

ANCIENT CIVILIZATIONS



Review Question



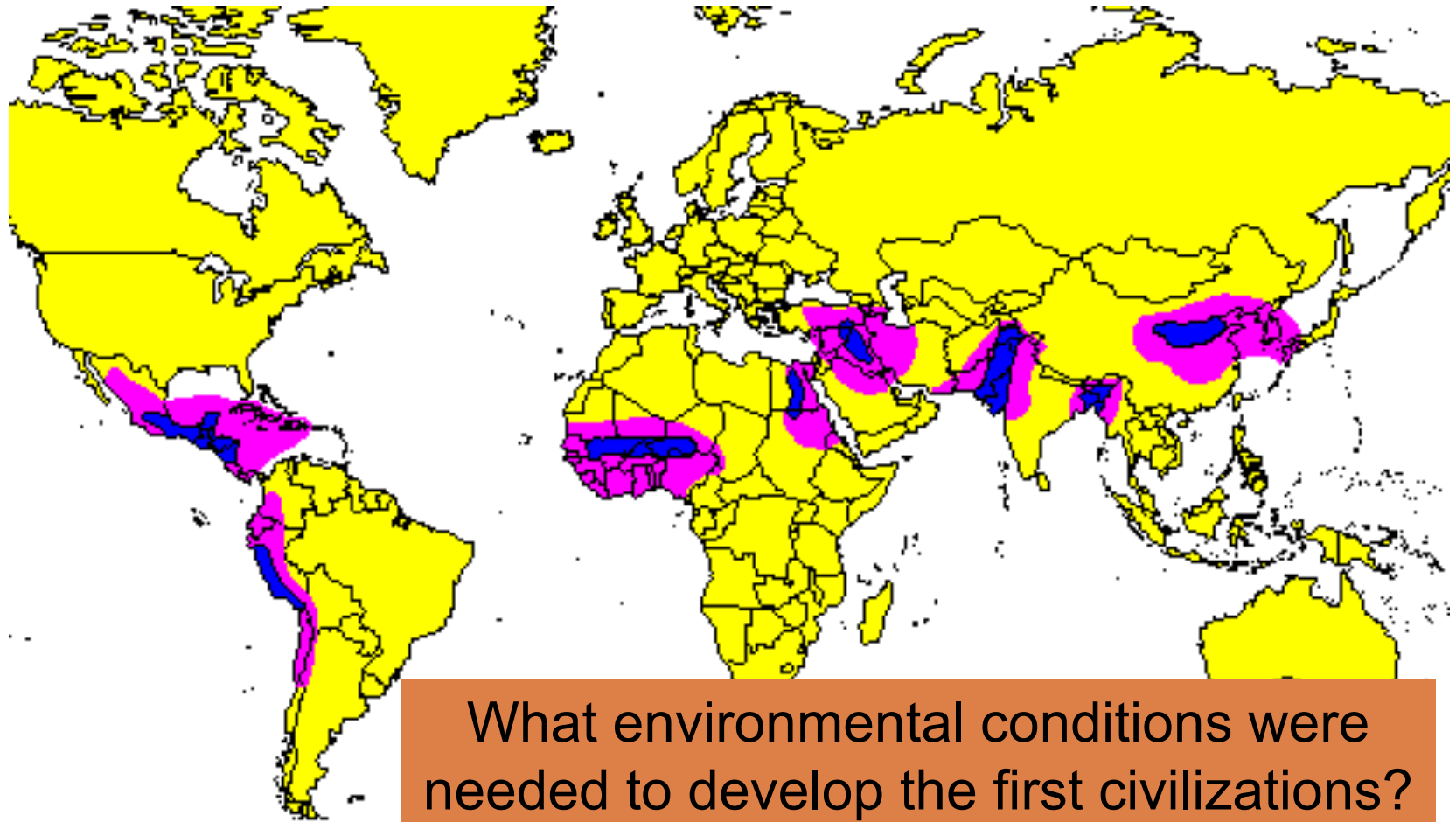
How did the Neolithic Revolution change the nature of human society?

Focus Question



What components must a society have in order to be considered a civilization?

Location of Ancient Culture Hearths



What environmental conditions were needed to develop the first civilizations?

