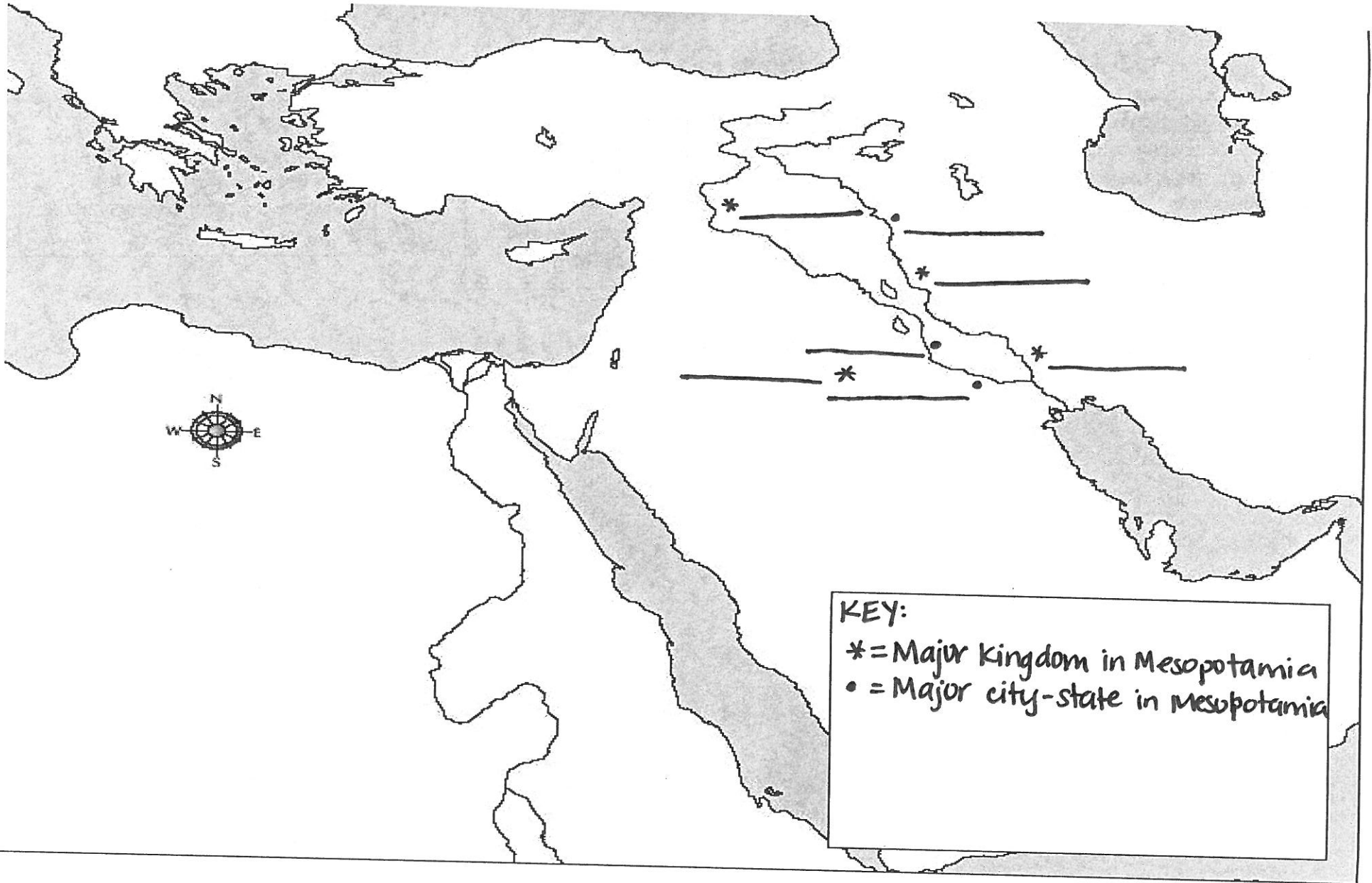


Name: _____

Date: _____

Period: _____

MAP TITLE: _____



KEY:
* = Major Kingdom in Mesopotamia
• = Major city-state in Mesopotamia

Name: _____ Date: _____ Period: _____

MESOPOTAMIA MAP ACTIVITY

1. Complete your map using the instructions on the "Mesopotamia Map Instructions" page. (not attached)
2. Use "The Civilization of Sumer" article to complete the following activities to learn about the geography of Mesopotamia.

