lands spread to other lands and were used as precedents for other cultures. The Mesopotamians produce wheat, rye, barley, vegetables, fruits, and domesticate animals as well. The different agricultural products of Mesopotamia aid other countries and areas in their economy. Deserts, steppes, and mountains dominate the physical environment in Southwest Asia. Except for the Mediterranean coasts, this is a realm of very low and highly variable annual precipitation, searing daytime heat and chilling nighttime cold, and strong winds and dust-laden air. Soils are thin and mountain slopes carry little vegetation. Water brings exceptions to these conditions along the coasts, rivers, and in oases and qanats. Qanats are tunnels dug into water bearing rock strata at an angle, so that the water drains to the surface. Southwest Asia can best be summed up as a B climate, desert and steppe, with the Arabian Peninsula being the driest with an average rain fall of four inches a year. The Arabic language is the most common spoken language throughout the realm, although in many areas of the realm it is not used by most of the people. Turkey, Iran and Israel do not speak Arabic and they each have their own language. Southwest Asia is dominated by the Islamic religion with the exception of Israel, which is Jewish, and Lebanon, which is Christian. He was on a mission, sent by God, to spread the new religion across the world. The religion continued after his death in and spread into Africa, Asia, and Europe. Today, the Islamic faith has reached more than 1 billion followers throughout the world and extends well beyond the limits of Southwest Asia. The two primary groups of Islam are the Shiites and the Sunni. They both follow the teachings of Muhammad and the Quran. The Quran is compared to the Bible of the Christian religion. Shiites do not agree with the Sunni because they feel every decision should be made on what the Quran says and they believe in following a blood family member of the prophet Muhammad. The Sunni have a more governmental view and are not as strict as the Shiites on the teachings of the Quran. The Islamic faith requires all Muslims to follow the "Five Pillars: Mecca is a place where thousands of culturally different people meet and have something in common: Islam set out to give the Arabian world a faith that was universal. Islam wanted all of its followers to be unified. In the Islamic religion the followers could feel good about themselves. Different actions were strongly discouraged, for example: Even though the Muslims discouraged drinking and other things, polygamy was not forbidden. Monogamous couples were praised. After this occasion, the religion split into two resulting into two subdivisions: The development of Southwest Asia has been slowed by wars over territories, religion differences, and by the lack of resources in some countries. Oil is the biggest resource in Southwest Asia. Industry and manufacturing are the major part of the economy of Israel and Turkey, because they have very little oil. Israel is the most prosperous nation with the least amount of resources. Some of the smaller countries, located along the Persian Gulf, have become very rich from the exportations of oil. Iraq is endowed with natural resources and has major oil reserves and large areas of irrigated farmland. Iraq is bounded by as many as six neighbors, and has recently had adversarial relationships with most of them. The heart of Iraq is the area centered on the capital, Baghdad, situated on the Tigris River amid the productive farmlands of the Tigris-Euphrates Plain. With its good agricultural land and its enormous oil income, Iraq should be one of the economic success stories of the entire realm. Syria has a population around 16 million with 75 percent of them Sunni Muslim. Syria is not a democracy. Since it has been a republic under a military regime. Syria has a Mediterranean coastline where nonirrigated agriculture is possible. Its population exceeds 2 million. Syria has good cotton and wheat growing areas in the northwest around the Orontes River, which is the main source of irrigation water. In the eastern part of the country, the Euphrates River valley is the crucial lifeline. Syria earns substantial revenue from its cotton exports, but oil earns most of the income. Jordan has a

