



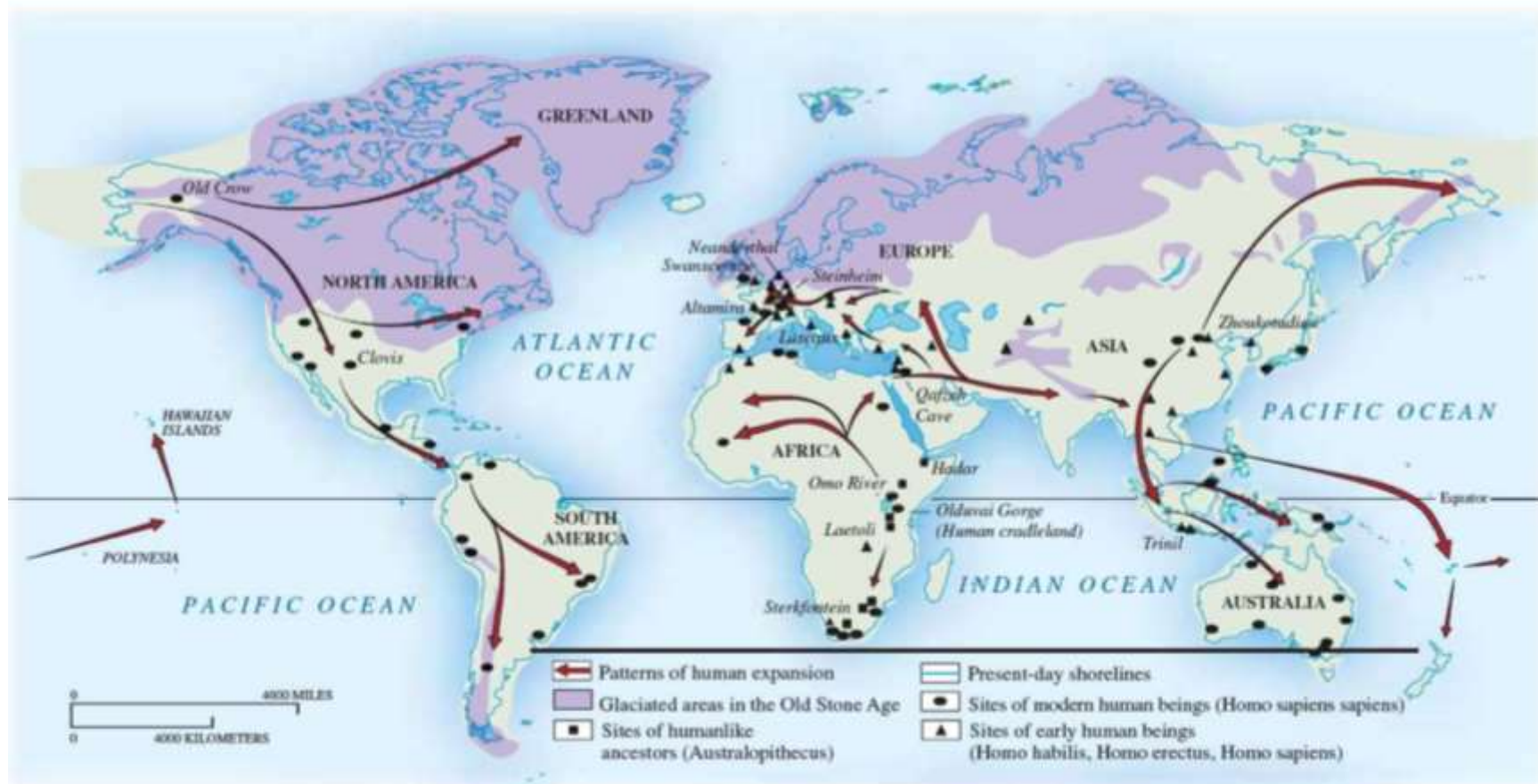
Civilizations

Ancient Art

2500 BCE – 500 AD

(Bronze Age)

