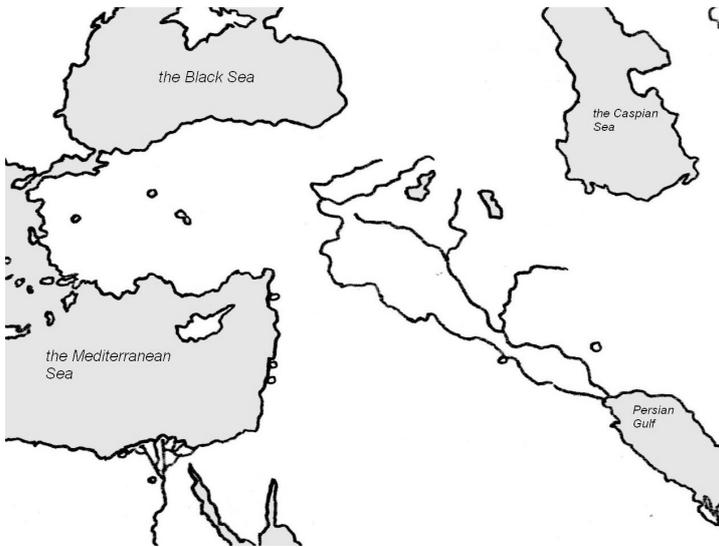


# ANCIENT CIVILISATIONS

## THE FERTILE CRESCENT

**TASK 1:** Study the atlas and label the map with the expressions from the box

Jericho Catal Hüyük Ur Babylon the Euphrates the Tigris Jerusalem Tyre Niniveh Hattushash  
Gizah Byblos



*Where did the first permanent settlements develop?*

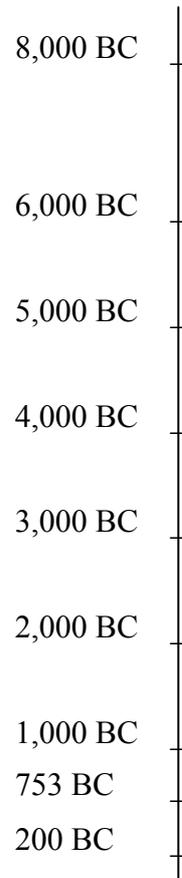
*What geographical features are typical for the locations of the first settlements? Especially Mesopotamia?*

*What was the most typical system of government?*

### Group Work: Ancient Civilisations Timechart

**TASK 2:** Work in four groups (G1-G4) Study the atlas and add to the timechart the following:

- G1 → Early Farming in Jericho, Chatal Hüyük
- G1 → Unification of Egypt
- G1 → Pyramids in Gizah
- G2 → Beginning of the Sumerian city states
- G2 → Hammurabi's Laws, Old Babylon
- G2 → Assyrian Empire
- G3 → Indus Valley Civilisation
- G3 → Chinese Wall
- G3 → The first Chinese dynasties China
- G4 → Foundation of Rome
- G4 → Minoan Crete
- G4 → Mycaenean Greece





