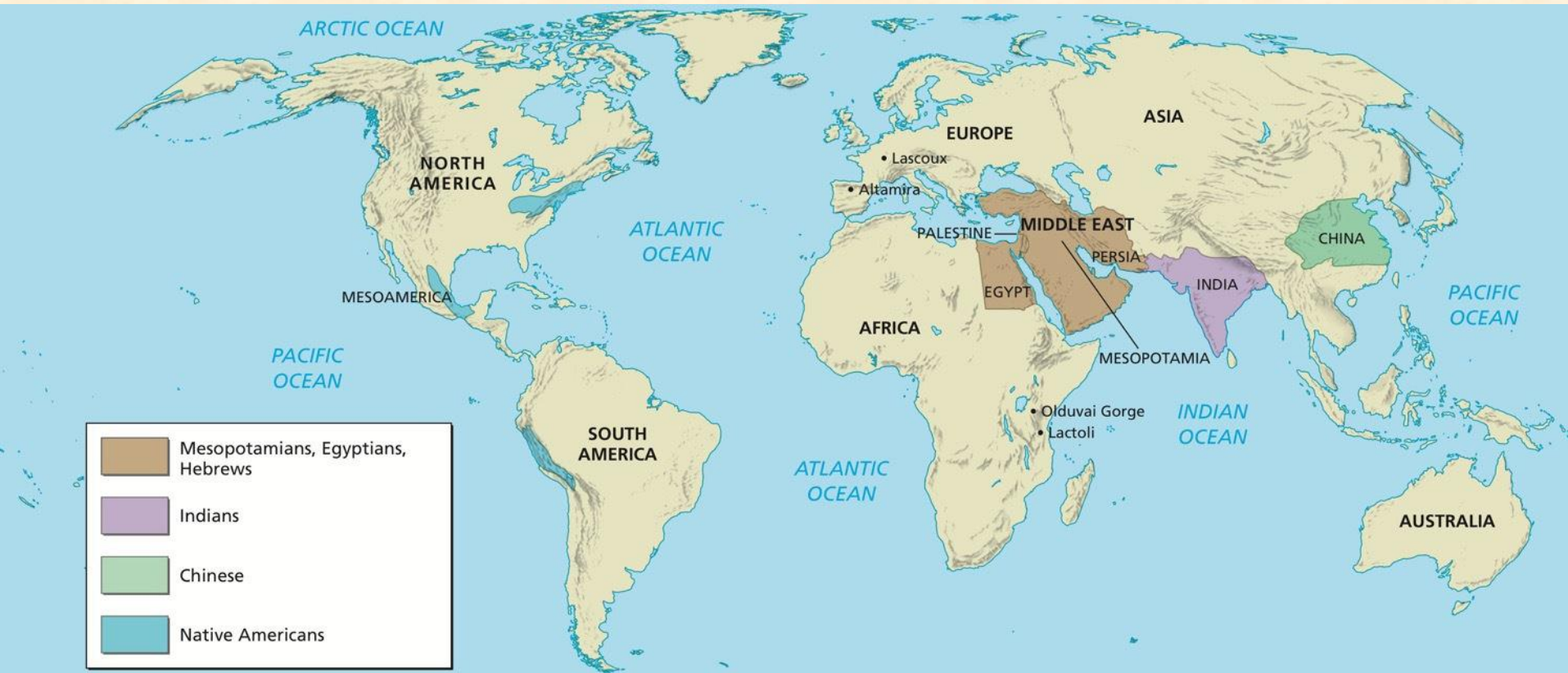
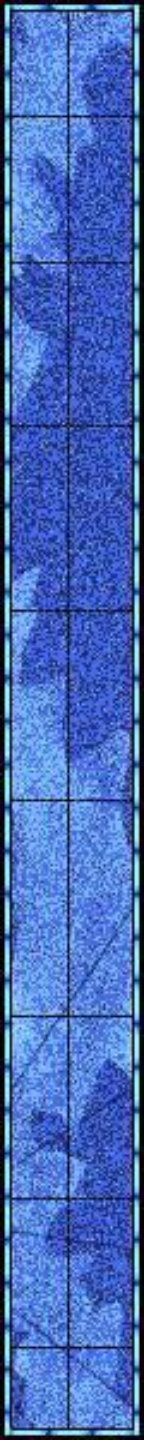


