

Ancient MESOPOTAMIA

A stylized map of Ancient Mesopotamia. The land is colored in shades of orange and yellow, while the surrounding seas and rivers are blue. The Tigris and Euphrates rivers are shown as blue lines flowing from the north towards the south. The map is divided into several regions: Assyria in the north, Babylonia in the center, and Sumer in the south. Key cities are marked with small black squares: Nineveh and Assur in Assyria; Babylon in Babylonia; and Uruk, Ur, and Eridu in Sumer. The title 'Ancient MESOPOTAMIA' is written in large, bold, blue letters with a white outline at the top. At the bottom, the text 'THE FERTILE CRESCENT' is written in large white letters, and 'MRS. CHRISTY WALTON' is written in smaller white letters below it. A small 'MARTIN' is visible in the bottom right corner.

ASSYRIA

■ NINEVEH

ASSUR ■

EUPHRATES
RIVER

TIGRIS
RIVER

BABYLON ■

BABYLONIA

■ URUK

SUMER

■ UR

■ ERIDU

THE FERTILE CRESCENT

MRS. CHRISTY WALTON

MARTIN

Modern-day Iraq with Bagdad at it's center

**"THE FERTILE CRESCENT"-
AN ARC OF LAND BETWEEN
THE TIGRIS & EUPHRATES
RIVERS.**

IT HAD RICH SOIL AND
ABUNDANT CROPS

MESOPOTAMIA

3500 BC



As rivers flooded, it would spread mineral rich silt across the land. This created good soil for farming.



- Floods were UNPREDICTABLE!
- Hundreds of miles of irrigation ditches were created to move water onto the land when flooding did not occur
- **Irrigation: methods of moving water from sources of abundance, like rivers, to crop fields in order to increase production**
- Irrigation (water) = surplus food = LARGE Cities!
(Reminder from yesterday?)



3 Main Areas of Mesopotamia: Sumer, Akkad & Assyria

Sumer

The 1st
Civilization

Main Cities:
Ur, Eridu &
Uruk



Akkad

Overcame Sumer

Spoke Semitic Language

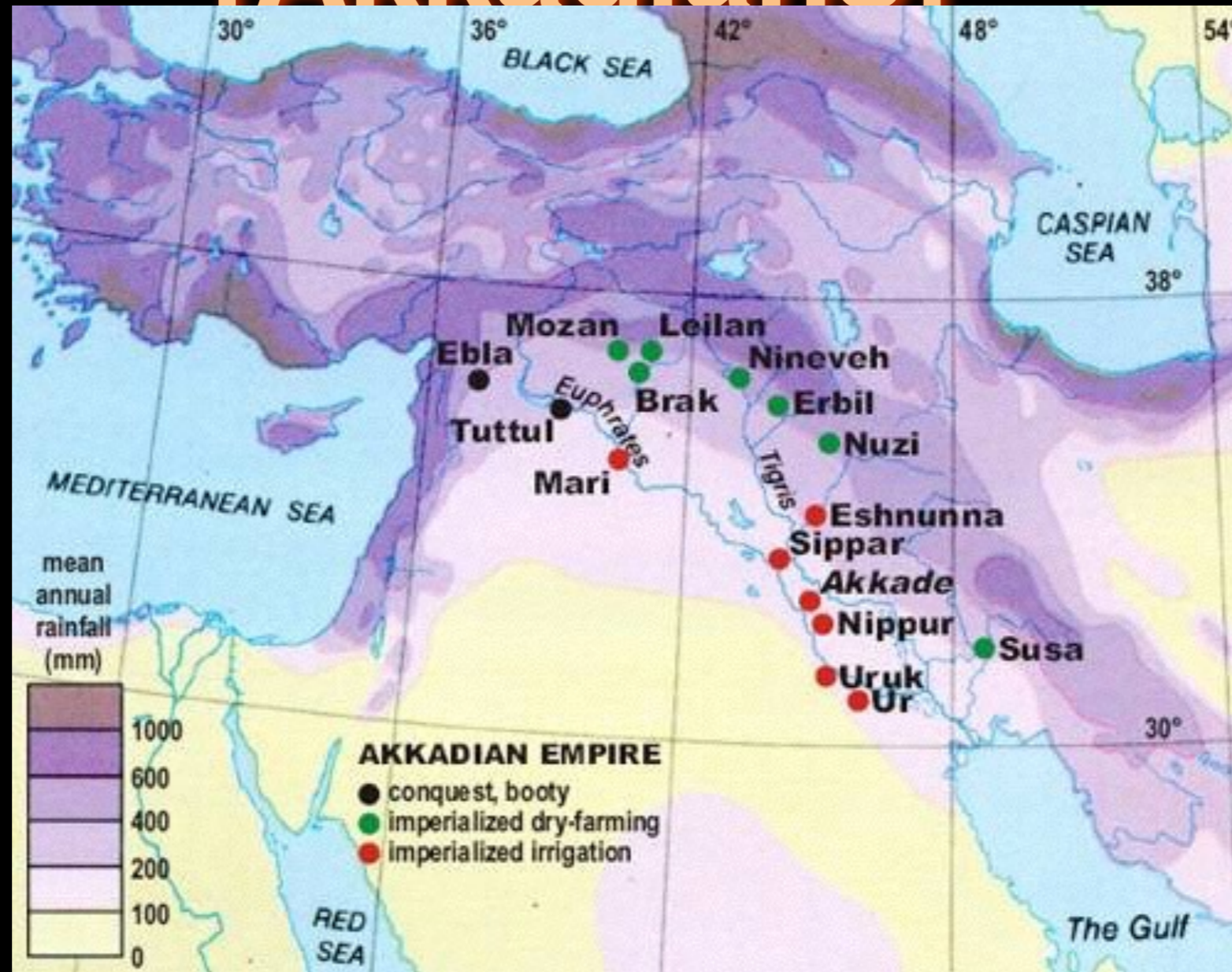
Took over Sumer and created an empire (2340 BC)