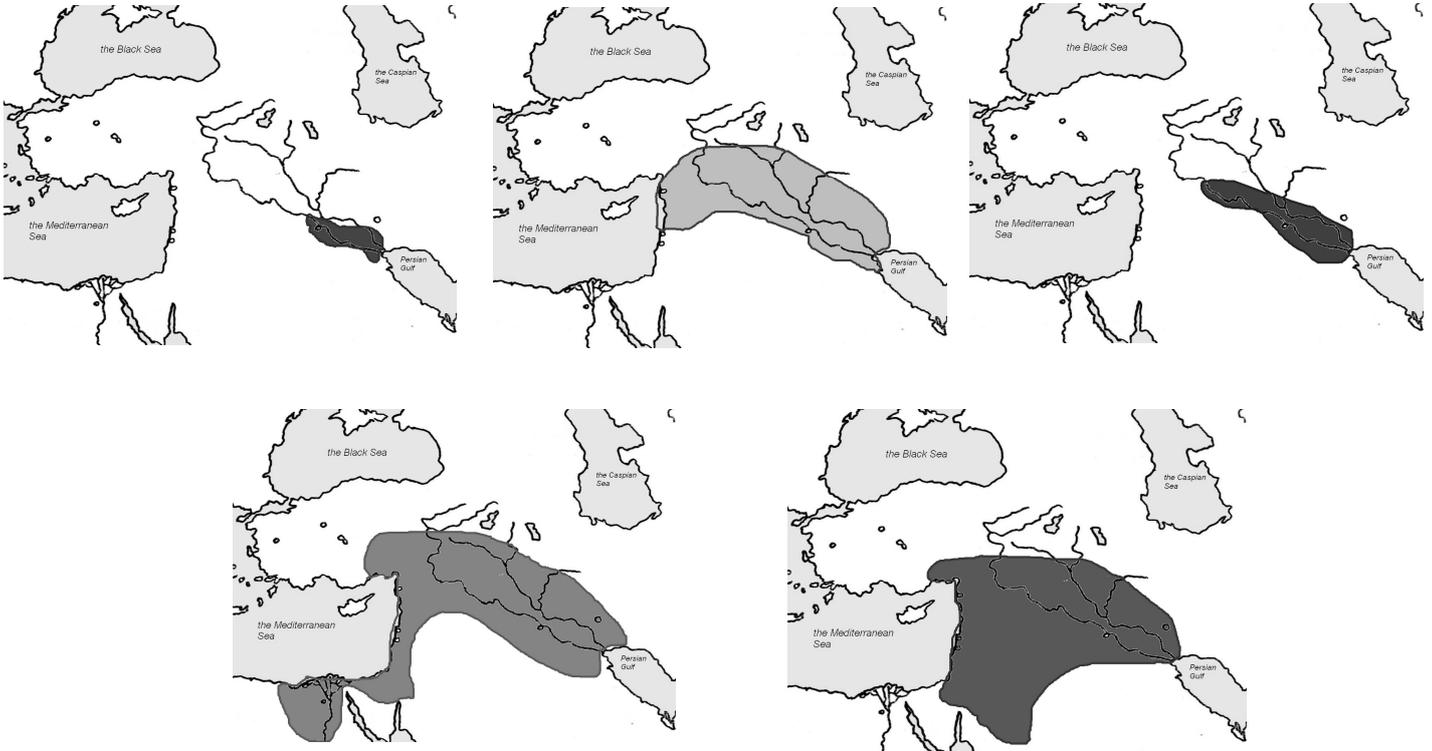
INVESTICE DO ROZVOJE VZDĚLÁVÁNÍ

# MESOPOTAMIA

## Chronology

- c. 6,000-3,500 BC Early farming, first permanent settlements, pottery, first towns and temples, use of copper, bronze
- c. 3,500 BC **Sumerians** moved to southern Mesopotamia (not a Semitic tribe, origins unknown)
- c. 3,200-2,350 BC **Supremacy of Sumerian City States** (Ur, Uruk, Lagash, Kish, Eridu...)  
City states, theocracy, irrigation and drainage system, wheel, writing, maths, literature, beer, taxes, lunar calendar
- c. 2,350-2,200 BC **Akkadian Empire**  
**Sargon the Great** (2,400-2,345) conquered Sumeria, first unified empire  
Akkadians – Semitic tribe
- c. 2,200-2,000 BC **Sumerian Revival** – city states again
- c. 2,000-1.600 BC **Old Babylonian Empire**  
Amorites (Semitic tribe) conquered Sumeria and Akkad  
**Hammurabi** (1,792-1,750 BC) – ‘Code of Hammurabi’  
Literature – Gilgamesh, maths – duodecimal system – lunar calendar, days, weeks, hours, minutes, angles (360 degrees)
- c. 1,600-1,300 BC Middle Babylonian Empire – ‘Dark Age’  
**Hittites** (Indo-European tribe) 1,595 BC conquered Babylon and demolished it  
Kassites (Indo-Europeans) ruled in Mesopotamia
- c. 1,300-612 BC **Assyrian Empire**  
Assyrians (Semitic Tribe), tough warriors  
**New Assyrian Empire** (883-612)  
**Sargon II** (722-704) conquered Mesopotamia, Syria, Palestine, Egypt  
**Sennacherib** (704-681) New capital **Niniveh**, revival of learning, big library, aqueduct and channels bringing fresh mountain water to Niniveh (50 miles)
- 612-539 BC **New Babylonian Empire**  
612 BC Chaldeans (Semitic tribe) conquered Niniveh with the help of the **Medes (Persians)**  
**Nebuchadnezzar II** (604-562 BC) 586 BC conquered Jerusalem – **Babylonian captivity of the Jews**  
Architecture - Ishtar Gate, Hanging Gardens
- 539-330 BC **Persian Empire**  
Persians (Indo-Europeans) conquered Babylon  
539 BC **Cyrus the Great** (539-529 BC)