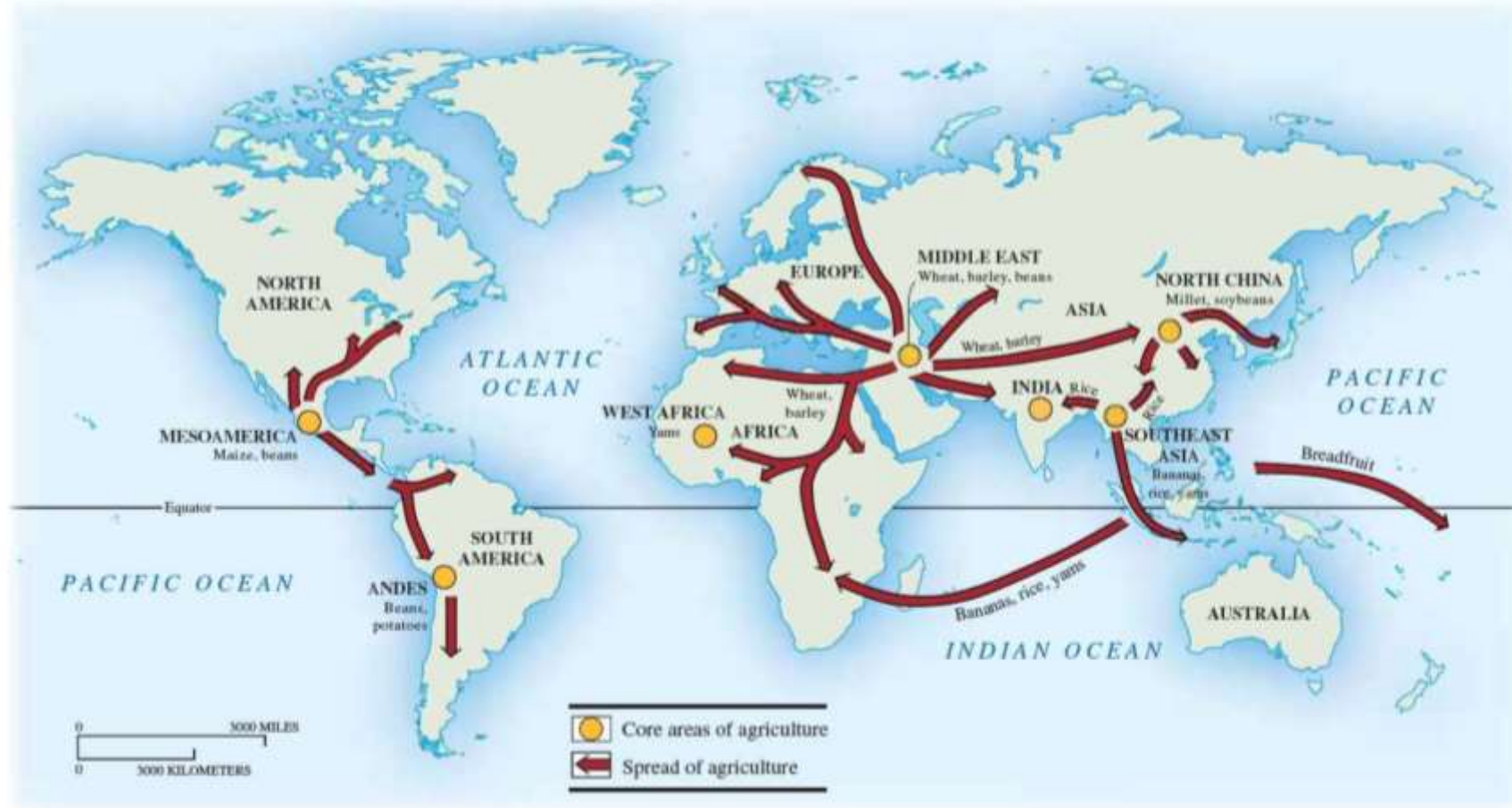
The Spread of Human Populations, c. 10,000 B.C.E.



