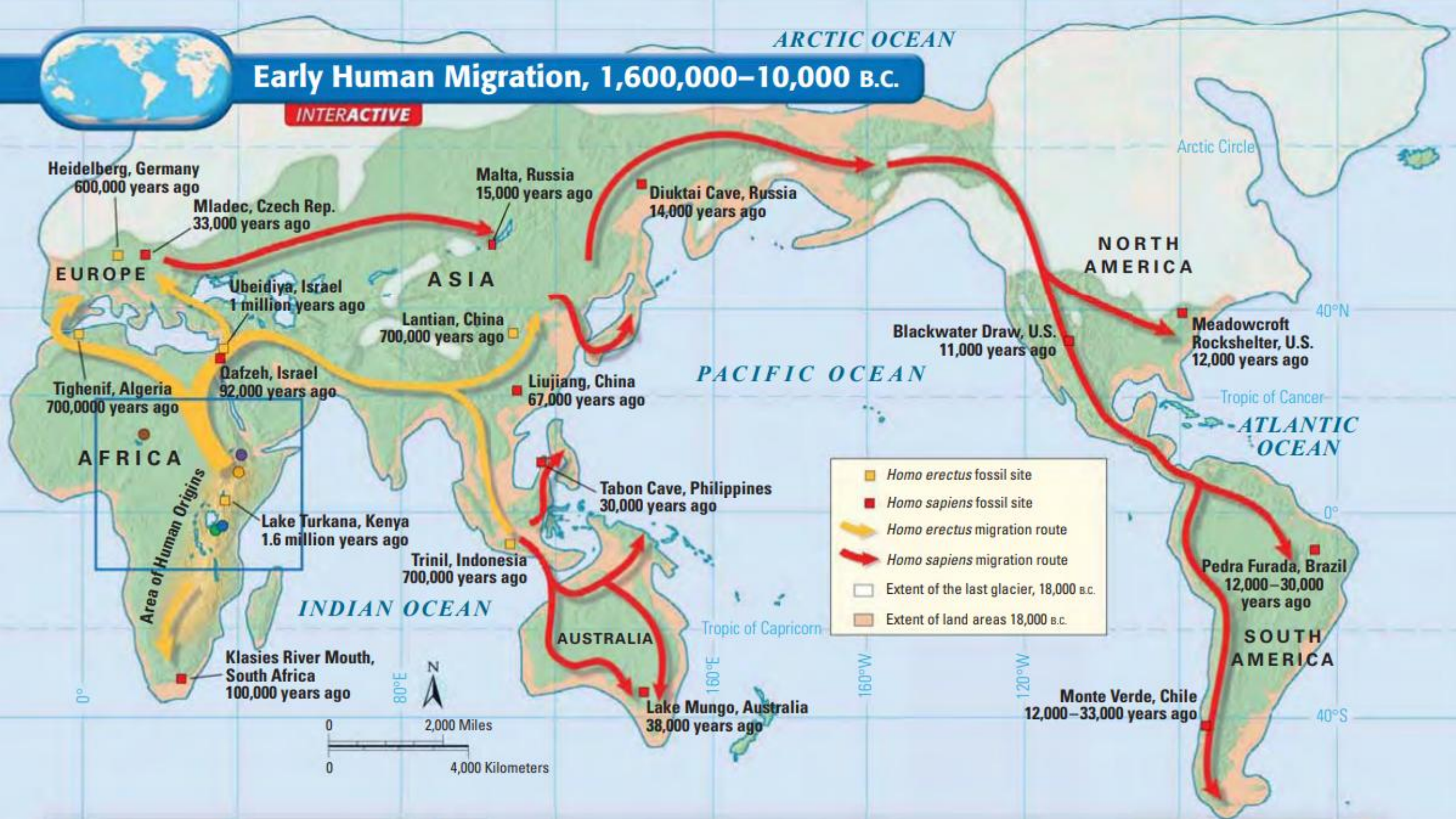


# Civilization and Culture

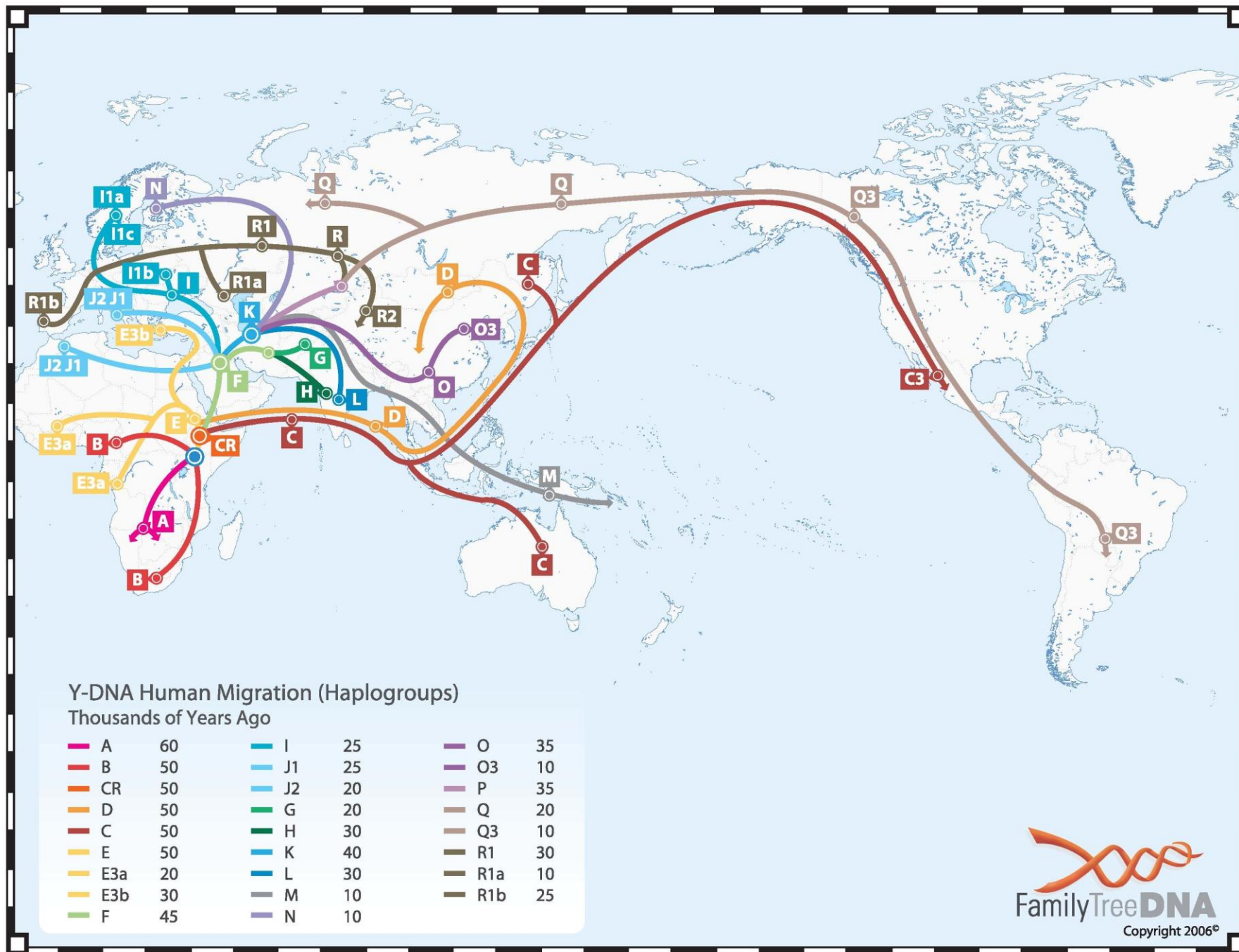


# Early Human Migration, 1,600,000–10,000 B.C.

INTERACTIVE







## VISUAL SUMMARY

# The Peopling of the World

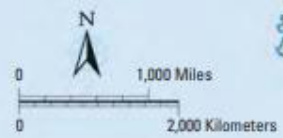






