



Ancient Civilizations

Mesopotamia (pp. 37-40),
Egypt (pp. 45-49),
Harappa (pp. 71-73),
Minoan (pp. 109-111)

Objectives

Maps

Mesopotamia

India

Egypt

Greece

Bronze Age

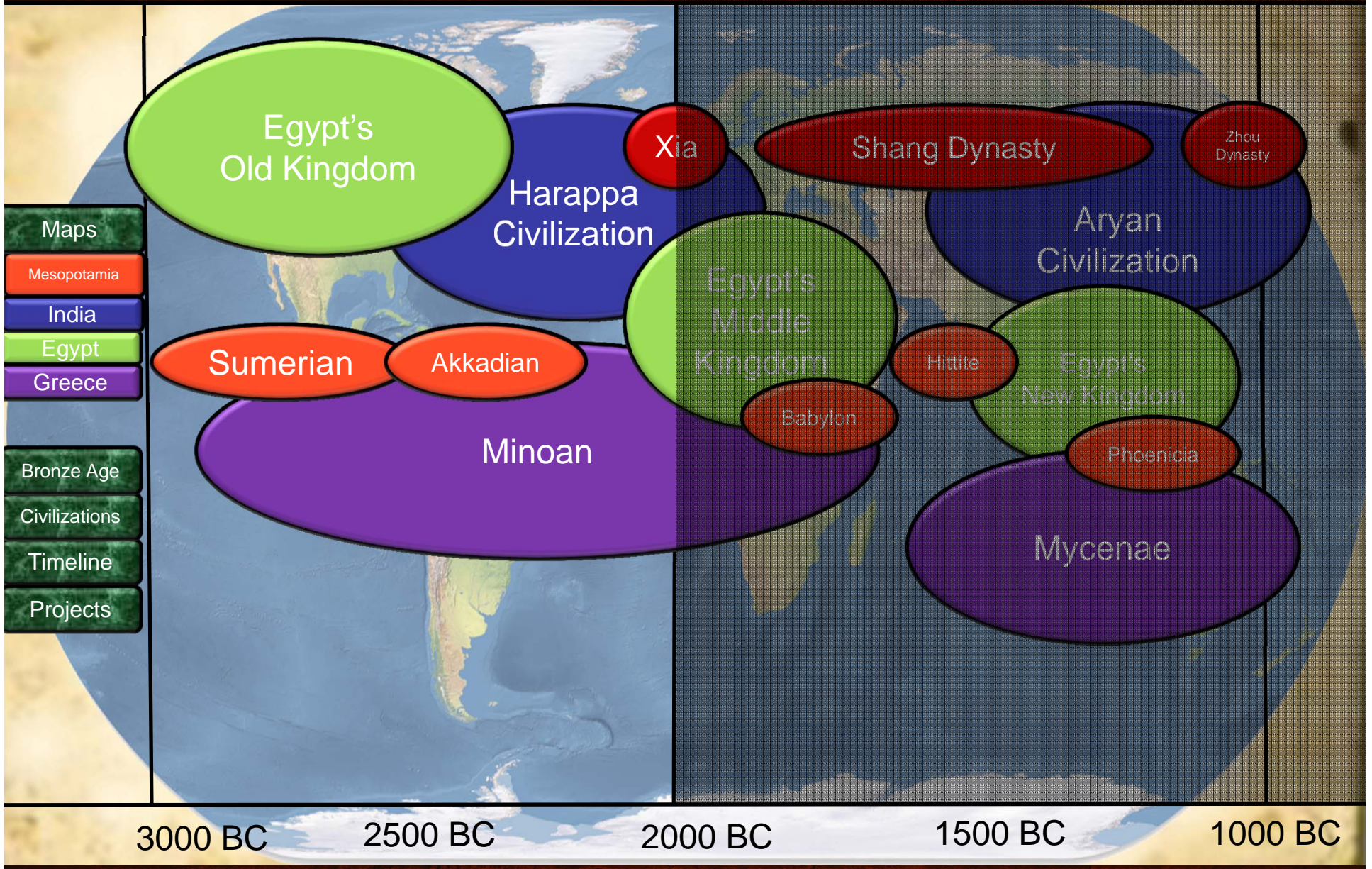
Civilizations

Timeline

Projects

- Summarize how geography affected cultural development
- Describe city-states
- Describe early religious beliefs, social structure, and technology
- Explain the influence of ancient civilizations on later civilizations

3000 BC TO 1000 BC



Key Terms

Maps

Mesopotamia

India

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Civilizations

Timeline

Projects

- Theocracy
- Monarchy
- City-state
- Empire
- Dynasty
- Patriarchal
- Polytheistic
- Bureaucracy
- Mesopotamia
- Harappa
- Minoans
- Egypt

Ancient Civilizations (3000 – 2000 BC)

Maps

Mesopotamia

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Timeline

Projects

- 4 Major Civilizations grow around 3000 BC
 - Mesopotamia
 - Harappa
 - Minoans
 - Egypt
- Why civilization developed?
 - Challenges (environmental and people)
 - Increase of food supply brought specialization of labor
 - Religion brought people together with a common identity

Bronze Age

- Ancient civilizations generally grew around water sources
 - Why?
 - Water provided source for food
- The first forms of government were thought to be **theocracy** and **monarchy**
 - Theocracy is government by religion, while monarchy is government by a king or queen
 - Why would theocracy be one of the first forms of government?
 - Ancient civilizations thought that gods controlled natural occurrences

Maps

Mesopotamia

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Egypt

Greece

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Bronze Age

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Timeline

Projects

- Initially, **city-states** emerged from the Neolithic age
 - City-State: A city and the area nearby which is controlled by it
- These grew into **empires** as city-states began to dominate those around them
 - Empire: An area dominated by another
- **Dynasties** of ruling families dominated early monarchical governments
 - Dynasty: A ruling family which passes its power from generation to generation

