

SILENT Bell Ringer

Use your
chromebook to
define the
following words
in your WHJ

1. Polytheistic
2. Pictograph
3. Ziggurat
4. Cuneiform
5. Fertile Crescent



Vocab Words

1. **Polytheistic** - Believing in many gods
2. **Pictograph** - a simple drawing that looks like the object it represents
3. **Ziggurat** - in ancient Mesopotamia, a large, stepped platform thought to have been topped by a temple dedicated to a city-state's chief god or goddess
4. **Cuneiform** - in the ancient Middle East, a system of writing that used wedge-shaped marks
5. **Fertile Crescent** - region of the Middle East in which civilizations first arose

Schedule

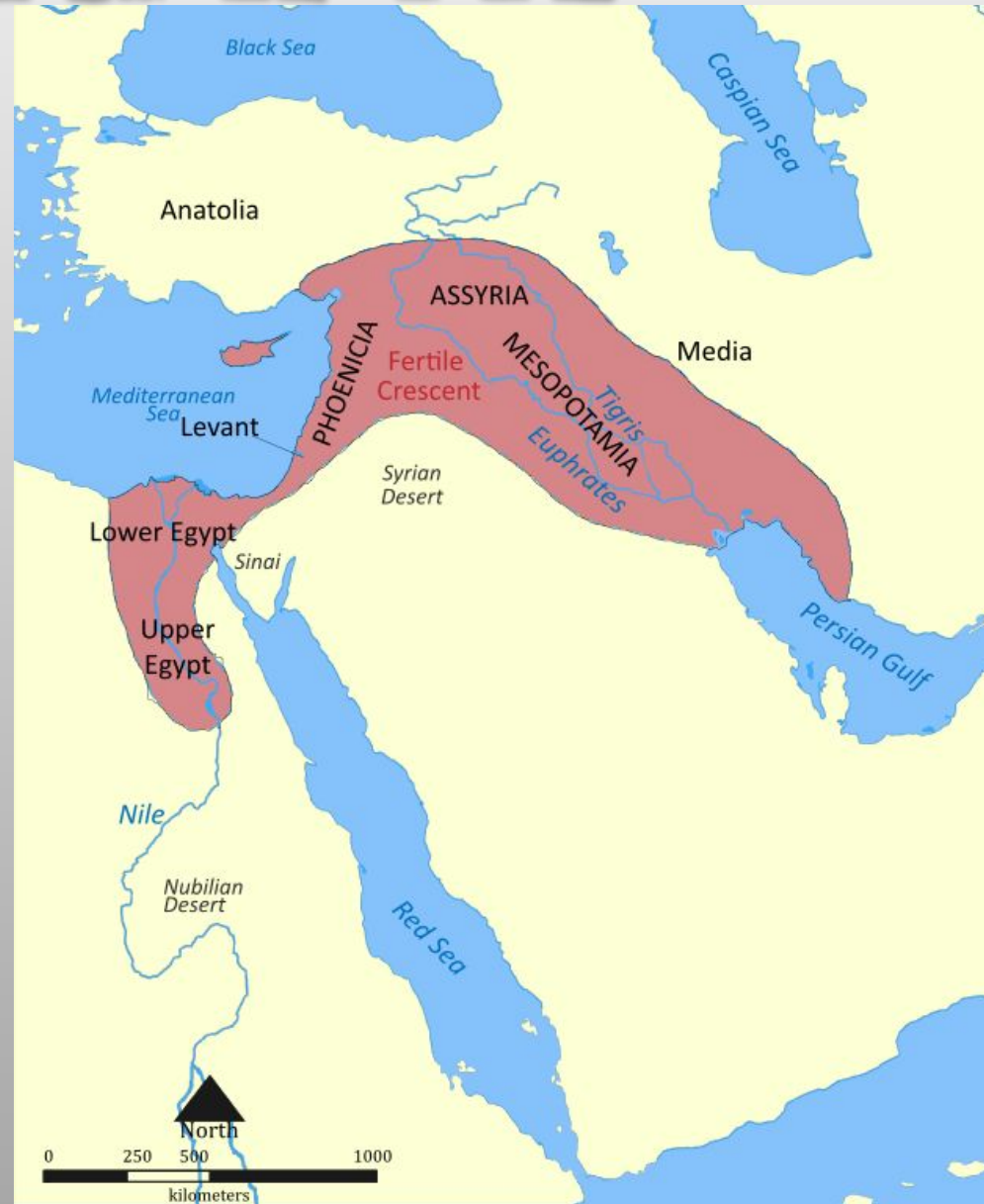
- Objective: I can describe the impact of Ancient Mesopotamia
- Ancient Mesopotamia Notes
- Fertile Crescent Map