Part ONE Directions:

Write 5 facts using complete sentences about the geography of Mesopotamia.

**Use the "Geography of Mesopotamia" section to help you.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

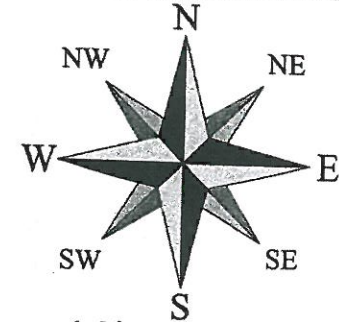
Part TWO Directions:

Early Mesopotamians began to settle around the Tigris and Euphrates River in order to farm. There were many effects. Write about 4 of these and draw a visual for each below.

**Use the "Farming the Land" and "City-States of Sumer"/"Cities Emerge" sections to help you.

Part THREE Directions:

Using the compass rose and a map, determine whether the statements written below are true or false.



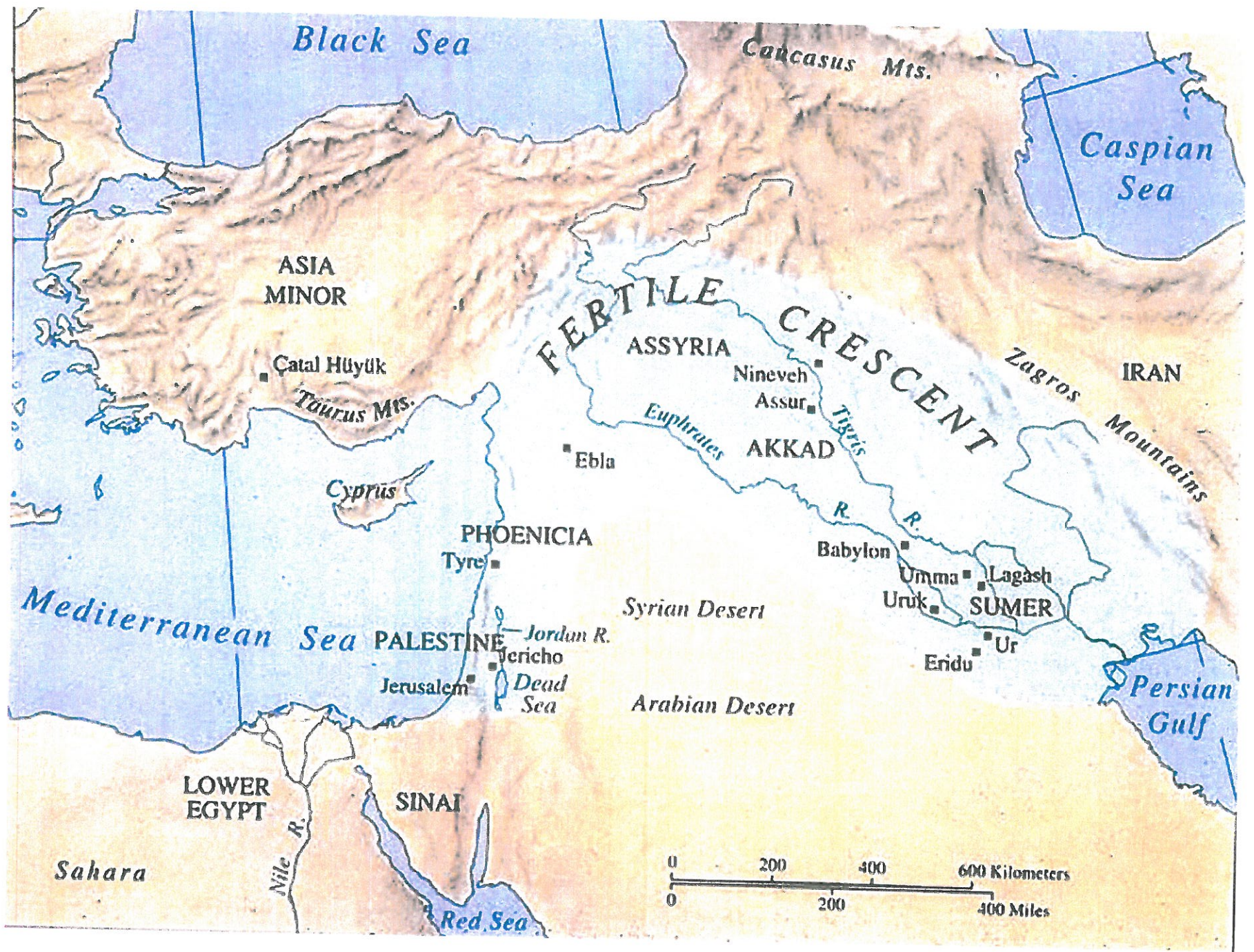
1. The Euphrates River is west of the Tigris River.
2. The Mediterranean Sea is east of Mesopotamia.
3. Egypt is southwest of Mesopotamia.
4. The Zagros Mountains are east of the Fertile Crescent.
5. The Syrian Desert is south of Mesopotamia.