# Agriculture Emerges, 5000–500 B.C.

INTERACTIVE



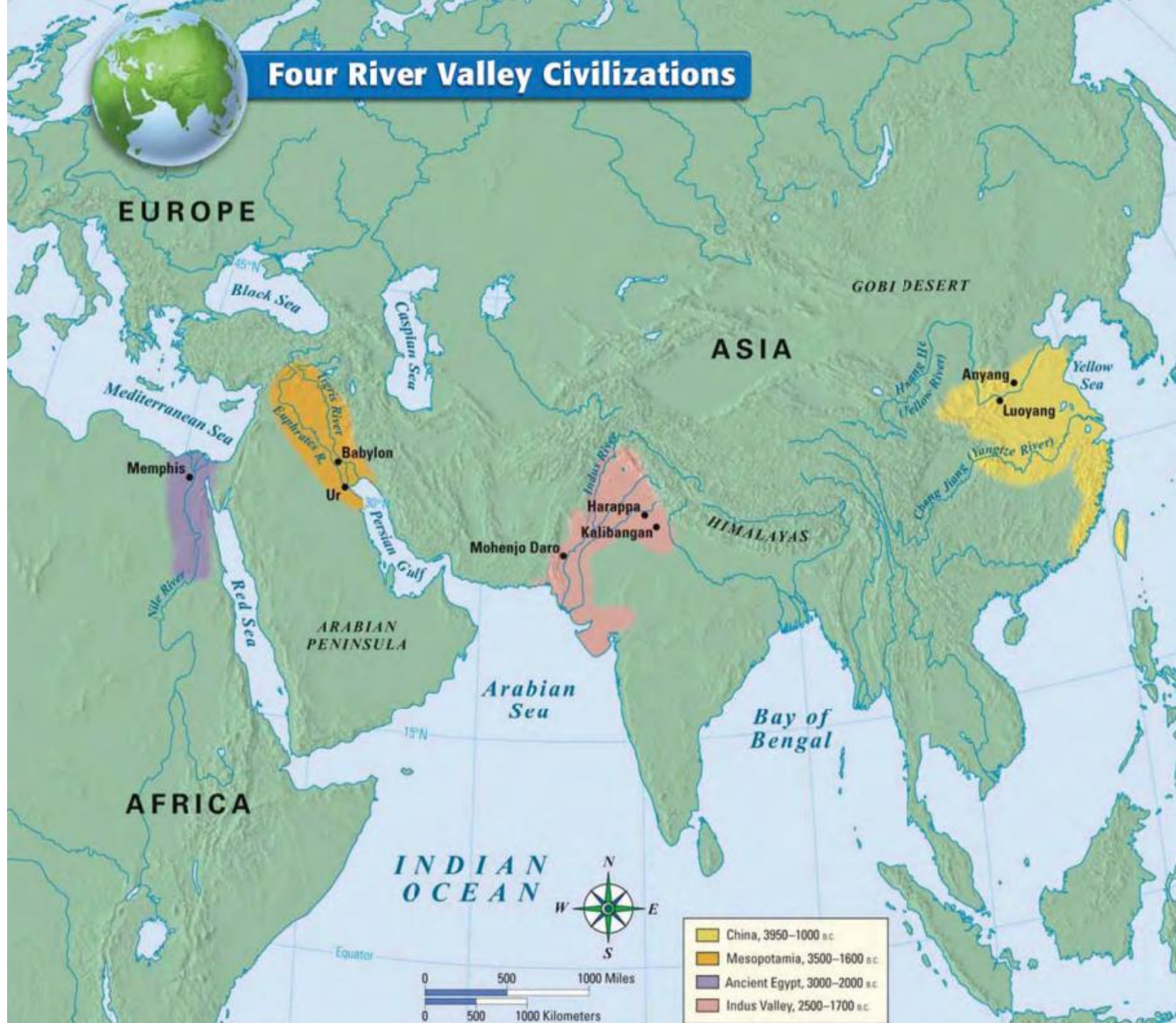
Major crops			
Bananas	Grapes	Sorghum	Wheat
Barley	Olives	Soybeans	
Corn	Potato	Agriculture by 5,000 B.C.	Agriculture by 3,000 B.C.
Cotton	Rice	Agriculture by 2,000 B.C.	Agriculture by 500 B.C.