**ANCIENT
MESOPOTAMIA**
THE FERTILE CRESCENT

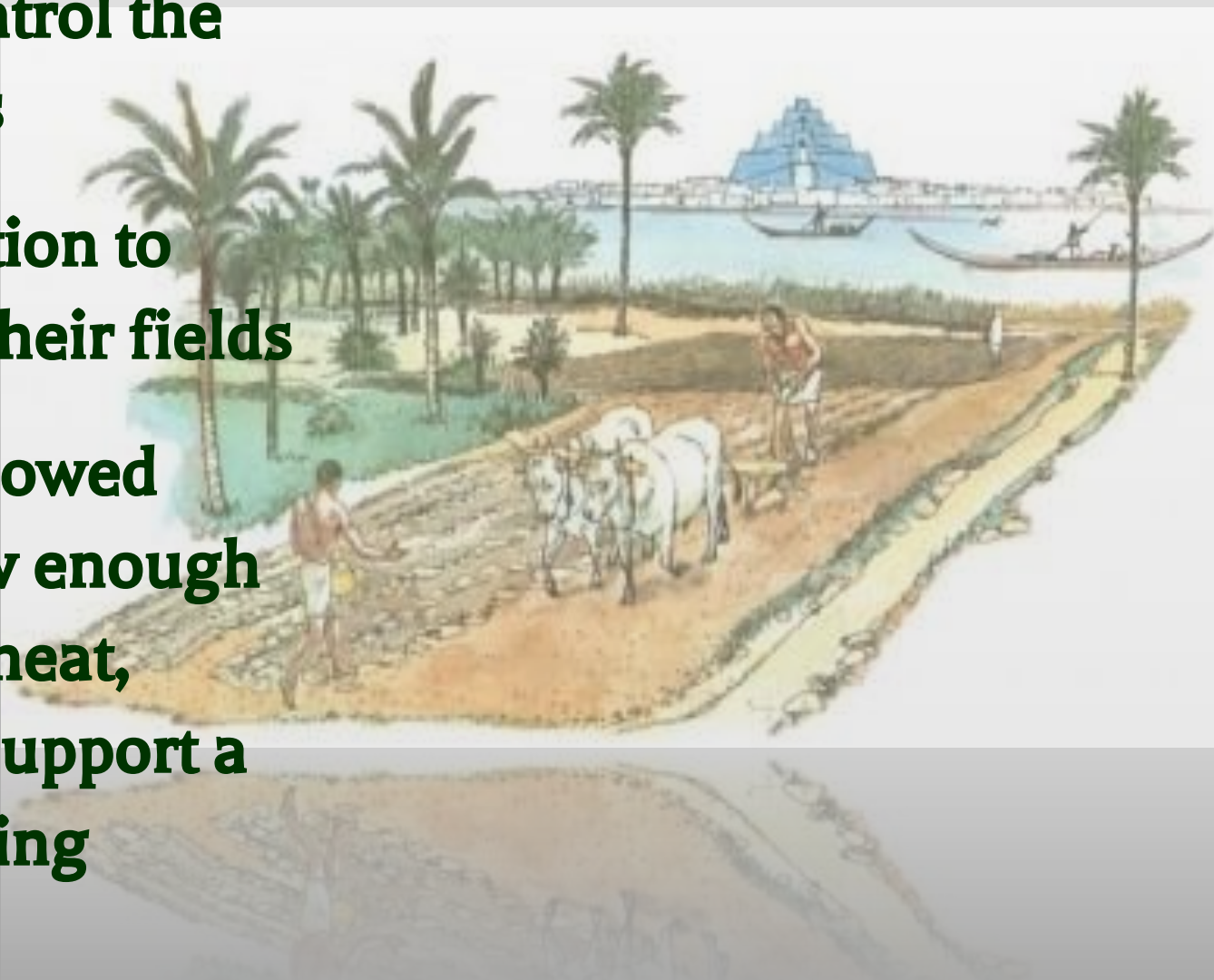
GEOGRAPHY

- Mesopotamia means “between the rivers”
- The Fertile Crescent – was the land around the Tigris & Euphrates Rivers
- Regular flooding provided fertile silt for farmland but the flooding was unpredictable