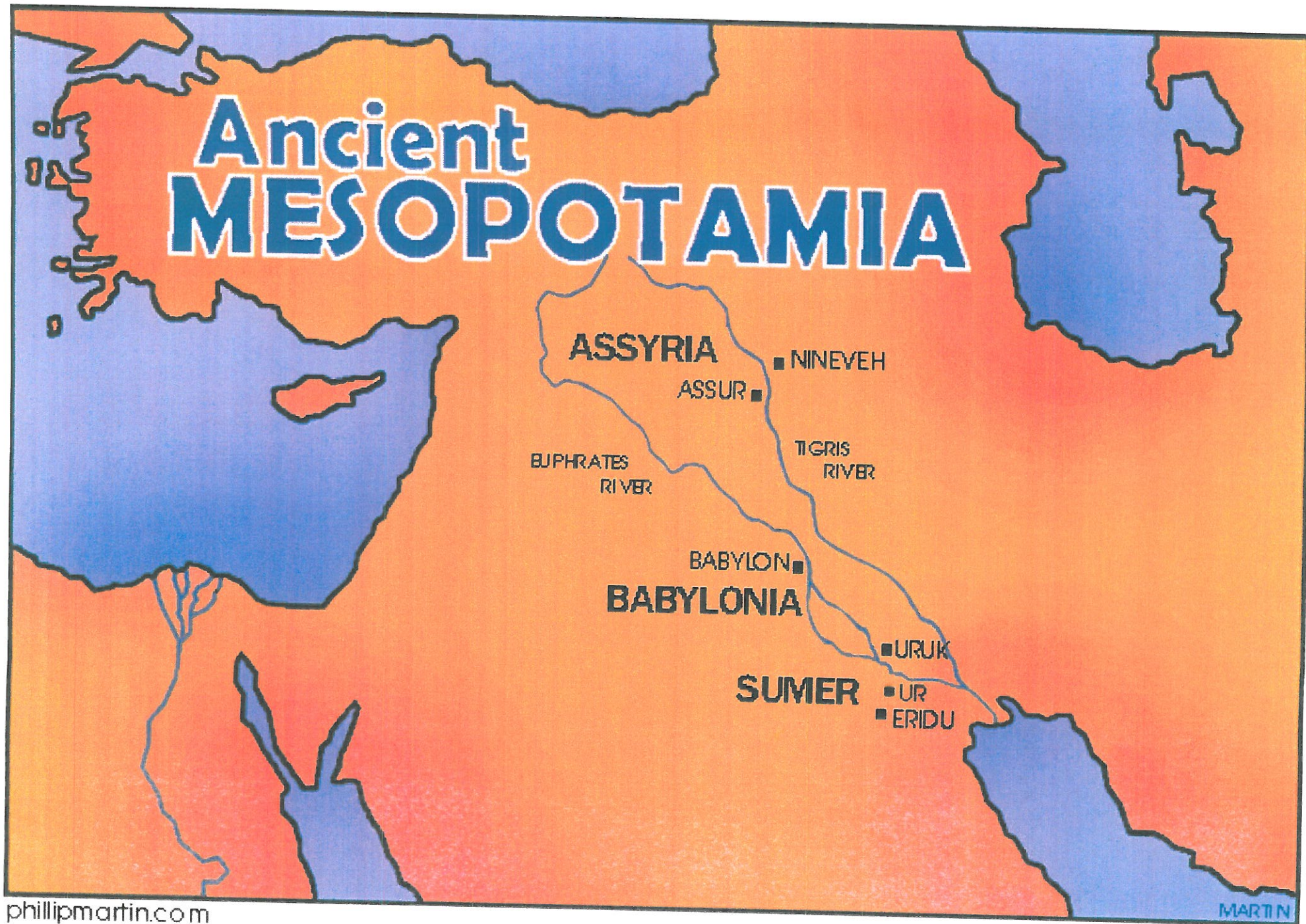
MESOPOTAMIA MAP INSTRUCTIONS

Please only use colored pencils, NO markers!

****NEATNESS COUNTS!!****

1. Title your map: **Ancient Mesopotamia**
2. Label the following bodies of water and color them **blue**:
*Mediterranean Sea *Red Sea *Persian Gulf
3. Label the following rivers and trace them in **blue**. River lines are already on the map for you.
*Euphrates River *Tigris River
(*Yoo-fray-teez*) (*Tie-gris*)
4. Locate and label the following **major kingdoms** in Mesopotamia using the star * symbol. The symbol is on the map already.
*Sumer *Akkad *Assyria *Babylonia
(*soo-mer*) (*uh-cod*) (*bab-uh-lone-ee-a*)
5. Locate and label the following **major city-states** in Mesopotamia using the dot • symbol. The symbol is on the map already.
*Ur *Nineveh *Babylon
(*oo-r*) (*nin-uh-vuh*) (*bab-a-lon*)
6. Locate and **color** the Fertile Crescent region **green**.
7. Locate and **color** the Syrian Desert **light brown**. Label in **black**.
8. Locate the Zagros Mountains. **Draw in the mountains** with triangle symbols using **brown** (color) ^^^^^. Label in black.
9. **Create a map key** by adding symbols/color to represent bodies of water & rivers, deserts, mountains, and the Fertile Crescent.
(two symbols have already been created in the key for you)





Section 1

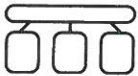
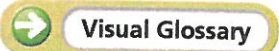
The Civilization of Sumer

Key Ideas

- Fertile land between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers supported the earliest known civilization.
- Priests and kings held great power in the city-states of Sumer.
- Sumerian achievements included new technology, a written language, and epic poetry.

Key Terms

- Fertile Crescent
- Mesopotamia
- irrigate
- city-state
- barter
- polytheism
- ziggurat
- cuneiform



Reading Skill Identify Main Ideas and Details Take notes using the graphic organizer in your journal.