**TASK 3:** Match the maps with the periods in the outline above.



**TASK 4:** Which of the following was not an invention of Ancient Mesopotamia?

- Writing
- Wheel
- Irrigation system
- Literature
- City states
- Taxes
- Beer
- Duodecimal counting
- Lunar calendar
- Schools
- Law codes
- Glazed bricks

### System of government

Sumerian city states. Each city state had its main patron god. The inhabitants worshipped the god, who was recognized as the official head of the city state. The god was represented by the priests so actually the priests ruled the state = **theocracy**. The priests administered the state, organized work, collected taxes, kept food supplies. The richer the cities got the more enemies they had. It was necessary to build city walls, keep the army, have a military commander. The commanders became important, took over the power, unified more city states under their rule, became **emperors**, but officially titled themselves deputies of the gods.

## Religion

Polytheism – many gods – each city had its own main god.

Sumerians worshipped the forces of nature first (eg. the force making the grain grow, the force bringing floods, the force preserving harvested grain) but gradually gave them human qualities and so gods in charge of various tasks appeared.

Main Gods:

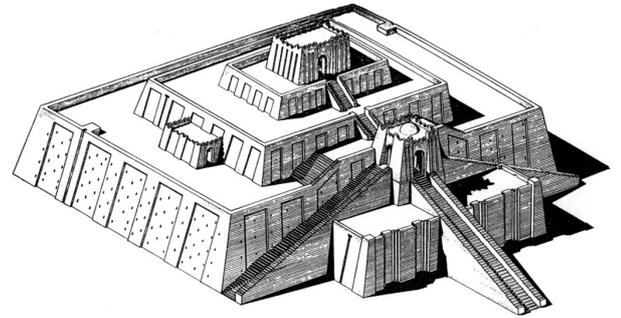
**Enlil** – god of the air, main god supreme over all the others, ruler of the rulers

**An** – god of the sky

**Enki** – god of the earth

**Ishtar** – goddess of love and fertility

**Samash** – god of the sun and justice



### **Temples – Ziggurats**

Ziggurats were built of dried clay bricks in the form of a stepped (terraced) pyramid. On the top there was a temple dedicated to the main god of the city as the patron of the city. (eg. Marduk was the main god of Babylon)

## Writing

The first **pictographic** writing appeared round 3,500 BC. It consisted of simple pictures. The pictures were later simplified into a system of **wedge shaped** symbols as they used **clay tablets** as writing material. The characters were made by pressing a **reed stylus** with triangular shape onto a wet clay tablet. This system of writing is called **cuneiform script**. (cuneus is the Latin for wedge)

**TASK 5:** *Draw an easy schematic picture of a fish, water and a head of an ox. Try to simplify it and make it consist of a combination of wedge shaped characters. Compare your cuneiform with the pictures your teacher will provide.*

90% of all written materials found in Mesopotamia are to do with business and administration. Literacy was highly praised and so the **temple schools** of writing, reading and counting appeared. Clay tablets were stored in **libraries**. Some of them were discovered (the biggest in Niniveh) and thanks to them we can learn a lot about Mesopotamian daily life.

**Laws of Hammurabi**, Hammurabi was a king of the **Old Babylonian Empire** in 1,792-1,750 BC



**TASK 6:** Study the introduction to the Code of Hammurabi and analyze what features of Mesopotamian culture and lifestyle are mentioned.