Bronze Age

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Bronze Age

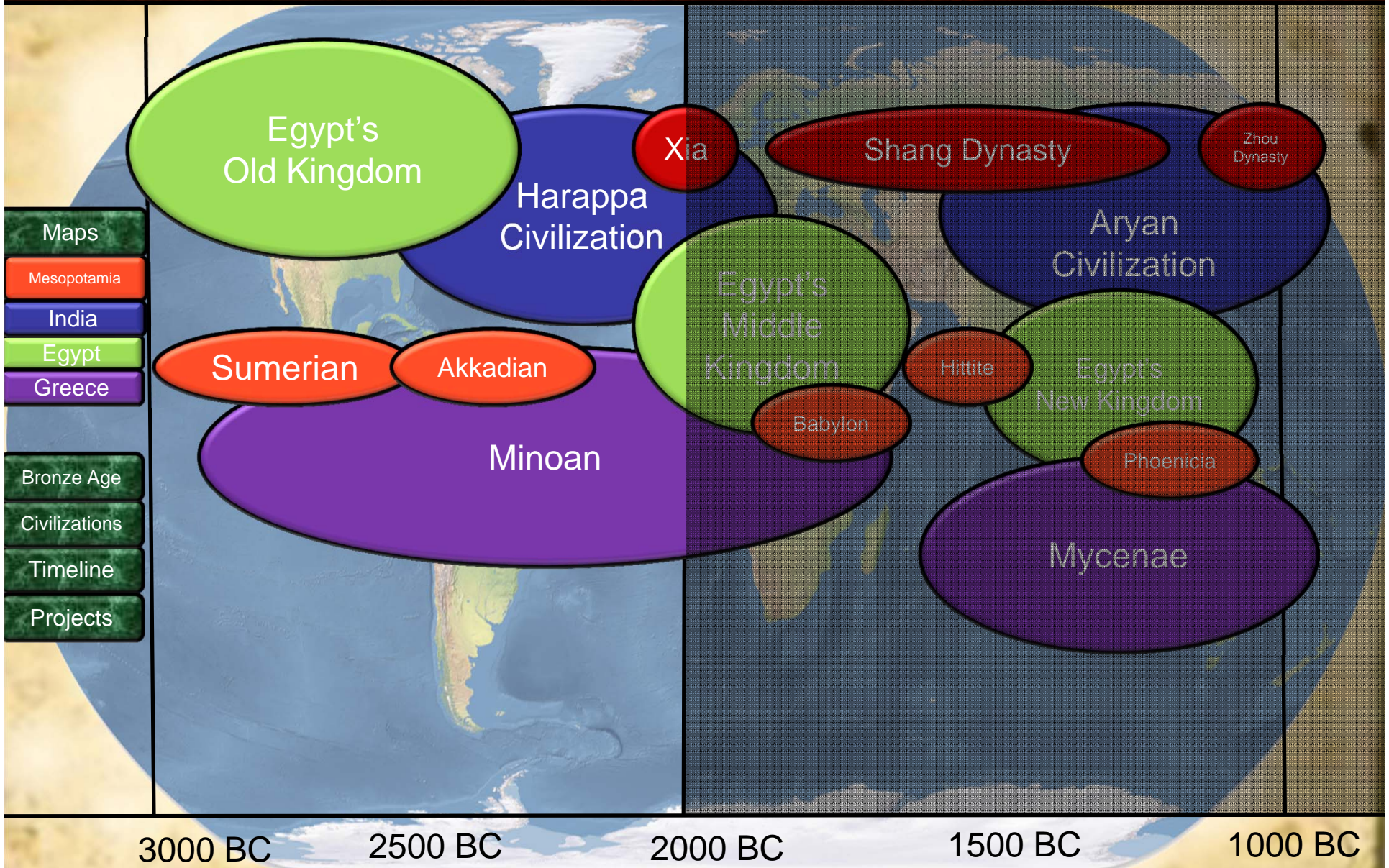
Civilizations

Timeline

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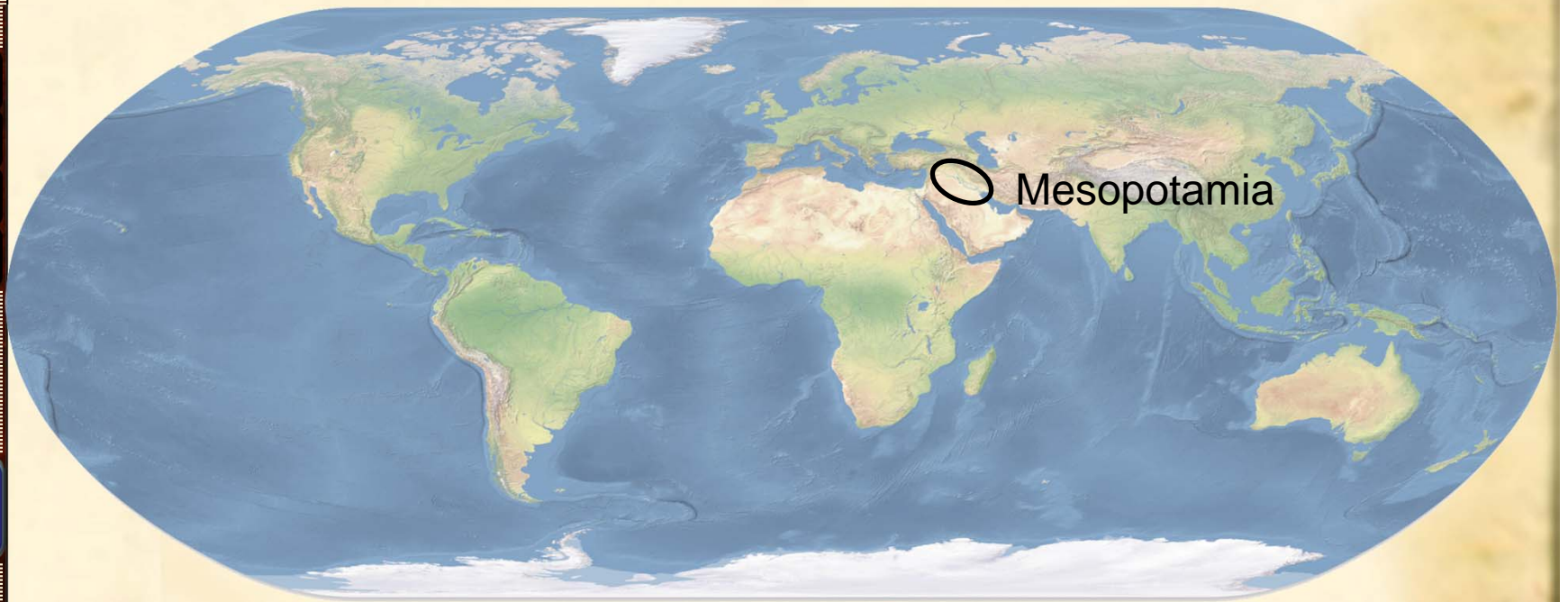
- As a government grew, normally a **bureaucracy** would be established to help the ruler run the government
 - Bureaucracy: A group of unelected officials who help run the government
- Most of the early societies developed into **patriarchal** societies
 - Patriarchal: Male-dominated
- Most also had **polytheistic** religions
 - Polytheistic: Having more than one god

3000 BC TO 1000 BC



- Maps
- Mesopotamia
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- Bronze Age
- Civilizations
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Mesopotamia



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Mesopotamian Geography

- The land between the **Tigris** and **Euphrates** Rivers is called **Mesopotamia**.
- It is a part of what is called the **Fertile Crescent**.
- The silt from flooding made it very good for farming.
- However, floods were unpredictable which made farming difficult

Maps

Mesopotamia

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Mesopotamian Development

- As villages grew into cities, such as **Uruk**, societies changed into civilizations
- In Mesopotamia, the cities were independent and fought with each other
- Kings and priests vied for control within the cities

Age of the Empire

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- **Sargon of Akkad**

- Around 2350 BC, Sargon defeated all the city-states of Sumer
- Though they spoke differently, the **Akkadians** adapted many of the Sumerians ways of living
- By controlling all of Mesopotamia, Sargon created the first **empire**
- It lasted 200 years but had constant internal fighting and famine

Life in Sumerian Society

Maps

Mesopotamia

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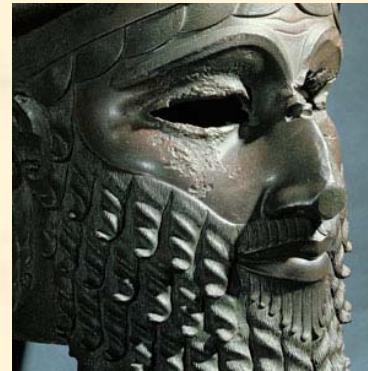
Civilizations

Timeline

Projects

- The Sumerians social classes

- Kings and priests
- Wealthy merchants
- Normal Sumerians
- Slaves



- Women could have the same jobs as men and could join the priesthood but could not be educated
- Culturally the greatest epic written during this time was the story of **Gilgamesh**

Mesopotamian Religion

Maps

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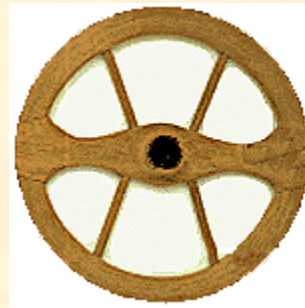
Timeline

Projects

- Mesopotamians believed their god lived within their city
 - Ziggurats were built as homes
- They believed their gods were all powerful but with human failings
 - Humans existed to please the gods

Sumerian Technology

- Sumerians invented many things
 - Cuneiform
 - Used mainly for record keeping
 - Wheel
 - Plow
 - Sundial
 - Arch
 - Bronze
 - 60 base system of math (time measurements)



Maps

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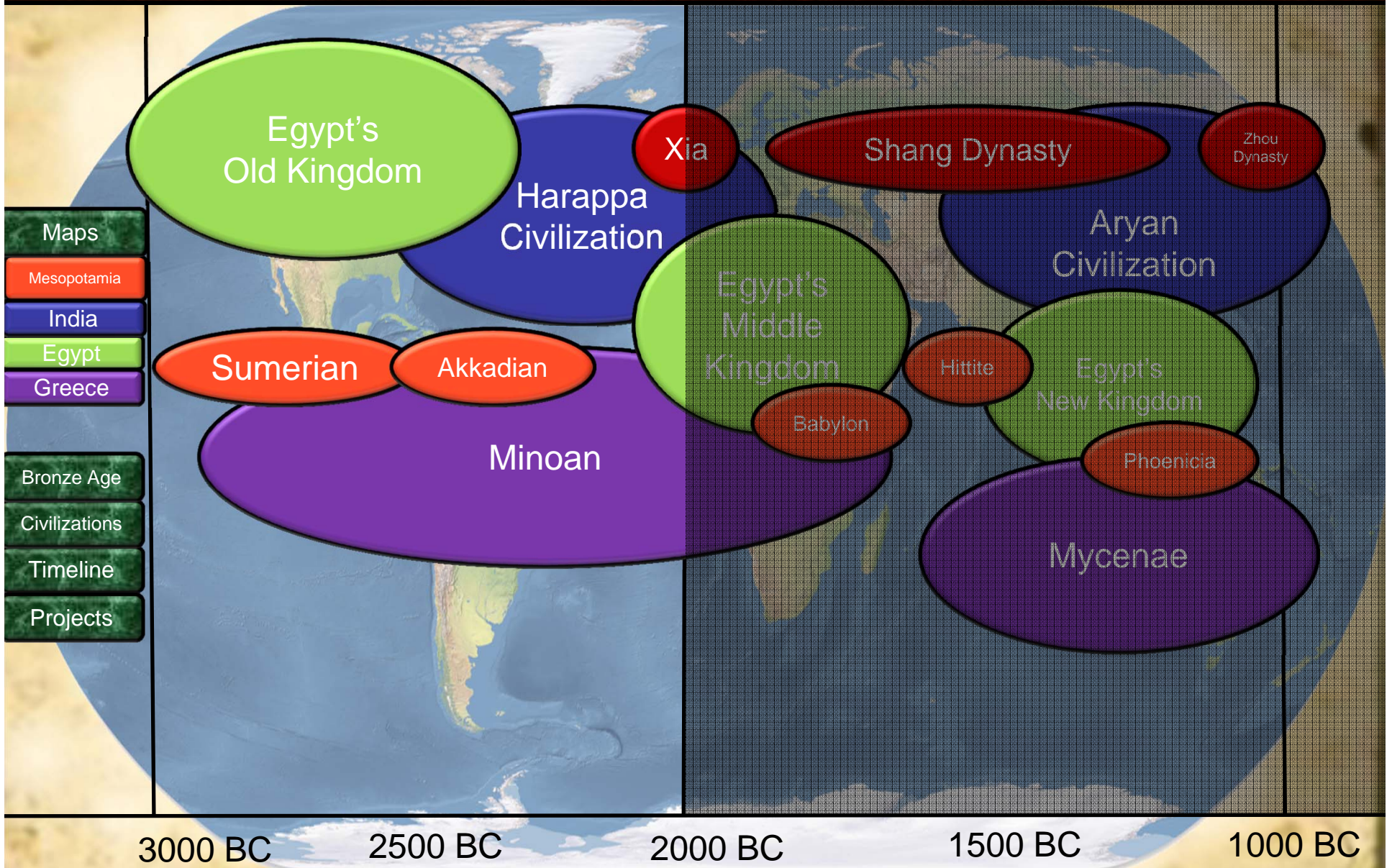
Bronze Age