A Sumerian bronze sculpture of a bull's head ▼



The **Fertile Crescent** is a region of the Middle East that stretches in a large, crescent-shaped curve from the Persian Gulf to the Mediterranean Sea. The Fertile Crescent includes **Mesopotamia** (mes uh puh TAY mee uh), a wide, flat plain in present-day Iraq. This plain lies between two great rivers, the Tigris (TY gris) and the Euphrates (yoo FRAY teez). In fact, *Mesopotamia* means “land between the rivers” in Greek. Here, thousands of years ago, the world’s first civilization began to form. This was the civilization of Sumer (soo mur).

Agriculture in Mesopotamia

As its name suggests, the Fertile Crescent's soil is rich and fertile. Some of the most productive land in the region is in Mesopotamia. This rich soil allowed Sumerian farmers to grow many grains and vegetables. They also raised sheep, goats, and cattle.

Geography of Mesopotamia Northern Mesopotamia includes the foothills of the Taurus and Zagros mountain chains. To the south, these foothills flatten into plains that stretch southeast toward the Persian Gulf.

Southern Mesopotamia is a hot, dry region with little rainfall. At first glance, the land looks like a desert. But the soils are not desert soils. In fact, they are rich with nutrients.

The southern part of Mesopotamia owes its good soil to the Tigris and Euphrates rivers. These rivers begin in the mountains of southeastern Turkey and flow south and east, through present-day Iraq. The rivers

unite in southern Iraq and continue to the Persian Gulf as a single waterway known as the Shatt-al-Arab.

For many years, the Tigris and Euphrates have carried fine, fertile soil called silt down from the mountains. Each spring, the rivers flood their banks, spreading floodwaters and silt across the plain. When the floods end, they leave behind a fresh layer of moist, fertile earth that is perfect for growing crops.

But Mesopotamia's geography also gave Sumerian farmers many challenges. The heavy spring floods could wash away crops and even whole villages. During the summer, the hot sun baked the ground rock hard. With little rain for months, plants died.

Farming the Land Despite these challenges, the Sumerians used technology to turn Mesopotamia into productive farmland. Remember that technology is the practical application of knowledge to accomplish a task.