## Agricultural Revolution

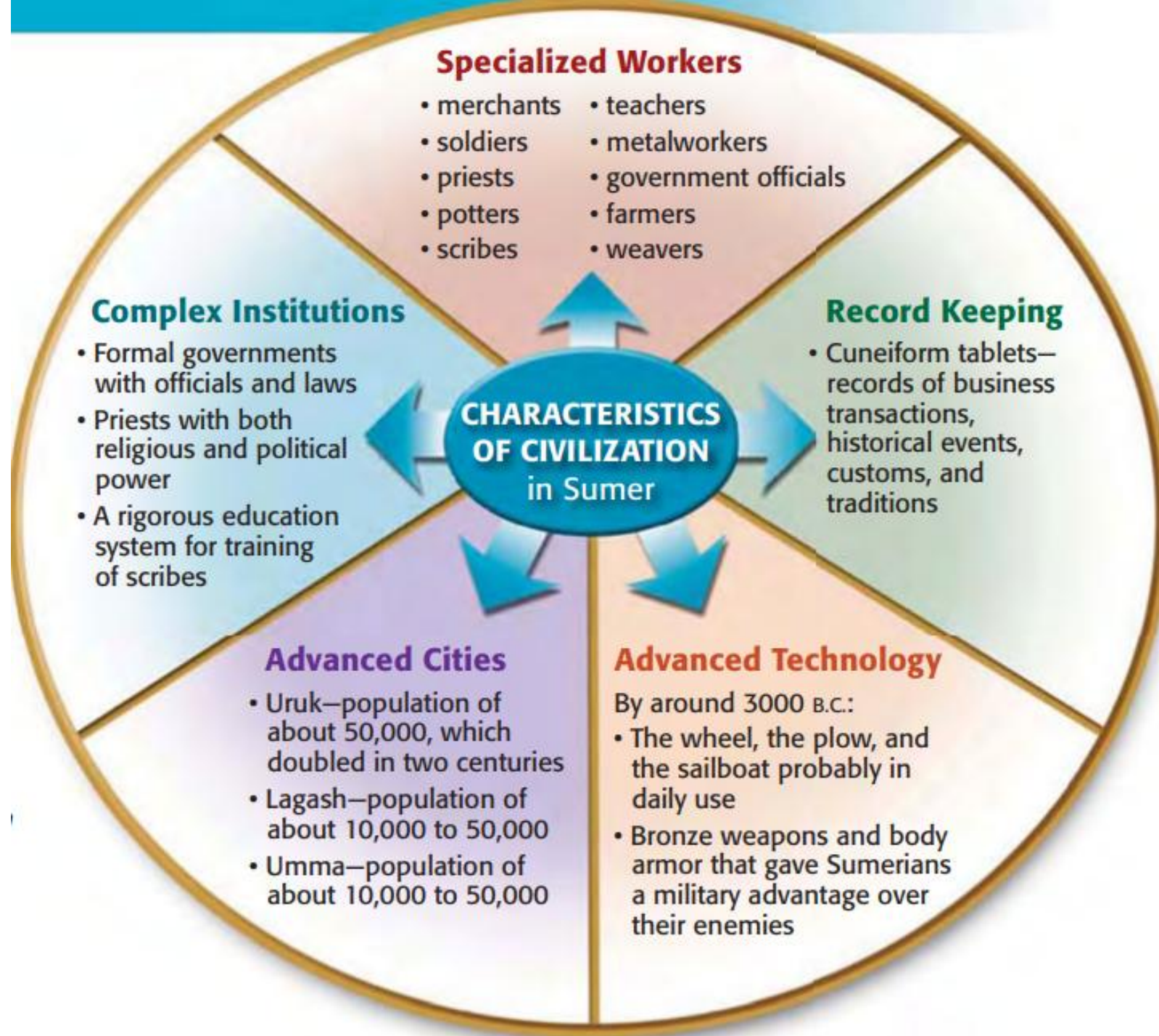




## Four River Valley Civilizations







# Culture

In prehistoric times, bands of humans that lived near one another began to develop shared ways of doing things: common ways of dressing, similar hunting practices, favorite animals to eat. These shared traits were the first beginnings of what anthropologists and historians call *culture*.

Culture is the way of life of a group of people. Culture includes common practices of a society, its shared understandings, and its social organization. By overcoming individual differences, culture helps to unify the group.

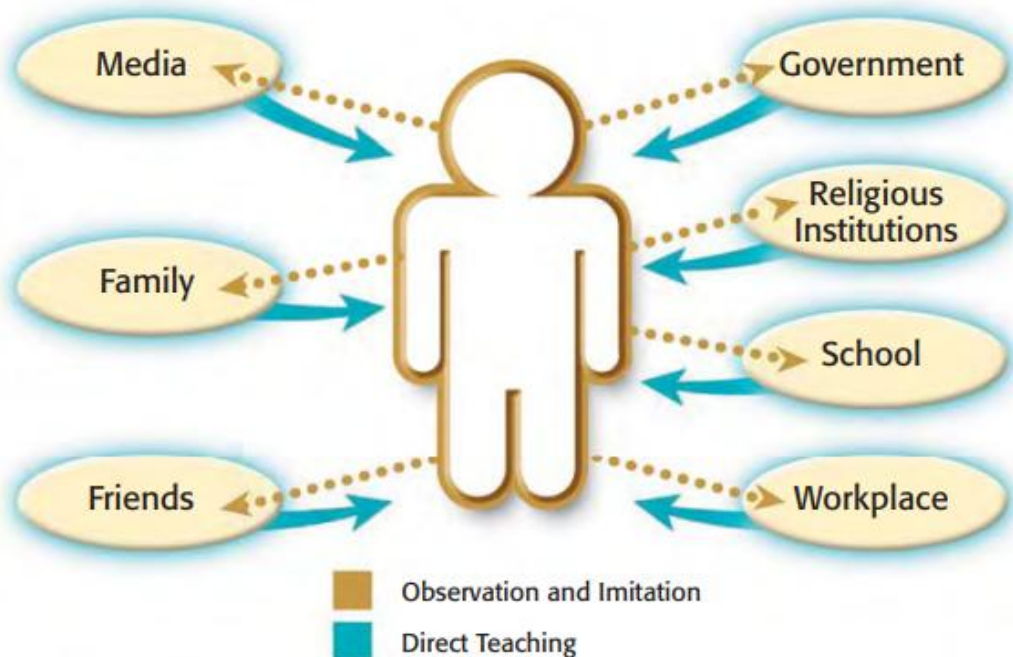
Types of Culture	Examples:
WORLD (all continents)	history, Olympics, World Cup, corporations, United Nations
REGION (many nations)	religion, climate/geography, history, language, food, ethnicity
NATIONAL (country)	holidays, history, language, sport, flag, education, food, ethnicity, business
U.S. STATE (part of region)	history, sports, climate/geography, flag, business
U.S. CITY (urban)	history, sports, food, climate, architecture, transportation
NEIGHBORHOOD (local)	history, ethnicity, food, architecture, transportation

## Components of Culture

Common Practices	Shared Understandings	Social Organization
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• what people eat</li> <li>• clothing and adornment</li> <li>• sports</li> <li>• tools and technology</li> <li>• social customs</li> <li>• work</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• language</li> <li>• symbols</li> <li>• religious beliefs</li> <li>• values</li> <li>• the arts</li> <li>• political beliefs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• family</li> <li>• class and caste structure</li> <li>• relationships between individual and community</li> <li>• government</li> <li>• economic system</li> <li>• view of authority</li> </ul>

## How Culture Is Learned

People are not born knowing about culture. Instead, they must learn culture. Generally, individuals learn culture in two ways. First, they observe and imitate the behavior of people in their society. Second, people in their society directly teach the culture to them, usually through spoken or written language.