Chapter 1

The Earliest Human Societies



c. 3.5. million – 10,000 B.C.E.	Paleolithic Era
c.150,000 – 100,000 B.C.E.	Early <i>Homo sapiens</i> (<i>Homo ergaster</i>) appears
c. 80,000 B.C.E.	Humans develop first true languages
c. 80,000 – 15,000 B.C.E.	Humans migrate out of Africa and populate the major continents
c. 10,000 B.C.E.	Neolithic Age commences
c. 7000 B.C.E.	Bronze Age begins
c. 3500 B.C.E.	Agrarian civilizations in Mesopotamia, Egypt
c. 1500 B.C.E.	Iron Age begins

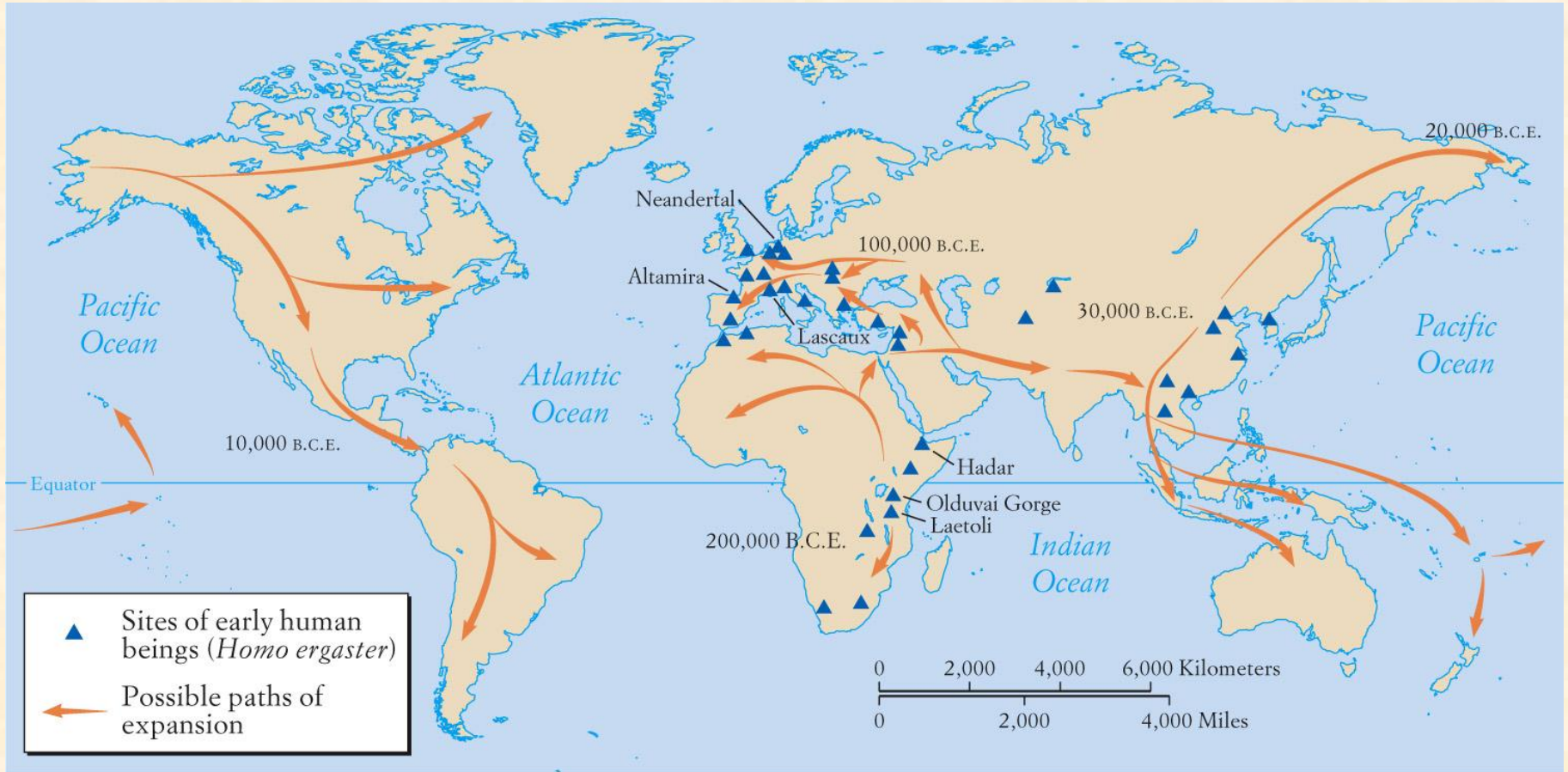


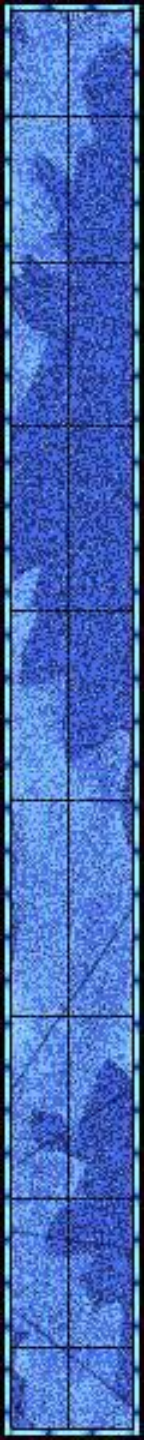
The Earliest Human Societies

- Natural Selection
 - The gradual process whereby traits useful for survival are passed down from one generation to the next. It is the key mechanism to evolution.
- Hominid (human-like creature)