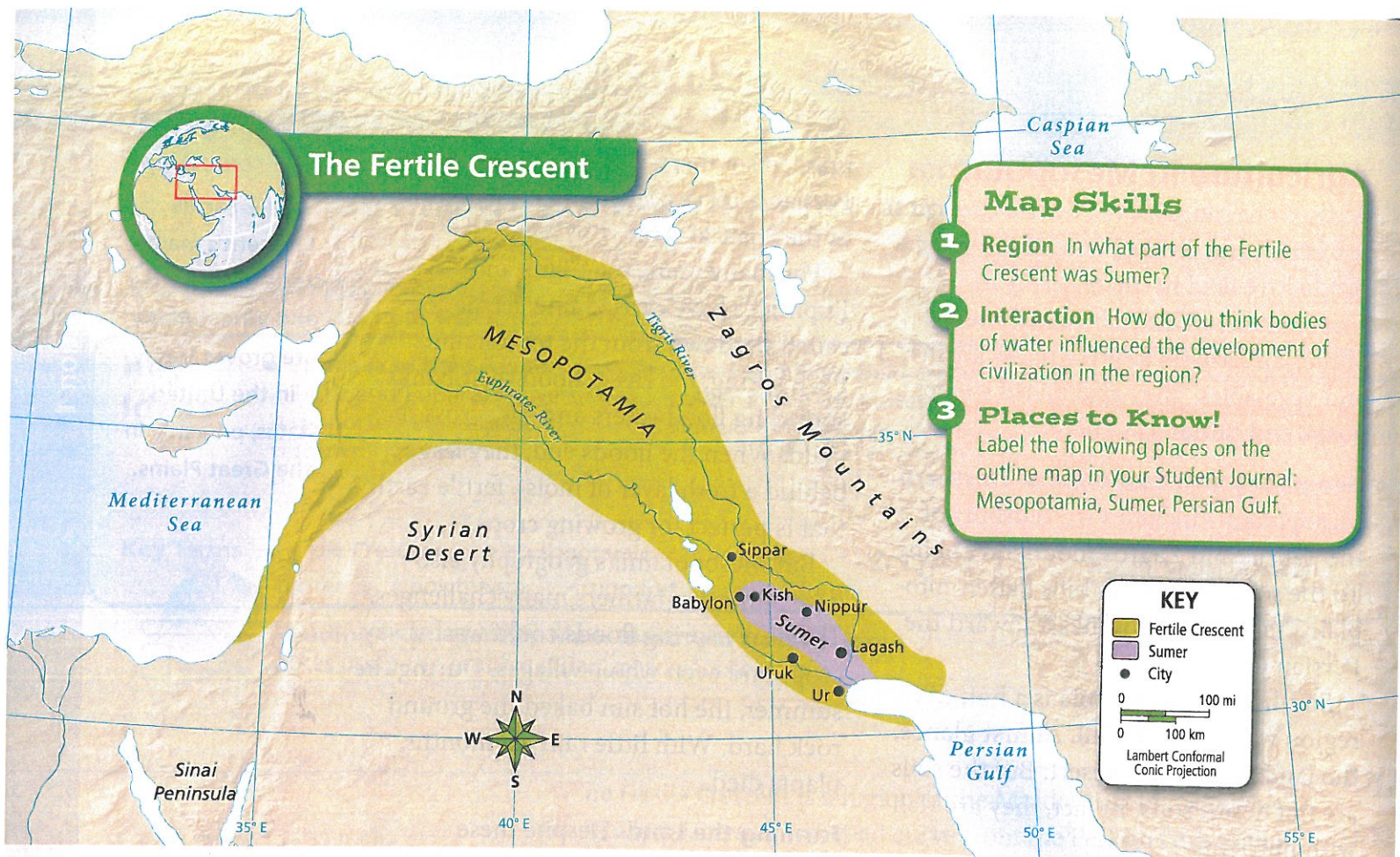


The Fertile Crescent's major crops were barley and wheat. Both are grown today in the United States, primarily in the Great Plains.



The Tigris and Euphrates rivers are a key part of life in the Fertile Crescent. ▼





The Fertile Crescent

Map Skills

- 1 **Region** In what part of the Fertile Crescent was Sumer?
- 2 **Interaction** How do you think bodies of water influenced the development of civilization in the region?
- 3 **Places to Know!** Label the following places on the outline map in your Student Journal: Mesopotamia, Sumer, Persian Gulf.

KEY

- Fertile Crescent
 - Sumer
 - City
- 0 100 mi
0 100 km
Lambert Conformal
Conic Projection

The Sumerians used technology to **irrigate**, or supply water to, their crops. They dug many miles of irrigation canals to bring water from the rivers to their fields. With irrigation, crops could still get water during the hot, dry summer.

Sumerians also developed a new way of planting crops. Earlier farmers had used a plow pulled by oxen to cut a long furrow, or trench, in the soil. Then the farmers dropped seeds into the furrow by hand. But Sumerian farmers developed a seed funnel that they attached to their plows. As the plow moved forward, seeds automatically dropped from the funnel into the soil. This made planting faster and easier.

Reading Check How did geography affect the Sumerians?

City-States of Sumer

Better agricultural techniques helped the Sumerians produce more food. With a dependable food supply, the population of villages began to grow. Around 3400 B.C., cities started to form in southern Mesopotamia.

Cities Emerge The first Mesopotamian city was Uruk, shown on the map on this page. Uruk had a population of more than 40,000 people. Other early cities were Ur, Lagash, and Nippur. Some cities grew large and powerful. They became the world's first city-states. A **city-state** is an independent state that includes a city and its surrounding territory. Each Sumerian city-state had its own government and laws, and each had its own main god.