# Cultural Hearths

Here's a short list of the world's cultural hearths.

## MesoAmerica

- Pictogram style of writing
- First use of rubber
- Accurate calendars
- Step pyramids for religious ceremonies

## Nile Delta-Modern day Egypt

- Pyramids
- World's First wigs
- Surgical instruments
- Writing on papyrus reed paper
- Sun clock with the help of an obelisk
- Hieroglyphic writing to represent things and ideas.

## Mesopotamia-Modern day Iraq

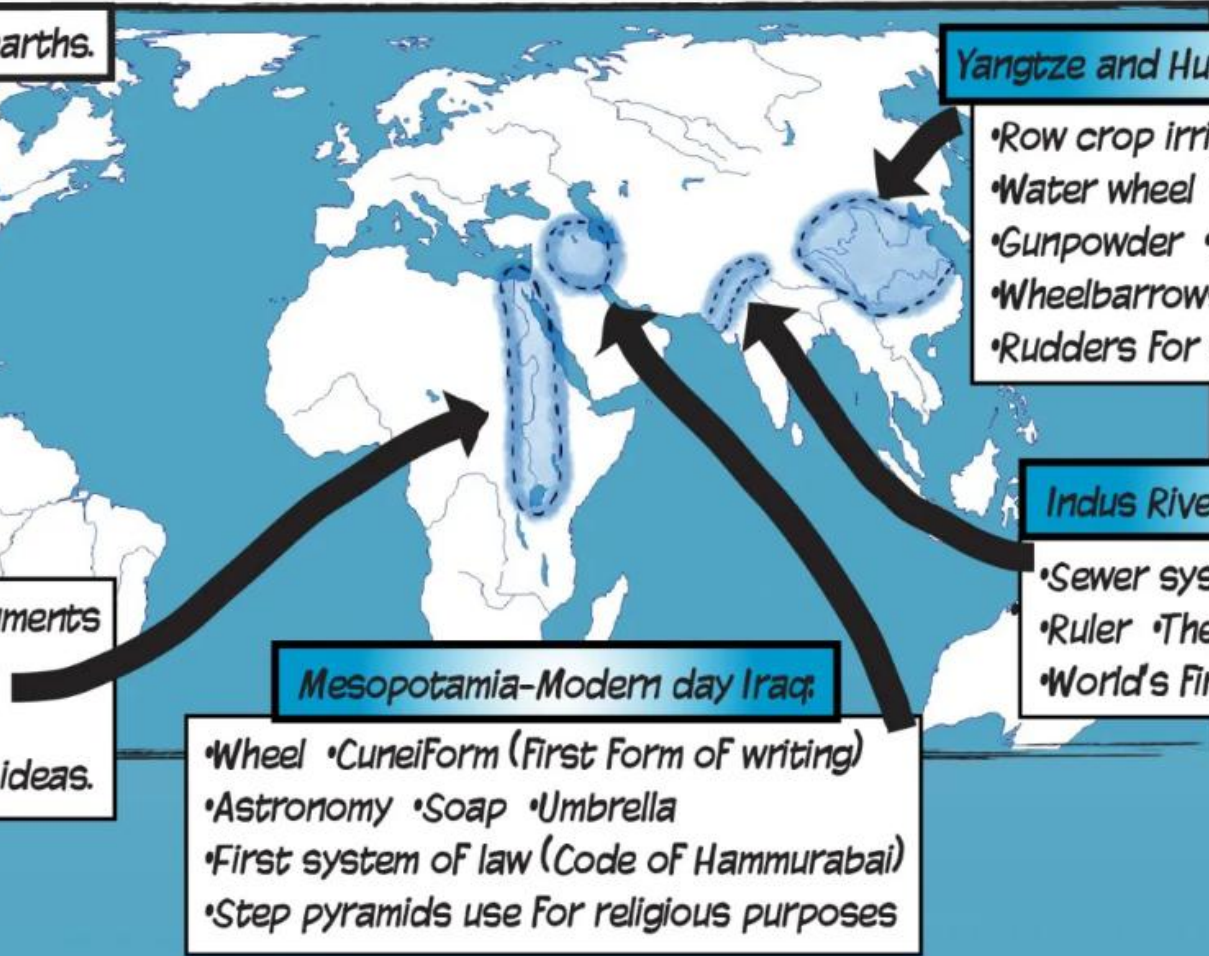
- Wheel
- Cuneiform (First Form of writing)
- Astronomy
- Soap
- Umbrella
- First system of law (Code of Hammurabi)
- Step pyramids use for religious purposes