FARMING ADVANCES

- Farmers build dams and channels to control the seasonal floods
- They use irrigation to bring water to their fields
- This process allowed farmers to grow enough food (barley, wheat, vegetables) to support a large and growing population



SUMER



- Was the first major civilization in Mesopotamia (about 4500 BC)
- Sumer was organized into independent city-states

SOCIAL STRUCTURE

**Rulers &
priests**

**Merchants,
artists, scribes**

**Peasant
farmers**

Captured slaves



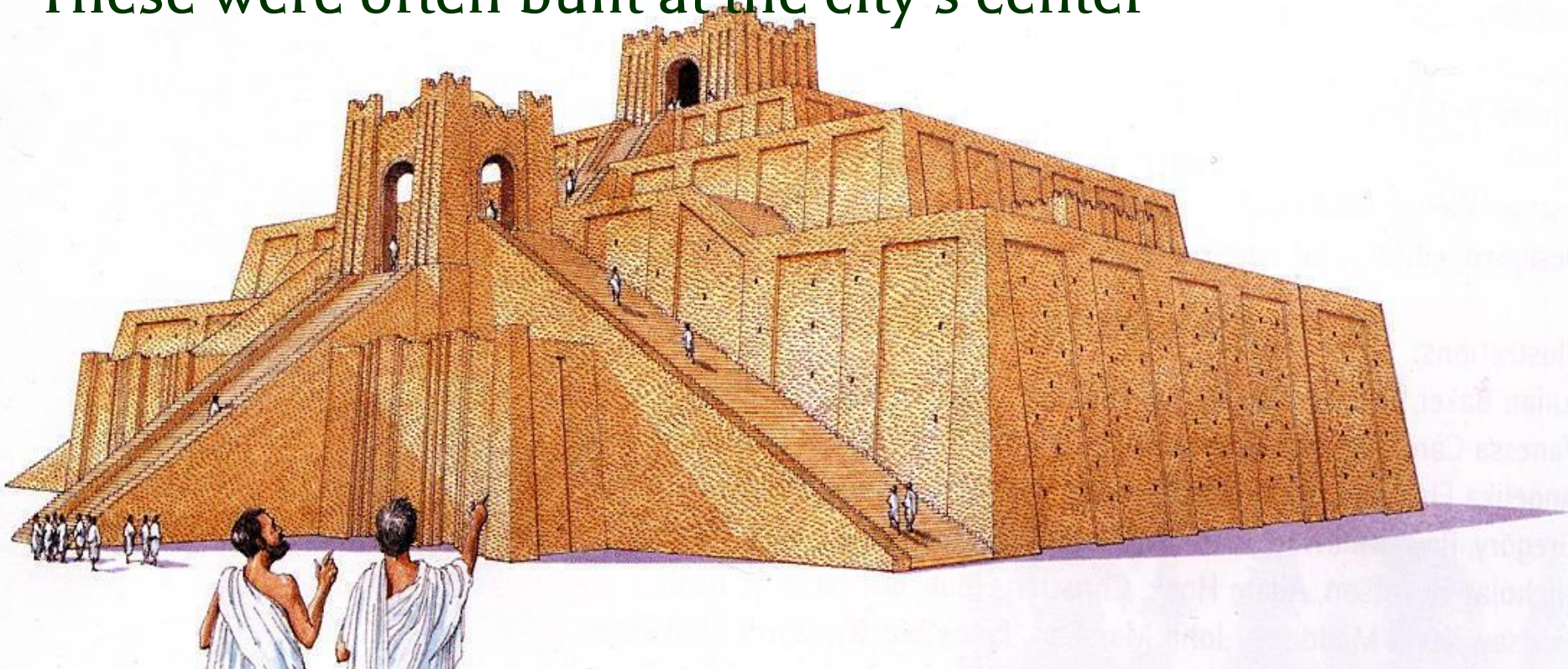
CULTURAL ACHIEVEMENTS



- They made fine jewelry & sculptures
- Created music using flutes & strings
- Known for The Epic of Gilgamesh - a long poem about a king who travels the world, performs great deeds & searches for a way to live forever