 - 4.5 million years ago
- Homo sapiens (thinking or skillful man)
 - Originated in East Africa
 - Migrated 100,000 years ago to Middle East, Europe, Asia, and Western Hemisphere
 - By 10,000-15,000 B.C.E, Homo sapiens were on every continent except Antarctica

TABLE 1.1 Evolution of the Genus *Homo*

<i>Homo habilis</i> (toolmakers)	3.5–4 million years ago
<i>Homo erectus</i> (bipedal walkers)	1.5–1.8 million years ago
<i>Homo ergaster</i>	150,000–100,000 years ago
<i>Homo sapiens</i> (modern humans)	100,000–30,000 years ago





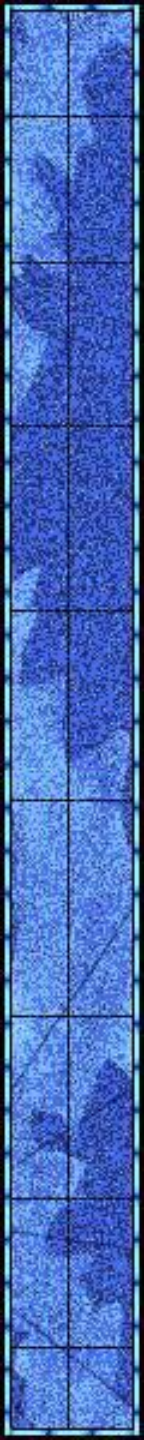
Definition of Terms

History - record of human activity based on evidence

Historiography - systematic study of history

Archaeology - study of past cultures and civilizations through their artifacts.