Ancient Mesopotamia



Government

- Initially, priest-kings rule city-states
 - ▣ Sumerians (c. 3500 BCE)
- City-states evolve into empires
 - ▣ Akkadians (c. 2334-2218 BCE)
- Land owning aristocracy dominated
- Develop a formal legal codes
 - ▣ Hammurabi's Code (c. 1800 BCE)

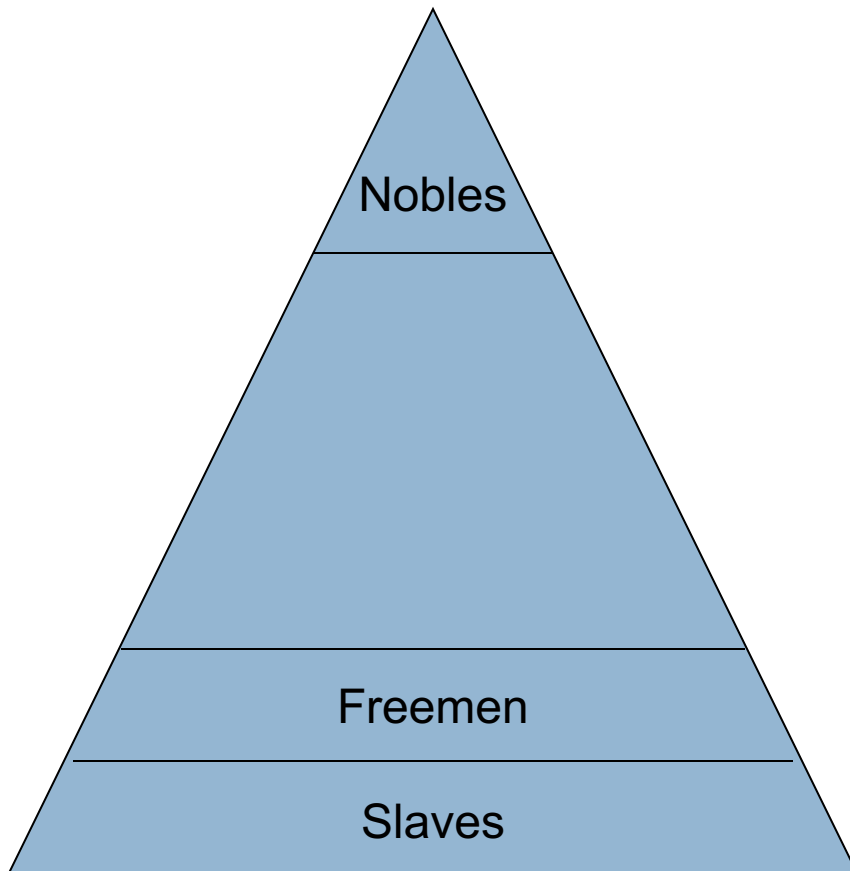


Religion

- Believed in 3,000 gods
- Goal: Appease gods to control nature
- Art and literature focus on gods and religion
 - ▣ Epic of Gilgamesh
 - Contains a story of an epic flood
- Built ziggurats