## Yangtze and Huang He Rivers-Modern day China

- Row crop irrigation
- Paper
- Printing
- Water wheel
- Bronze metal casting
- Gunpowder
- Porcelain
- Suspension bridges
- Wheelbarrows
- Philosophy
- Compass
- Rudders for ship navigation

## Indus River Valley-Modern day Pakistan

- Sewer system (First sanitation system)
- Ruler
- The grid-system of city planning
- World's First shipyard





# hearth

/härTH/ 🔊

*noun*

the floor of a fireplace.

"the crackling blaze on the hearth"

- the area in front of a fireplace.  
"they were sitting around the hearth"
- used as a symbol of one's home.  
"he left hearth and home to train in Denmark"





# The World's Great Cultural Hearths



Recent discoveries about our prehistoric past point to the emergence of the earliest human beings in East Africa nearly 3 million years ago. But history as we know it begins with the birth of civilization. Many historians think that the first true civilization developed only 5,000 years ago in Mesopotamia, a region of the Middle East located between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers—roughly, modern central Iraq. The site is characterized by an adequate water supply and fertile soil; in fact, the area is so fertile and so well watered that it is often called the Fertile Crescent.

## The Geographic Equation

Look at the map on the following page to see where the other major early civilizations originated. In every case, the region benefited from two environmental factors: fertile soil and an abundant supply of water. In Egypt, for example, the Nile River deposited rich, black soil when it overflowed its banks during the annual flooding. When this soil was given an adequate amount of water, farmers were able to produce agricultural surpluses, which in turn made it possible for some Egyptians to leave their farming in order to adopt other pursuits.

Released from the constant labor of food production, some people were able to turn their energies toward writing, forming governments, making laws, constructing public buildings, directing the worship of their many gods, and defining the boundaries of their state.

Rich soil and abundant water, however, were only part of the equation. By themselves, they could not catapult a loosely organized group of villagers into that diverse and creative mix we call a civilization. Before people could produce the food surpluses that gave them time and opportunity to specialize, a technology that would efficiently bring the water to the soil had to be invented. Irrigation was the key to an abundant harvest and to specialization. Moreover, some scholars believe that it was the day-by-day work of digging and maintaining ditches and repairing dikes that taught human beings the cooperation and sense of social responsibility that were probably the real seeds of civilization.

## Early Civilizations

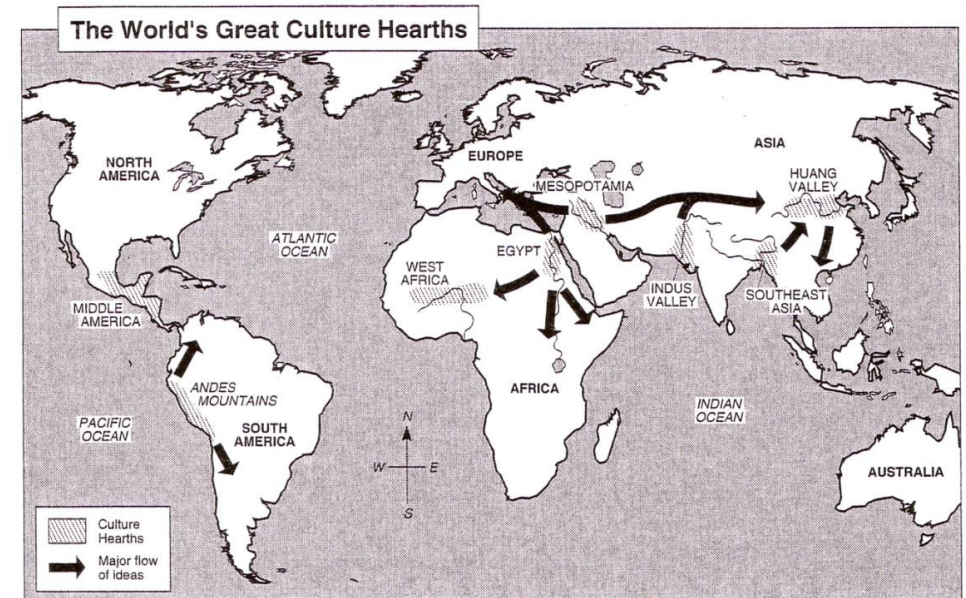
Other early civilizations sprang up in quite different locations, from the savannas of West Africa to the Indus and Huang river basins of India and China; from the lowlands and plateaus of Middle America to the lofty Andes Mountains of South America. All of these civilizations—without exception—had access to water and fertile soil, and all remaining evidence points to the existence of irrigation systems that enabled farmers to bring the water to the soil and keep it there.