Anthropology - study of humans as species rather than studying specific activities



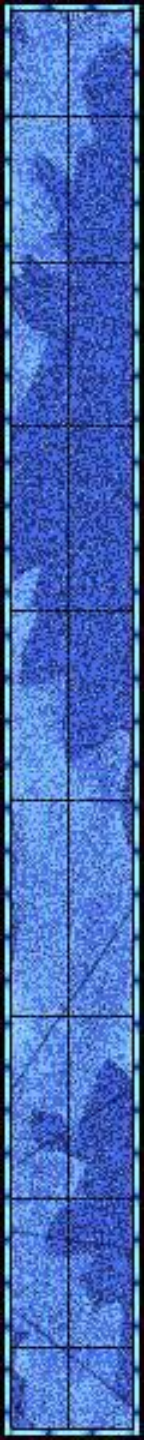
Definition of Terms

Archaeologists are crucial to the study of human societies that existed before recorded history

Paleoanthropologists study human evolution

Paleoenvironmentalists study ancient natural environments

Paleographers study old writing



The Evolving Past

- Paleoanthropology is advancing our knowledge about the age, nature, and locales of humans
- Tool-making is a primary indicator of human development
 - While early hominids possessed tool kits more refined tools begin appearing about 70,000 years ago.
 - These tools also have what appear to be decorative markings.
- Paleolithic Age (Old Stone Age)
 - Dates roughly from first tools to about 10,000 BCE
 - The family was the basic social unit, organized into small groups of 40 people or fewer
 - Extended Family, or “Clan”
 - Includes uncles, aunts, in-laws & other relatives



Human Development During the Paleolithic Age

Seventeen varieties of homids evolved, but only homo sapiens survived.

- Disappeared by the end of the last Ice Age.
- Changes in hominids over time
 - Became upright, walked more erect
 - Skull size and shape changed to encompass larger brain
 - Less hairy bodies, shorter arms
 - Eyesight improved, sense of smell deteriorated
 - Larynx shifted to allow for speech
- Late Paleolithic changes in climate lead to changes in lifestyle
- Lived in semi-permanent shelters (caves, lean-tos) for longer periods of time
- Mastered their environment through expanded use of:
 - Clothing
 - Fire
 - Tools





The Neolithic (New Stone) Age

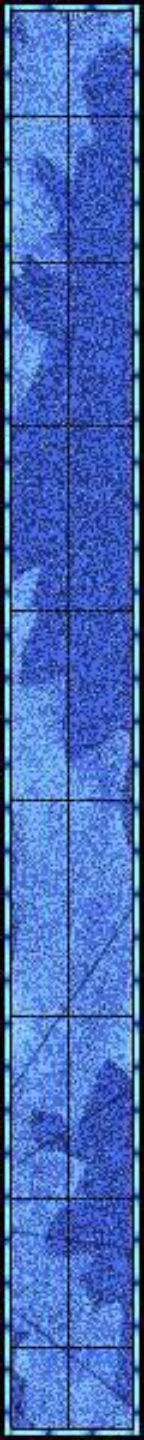
Agricultural Revolution - Effect on Society

- From gathering and hunting to livestock breeding and herding, sowing, and harvesting for food production
- Slow process (5-10 generations, or 200-400 years)
- Early changes in human societies
 - Population expanded in permanent settlements
 - Property privately owned (both land and livestock)
 - Systematized regulation (laws and government)
 - Specialization of labor
 - Harmful effects
 - Diseases from animals
 - Diets not well-balanced
 - Some believe there were enlarged public roles for women
 - First farmers probably women
 - Women associated with fertility
 - Importance of mother-goddess