Civilizations

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3000 BC TO 1000 BC



The Land of Africa

Maps

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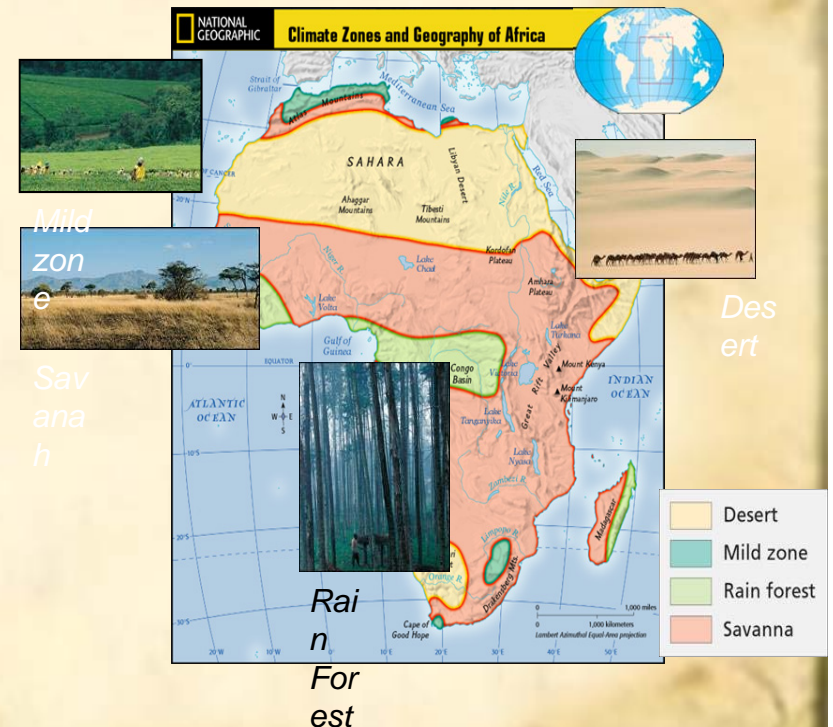
Bronze Age

Civilizations

Timeline

Projects

- Africa is the second largest continent
- It has several distinct zones
 - Sahara
 - The “hump” of Africa
 - Great Rift Valley
 - Congo River Basin
 - Kalahari



The Climate of Africa

- Africa has four distinct climate zones
 - North and southern coasts are mild
 - Deserts
 - Rain Forest
 - Savannas



Voices from the Past

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Shepherd and his sheep on the banks of the Nile River

Key Terms

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- Savanna
- Nile
- Lower Egypt
- Upper Egypt
- Old Kingdom
- Intermediate Period
- Menes
- Dynasty
- Mummification
- Hieroglyphics
- Papyrus
- Hieratic Script

Egypt



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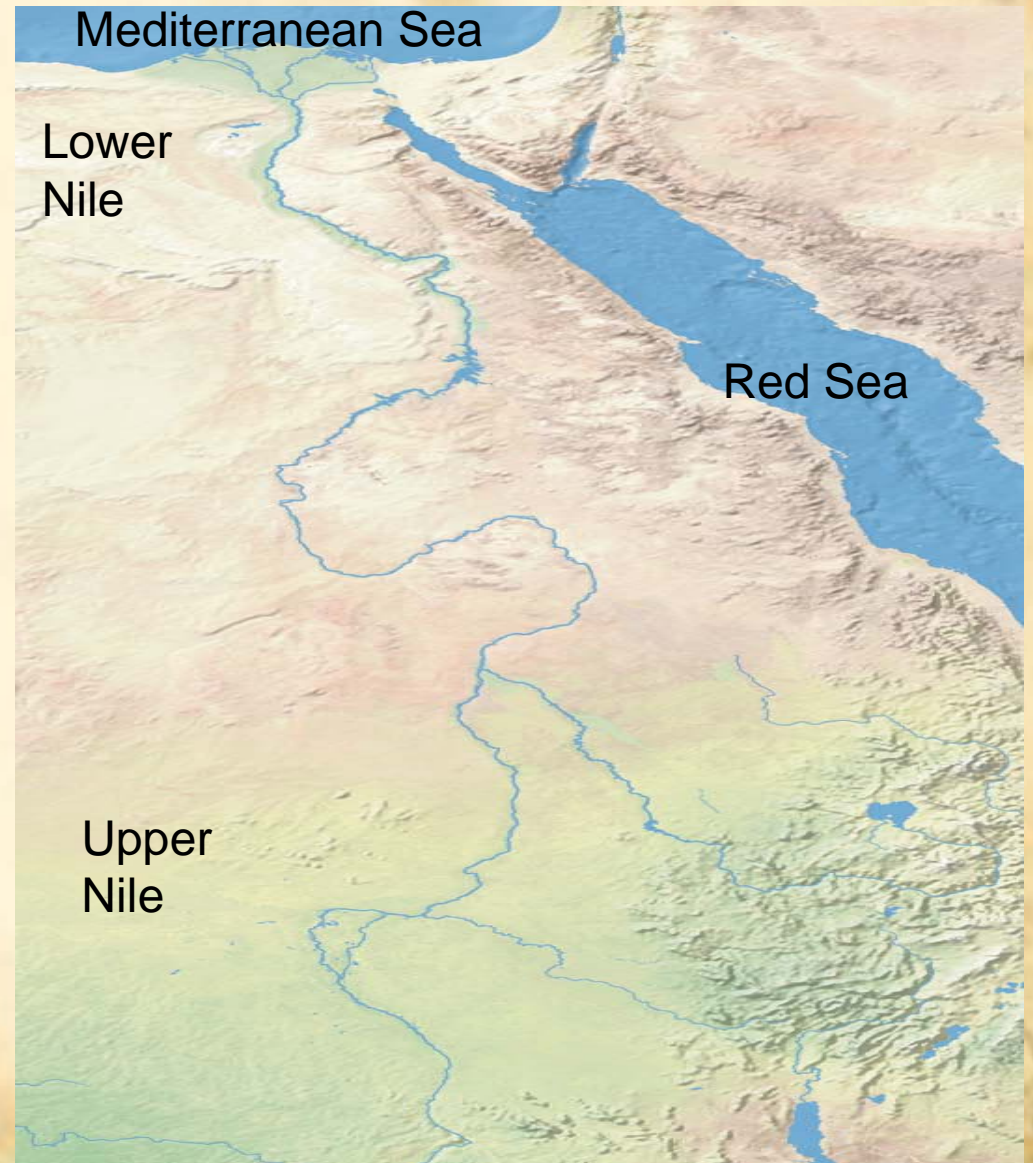
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Impact of Geography

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- Egyptian history begins with the **Nile River**.
- Egypt is split into two parts:
 - **Lower Egypt** (near the Mediterranean Sea)
 - **Upper Egypt** (Southern part)
- Like Mesopotamia, the **Nile River** flooded yearly
- Unlike Mesopotamia it was predictable
 - Flood, plant, harvest; flood, plant, harvest
- The Nile was worshipped as a God

Environmental Changes

Maps

Mesopotamia

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- Living off the Nile could be dangerous
 - If it flooded not enough, the harvest would be reduced
 - If it flooded too much, mud buildings could be destroyed
 - Wildlife could be brought upriver
- However, the desert and seas isolated early Egyptians from warfare in the Fertile Crescent

The Course of Egyptian History

- Ancient Egyptian history is divided into three parts:
 - **Old Kingdom**
 - Middle Kingdom
 - New Kingdom
- The time between each one is called the intermediate period.



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Egypt Unites Into a Kingdom

- According to legend, **Menes** united all of Egypt
- He created a double crown to show his control of all Egypt
- Egypt would eventually have 31 dynasties spanning 2,600 years
- A **dynasty** is a family of rulers, who's right to rule is passed down the family.