population of about 4. It has suffered heavily since the creation of Israel in 1948. Soon after, Jordan found itself responsible for another half million Palestinians who were forced to leave Israel. Jordan has survived by help from the U.S. The war with Israel was disastrous for Jordan, which lost the West Bank as well as its sector of Jerusalem. Amman is the capital city of Jordan, and it reflects the limitations and poverty of the country. Jordan has no oil, very little farmland and very little unity and strength. Lebanon must import much of its staple food, wheat. The coastal belt below the mountains, though intensively cultivated, cannot produce enough grain to feed the population. The country began to fall apart in 1975 when a civil war broke out between the Muslims and the Christians. Beirut, the capital city, has had a very hard time surviving. It approached total destruction during the late 1970s. Today, Beirut has embarked on a long rebuilding process and its population, now at 2 million, lies at the very heart of the Arab world. The population is about 5 million with the Jewish religion dominating the country. With the help of foreign aid, large remittances by Jews living in other parts of the world, and the energies of its settlers, Israel has become a high-income society in the midst of comparative poverty. Israel has many conflicts with its surrounding neighbors and is working on peace agreements. The conflict Israel has to deal with is religion. Israel and its Islamic neighbors are constantly at a conflict.

Arabian Peninsula As a region, the Arabian Peninsula is environmentally dominated by a desert habitat and politically dominated by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Saudi Arabia has a population of 20 million and is dominated by the Islamic religion, as is the rest of the peninsula. Most of the country is desert, with an annual rainfall of 4 inches. The rainfall is slightly higher in the mountains near the Red Sea. Here are some forms of agriculture with coffee as the cash crop. These mountains also contain deposits of gold, silver and metals which the Saudis hope to add to their large amounts of oil in the east, to diversify their exports. Saudi Arabia is also the home to Mecca and Medina, the two major religious cities of Islam. Many countries on the Arabian Peninsula are very small and located on the Persian Gulf and are also very prosperous due to large amounts of oil. This makes it one of the richest nations in the world with a GNP of 24 billion dollars. It is located at the head of the Persian Gulf. It is a small country with all its income coming from oil. Bahrain is an island state with dwindling oil reserves. Qatar has a population of thousand on a peninsula jutting out into the Persian Gulf. It is a sandy wasteland made habitable by oil and natural gas. The sheik is an absolute monarch in each of the emirates. Two of the emirates dominate the oil supply, Abu Dhabi and Dubai. The total population of the UAE is about 2 million. Oman is also an absolute monarchy centered on the capital city of Muscat. Oman consists of two parts, the large eastern corner of the peninsula and a small but critical cape to the north, the Musandam Peninsula. This protrudes into the Persian Gulf to form the Hormuz Strait. Oman has a population of 2 million. Yemen was recently formed from North and South Yemen to form a multiparty, secular, democratic state, the only one in the region. Its economy is by far the weakest, with very limited oil production. Its ongoing conflict with Saudi Arabia and their disagreements in territorial borders spells trouble for Yemen in the future.

Oil Production As you can see above, oil plays a large part in the economy and well being of the Arabian Peninsula. The countries of the Arabian Peninsula have high incomes and high standards of living. The industrialization and modernization are both due to the oil industry. Arabia is able to modernize its capitals and other religious and precious monuments. The Empire States Turkey is a mountainous country of generally moderate relief and considerable environmental diversity ranging from steppe to highland. Coastal plains are limited in size, but they are productive and densely populated.

5: Origins of agriculture - Early development | www.enganchecubano.com

earliest inhabitants of South Asia, Southeast Asia, and China; and (6) an appraisal of the so-called "Out-of-Africa 1" model describing the earliest colonization of Asia around Ma or earlier. The second part.