Hammurabi, the king of righteousness, on whom Shamash has conferred the law, am I. When Marduk sent me to rule over man, to give protection of right to the land, I did right and righteousness brought about the well-being of the oppressed.

**TASK 7:** Study the cases brought to Hammurabi to solve. What do you think would be the ideal and fair verdict in the cases? Suggest appropriate punishment. The teacher will then show you the relevant passages of 'the Code of Hammurabi'.



What should happen to a boy who slapped his father?

What should happen to a careless builder, who did not do his work properly, the house he built collapsed and killed its new owner.

What if the fallen house does not kill anyone but destroys property?

What should happen to the person who destroyed the eye of a free-born man?

Shall there be any compensation for any stolen property, if the thief is not caught?

What should happen to the person who spreads gossip about a nun or a wife but cannot prove that the gossip is based on the truth?



INVESTICE DO ROZVOJE VZDĚLÁVÁNÍ

## Mathematics, counting

**Lunar calendar** – 12 months of 29 days, falling behind the seasons, every fifth year an extra month was added. (the Jewish and Muslim calendars are based on the lunar calendar and so every year extra days devoted to religious festivals are added, even nowadays)

**Day - 24 hours, hour - 60 minutes, minute sixty seconds, angle 360 degrees** (corresponds with the invention of the wheel) = **duodecimal system of counting** – number 12 basis

**TASK 8:** *Is the duodecimal counting more practical than our decimal counting? Give reasons?*

## ANCIENT ASIA MINOR

Asia Minor – divided by mountains, fertile valleys, plains – smaller states, not unified in one empire

### Hittites

- Indo-European tribe, settled in Asia Minor round 2,500 BC. Capital city – **Hattushas**
- Around 1,600 BC Hittite expansion began – 1,594 BC Murshilish I conquered **Babylon** (the end of Old Babylonian Empire)
- Expansion successful as they were one of the first to use **iron weapons** and war chariots drawn by **horses**
- Largest extent round 1300 BC, expansion stopped by Egypt – battle at **Quadesh**, Ramesse II
- ca 1200 BC Hittite Empire disappeared, probably due to attacks of the sea nations

Society and Culture:

- Free Hittites x dependent inhabitants of conquered areas
- King rules with the help of officials and **Pankush** (assembly of nobles)
- Accepted Mesopotamian culture, cuneiform script but strange style of writing from left to right and at the end of the line from right to left, then again left to right
- Writing deciphered by **Bedřich Hrozný** in 1915
- Architecture, big stone fortresses, huge blocks of stone

### Phrygia (ca 1000 – 700 BC)

- Capital city **Gordion** and the most famous king **Midas** known from Greek mythology
- Defeated and conquered by **Assyria**

### Lydia (ca 700 – 547 BC)

- Rich trading centre, capital **Sardis**, probably the first use of **coins**
- King **Croisos** victim of the legendary **Delphic Oracle** – *‘If you cross the River Halys you will destroy a large empire.’*

He did it, started war against Persia, was defeated and destroyed his own empire



INVESTICE DO ROZVOJE VZDĚLÁVÁNÍ

## CITY STATES OF ANCIENT SYRIA AND PALESTINE

- Area in between Mesopotamia, Egypt, Assyria, Hittites, their interests clashed over this area, often part of a different empire, under foreign rule
- City states – **Ugarit, Byblos, Ebla** - busy trading centres – invaders usually made them pay taxes, but left their **autonomy**, municipal government
- Polytheistic religion – **Baal**, the main god, kind of god of consumer society, riches, fertility – known from the Bible, Old Testament, Eliah's struggle at Mount Carmel
- Adopted **wedge shaped** writing, not pictographic but **developed 29 symbols for consonants = basis for all modern scripts**
- **Byblos** associated with the first books

### Phoenicia

- Phoenicians were great sailors and traders
- City states – **Sidon, Tyre, Byblos, Akko** – not an unified state
- Founding trade bases, **colonies** – Greece, Sicily, Spain, Africa – **Carthage**, the most famous colony founding its own colonies
- **Voyages of discovery** – sailed to Britain, and in service of the Egyptian pharaoh round Africa
- Able to produce transparent glass
- Famous and valuable purple dye – **phoenix**