RELIGION

- The people of Sumer were polytheistic
- Their religious leaders also led their government
 - Theocracy
- Religion was centered around Ziggurats
- These were often built at the city's center



SUMERIAN TEMPLE



CUNEIFORM



- This was a pictographic writing system called cuneiform
 - Used wedge-shapes
 - Used symbols for pictures, sounds & ideas
- Written on clay tablets

TECHNOLOGY

- Mesopotamians used basic math & geometry based on 60 (60 minute hour; 360° circle)
- They were the first to use wheeled carts for transportation





INVADERS

- The Sumerians overtaken by Akkadians around 2270 BC
- Around 1900, the Assyrians rise to power
- Later, the Babylonians take control of Mesopotamia

HAMMURABI

- Was a Babylonian King from 1792 BC to 1750 BC
- He controlled all of Mesopotamia
- Is known for Hammurabi's Code - it was the 1st written code of laws
 - “An eye for an eye”
- Well go in depth on this later!



LATER EMPIRES

- The Assyrian Empire rises again before the Neo-Babylonian or Chaldean Empire comes to power
- King Nebuchadnezzar has the great Hanging Gardens of Babylon built

THE HANGING GARDENS OF BABYLON

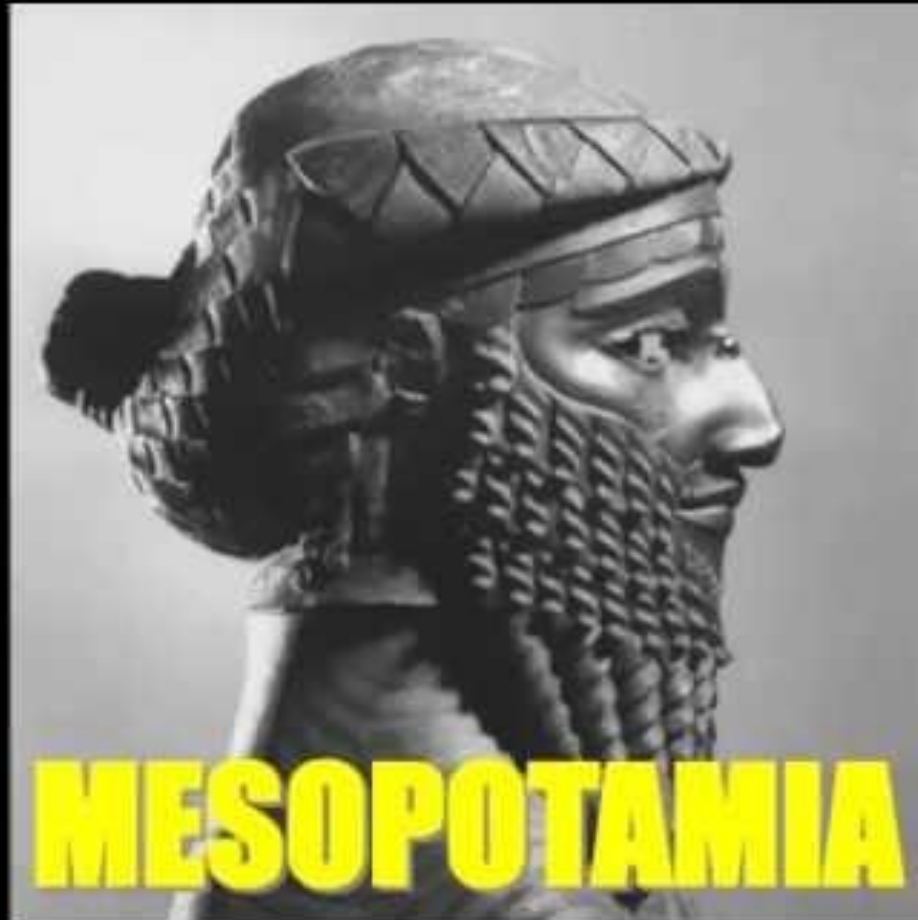


THE PERSIAN EMPIRE

- The Persian Empire was founded in the 6th Century BC by Cyrus the Great
- It eventually becomes the largest empire the world had seen



Mesopotamia



THE PERSIAN EMPIRE



Why did civilization begin in the Fertile Crescent?