An Arid climate receives less than 10 inches of precipitation rain, sleet, or snow. Arid areas are usually covered in desert and often experience very high temperatures. This region was not always covered in desert. Ancient Mesopotamia was a green land where many plants grew due to the rich soil and occasional rain. The rich plant life allowed many animals to live in this region. People living here hunted and gathered the animals and plants. Ancient Mesopotamia and the surrounding area is often called the Fertile Crescent or the Cradle of Civilization. The Tigris and Euphrates rivers supplied fresh water for humans, plants, and animals. Eventually these rivers would provide irrigation for the farms of the first civilization in human history. Around 8,000 BCE, people began to slowly discover that planting a seed would make a new plant grow—the beginning of farming! The main reason farming probably began in this region is because Southwest Asia had several types of wild grain that can be farmed—we still use them today! The slow process of taking a plant from the wild and turning it into a farm crop is called domestication. Farmers in Mesopotamia grew barley, wheat, lentils, chickpeas, onions, garlic, dates, and lettuce. Not every plant can be domesticated. Southwest Asia had more wild plants that could be domesticated than any other region, and they had the same advantage when it came to animals. Native means originally from a particular area. People in Mesopotamia domesticated sheep, goats, cows, donkey, oxen, and pigs. It is believed that people first began farming around 8,000 BCE. Southwest Asia was the first place farming developed. Farming produces much more food than hunting and gathering because a few farmers can grow enough food for an entire village. These new farmers usually settled along a river for the fresh water and fertile soil, in this case the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers. Slowly, more people moved into these areas and villages or small towns began to develop. However, these individual cities do not qualify as a civilization. A civilization means several cities and usually a common culture between all of the cities. Mesopotamia is different than most civilizations since they develop city-states. A city-state is a nation that is only one city. Mesopotamia was a collection of cities, and they shared many aspects of culture. People were living in multiple cities with governments and religions. A written language developed around 3,500 BCE—civilization is official! The first civilization to develop was called Sumer in southern Mesopotamia. Sumer was a collection of city-states, most of them with thick defensive walls because the city-states were often at war with one another. Major cities included Eridu, Uruk, Ur, and Lagash. Uruk was one of the largest cities; at one time it may have had 80,000 people living in and around the city. This time period began a great human migration from the countryside into the city. Mesopotamia invented new technology. They were the first to use the wheel. The wagon was a transportation revolution for farming and trade. They developed a number system based on this explains why we have 60 seconds in minute and 60 minutes in an hour. They used a 12 month calendar with a 7 day week. Astronomers studied the stars and mapped the first set of constellations. Early writers wrote the earliest known literature called the Epic of Gilgamesh, which tells the tale of the struggle between man and the Gods. Architecture is the art of building structures buildings of any kind. This is why the architecture of Mesopotamia is hard to find today. The mud-bricks have eroded away, but archeologists have uncovered amazing artifacts under the rubble that tell the story of these ancient people. A tell is also a good place to look for graves. We have learned a great deal about Mesopotamia and other civilizations from exploring their burial grounds. Sumer was not the only group to develop in Mesopotamia, but their culture influenced future civilizations. The government was organized around one king, the man dominated the household, and their religion believed in some kind of afterlife. Social classes were formed when people began doing different jobs. The jobs made them live in different ways, wear different cloths, and earn different amounts of wealth. All of these culture characteristics would be passed on. In Sumer, the city became the center of trade, religious, and social life. The city layout reflected the rank of developing social classes. At the center of each town was a religious temple called a ziggurat. Homes and shops for government workers, scribes, and craftsman surrounded the royal palaces. Smaller houses were usually found on the