### Hebrews

- **Monotheistic** religion, one God
- Main source of information **The Bible, Old Testament (5 books of Moses (The Torah), Prophets, Psalms)**
- Ancestor **Abraham** from **Ur**, God made a deal with him, if Abraham believed in him he would lead him to the promised land and make his descendants the biggest, chosen nation. He led him to the promised land **Kanaan** (Palestine)
- Abraham, though about 90 years old had two sons as promised, one with **Hagar** the slave of his wife, and the other – **Isaac** - with his wife **Sarah**. Sarah then forced Hagar and her son **Ishmael** to leave. According to the Arab tradition Ishmael then became the ancestor of the **Arabs** and Isaac of the **Hebrews (Jews)**. So all three monotheistic religions **Judaism, Christianity** and **Islam** have the same ancestor – Abraham.
- Abraham's grandson **Jacob** had 12 sons – the origin of **12 Jewish tribes**
- In the course of time the Hebrews had to move to Egypt (the story of Joseph and his brothers)
- **Moses** led the Jews out of Egyptian slavery during the reign of **Ramesse II. – Egyptian Captivity** -, back to the promised land, but because of the unfaithfulness of the Jews, they had to wander through the desert for forty years
- God gave Moses a set of rules, laws, instructions on Mount **Sinai** – its essence is given in the **Ten Commandments**



INVESTICE DO ROZVOJE VZDĚLÁVÁNÍ

- The Jews then reached the promised land but had to fight for it with the local kingdoms and a wave of new invaders **The Philistines** (one of the sea nations attacking the ancient empires 1200-1000 BC)
- God then gave the Jews kings to lead the struggle, but there were only three kings of a unified Jewish kingdom
  - **Saul**
  - **David** (1000-970) – defeated the Philistines (David and Goliath), made **Jerusalem** the new capital
  - **Solomon** (970-930) – famous for his wisdom, build the **Temple** in Jerusalem
- After Solomon the kingdom split into two parts
  - **Israel** in the North (10 tribes, capital Samara)
  - **Judea** in the South (2 tribes, capital Jerusalem)
- Israel was conquered by **Assyria** (722 BC, Sargon II.)
- Judea by **New Babylonian Empire – Nebuchadnezzar II.** (587 BC), who took the Jews to Babylon – **Babylonian Captivity of the Jews**
- The Jews could return back to Palestine during the reign of the Persian Emperor **Darius**
- Judea was then part of the Persian Empire, the Empire of Alexander the Great, the Seleucid Empire and finally 30 BC the **Roman Empire**
- Because of the Jewish uprising against Rome in 70 AD the Romans conquered Jerusalem, destroyed the city and the second Temple (**The Weeping Wall** – the only preserved part) and to prevent further rebellions moved out the Jews out into various parts of the Empire. Since then up to 1948 when the Jewish state of Israel was established the Jews lived in **Diaspora**, small communities scattered around the world.

## THE PERSIAN EMPIRE

Persians were an Indo-European tribe living on the Eastern shore of the Persian Gulf