The Old Kingdom

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- The Old Kingdom lasted from 2700 to 2200 BC.
- The ruler of Egypt is known as the **Pharaoh**, and was considered a god.
- The Pharaoh had absolute power, but ruled through a bureaucracy.
- The Pharaoh was also the head of the religion so the government was a form of **theocracy and monarchy**

Builders of Pyramids

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Projects

- Egyptians were fascinated with the afterlife
- The Pharaohs built huge tombs to hold the things they would use in the afterlife
- These generally took the shape of a **pyramid** in the Old Kingdom period

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The end of the Old Kingdom

- Power of the Pharaohs declined in 2180 BC
- Regional governors began to grow in power and civil wars broke out
- When a severe drought broke out around, the Old Kingdom ended and the first intermediate period began

Life in Egyptian Society

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Projects

- Pharaoh at the top
- Wealthy landowners, military commanders, government officials
- “Normal” Egyptians
- Slaves
- Women had many of the same rights as men

Religion and Life

- Egyptians were polytheistic
 - Ra – Sun God
 - Horus – God of Light
 - Isis – Motherhood
- Believed that Osiris (God of the dead) would judge them by weighing their heart against a feather
- People were embalmed by **mummification**



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Egyptian Writing



- While Mesopotamia used cuneiform, Egyptians used hieroglyphics
 - Pictures as opposed to symbols
 - Pictures could represent sounds as well as ideas
 - From this a simplified form called Hieratic script came into being.
- Egyptians used **papyrus**, a reed that when dried out became a paper-like sheet

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Art and Architecture

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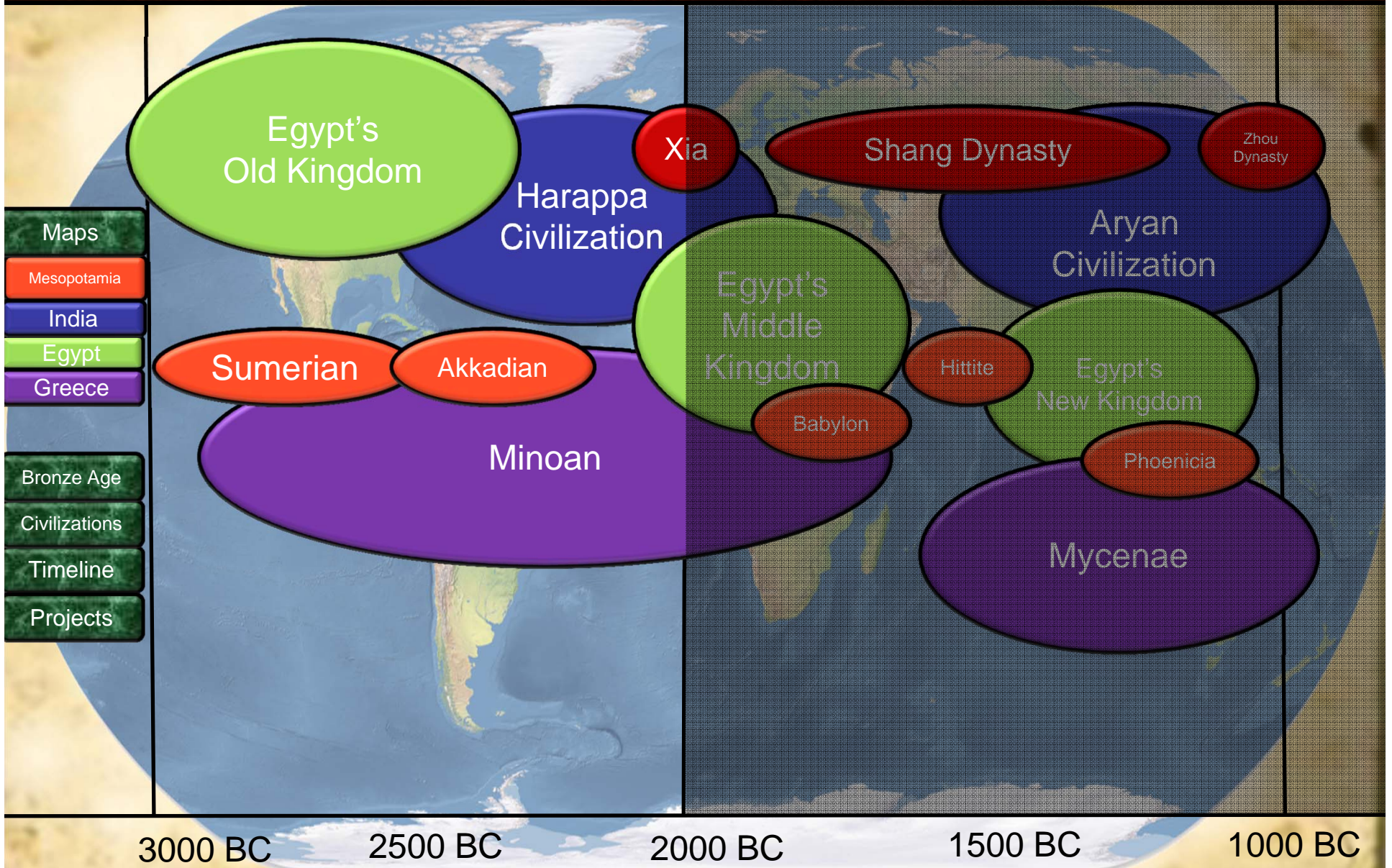
Civilizations

Timeline

Projects

- Obviously the pyramids and temples are examples of great architecture.
- The Egyptians also started a new style of two-dimensional painting.
- They had advanced mathematics, a 365 day lunar calendar, and medical techniques.

3000 BC TO 1000 BC



Voices from the Past

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*Krishna supporting
Mount Govardhana*

Key Terms

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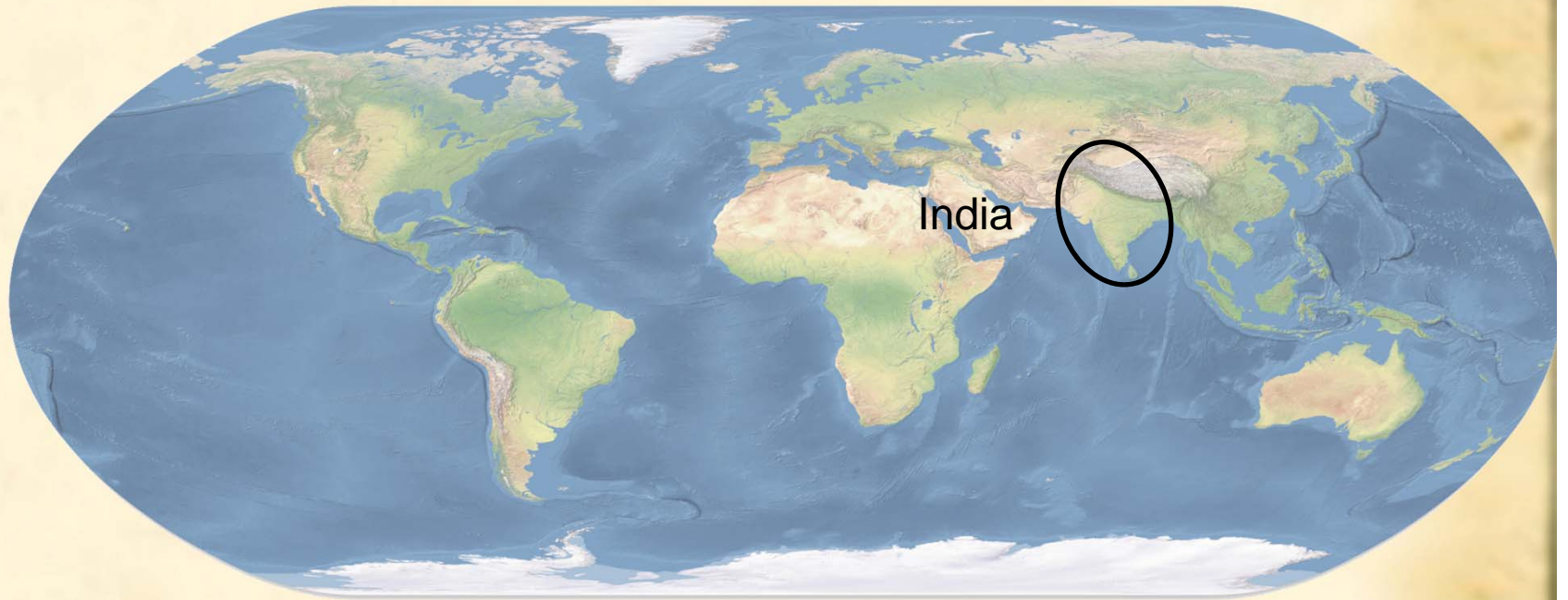
Civilizations

Timeline

Projects

- Monsoon
- Himalayan
- Indian Subcontinent
- Ganges
- Indus
- Deccan
- Mesopotamia
- Egypt
- Harappa
- Persian Gulf