outsides of the city, but still in the large defensive walls that surrounded the city. Narrow alleys and small streets divided the houses. The religion was slightly different in each city-state, but all of them were polytheistic. Polytheism is the belief in many Gods. They believed the Earth was a flat disc and the sky had holes that showed the light of heaven above. They buried their important people with their personal belongings and sometimes their servants. One grave had nearly 70 servants who were buried with their leader. Over five thousand years ago, people living in Mesopotamia developed a form of writing to record different types of information. The earliest writing was based on pictures that represent words or phrases—these are called pictograms. Pictograms were used to communicate basic information about crops, taxes, and lending loans. This type of writing required hundreds of symbols. Over several hundred years, the pictures developed into a type of writing we call cuneiform. Cuneiform was different because the symbols now stood for sounds, similar to our alphabet. At some point scribes began using a new wedge-shaped tool to press into the wet clay tablets. Paper had not been invented so they wrote on wet clay tablets. Scribes were the only people who knew how to read and write. Over thousands of years, Mesopotamian scribes recorded daily events, trade, astronomy, and literature on clay tablets. The first alphabet would develop around BCE by a different civilization along the Mediterranean called Phoenicia. All modern alphabets can be traced back to this extremely important development in writing. The countryside farmers grew food for themselves and everyone in the city. In this dry region they depended on the regular flooding of the Tigris-Euphrates Rivers. They used careful irrigation to save water in pools and canals to keep for later use during dry times. Irrigation is a way to water fields without rain. Most of the farmers grew grain crops such as barley or wheat. These wild grasses produced grains that could be ground up to make flour for bread. Peas, garlic, onions, dates, and figs were also grown. The crops were brought to the temple to be stored or to market for trade or sale. Over the next several thousand years, Sumerian civilization influenced the surrounding area. Each of these cities grew into empires as they conquered the surrounding area and constantly fought each other. Babylonia Babylonia came into power when King Hammurabi created an empire out of the former kingdoms of Sumer and Akkad. Babylonia gets its name from their capital city, Babylon. Babylon is probably the most famous city in Ancient Mesopotamia because of its regular mentions in Jewish and Christian religious writings. Babylon became known for impressive architecture and its laws and government. Nebuchadnezzar II supposedly built these around BC because his wife missed the forests and jungles of her home. Only one example of the Code survives today on a seven foot, four inch tall basalt stone slab. There are laws in the Code of Hammurabi. After Hammurabi, Babylon was conquered by the Assyrians and controlled for centuries until they finally recaptured and increased their empire in BCE. They were a powerful military empire that came to rule a large empire, including Ancient Egypt , a number of times in history. The Assyrian empire has been described as the first military power in history. Assyrians were the first to manufacture metal wheels, which was much more durable and therefore able to be used in war. The core of the Assyrian army was their war-chariots. The Assyrians were also the first to use camels in war. Persia became a powerful empire when they defeated Assyria. Persians gained control of most of Mesopotamia and even Ancient Egypt, and created the largest empire in the ancient world.

6: List of indigenous peoples - Wikipedia

world geography _____in north africa, southwest asia, central asia. a. early people domesticated animals b. many muslims today live c. many ancient cultural arose d. all of the above.

Two research papers this week have arrived at contrasting interpretations. One study, published Tuesday in the journal *Science*, proposes that the earliest Americans had singularly Siberian origins, crossing into the continent via the Bering land bridge in a single wave. Another, published Tuesday in *Nature*, suggests that some early Native Americans may have had genetic roots in Australia and its neighboring islands, a region known collectively as Australasia. The peopling of the Americas is a matter of great anthropological and archaeological interest. We see evidence of unique culture on the continent over 10,000 years ago, but exactly how these populations arrived on the continent, and from where, has been debated for decades. Scientists generally agree that the first Americans crossed over from Asia via the Bering land bridge, which connected the two continents. This exodus most likely began between 20,000 and 40,000 years ago. But some researchers have argued that Alaskan glaciers would have blocked entry into North America. The Beringia standstill hypothesis suggests that human populations would have remained stranded on this land bridge for some 15,000 years before ice melt finally allowed clear passage into the continent. From there, this main emigrant population would have split and diversified into many different first cultures. Experts have noted that some early American skeletons, most older than 8,000 years, were found with physical features that seemed to contrast with those of historic and modern Native Americans. Some younger samples from South America also had these distinguishing traits. In some of these populations, they found a small degree of Australasian genetic ancestry. But perhaps this is one step toward an explanation. But there were perhaps multiple pulses of people into the Americas, and they had slightly different proportions of this ancestry. But it also challenges the Beringian standstill hypothesis in the process. Using a number of new techniques and data, we could date that relatively precisely to be about 23,000 years ago. They had to split off about 23,000 years ago, move all the way through Asia, and cross the land bridge into the Americas in 7,000 to 8,000 years. So clearly there was no 15,000-year Beringian standstill. There could have been a little bit of a standstill, but nothing like 15,000 years. Migration would have occurred in a single wave, Nielsen says, before splitting into two main populations. Right around this time, we see that the Native American population first began splitting up. We find two major groups – what we call the southern group and the northern group. This led them to investigate another hypothesis for the peopling of America – one Paleoamerican hypothesis, which suggests that the first people to come to the Americas were not from Siberia, but rather Australians and Melanesians who traveled by boat. But do these individuals actually have any genetic affinity with Australians and Melanesians? When we tested that, we found that the answer was no. They are clearly related only to modern Native Americans. We think this is evidence of a later migration, perhaps one that happened on a coastal route along the western coast about 8,000 years ago. But different interpretations of those signals resulted in a few contrasting conclusions. By signing up, you agree to our Privacy Policy and European users agree to the data transfer policy. But interpretations aside, both studies share a common goal – to answer the basic questions about how the Americas were populated. We have no support for all of these more fanciful theories.