Agrarian and Irrigation Civilizations

Changes brought by dependency on agriculture

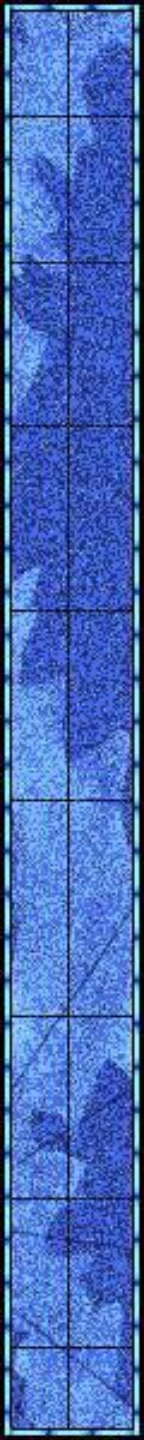
- Population swelled dramatically
- Surplus wealth supported more complex societies
- Craft production & trade appear
- New farming technologies
 - Use of draft animals
 - Irrigation
- Urban life developed
- Ruling elites emerged
- Need to maintain records, leading to the invention of writing



Agrarian and Irrigation Civilizations

The Eight Characteristics of Agrarian Civilizations

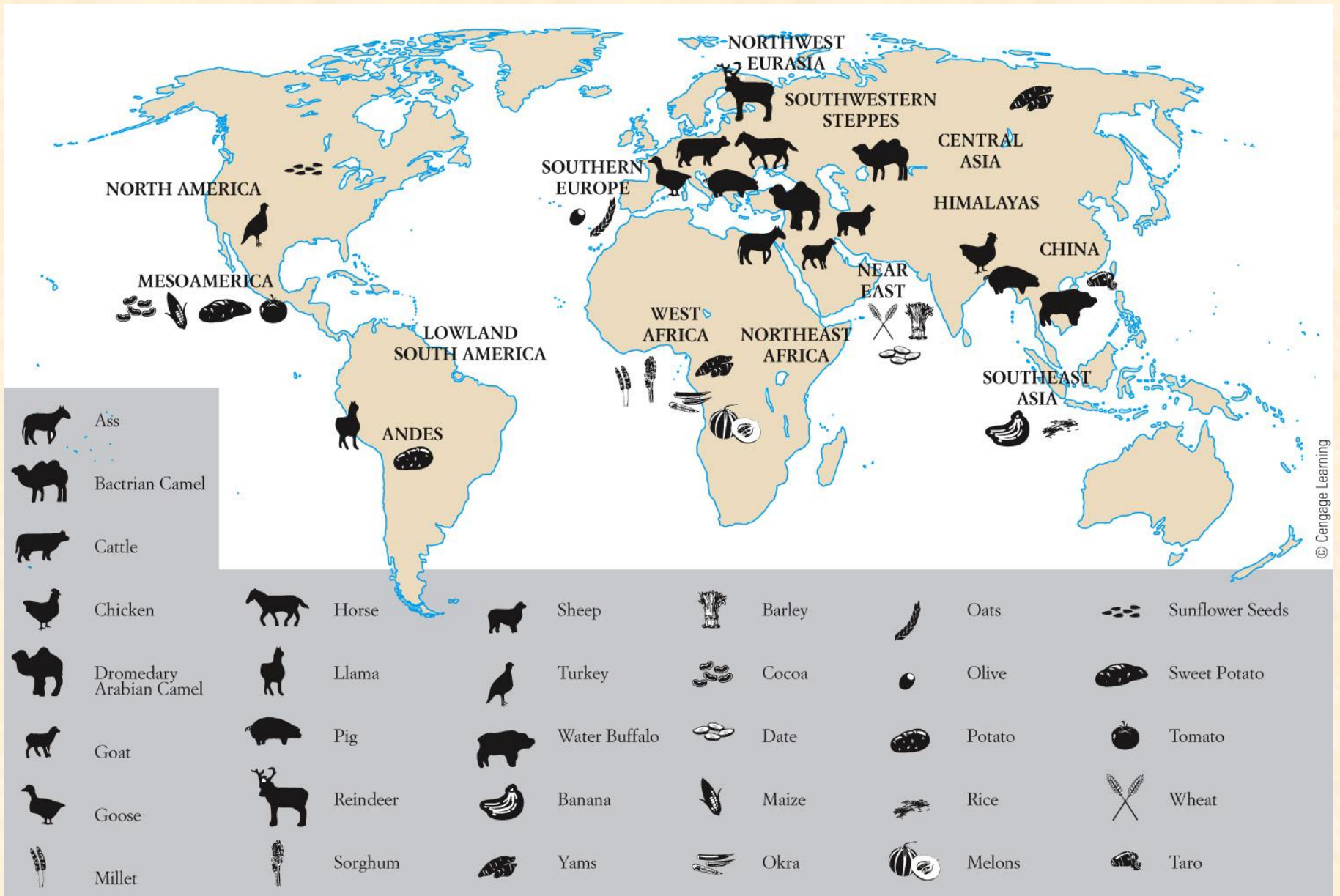
- They were primarily rural societies.
- They were based primarily on peasant agriculture and/or livestock breeding.
- Most people maintained life in balance with their natural environment.
- Their religion was based heavily on gods and spirits that controlled their natural environment.
- Their religion emphasized ritual and sacrifice as ways to control the deities.
- They relied on religious specialists to communicate with the gods.
- They believed time to be cyclic.
- Their social values emphasized kinship and the clan.