Paleolithic Revolution

- Plants and animals domesticated Towns/cities
- Social Differentiation
 - Specialized jobs
 - Regional trade
 - Women lose political/economic roles
- Causes? Maybe climatic shifts Alternatives
- – Hunting-and-gathering persists
 - Pastoralism – nomadic herding people

The Spread of Agriculture



Ancient Civilizations

1. Mesopotemia (Independent states of Mesopotemia)
 - Sumerians
 - Akkadian
 - Babylonian
2. Greek Civilization
3. Egyptian Civilization
4. Roman Civil

What is Civilization?

- The word "civilization" comes from the Latin word.
- The act or process of [civilizing](#), as by bringing out of a savage (wild), uneducated, or unrefined state, or of being civilized.
- Once a nation, culture, or group of people has been brought out of the “savage” darkness into an enlightened and advanced state, it becomes a civilization

Civilization is defined as: highly organized society marked by advanced knowledge of trade, government, arts, science and often time written language.

Features of Civilization

- Cities / States
- Well-organized central governments
- Job specialization
- Social classes
- Arts and Architecture
- Complex Religion
- Public works
- Writing

Mesopotamia

(The Cradle of Civilization)



- Mesopotamia is a Greek word that means “between the rivers”,
- specifically, the area between the Tigris River and Euphrates River (present day Iraq)
- Lasted for approximately 3000 years
- It is also called Fertile Crescent because of a rich soil
- Over the centuries, many different people lived in this area creating a collection of independent states Sumerians, Akkadian, Babylonian.

Development of writing

- That writing system, invented by the Sumerians, emerged in **Mesopotamia** around 3500 BCE.
- The Sumerians **first invented writing** as a means of long-distance communication which was necessitated by trade.
- The writing system invented by Sumerian is called Cuneiform, means “wedge shape”





Sumerian cuneiform tablet

Sumerian cuneiform tablet, probably from Erech (Uruk), Mesopotamia, c. 3100–2900 BCE; in the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York City.

The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; Purchase, Raymond and Beverly Sackler Gift, 1988, 1988.433.1, www.metmuseum.org



Administrative texts in cuneiform writing

A collection of administrative texts in cuneiform writing on display at the Oriental Institute Museum, University of Chicago