7: Western Asia - Wikipedia

because most of the inhabitants of central and southwest asia live near reliable sources of water, the population of the region is.

It extends over 2, miles from the Black Sea in the north to the Arabian Sea in the south, and about 1, miles from the Mediterranean Sea in the west to the mountains of Iran. In the first of these zones, the Nile River flows northward through the Sahara Desert from Khartoum in Sudan where its two major tributaries join , through Egypt, and to the Mediterranean Sea. As a source of water, food, and fertile soil deposited in annual floods as well as a transportation route, it was the ecological basis for ancient Nubian and Egyptian civilization. The rich mineral resources of the deserts around the Nile, particularly gold, have historically been important to economic development in this area. Located in the Mediterranean climatic zone with rich agricultural land and relatively abundant rainfall, and having easy access to land and sea routes, the Levant has always been a cultural crossroads and has frequently been conquered. Among the first areas to develop agriculture as far back as 11, BCE , ancient cultures that developed in this region include Canaanite, Amorite, Israelite, and Phoenician. The western coast of Turkey had closer contact with cultures of Greece and the Aegean Sea than with the rest of the Middle East through much of its early history. Ancient cultures in Anatolia included the Hittite empire and a Hurrian-speaking population. Southeast of the Levant is the Arabian Peninsula with its extensive deserts, oases, and coastal regions along the Red Sea, Arabian Sea, and Persian Gulf that were more often suited to permanent settlement. Distinctive ancient cultures of this area include the South Arabian kingdoms in what is now Yemen that traded incense to the Levant and communities in Oman that were rich in copper and hard stone. Arab culture first appears in the historical record after the introduction of the camel in about BCE, which allowed more extensive use of arid zones of Saudi Arabia, and Islam first developed in the oasis towns of Mecca and Medina before spreading over much of the Middle East by CE. In many ways, what we call Mesopotamian civilization is a series of diverse languages and cultures bound together by a common script and written tradition. Mesopotamia is a particularly fertile agricultural zone with vast areas available for cultivation. Northern Mesopotamia receives enough rainfall to grow grain crops, while southern Mesopotamia receives virtually no rain, so agriculture there depended on extensive networks of irrigation canals. At the southern end of the Tigris-Euphrates course, a series of marshes has maintained a distinctive environment and culture for millennia. Apart from water and fertile soil and later oil , Mesopotamia contains few natural resources, and has depended on trade with people in the mountainous regions to the north and east for stone, copper, and timber. Zagros Mountains Mesopotamia is bordered on the east by the Zagros Mountains of western Iran and eastern Turkey elevation up to 15, feet , whose highland valleys were home to Elamite and Persian civilizations as well as later powerful nomadic confederations including the Bakhtiari. The Zagros are a rich source of stone and timber. The climate of the Middle East ranges from the warm summers and cold winters of highland Turkey and Iran, through hotter summers and cool winters of northern Mesopotamia and the Mediterranean coast, to the extreme temperatures of the Arabian desert. Most, but not all, of the region is arid. As this outline suggests, geography plays a significant role in the formation and maintenance of cultures. The earliest civilizations with large population centers developed near abundant sources of water and agricultural land, rather than in areas of other valuable raw materials, like metals, semi-precious stones, building stone, or timber. Geography also provides a basis for distinctive attributes of regional cultures, like the importance of olive oil and wine in the cuisine of the eastern Mediterranean region where grapes and olives can easily be cultivated , or the extensive use of incense in daily life, ritual practice, and in economic exchange in the cultures of south Arabia. Scholars debate the extent to which geography shapes culture and the direction of historical change. Some see geography as destiny, while others see a more complex set of changing opportunities and constraints that geography poses through history.