In Middle America, the Mayas and Aztecs farmed their crops on rich volcanic soil, in some places watered by canals dug from lakes and rivers, in other places watered by the naturally heavy rainfalls of a tropical climate. In the Andes Mountains, the Incas developed a powerful civilization in which farmers learned to control water runoff from steep mountainsides by means of terraces. Likewise, in West Africa, India, Southeast Asia, and China, early experiments with irrigated farming led ultimately to fully developed civilizations that influenced the rise of other civilizations in yet other parts of the world.

Cultural geographers call these early centers of civilization *culture hearths*. Just as the heat of a fire in a hearth radiates throughout an entire room, so the mass of learned ideas, techniques, beliefs, art, morals, and behavior patterns of a small group of people can spread over time and space to influence countless generations in innumerable, far-flung locations. Most of the regions of the modern world can trace some aspects of their civilization to one or more of these major culture hearths.

**Directions:** Use information from the essay and the map below to answer the following questions.

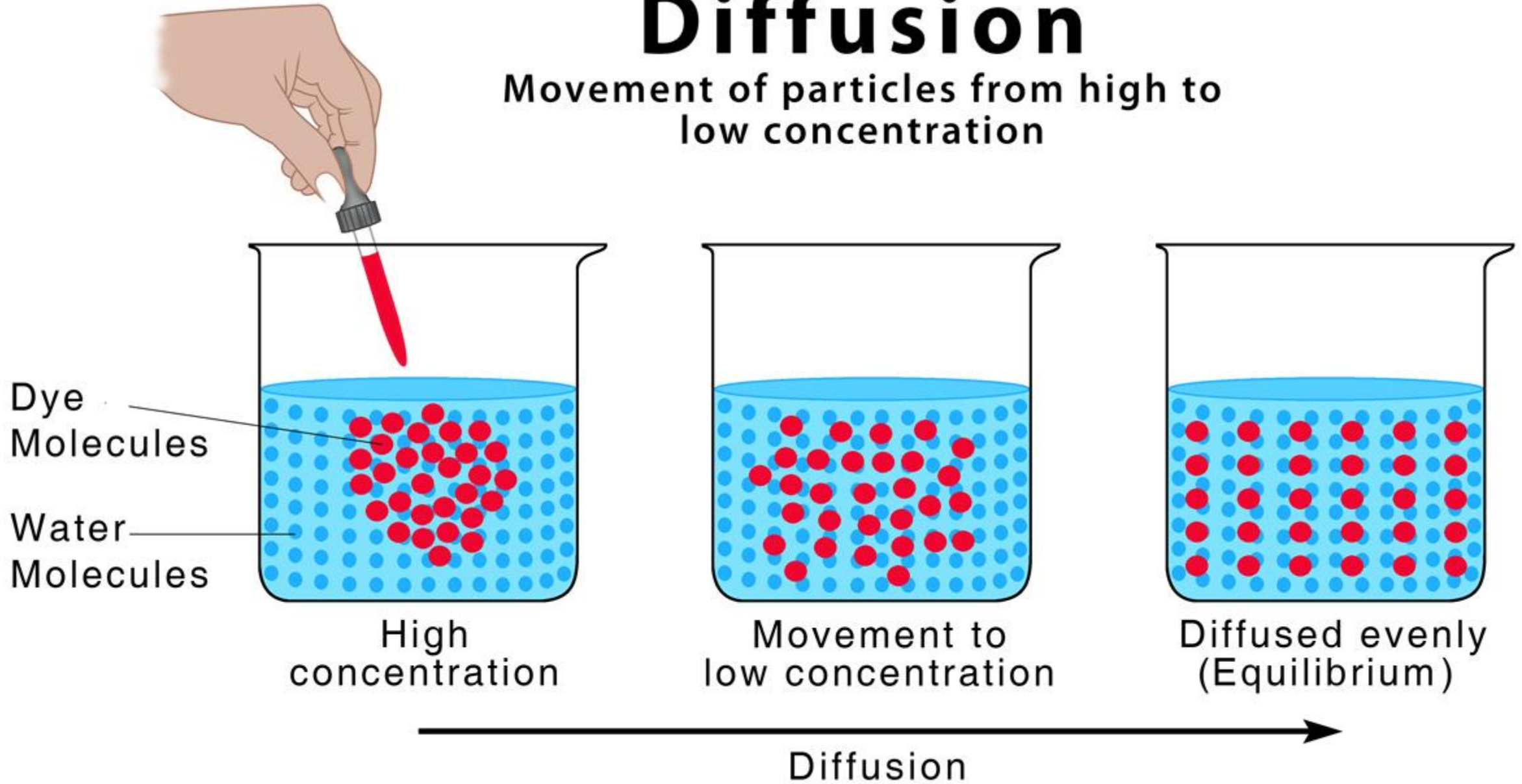
1. *Location:* Which continents did not produce an early cultural hearth?
2. *Interaction:* In what ways did people in the early civilizations change their environment to take better advantage of resources?
3. *Movement:* How did environmental conditions deter the development of civilizations in some desert regions and in some regions near the poles?
4. What geographic factors might have influenced the directions in which ideas flowed from Mesopotamia?