The Fertile Crescent

- Use your textbook and your chromebook to help you label the map
- You need to color the oceans and trace the rivers blue, color the area of the fertile crescent green
- Label the locations provided



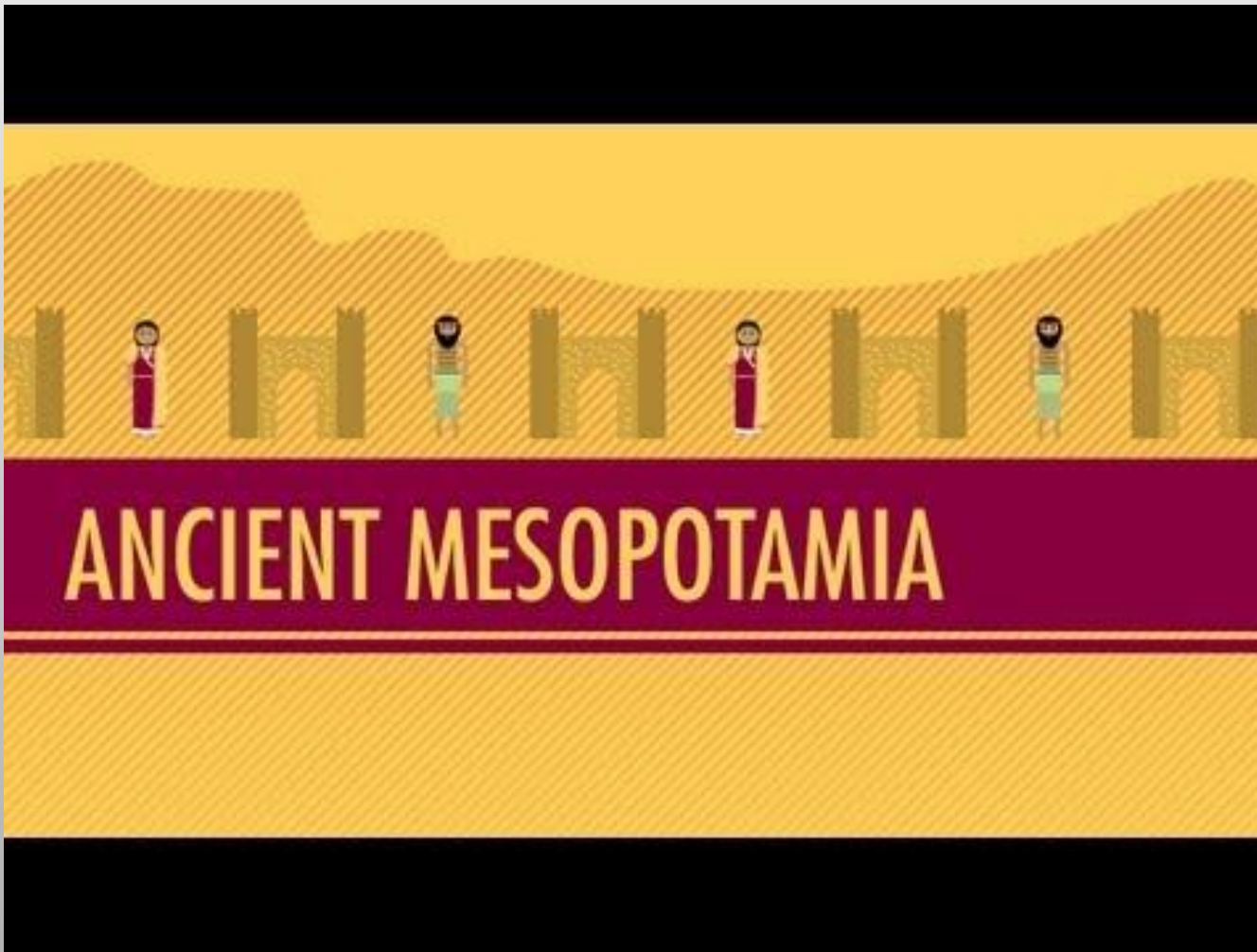


Bell Ringer

Early humans were hunter gatherers who lived in clans, learned how to make fire and invented the first tools.

- 1. What was necessary for early humans to survive?**
- 2. How did fire help early humans survive?**
- 3. What do you think some of their first tools were?**

Crash course



Listen for the answer - you will answer this at the end of the video (TAKE NOTES DURING)

How does writing indirectly create social hierarchies and inequality?