India



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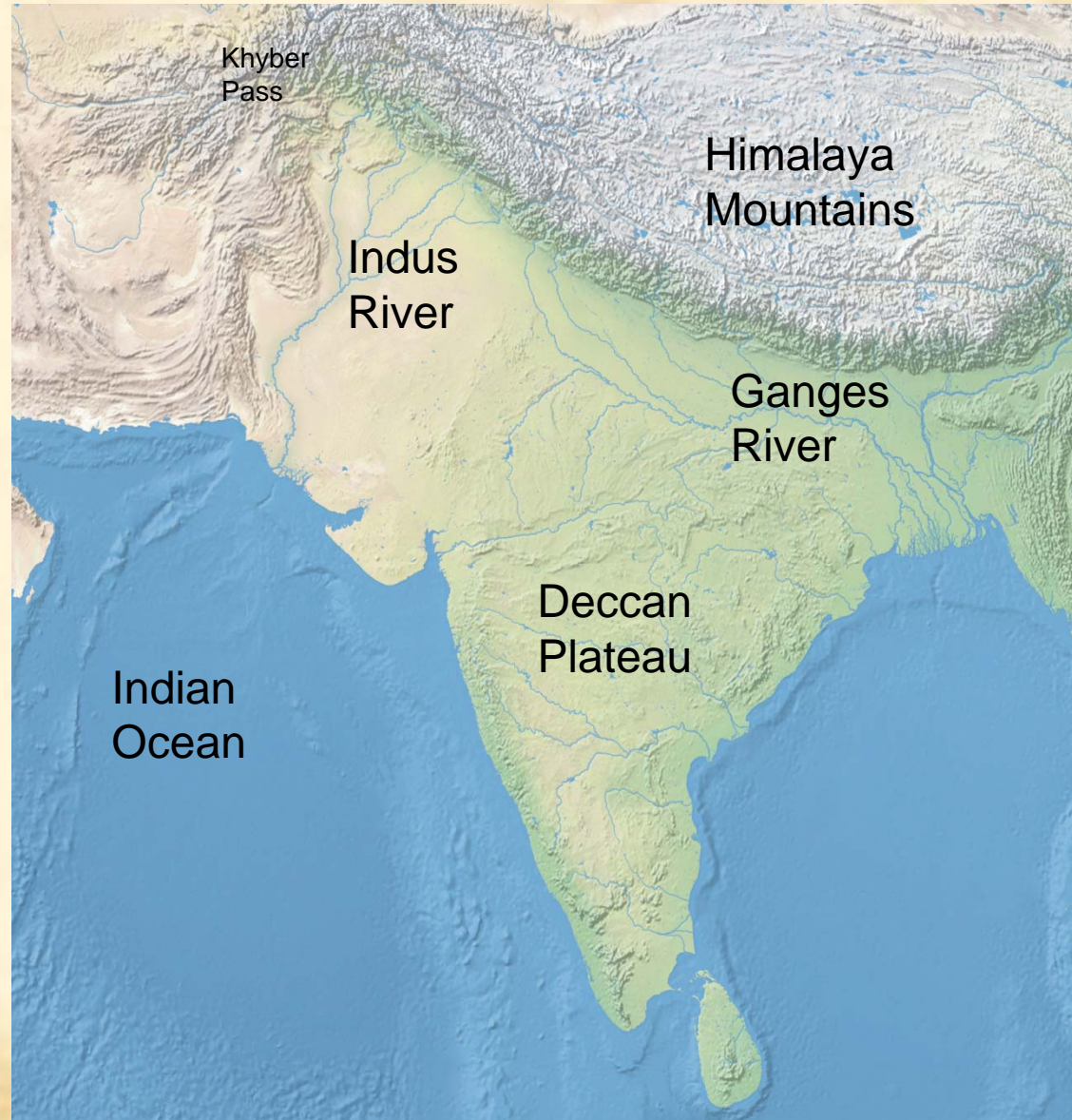
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Rivers, Mountains and Monsoons

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Projects

- The area of India is called the **Indian Subcontinent**
- The **Himalayan** Mountains guard the fertile plain made by the **Ganges** and Indus Rivers
- Below it is a subcontinent called the **Deccan** (a peninsula)
- Seasonal winds called **monsoons** dominate India's climate

Monsoon

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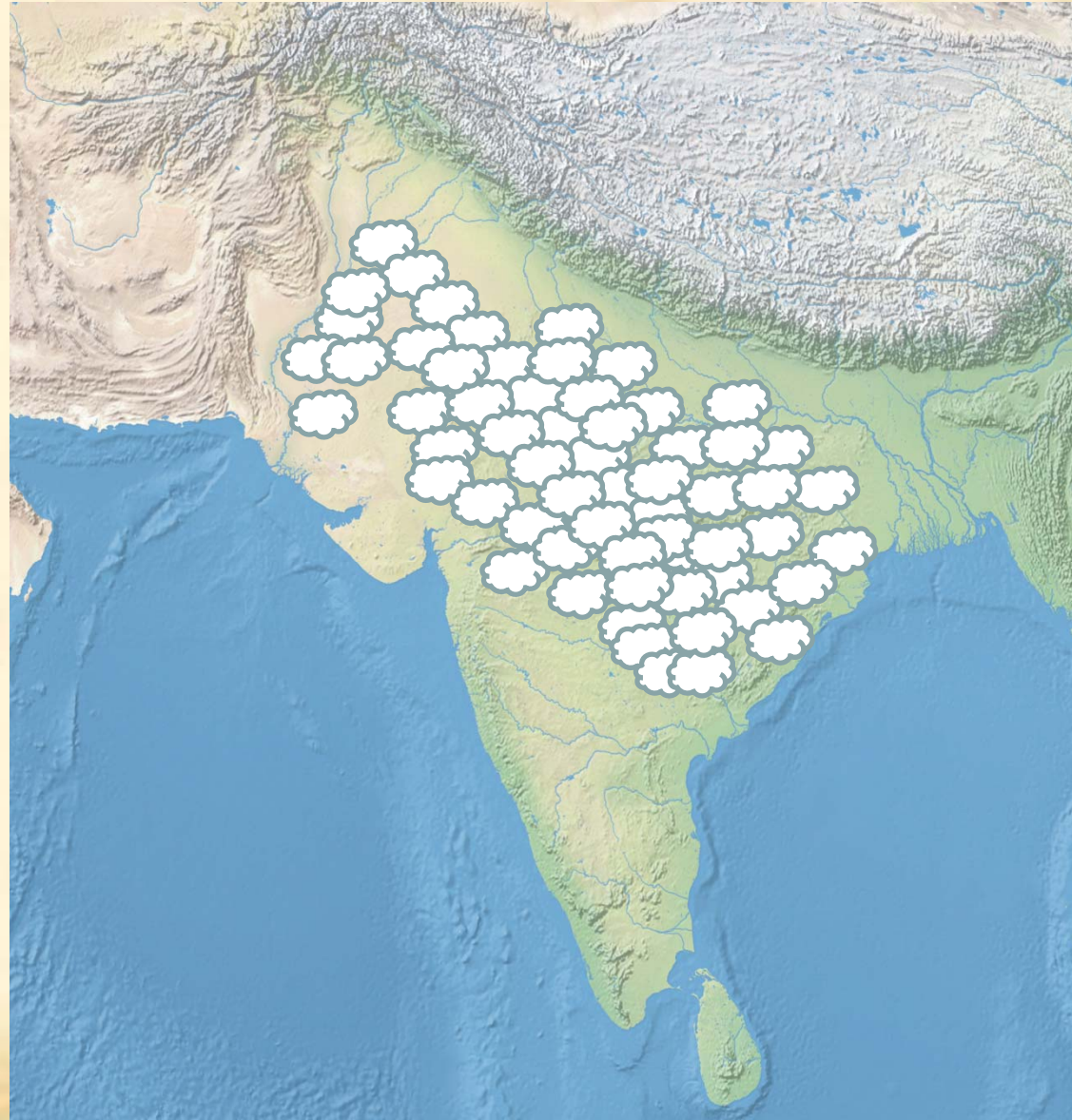
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Environmental Changes

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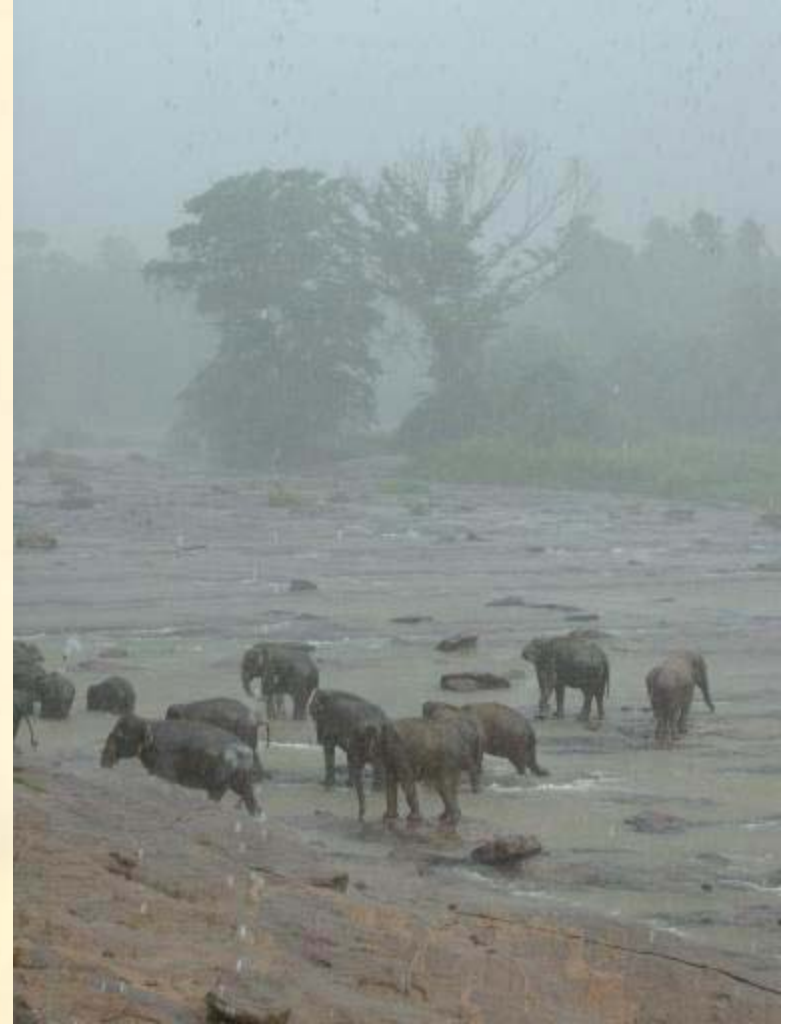
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Civilizations

Timeline

Projects

- The Indus Valley civilization faced many of the same challenges as Egypt and Mesopotamia
 - Yearly floods
 - Floods were unpredictable
- Also, they had deal with the wet and dry seasons brought by the monsoons
- The mountains however gave good protection from invaders