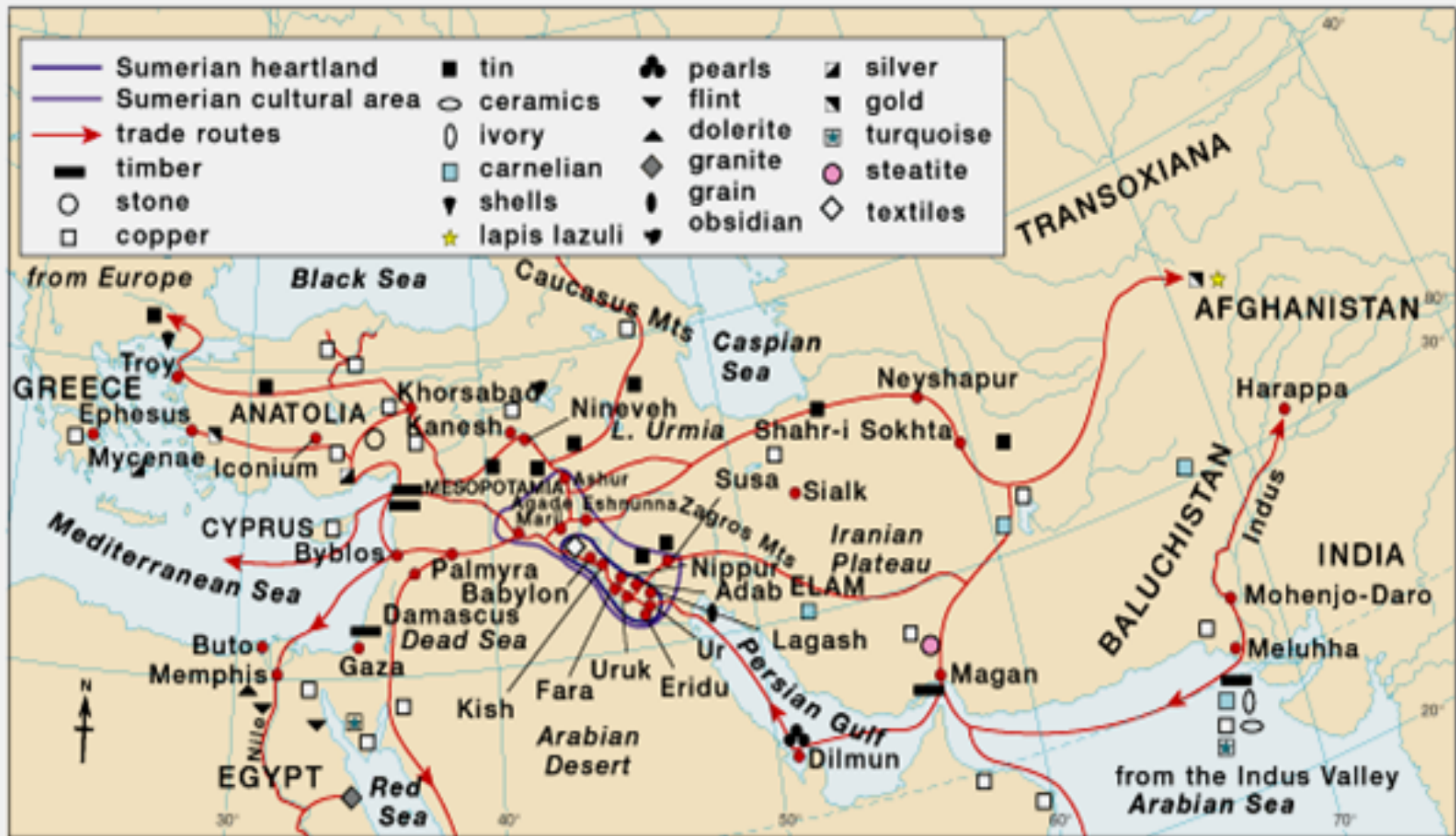


Society



- Social stratification
- Slavery was common
 - One could become a slave through war, crime, or debt
 - Slaves were used in temples, public buildings, or private homes
- Patriarchal
 - Women could hold most occupations

Economy



Science & Technology

- ❑ Inventions: wheel, sail, and plow
- ❑ Bronze metallurgy
- ❑ 1st system of writing
 - ❑ Cuneiform
- ❑ 1st number system
 - ❑ Based on units of 10, 60, & 360
- ❑ Astronomy



Ancient Egypt

- Relatively isolated
- Nile flooded regularly, predictably
 - ▣ Provided rich soil, easy soil to farm
 - ▣ Civilization regulated flooding, surveying
- Control the Nile; control society



Government



Ramses II

- Formed by 3000 BCE
- Unified for most of history
 - ▣ Early Kingdom
 - ▣ Middle Kingdom
 - ▣ Late Kingdom
- Theocracy
 - ▣ Pharaoh was a god-king
 - ▣ Women could be pharaohs
 - Hatshepsut (1473-1458 BCE)