Empire: a large political unit or state, usually under a single leader, that controls many people and territories

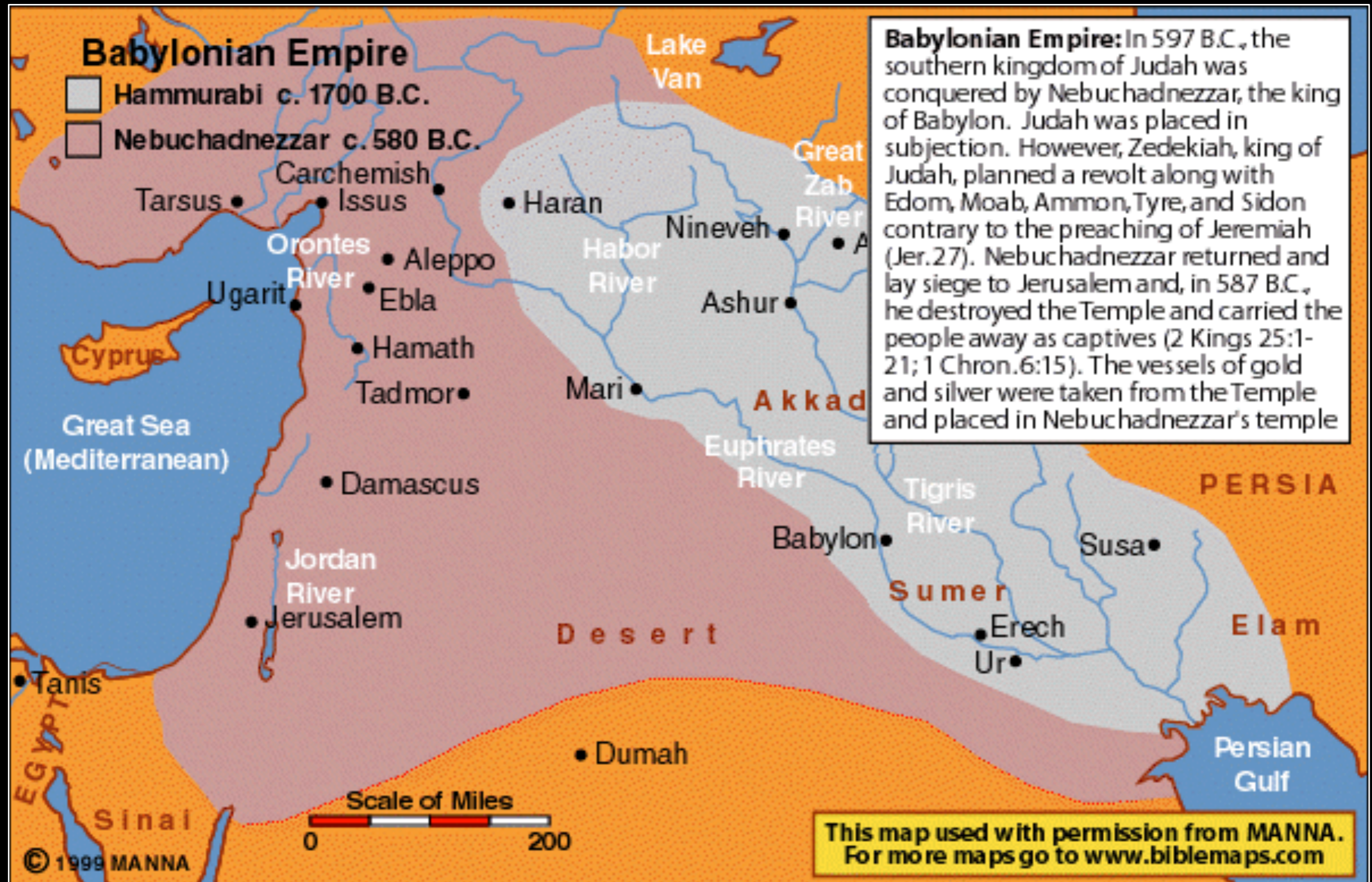
Babylon

King Hammurabi
conquered both areas
of Sumer and Akkad
and created a new
kingdom (2100BC)

Sargon of Akkad: The World's First Empire [Akkadians]



The Babylonian Empires



GOVERNMENT

- **Theocracy: A government that receives its authority from a divine being**
- Ruled by a King (King had power from gods)
- Priests & Priestesses had much of the power
- King Hammurabi created the **"Code of Hammurabi": written laws for the first time**

King Sargon: ruler of Akkadian empire



RELIGION

Polytheistic: A belief in multiple gods

Believed gods and goddesses determined all aspects of life (good and bad)

Looked to religion to answer questions about life

Each village had a particular god or goddess to worship

Temples were built on top of ziggurats (massive stepped towers) dedicated to their
god