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Since earliest times the region has served as a route for people, trade, armies, and ideas moving from Europe eastward to Africa and Asia, and westward from Asia to Africa and Europe. North of Beirut are nineteen inscriptions in eight languages left by passing conquerors, beginning with Ramses II (c. B.C.) through Nebuchadnezzar.

Climate of Asia Western Asia is primarily arid and semi-arid , and can be subject to drought , but it also contains vast expanses of forest and fertile valleys. The region consists of grasslands , rangelands , deserts , and mountains. Water shortages are a problem in many parts of West Asia, with rapidly growing populations increasing demands for water, while salinization and pollution threaten water supplies. There are two wind phenomena in Western Asia: The sharqi or sharki is a wind that comes from the south and southeast. It is seasonal, lasting from April to early June, and comes again between late September and November. The winds are dry and dusty, with occasional gusts up to 80 kilometres per hour 50 miles per hour and often kick up violent sand and dust storms that can carry sand a few thousand meters high, and can close down airports for short periods of time. These winds can last for a full day at the beginning and end of the season, and for several days during the middle of the season. The shamal is a summer northwesterly wind blowing over Iraq and the Persian Gulf states including Saudi Arabia and Kuwait , often strong during the day, but decreasing at night. This weather effect occurs anywhere from once to several times a year. Mount Ararat in Turkey rises to 5,169 meters. The Zagros Mountains are located in Iran, in areas along its border with Iraq. The Central Plateau of Iran is divided into two drainage basins. In Yemen , elevations exceed 3,000 meters in many areas, and highland areas extend north along the Red Sea coast and north into Lebanon. A fault -zone also exists along the Red Sea, with continental rifting creating trough -like topography with areas located well-below sea level. Jebel al Akhdar is a small range of mountains located in northeastern Oman, bordering the Gulf of Oman.

Demographics The population of Western Asia was estimated at 1.5 billion as of 2010, projected to reach 2.5 billion by 2050 by Maddison ; the estimate excludes the Caucasus and Cyprus. This corresponds to an annual growth rate of 1.1%. Numerically, Western Asia is predominantly Arab , Persian , Turkish , and the dominating languages are correspondingly Arabic , Persian and Turkish , each with of the order of 70 million speakers, followed by smaller communities of Kurdish , Azerbaijani , Hebrew , Armenian and Eastern Aramaic. The dominance of Arabic and Turkish is the result of the medieval Arab and Turkic invasions beginning with the Islamic conquests of the 7th century AD, which displaced the formerly dominant Aramaic and Hebrew in the Levant, and Greek in Anatolia, although Hebrew is once again the dominant language in Israel , and Aramaic spoken largely by Assyrians and Greek both remain present in their respective territories as minority languages.

9: Lecture 2: Ancient Western Asia and the Civilization of Mesopotamia

In some parts of the Old World, such as Southwest Asia, and in the Americas, pottery appears long after agriculture starts, while in East Asia, where the first pottery dates to as early as 13, bp, the opposite is the case.