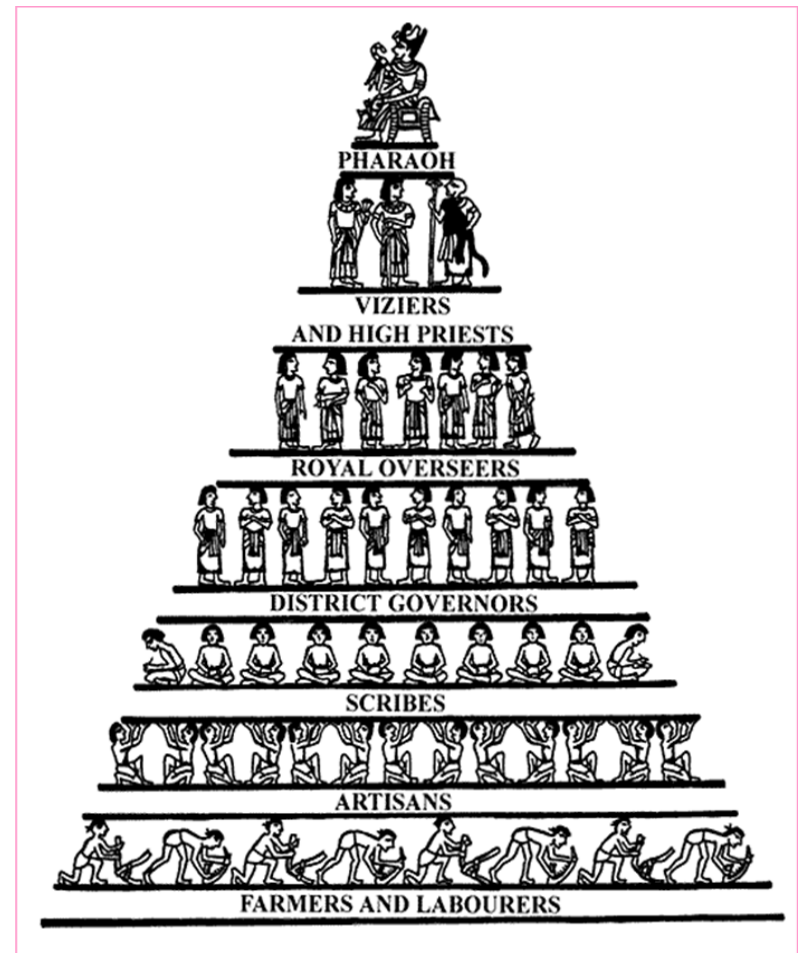
Religion

- Thousands of gods
 - ▣ Gods have animal and human qualities
 - ▣ Gods & goddesses
- Relatively egalitarian
- Believe in afterlife
 - ▣ Heaven & Hell
 - ▣ Mummification
 - ▣ Pyramids & Temples



Society

- Social Stratification
 - ▣ Limited opportunity for social mobility
- Slavery common
- Women have more rights
 - ▣ Could own property, propose marriage, and demand a divorce