NABU

GOD OF
WISDOM AND
WRITING





ADAD OR ISHKUR

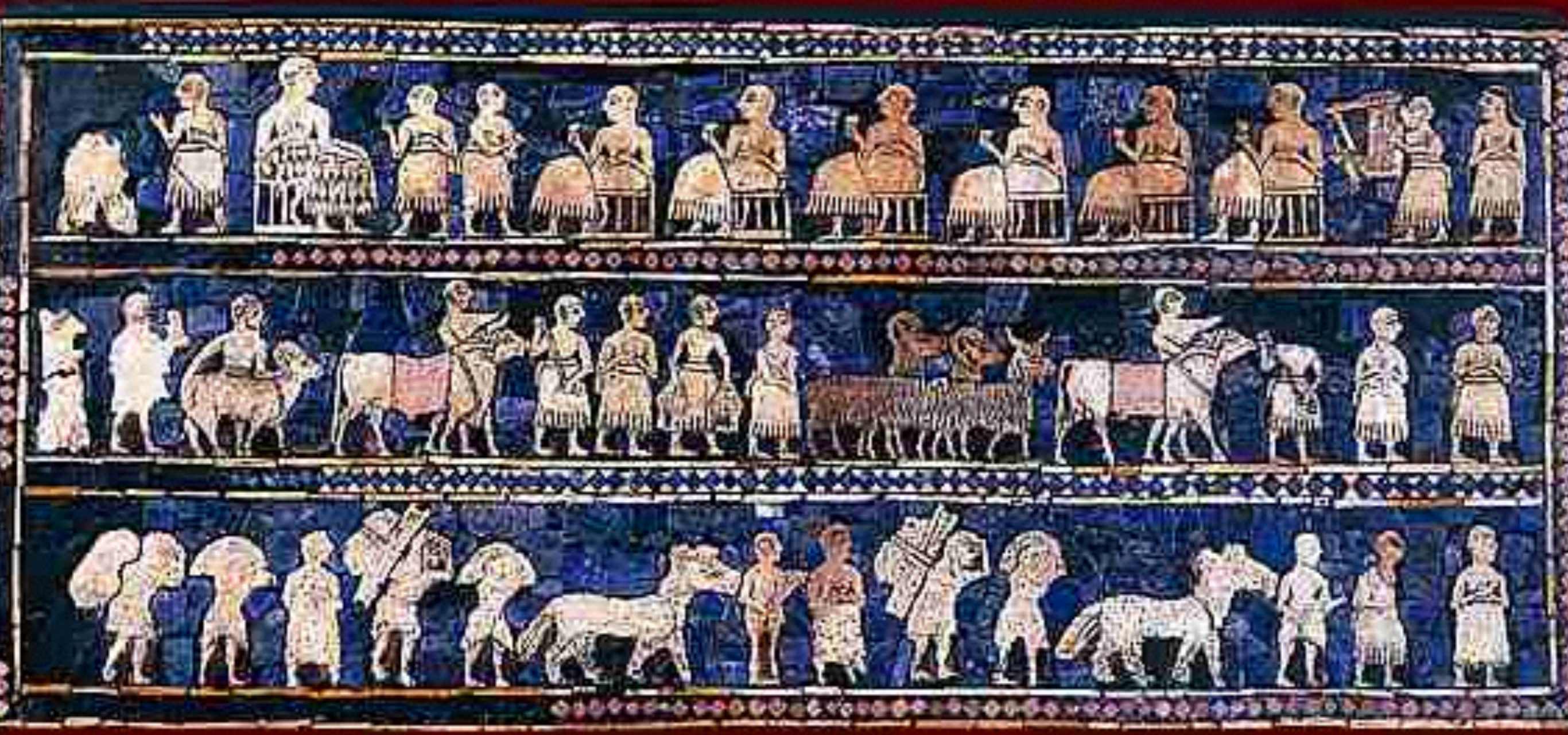
GOD OF
STORMS

ANU

GOD OF
HEAVEN OR SKY

SUPREME GOD





Social Structure

Upper Class: King, Nobles, Priests, Priestesses

Middle Class (90%): artisans, craftsmen, palace workers, merchants,
fishers, farmers

Lower Class: Slaves, builders of projects

Writing














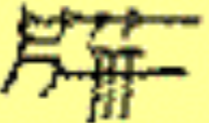

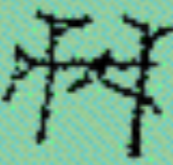


Cuneiform: wedge-shaped writing that is the earliest example of written language (3000 BC)

- On clay tablets then dried
- Mostly for record keeping
- Scribes became leaders in cities

Epic of Gilgamesh: the first great work of literature (2100 BC)



Development of Cuneiform, 3000 B.C.–600 B.C.

Meaning of Pictograph						
	Ear of Barley	Head and Body of Man	Fish	Bird	Bowl of Food	Stream of Water
Pictographs c. 3000 B.C.						
Rotated Position Pictographs c. 2800 B.C.						
Cuneiform Signs c. 600 B.C.						

Sumerian Scribes



“Tablet House”



ART & TECHNOLOGY

City-state: built cities surrounde

Homes made of sun-dried brick

Invented the arc & dome with r

Woolen textiles & pottery whee

The wagon wheel

Glass

Started The Bronze Age- strong metal (weapons, armor & trade)