### Cyrus the Great

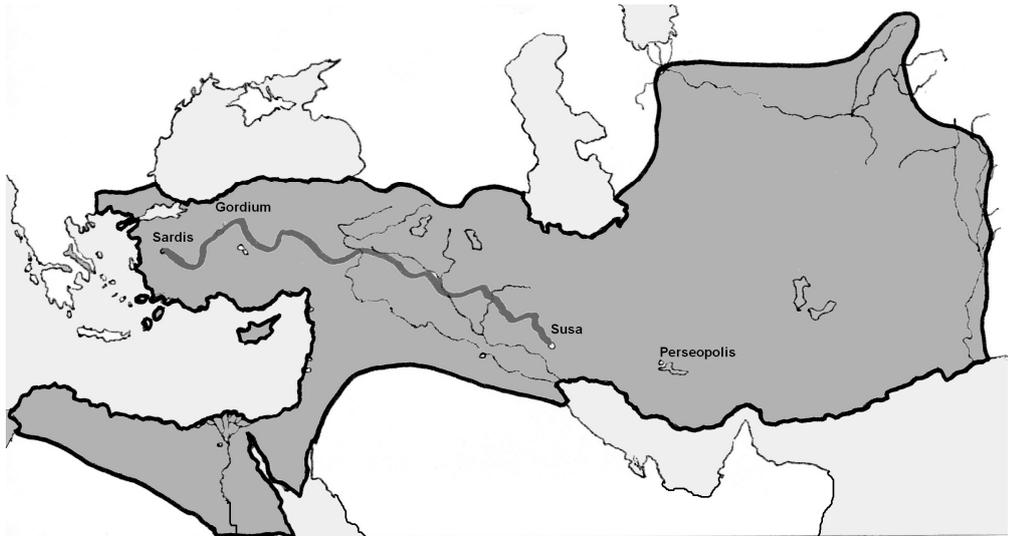
- 554 BC unified Persian tribes and overthrew the domination of the Medes over Persians
- One of the most sensational conquerors of all time
- Conquered Lydia, New Babylonian Empire, Parthia and Bactria
- After his death there were revolts throughout the empire, chaos

**Cambyses** – son of Cyrus – 525 BC conquered Egypt, but then he was murdered in another revolt

### Darius I. the Great (522-486 BC)

- He was not a member of the royal family, just one of the powerful nobles
- He crushed the revolt and seized the throne for himself.
- Reforms of the Empire or how to rule over such a vast empire
  - Divided into 120 provinces - **Satrapies**, and appointed his administrator in each province
  - Local government could stay in office
  - fixed annual tribute (tax) from each satrapy

- local army moved to different satrapy to avoid local uprisings (one of the reasons of the revolt of the Ionian Greek cities)
- local traditions and customs kept
- standardized currency, weights and measures
- network of roads to keep the empire unified, and easier to control
- **Royal Road** (Susa – Sardis)
- Unsuccessful campaign against the Scythians to the north of the Black Sea, but conquest of Thracian and Macedonian shoreline, control over the Greek cities in Asia Minor
- Applied his policies on Greeks – taxes, Greek army moved to a different part of the empire – **revolt of the Greek Ionian cities – Ionian revolt**, the Greeks assisted by Athens – beginning of the Graeco-Persian Wars



**TASK 8:** Match the following:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● monotheistic religion</li> <li>● invention of wheel</li> <li>● first cuneiform alphabet</li> <li>● royal road</li> <li>● probably the first coins</li> <li>● iron weapons</li> <li>● the first law code</li> <li>● big library, aqueduct</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Sumerian city states</li> <li>○ Niniveh, New Assyrian Empire</li> <li>○ Hittites</li> <li>○ City states of Ancient Syria and Palestine</li> <li>○ Lydia</li> <li>○ Hebrews</li> <li>○ Hammurabi, Old Babylonian Empire</li> <li>○ Persia</li> </ul> |
|--|--|

**TASK 9:** Put the following into the correct chronological order.

- Hammurabi's Laws
- New Babylonian Army conquered Jerusalem
- the story of David and Goliath
- Hittites conquered Babylon
- Moses led the Hebrews out of Egypt