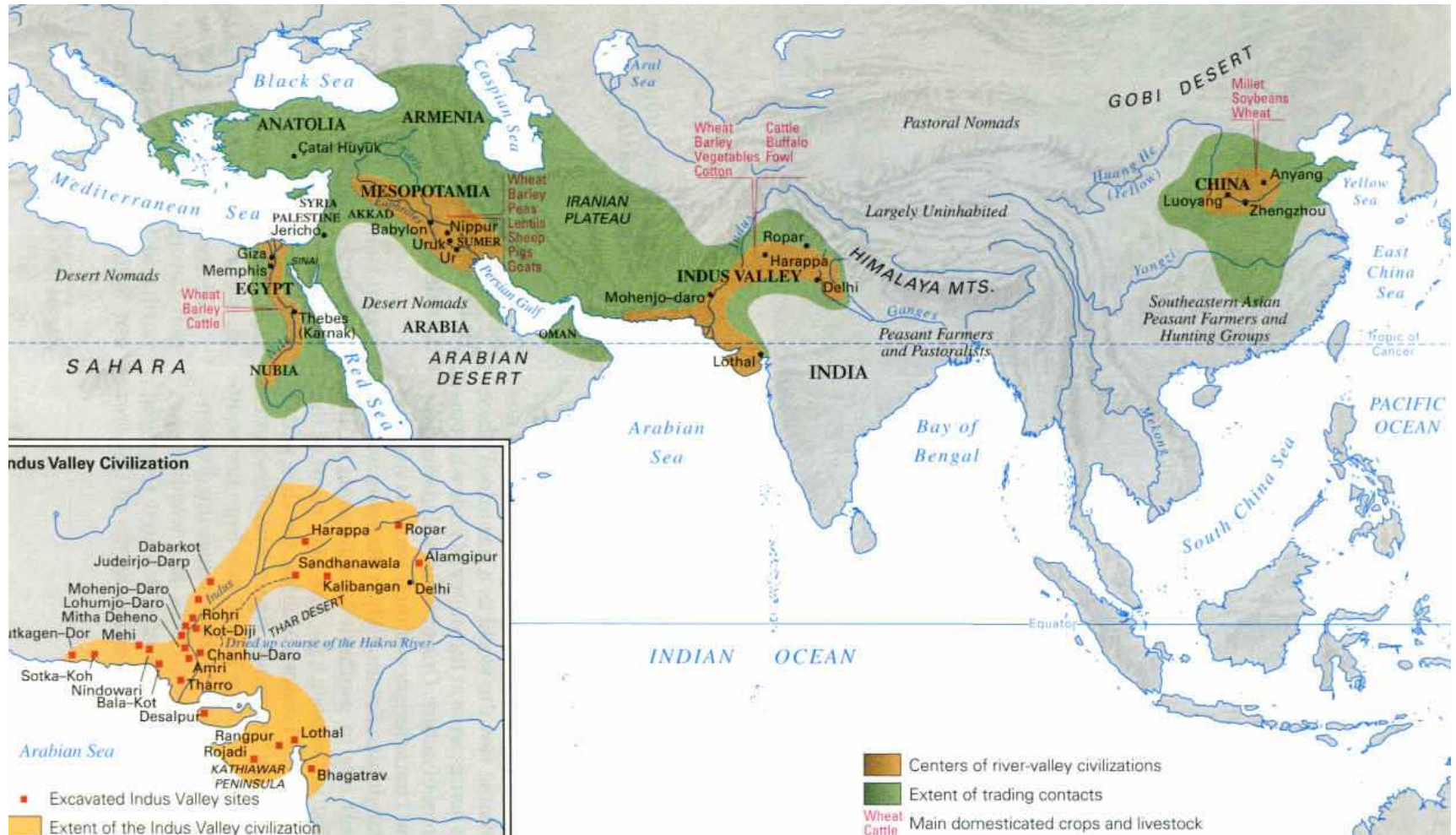


Culture

- Hieroglyphic writing on papyrus
- Mathematics
 - ▣ Geometry
- Calendar system
 - ▣ 365 days (off by 6 hours)
- Medicine
- Architecture



Ancient India & China



Indus River Valley

- Cities emerge around 2500 BCE
- Culturally unified city-states
 - ▣ Harappa and Mohenjo-Daro
- Mysterious ending
 - ▣ Environmental degradation vs. Aryan invasion



Indus River Valley



- Polytheistic religion
 - ▣ Influenced Hinduism
- Planned cities with large temples
- Undecipherable writing system
- Advanced technology
 - ▣ Plumbing systems

Ancient China

- Developed in isolation along the Huang He (Yellow) River
- Shang dynasty emerged c. 1500 BCE
 - ▣ Warlike kings & landed aristocracy dominate
 - ▣ Cities surrounded by massive earthen walls