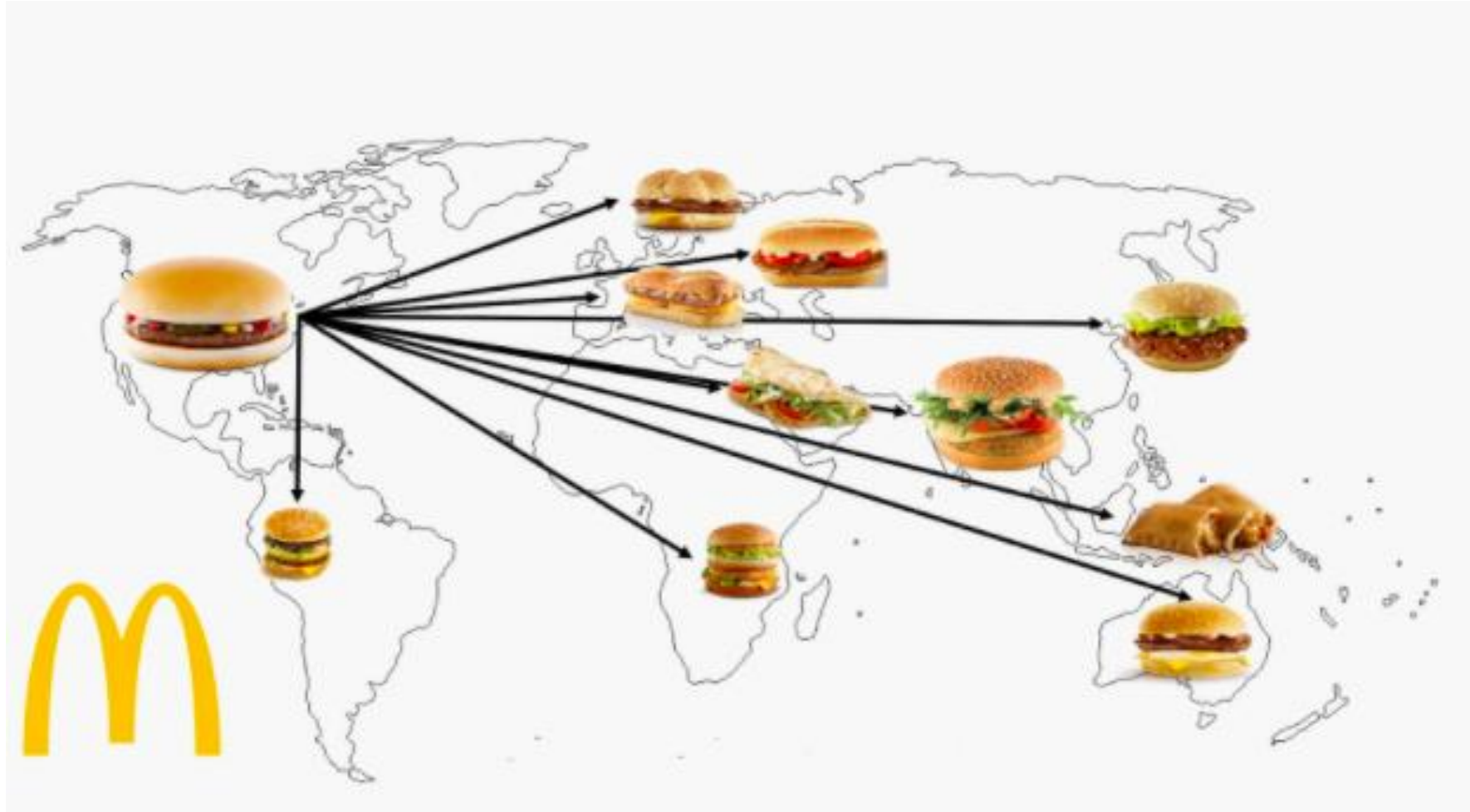
# Diffusion

Movement of particles from high to low concentration





# Cultural Diffusion



# Cultural Diffusion

Cultural diffusion occurs when cultural elements like ideas, technologies, and customs spread from one society to another through various forms of interaction, including...



# Cultural Diffusion

Cultural diffusion occurs when cultural elements like ideas, technologies, and customs spread from one society to another through various forms of interaction, including...

How do you think cultural diffusion occurs?

# Cultural Diffusion

Cultural diffusion occurs when cultural elements like ideas, technologies, and customs spread from one society to another through various forms of interaction, including...

**migration, trade, exploration, conquest, communication (media, internet), and globalization.**