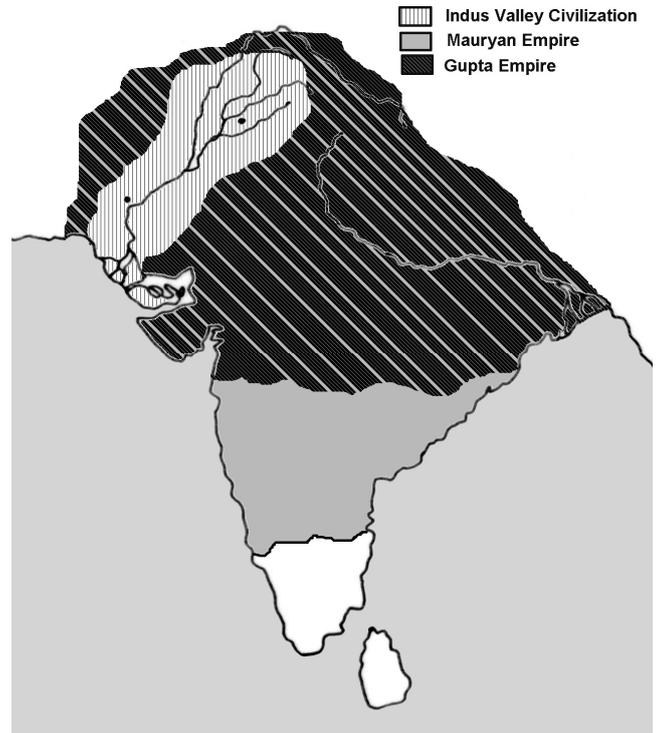
## ANCIENT INDIA

### The Indus valley civilization (2.500-1.500BC)

their writing has not been deciphered yet – archeology the only source of information

City states – most famous **Harappa, Mohenjo Daro**

- Cities of 35.000
- Main buildings a citadel and a granary
- No temples – a pool instead
- Two social classes, two different types of houses
- Planned layout of streets, right angle crossings
- Drainage, sanitation



### Aryan migration

New wave of invaders from the north, the centre of development moves to the Ganges.

With the Aryans we associate two important developments in ancient India.

#### a. The Cast System

People divided into five casts:

1. Brahmins – the priests
2. Kshatria – nobles and warriors
3. Vaisya - farmers, craftsmen, travers
4. Sudra - servants
5. Candala – the untouchables, most unpleasant jobs

#### b. The development of Hinduism

Based on **Vedas** (holy books), written about (1.500 – 1.000BC)

The idea of **Reincarnation** (rebirths). The aim is to achieve the state of perfection, unity with God)

**Polytheistic**, three main gods Vishnu (the creator), Shiva (the destroyer), Rama (the preserver)

**Buddhism** – developed from Hinduism

**Siddharta Gautama Buddha** (563-483BC)

- a prince from the royal family ruling the Megadh Empire
- his teaching breaks the limits of the cast system and reincarnation
- all men can reach **nirvana**, not only Brahmins
- Four noble truths:
  1. All life is pain/suffering
  2. The suffering comes from our desire to own things
  3. To avoid suffering we have to end our desire/craving
  4. Wisdom is to end our desire

### Indian Empires

Megadh Empire (550-420BC) – Buddha

Mauryan Empire (420/185 BC) – **Asoka** (273/232BC) / the largest empire

Gupta Empire - rich, trading with Rome, golden age For artists

Revolutionary style of the counting ( symbols 0 to 9)

Astronomy (Aryabhata) – the Earth rotates on its own axis and round the sun..

## ANCIENT CHINA

Two rivers:

**Huang-Ho** (Yellow River)

**Yang-Tse** (Long River)

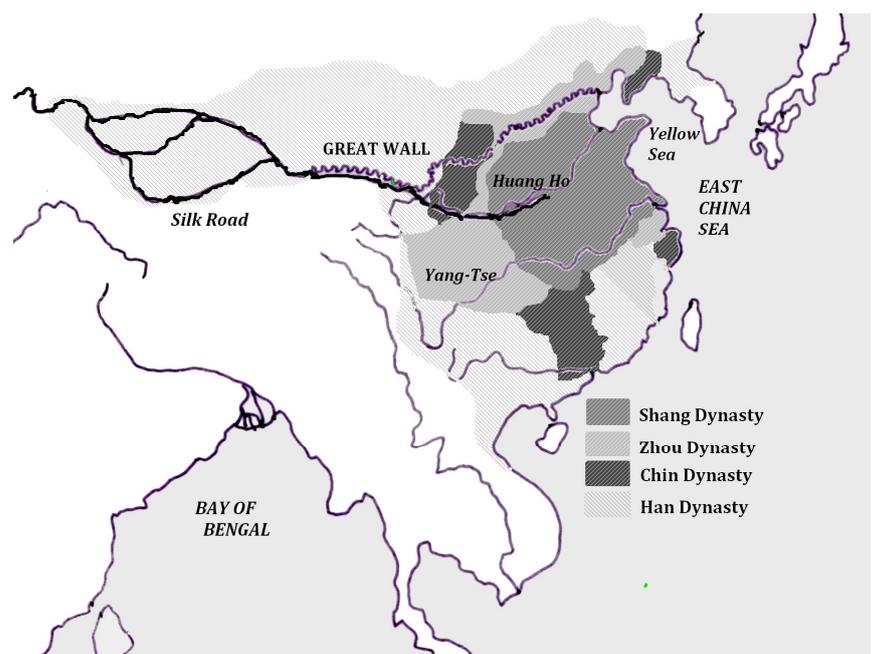
early farming round 9.000 BC

extra features: painted pottery

silk, jade carving

### Basic geography:

mountains, rivers, valleys ⇒ difficult to centralize ⇒ many local rulers ⇒ the strongest unifies the area ⇒ builds his empire



**Early Dynasties: Sia, Shang, Jin** (ca. 2.200 – 1.025BC)

**Zhou** Dynasty (1.025 – 221BC) Emperor rules with the help of nobles, the nobles are growing more important, stronger, becoming more independent and fighting one another, ca 400 – 221 BC period of **Warring States**

**Ch'in** (Qin) Dynasty (221 – 206BC) dynasty of one Emperor **Shih Huang-Ti** famous for:

- building of the **Great Wall of China**
- his tomb (Chinese Pyramid), guarded by **Terracotta Army** (7.000 life-size statues of soldiers, horses, chariots)
- forbade teaching and learning history



**Han** Dynasty (221BC – 220AD), period of prosperity, leasing and education, trade with the Roman Empire **The Silk Road**, trading with silk, jade carvings, paper...



**Philosophy**

During the neverending wars among the local warlords people were trying to figure out what the meaning of life is. It led to the development of **100 schools of philosophy**. The most famous are:

**Jin & Jang** – the world and life is based of the constant struggle of two opposing principles, which cannot exist separately - form a unity.

**TASK 10:** Try to suggest the opposing principles to the ones given.

<b>Jin</b>				
<b>Jang</b>	male principle	sky	light	life

**Taoism, Lao Tse** (6<sup>th</sup> century BC)

**Tao** = journey, The reason of human suffering is that people left the Tao – contact with the universal truth, nature. It is necessary to return to the right journey of life.



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### Confucianism K'ung Fu-Tzu (551-479BC)

Tao is the journey of every man, everyone is capable of doing good, human actions should lead to the unity with the universal truth. Emphasis on morality, ethics, order, truthfulness, respect for parents, elders...

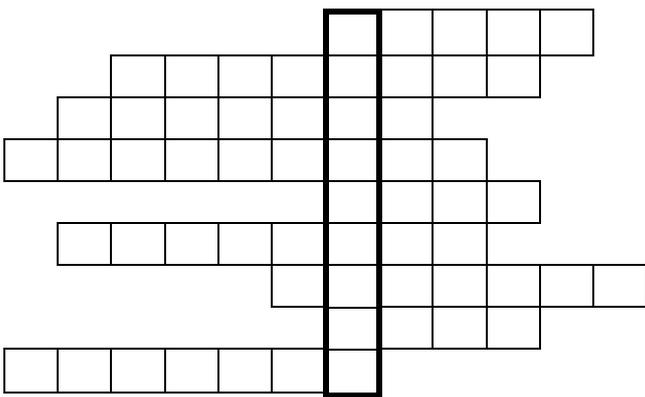
### Education:

To be considered an educated person one had to prove the knowledge of five books:

- Book of the Songs (poetry)
  - Book of Changes (philosophy)
  - Book of Ceremonies (religion)
  - Book of Documents
  - Chronicle of the Springs and Falls
- } history

165BC state exams for government officials introduced

### TASK 11: Complete the crossword.



- five books of Moses
- the most famous Phoenician colony
- the capital of the Assyrian Empire
- Mesopotamian style of writing
- Social group in India
- temple in Mesopotamia
- assembly of nobles in the Hittite Empire
- Chinese dynasty of one emperor
- province in the Persian Empire