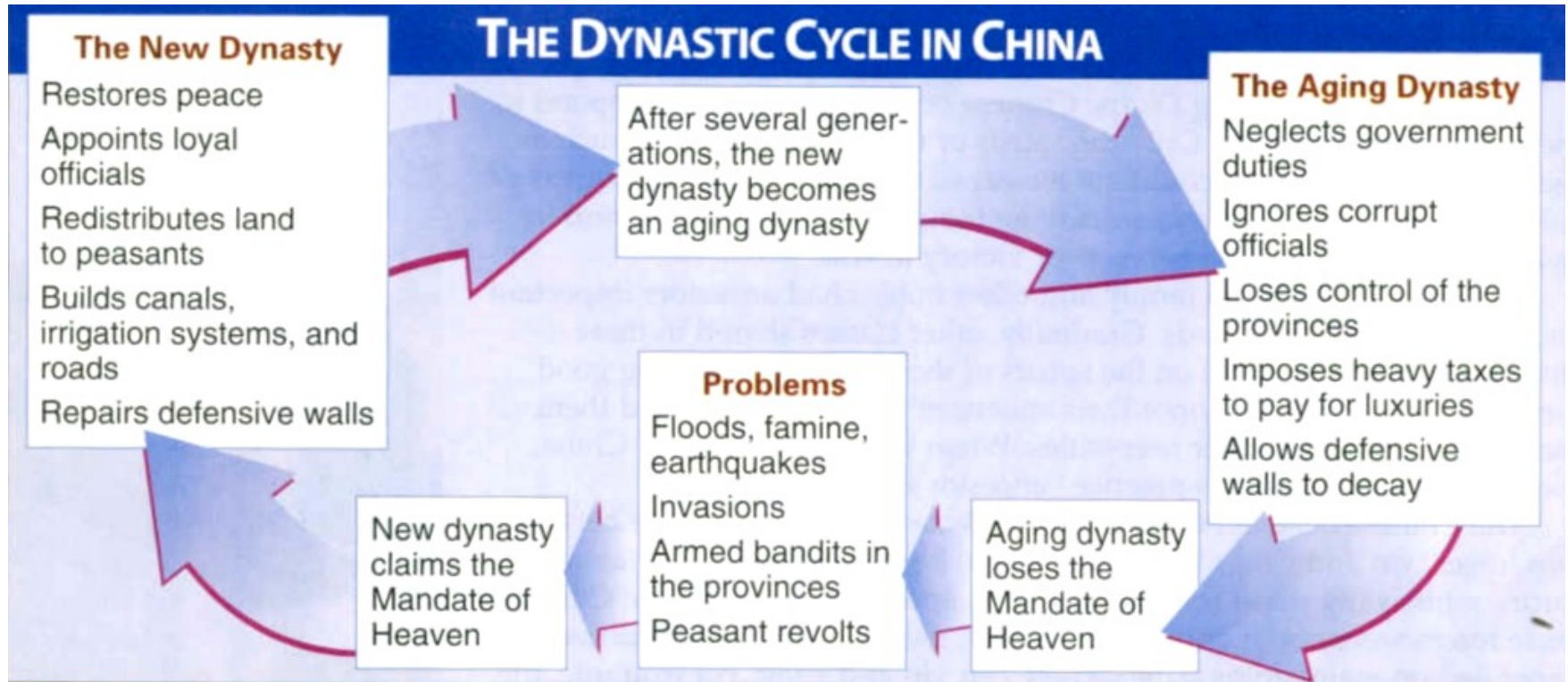


Ancient China

- Chinese Society
 - Family at center of society
 - Extended-family structure
 - Women were subordinate
- Chinese Culture
 - Believed spirits of family ancestors could bring good fortune or disaster
 - Oracle bones (right)
 - Bronze & silk



Dynastic Cycle



Mandate of Heaven—Rulers are chosen to rule by heaven and will continue to rule as long as heaven is pleased; if heaven is not pleased, heaven will pass the mandate to another family

The Olmec

- Olmec emerge in Mesoamerica c.1400-400 BCE
- Olmec zone is dense tropical forest
 - ▣ High rainfall - over 300 cm/year



Olmec Government & Society

- Several city-states with common culture
- Social Hierarchy
 - ▣ Highest rank is that of the chief
 - ▣ Dominated by landed aristocracy
 - ▣ Laborers forced to build temples, palaces, and drainage canals



Olmec Religion

- Polytheistic
 - ▣ Deities blended male & female, animal & human characteristics
 - Feathered-serpent god (right)
 - ▣ Shamans organized religious life
- Religion led to development of writing system and calendar



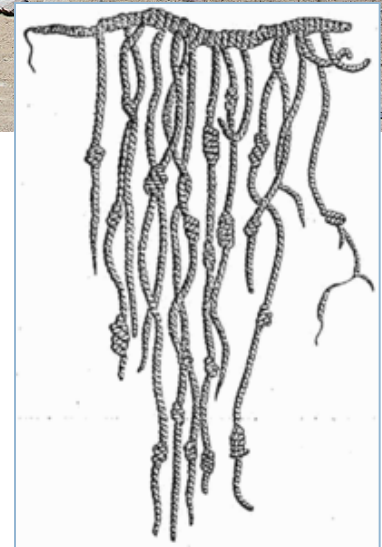
Olmec Art

- Building of clay pyramids and temple mounds
- Particular sculptural style
 - ▣ Jaguars
 - ▣ Fine jade carving
 - ▣ Colossal heads



Norte Chico

- 3000-1800 BCE in Peru
- Polytheistic
- Famous for monumental architecture and weaving
 - ▣ No evidence of any art or ceramics
- Used quipu for record keeping



Legacy of Ancient Civilizations

- Writing systems, religions, and technology was influenced the development of new civilizations and cultures
- Ancient civilizations decline by 1000 BCE
 - ▣ Subject to nomadic invasions
- Political and cultural centers shift to new geographical areas (except China)