Agrarian and Irrigation Civilizations

River Valley Civilizations

- Several independent areas without outside influence
 - Tigris and Euphrates (Mesopotamia),
 - Nile (Egypt)
 - Niger (west Africa),
 - Indus (India),
 - Yellow and Yangtze (China)
 - Various smaller, river valleys in Peru





Rivers and Deserts

Additional benefits of rivers:

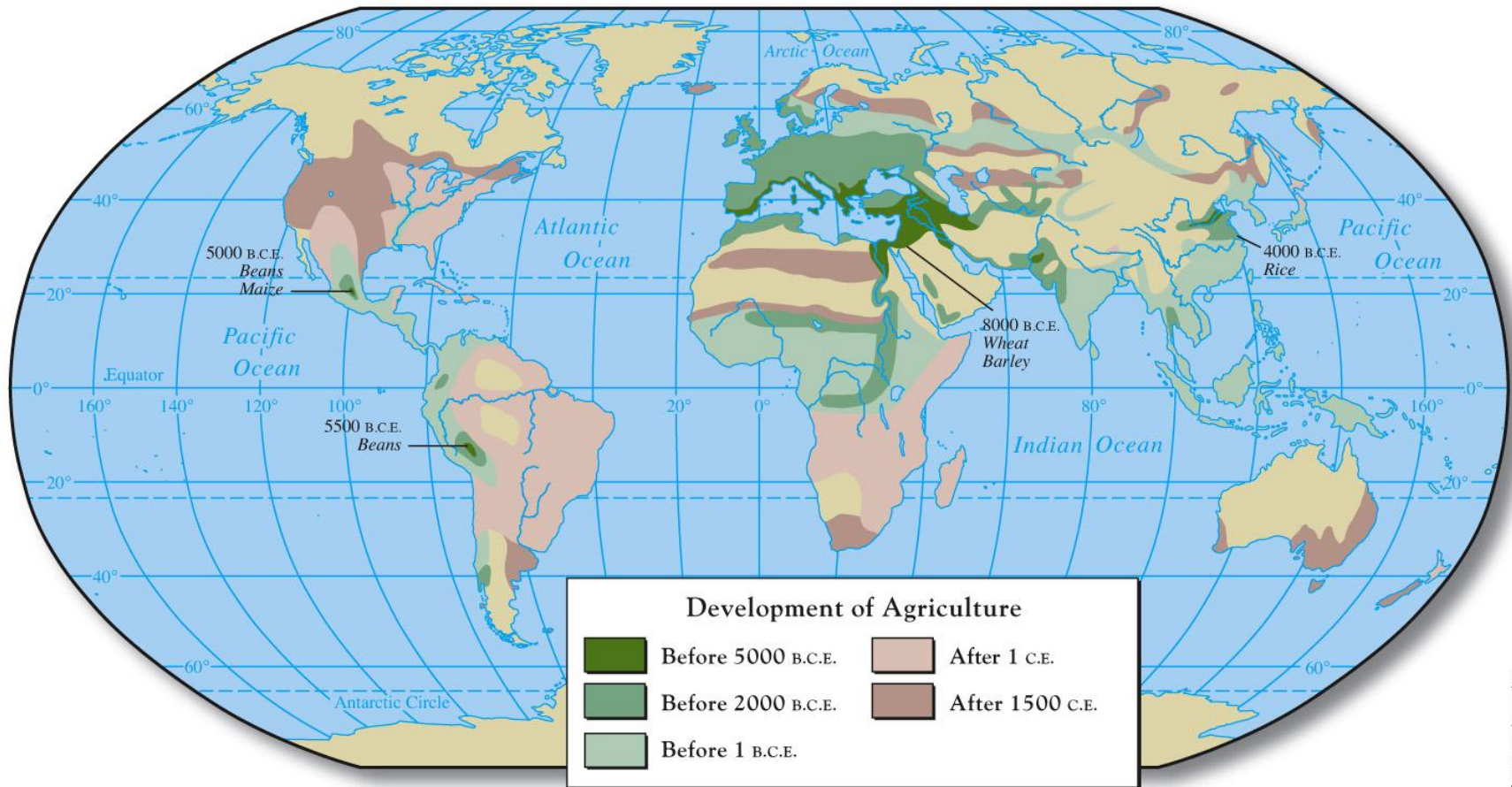
- Provided means of transportation and communication
- Served to extend the power and influence of government
- Interchange of goods and services
- Helped to avoid catastrophic effects of crop failure through the creation of new, supplementary forms of wealth
- Trade and migration maintained connections between different societies