Bring fact-checked results to the top of your browser search. Early development The development of agriculture involves an intensification of the processes used to extract resources from the environment: As the productivity and predictability of local resources increased, the logistics of their procurement changed, particularly regarding the extent to which people were prepared to travel in order to take advantage of seasonally available items. Group composition eventually became more stable, mobility declined, and, as a consequence, populations increased. In terms of material culture, durable houses and heavy tools such as pestles, mortars, and grindstones, all of which had long been known, came into more general use. Although discussions of prehistoric cultures often imply a direct correlation between the development of pottery and the origins of agriculture, this is not a universal relationship. In some parts of the Old World, such as Southwest Asia, and in the Americas, pottery appears long after agriculture starts, while in East Asia, where the first pottery dates to as early as 13, bp, the opposite is the case. Southwest Asia Village farming began to spread across Southwest Asia shortly after 10, bp, and in less than 1, years settled farming cultures were widespread in the region. Notably, the intensive harvesting of wild grains first appeared well before the Epipaleolithic Period. At the Ohalo II site in Israel c. At the Netiv Hagdud site in Israel, dating to 11, bp, wild barley is the most common plant food found among the grass, legume, nut, and other plant remains. The Netiv Hagdud occupants manufactured and used large numbers of sickles, grinding tools, and storage facilities, indicating an agricultural lifeway that preceded domesticated plants. The barley at the site is wild in form, but the large quantities and singular importance of the plant indicate that it was a crop. Similarly, the cereals at the Syrian sites of Mureybet and Jerf el-Ahmar appear to be wild. Two periods of occupation bracketing the transition to agriculture have been unearthed there. The people of the earlier, Epipaleolithic occupation lived in much the same manner as those at Netiv Hagdud. The earliest rye at the site is directly radiocarbon-dated to 12, bp and may be domesticated. Legumes, which fix nitrogen to the soil, were also grown; they helped to maintain soil health and added plant protein to the diet. In addition, a form of crop rotation came into use either by accident or by design, also helping to maintain soil fertility. People in Southwest Asia had become dependent on cultigens by 10, bp, a rapid transition. This model suggests that agriculture was already a component of the economy and that it simply expanded to fill the gap left by this reduction in natural resources. At the time, people throughout Southwest Asia were developing agriculture in a variety of environments and using a diverse array of plants; they probably shifted to food production for different reasons depending on local conditions. While village life and plant domestication were getting under way in the Fertile Crescent, people in the foothills of the Zagros Mountains Iran were relatively mobile, practicing vertical transhumance. Wild goats and sheep were hunted at lower elevations in the colder months and at higher elevations in the warmer months. People also harvested wild grasses as they followed the animals. Sheep and goats eventually replaced gazelles as the primary animal food of Southwest Asia. The earliest evidence for managed sheep and goat herds, a decrease in the size of animals, is found at the Ganj Dareh Ganj Darreh site in Iran between about 10, and 10, bp. This size change may simply reflect an increase in the ratio of female to male animals, as these species are sexually dimorphic and many pastoral peoples preferentially consume male animals in order to preserve the maximum number of breeding females. The smaller size may also reflect the culling of large or aggressive males. More than 1, years later, the Ali Kosh site also in Iran was settled. This site is located in a lower elevation zone than Ganj Dareh, outside the natural range of goats. Goat remains at Ali Kosh show clear signs of domestication—the females have no horns. Cattle were not of immediate importance to the people of ancient Southwest Asia, although aurochs *Bos primigenius*, the wild ancestors of modern cattle, were hunted throughout the region by about 10, bp and for the next 1, years diminished in body size. Smaller, domesticated forms of cattle were not prevalent until about bp in Anatolia and on the coast of the Mediterranean. Techniques of food storage grew in sophistication; there were pit silos and granaries, sometimes of quite

substantial nature. In drier areas, crop irrigation , which greatly increased yield, was developed; and, with the increasing population, more labour was available to carry out wider irrigation projects. See also history of Mesopotamia.

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