Earliest Arrivals

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Projects

- By 3200 BC farming villages began to emerge
- Around 2500 BC in the Indus Valley, cities were being built
- This is called the Harappa Civilization
- They used sophisticated city planning
 - Cities were in a grid system
 - Featured citadels in the center
 - Residential areas were separate from commercial
 - Plumbing and sewage systems were emplaced

Culture and Trade

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Projects

- Housing tended to be uniform
 - Social class differences were not great
- Artifacts such as toys were found
 - Shows prosperous and stable society
- Stamps were used to identify goods
 - Shows they conducted extensive trade
- Trade extended as far as the **Persian Gulf**

Mysterious End to Indus Valley Culture

- 1750 BC the great cities fall. Why?
 - Indus River changed course
 - Land became overused
 - Invaders or warfare
 - Disease
 - Natural disaster

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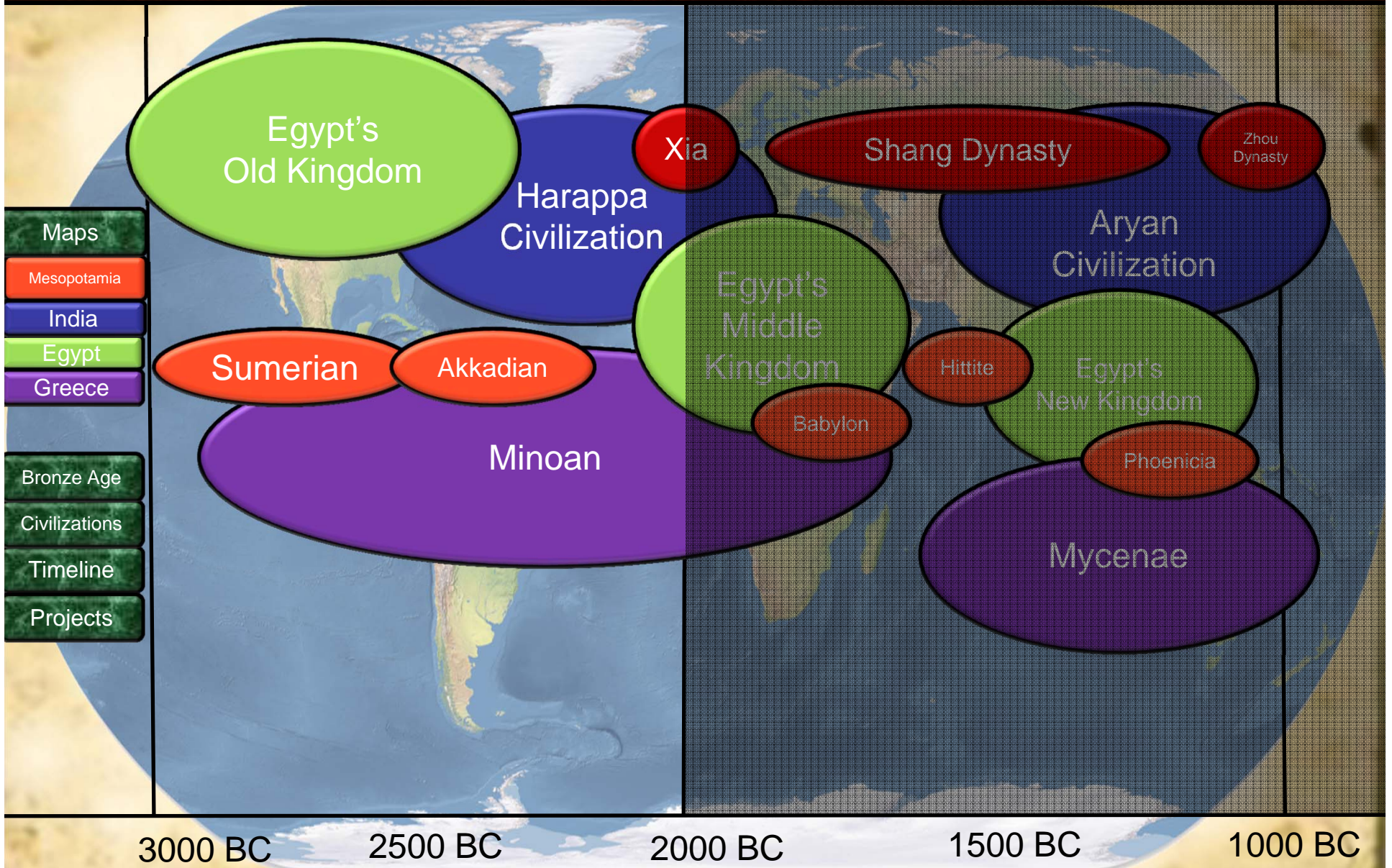
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3000 BC TO 1000 BC



Key Terms

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Projects

- Greece
- Anatolia
- Sparta
- Olympus
- Minoan
- Crete
- Knossos

Greece



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Geography Shapes Greek Life

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Projects

- Greece consists of a mountainous peninsula with over 1400 small islands
- It civilization was shaped by the sea
 - Provides transportation
 - Provides food
- Sea travel was also important for trade

The Land

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Projects

- $\frac{3}{4}$ of Greece is mountainous
 - Difficult to unite into a country
 - From Sparta, 60 miles from Olympus, it took 6 days to get there
- With this topography, city-states grew in isolated areas
- Only 20% of the land was farmable
- As City-States grew, more land became necessary
 - Colonization began of Anatolia

The Climate

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- Climate is mild (48 to 80 degrees)
- This encouraged outdoor activities
- Public life became an integral part of Greece culture

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The Minoan Civilization

- By 2800 BC, a civilization grew up on the island of Crete
- A great capital rose in Knossos
- This capital of the Minoans was a great sea trading center
- The civilization was wiped out in 1430 BC by either volcanos, earthquakes or bandits, or all three

Minoan Culture

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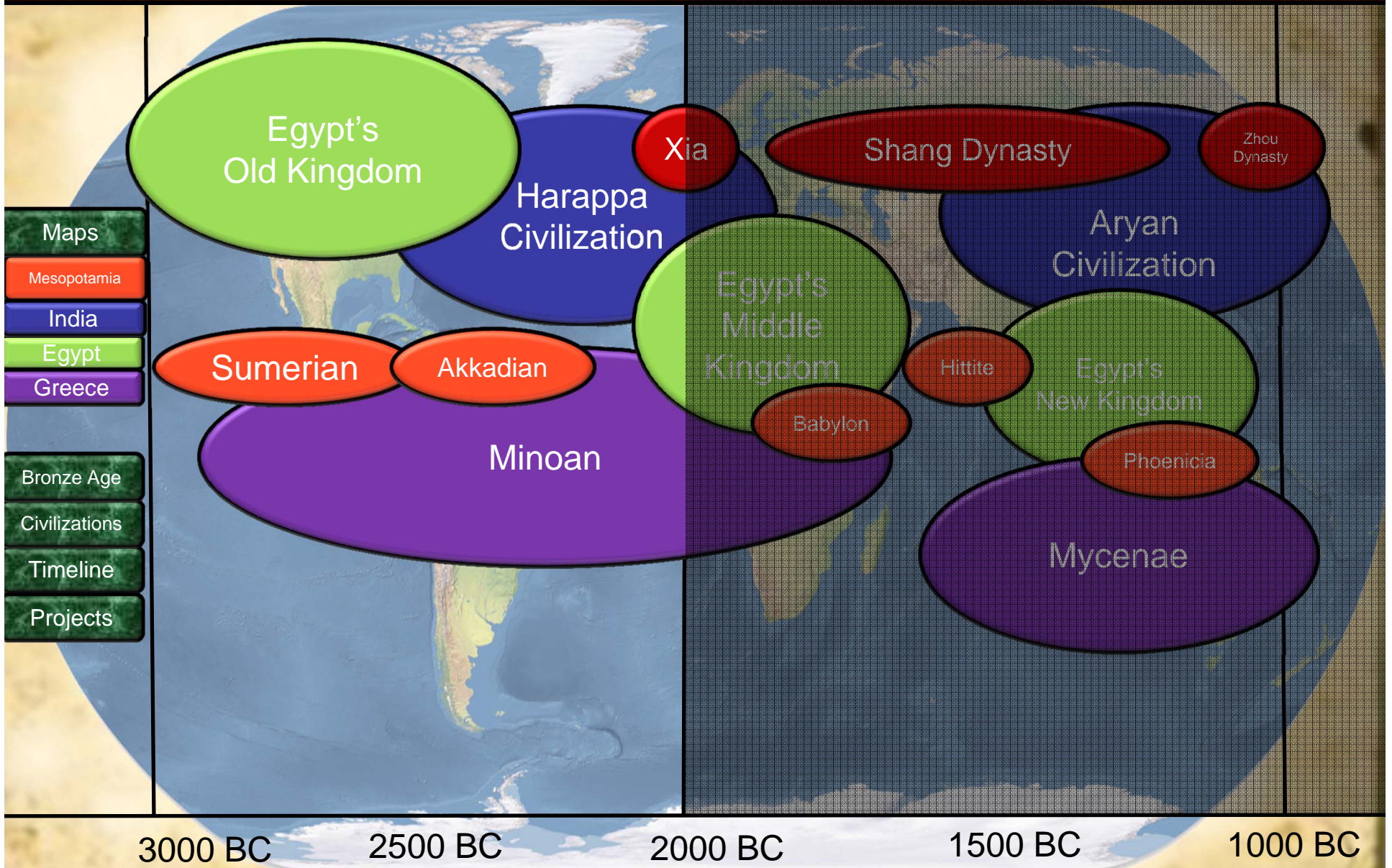
Civilizations

