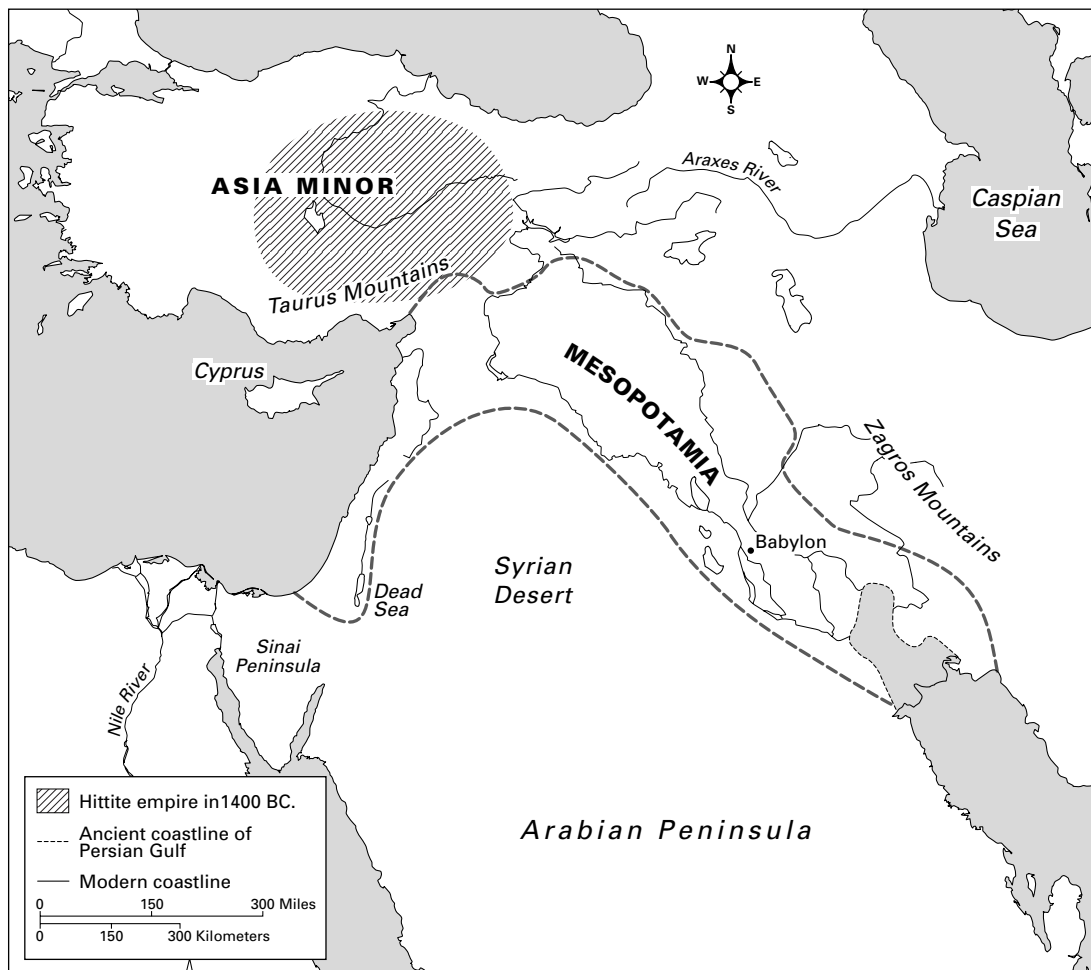


## The Fertile Crescent

## History and Geography

# A Fertile Land

Mesopotamia was part of a larger region called the Fertile Crescent. The Sumerians, the world's first civilization, settled and farmed the land between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers. Although Mesopotamia had fertile soil, farming there wasn't easy. The flooding of the rivers destroyed crops. The farmers eventually developed methods that helped them increase the amount of food they could grow. In time, other societies developed along the Tigris and Euphrates, such as Babylonia and the Hittite Empire.



**MAP ACTIVITY**

1. Use a light color to shade in the area that formed the Fertile Crescent on the map.
2. What large body of water is southeast of the Fertile Crescent? Label it on the map.
3. What are the names of the two rivers that flow through Mesopotamia and the Fertile Crescent? Label them on the map.
4. What large body of water is west and northwest of the Fertile Crescent? Label it on the map.

**ANALYZING MAPS**

- 1. Region** How far did the Fertile Crescent stretch from north to south?

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- 2. Place** In what area was the Hittite Kingdom located?

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\_\_\_\_\_

- 3. Location** On what river is Babylon located?

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\_\_\_\_\_

- 4. Human-Environment Interaction** How might the development of farming have led to civilization? Explain your answer.

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- 5. Movement** Why do you think control of the areas within the Fertile Crescent was important to groups like the Hittites?

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## Primary Source Descriptions of the Phoenicians

### WHAT DID YOU LEARN?

#### Herodotus Describes a Phoenician Voyage

1. They set out from the Red Sea and sailed into the Indian Ocean and eventually rounded Africa to come through the Straits of Gibraltar before returning to Egypt.
2. If they went on a long voyage, they would have to stop to resupply their ship. Planting crops would be one way of getting food for their voyage.

### WHAT DID YOU LEARN?

#### Xenophon Describes a Phoenician Ship

1. "The look-out man" was very conscientious and hard-working. He checked on the ship's equipment during his leisure time and planned for storms or other problems that the ship might encounter.
2. Answers will vary. Examples: Xenophon had not thought before about how important being organized is to successfully sailing a ship. Xenophon had been on other ships that were less well organized.

### MAKE A COMPARISON

1. The first selection tells the story of a major voyage, while the second describes the inside of a ship. They are alike because they both show how impressive Phoenician sailors and ships were.
2. Phoenicians were very capable sailors who could sail long distances for long periods. Their ships were well organized.

## History and Geography

### MAP ACTIVITY

1. Colors will vary.
2. Persian Gulf
3. Tigris and Euphrates
4. Mediterranean Sea

### ANALYZING MAPS

1. approximately 1,500 miles
2. Asia Minor
3. Euphrates
4. By increasing the amount of food they could grow, the development of farming supported larger populations, which led to population growth. Villages formed and eventually these developed into the world's first civilization.
5. Conquerors wanted to gain control over this fertile land and wanted to obtain the wealth in terms of food production and the earlier achievements of the Sumerians.

## Economics and History

### ACTIVITY:

Value in dollars of U.S. coin denominations:

Penny:	\$131,232,600
Nickel:	\$42,086,000
Dime:	\$178,581,000
Quarter:	\$271,170,000

### WHAT DID YOU LEARN:

1. The Lydians, a people from the area of modern day Turkey, invented the first coins. They were round because of the process used to stamp an image onto the coin.
2. Coins made trade easier because they were of standardized value. Opportunities for cheating were reduced. Transactions could take place much faster.
3. Two thousand dimes would be needed to pay a salary of \$200. Given the prices of items available for purchase today, this would be an extremely inconvenient means of receiving that sum.
4. Coins are still necessary, as they make it possible to purchase items that are fractions of a dollar in value.