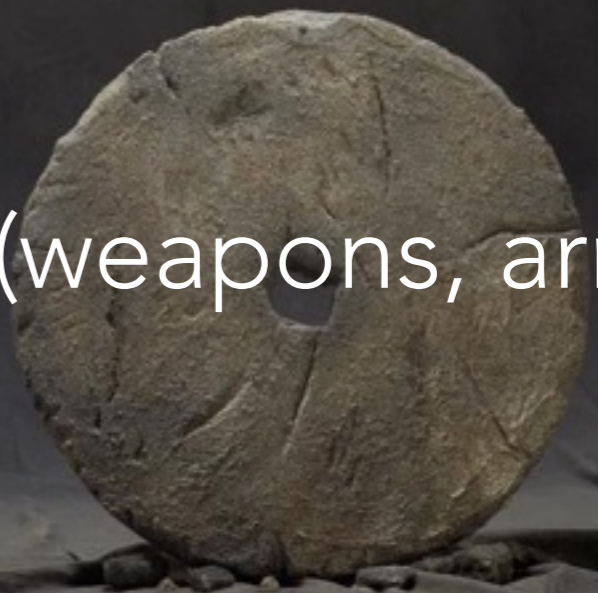
Astronomy: charted constellations

Math: 2 12-hrs in day

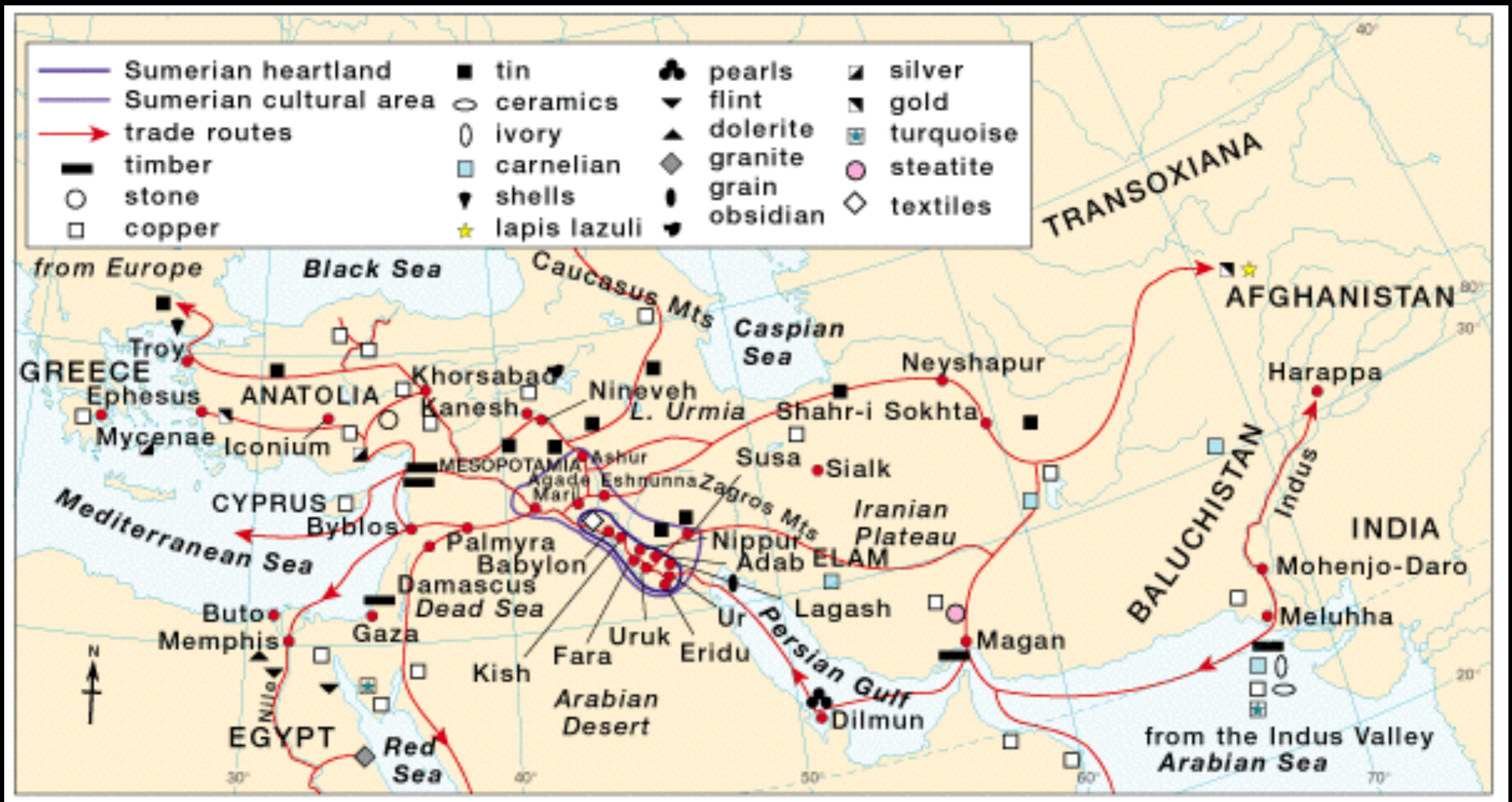
60 minute in hour

60 seconds in minute

Circle is 360 degrees



TRADE



WHAT IS THE PURPOSE
OF LAWS?