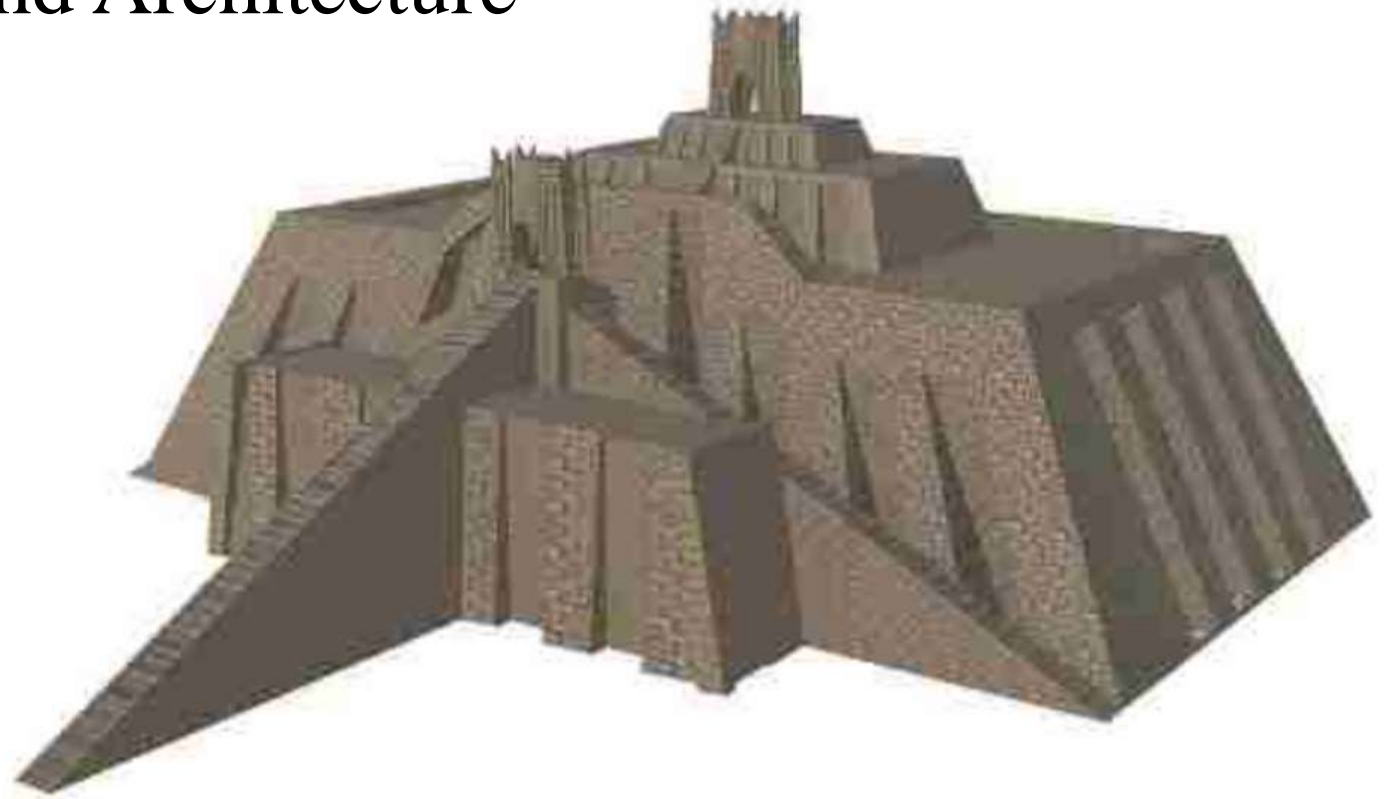
Religion of Mesopotemia

- Mesopotemia were **polytheistic** means they believed in more than one god.
- Position of King was enhanced and supported by religion
- Gods were worshipped at huge temples called ziggurats
- Their Belief was that gods lived on the distant mountaintops.

Mesopotemia Art and Architecture

Ziggurats were huge, with built in steps.

The **ziggurat** was always built with a core of mud brick and an exterior covered with baked brick.



The Ziggurat of the city of Ur
based on a 1939 drawing by Leonard Woolley

- Large temples dedicated to the god of the city
- Temple on top served as the god's home and was beautifully decorated.
- The Ziggurat was a temple. The ancient **Sumerians**, believed their **gods** lived in the sky. In order for the **gods** to hear better, you needed to get closer to them. Ziggurats were huge, with built in steps.
- Inside was a room for offerings of food and goods.

Famous ziggurat was Tower of Babel (over 100m above ground and 91m base)

The ruins and site of the Tower of Babel



Artist's impression



Thus the present text in Genesis 11:1-9 came to be written:

- Now the whole world had one language and a common speech. As people moved eastward, they found a plain in Shinar (Babylonia) and settled there. They said to each other, "Come, let us make bricks and bake them thoroughly." They used brick instead of stone, and tar for mortar. Then they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city, with a tower that reaches to the heavens, so that we may make a name for ourselves; otherwise we will be scattered over the face of the whole earth." But Yahweh came down to see the city and the tower the people were building. Yahweh said, "So they are all a single people with a single language! This is but the start of their undertakings! Then nothing they plan to do will be impossible for them. Come let us go down and confuse their language so they will not understand each other." So Yahweh scattered them from there all over the earth, and they stopped building the city. That is why it was called Babel – because there the Lord confused the language of the whole world. From there Yahweh scattered them over the face of the whole earth

Mesopotamian art survives in a number of forms:

- cylinder seals
- relatively small figures in the round
- and reliefs of various sizes, including cheap plaques of moulded pottery for the home, some religious and some apparently not.

Subject Matter

deities, alone or with worshippers, and

animals in several types of scenes: repeated in rows, single, fighting each other or a human, [confronted animals](#) by themselves or flanking a human or god in the [Master of Animals](#) motif

or a [Tree of Life](#).

To be Continue....