Timeline

Projects

- Had written language (Linear A) but it has not be deciphered
- Religion was polytheistic and focused mainly on goddesses rather than gods
- A common theme in the culture is the bull and bull jumping
- Minoan Culture is represented in Greek myths such as King Minos and Theseus and the Minotaur

3000 BC TO 1000 BC



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- Compare and contrast two of the four civilizations discussed. (1)
- Write a fictional story about a person living in the time of one of the civilizations. (1)
- Develop a “newspaper” from the time. (2-4)
- Write a poem about the civilizations. (1)
- Compare and contrast the geography of two or more of the civilizations. (1)
- Develop a travel brochure or guidebook for a time traveler to each civilization. (1)
- Day in the life of a Scribe journal entries – journal/diary entries that describe the daily tasks of a scribe and their civilization. (1)
- Facebook the civilizations or the people in it. (1)
- Make maps and graphs showing the geography and social structures of the civilizations. Include a description of each to point out the significant characteristics. (1-2)
- Use heraldry to develop a “standard” for each civilization. Include a symbol chart to explain each color and figure. (1)
- Develop a picture book covering the important aspects of each civilization. (2-3)
- Design a game based on one of the major civilizations covered. (1-2)

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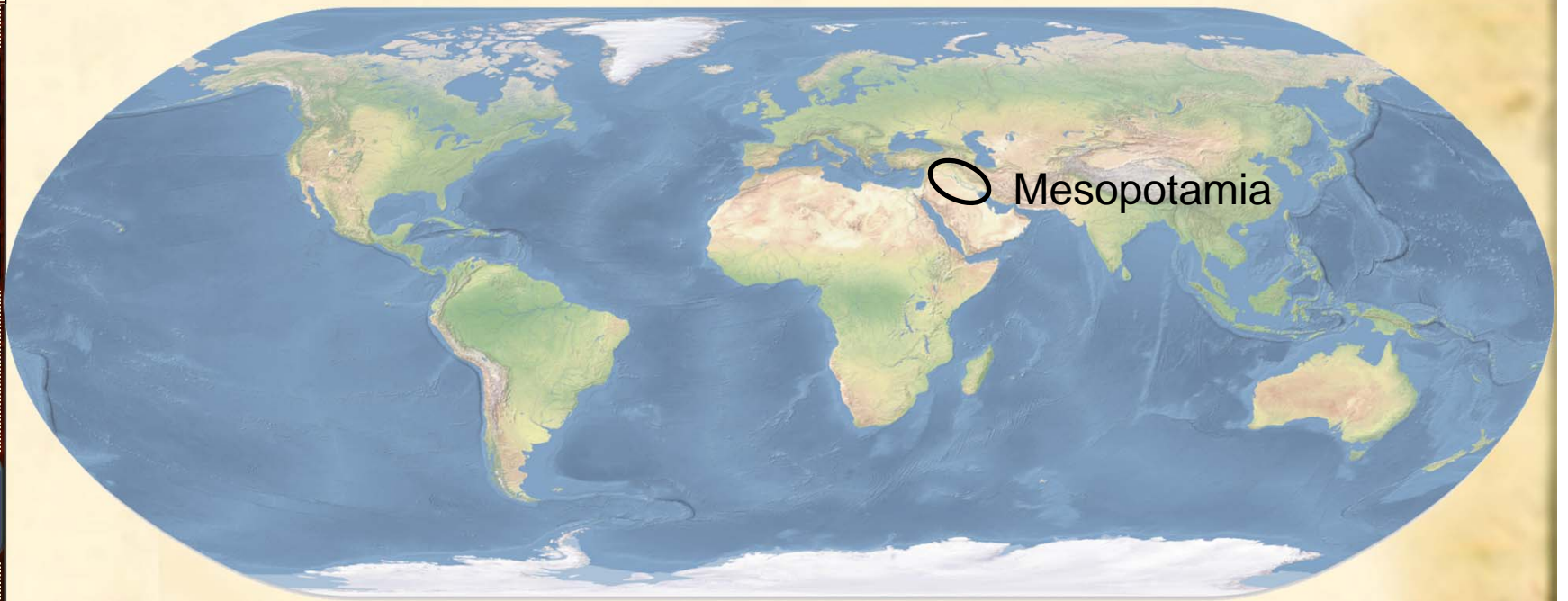
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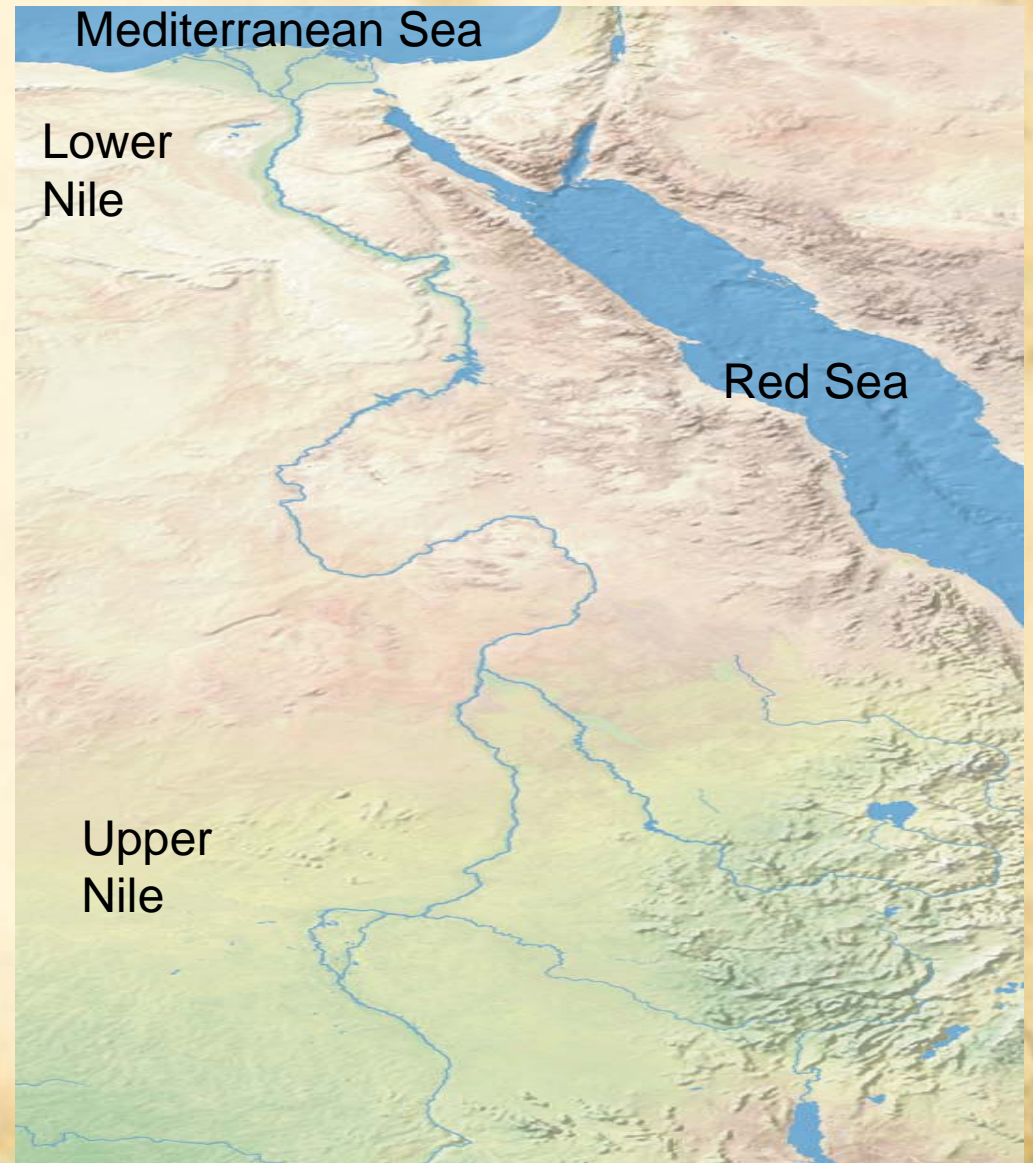
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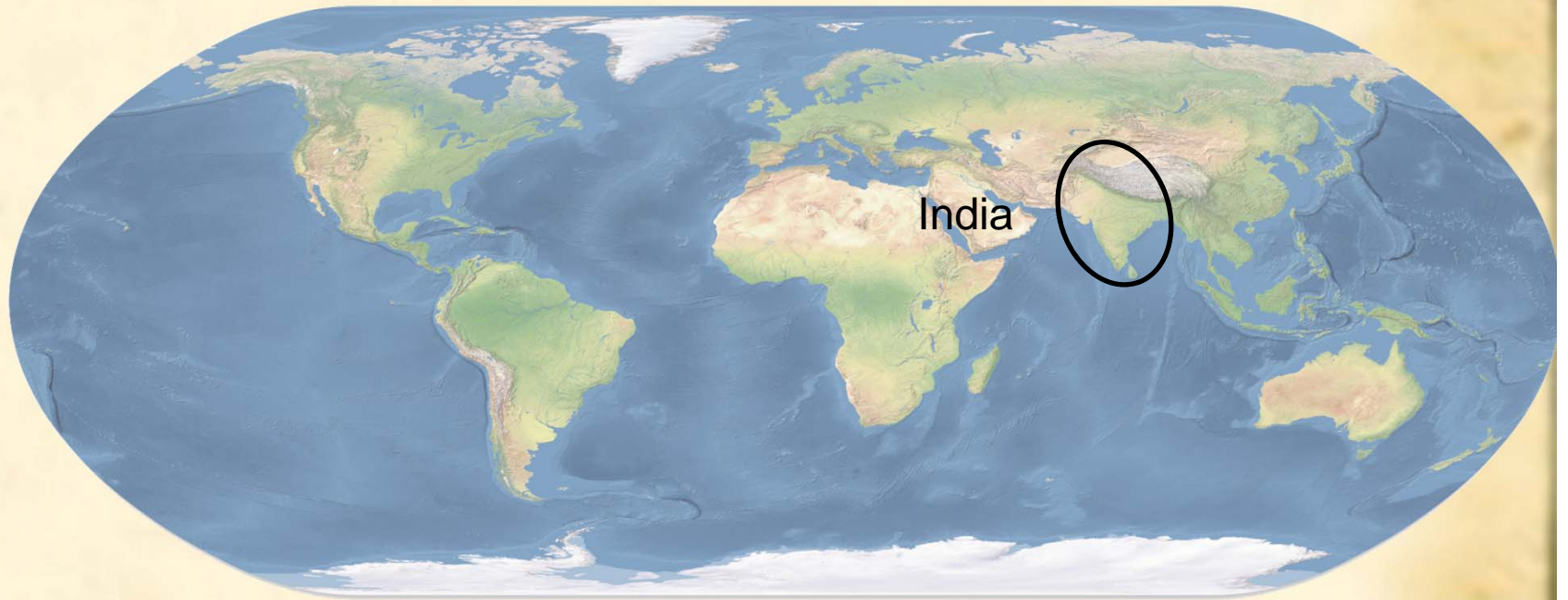
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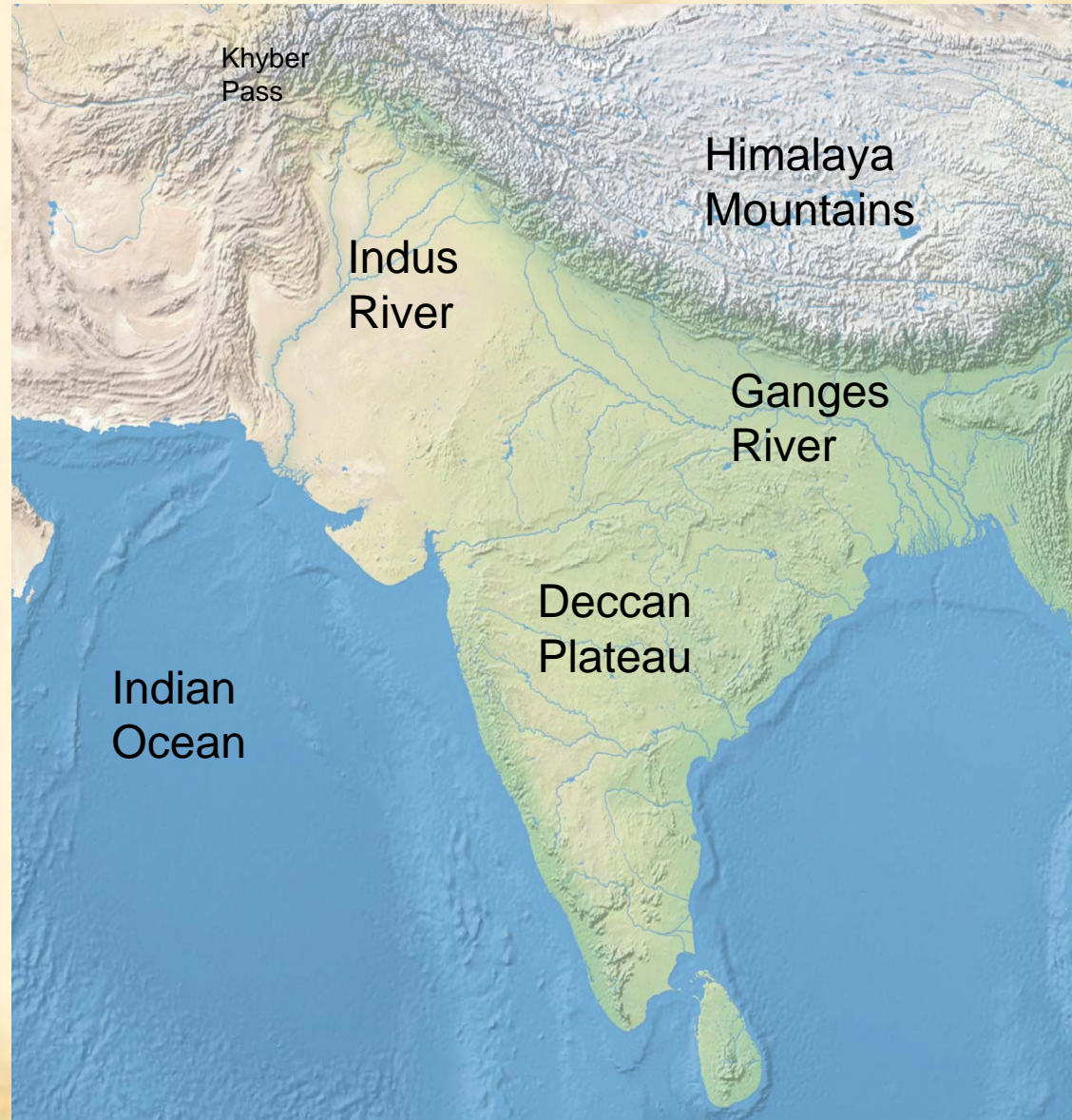
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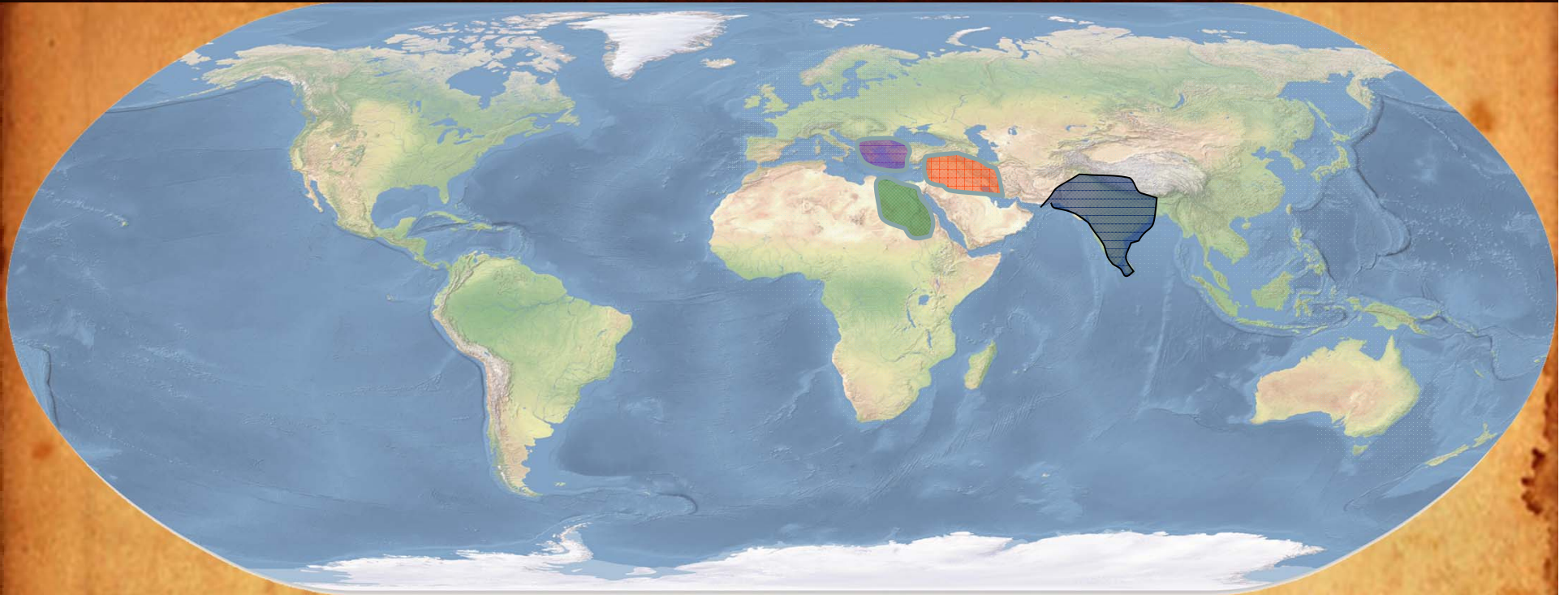
Civilizations

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Timelines

3000 BC TO 1000 BC



	3000 BC	2500 BC	2000 BC	1500 BC	1000 BC	
Africa	Old Kingdom		Middle Kingdom	New Kingdom		
Southwest Asia	Harappa			Aryan		
Asia				Xia	Shang	Zhou
Europe	Minoan			Mycenae		
Middle East	Sumerian	Akkadian		Babylon	Hittites	Phoenicia

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