Code of Hammurabi



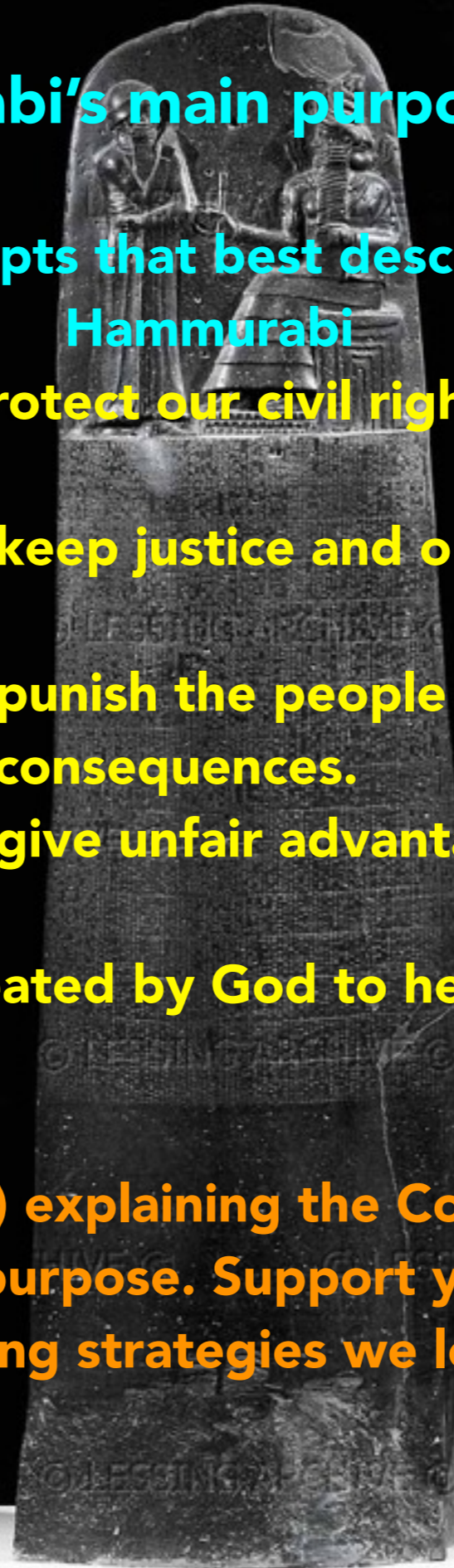
- Based on Strict Justice
- Severe penalties for crimes
- Punishments varies based on social class
- “An eye for an eye” laws

What was King Hammurabi's main purpose creating these laws?

Choose one of the following prompts that best describes the purpose of the Code of Hammurabi

1. The purpose of laws are to protect our civil rights. The laws should make sure we keep our freedoms.
2. The purpose of laws are to keep justice and order in society to help us live and work together in harmony.
3. The purpose of laws are to punish the people who commit crimes. Negative behavior/actions should have consequences.
4. The purpose of laws are to give unfair advantages to certain people in society. Laws give power.
5. The purpose of laws are created by God to help keep morality and goodness to this world.

Write 1 paragraph (6-9 sentences) explaining the Code of Hammurabi and speculate which prompt best describes its purpose. Support your opinion with facts & details.
(Use writing strategies we learned!)



REFLECTION

HOW DID RELIGION AFFECT THE CIVILIZATION OF MESOPOTAMIA?



WHAT NEW TECHNOLOGIES WERE
DEVELOPED IN MESOPOTAMIA?



What was the importance of cuneiform?



HOW DID
MESOPOTAMIA
DIFFER FROM THE
PALEOLITHIC ERA?

