

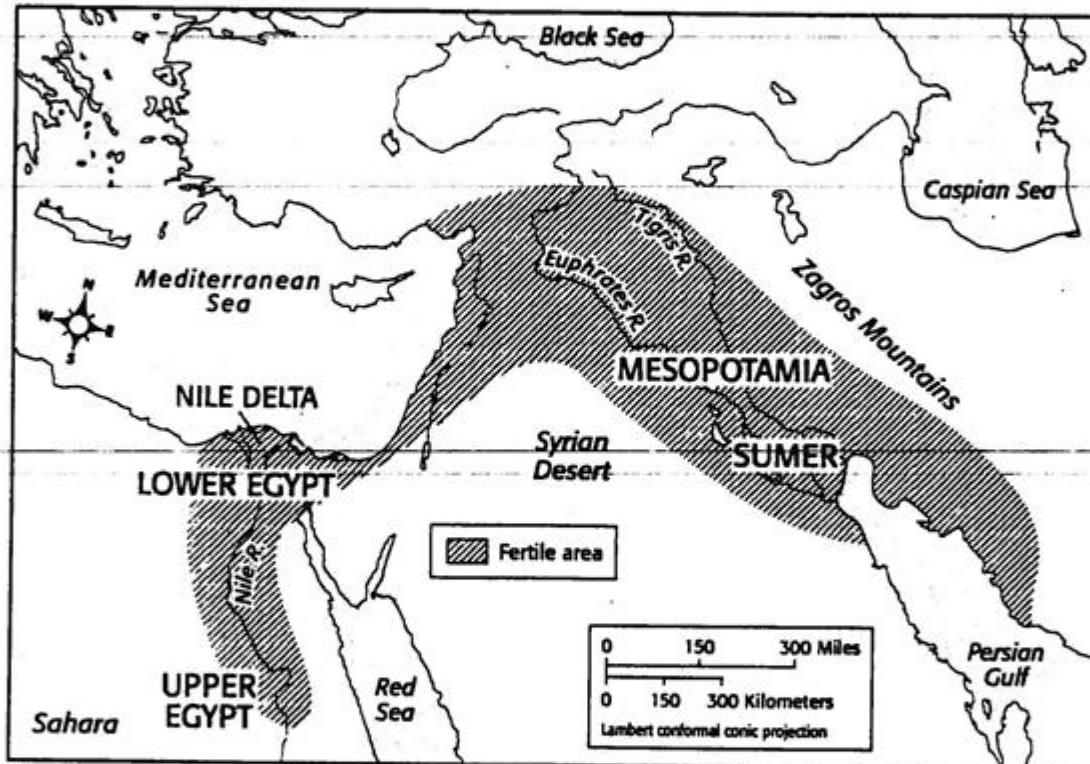
Name \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## The Beginnings of Civilization      History and Geography

# The First Civilizations

Two of the world's first civilizations—Sumer and Egypt—developed in the fertile river valleys of Mesopotamia and northern Africa. The Tigris, Euphrates, and Nile rivers made life possible in a land of harsh deserts. The people of these early civilizations depended on the rivers for water to use for drinking, cooking, farming, and transportation. When the rivers flooded, they enriched the soil with minerals that were good for growing food crops.

### The Fertile Crescent



On the map, label the area of the Fertile Crescent.

Use blue to follow the path of the Nile River. Highlight the area of the Nile Delta by drawing an upside down triangle shape ▽. Color the Mediterranean blue.

On the map, use blue to follow the paths of the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers. Color the Persian Gulf blue.

Use yellow to color the Sahara and Syrian deserts. Use brown to create mountains in the correct place ^. Update the map legend to include the desert and mountains.

Analyzing Maps

1. Location Over which vast desert does the course of the Nile River flow? \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location What mountain range forms the eastern border of the Fertile Crescent? \_\_\_\_\_

3. Region Based on the map, why do you think the fertile area is known as the “Fertile Crescent” ?  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. Human Environment Interaction Based on the map, why do you think these civilizations did NOT develop far beyond the banks of these three rivers?  
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5. How is the direction that the Nile River flows different from the Tigris and Euphrates rivers? Create a map with arrows to visually relay this information. Make sure you label all the geographic features.