Rivers and Deserts

Desert and Steppe Life

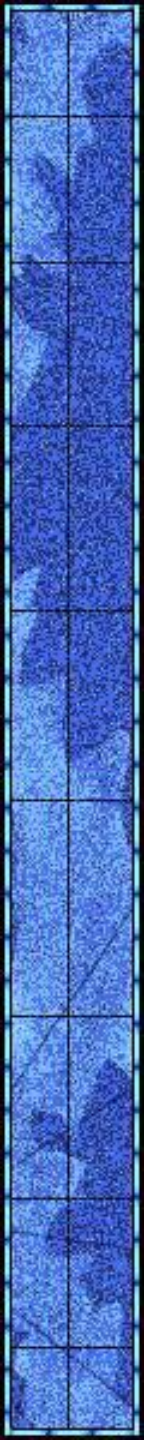
- Greater reliance on stockbreeding
 - Food
 - Clothing
- Settled life impossible, so populations were constantly moving
- Frequent trade with farmers or raiding of agricultural settlements
- Pastoralists heartier (because of harsh life)
- Warfare between pastoralists and neighboring civilizations one of the constants of history





Metal and Its Uses

- Soft copper – first metal
- Bronze Age
 - Lead and tin formed bronze
 - Harder material
 - More suitable for weapons
 - Resistant to weather
 - Problems:
 - Difficult to make, heavy, expensive
 - Cannot keep fine edge for use as tools and cutting weapons
 - First appeared in western Asia
 - Ended with smelting of iron around 1500 BCE.



Iron Age

- Development a major turning point in history
- Cheaper, lasts longer, and more common than bronze.
- Advancements in tools, weapons, utensils
 - Plowshares opened new lands for agriculture
 - Weapons/body armor changed warfare
 - Tools enabled technical progress and development
 - Lasted longer and resisted fiery heat
 - Did not easily lose sharp edge
- By 1200 BCE, knowledge of iron smelting was known throughout Middle East and Egypt