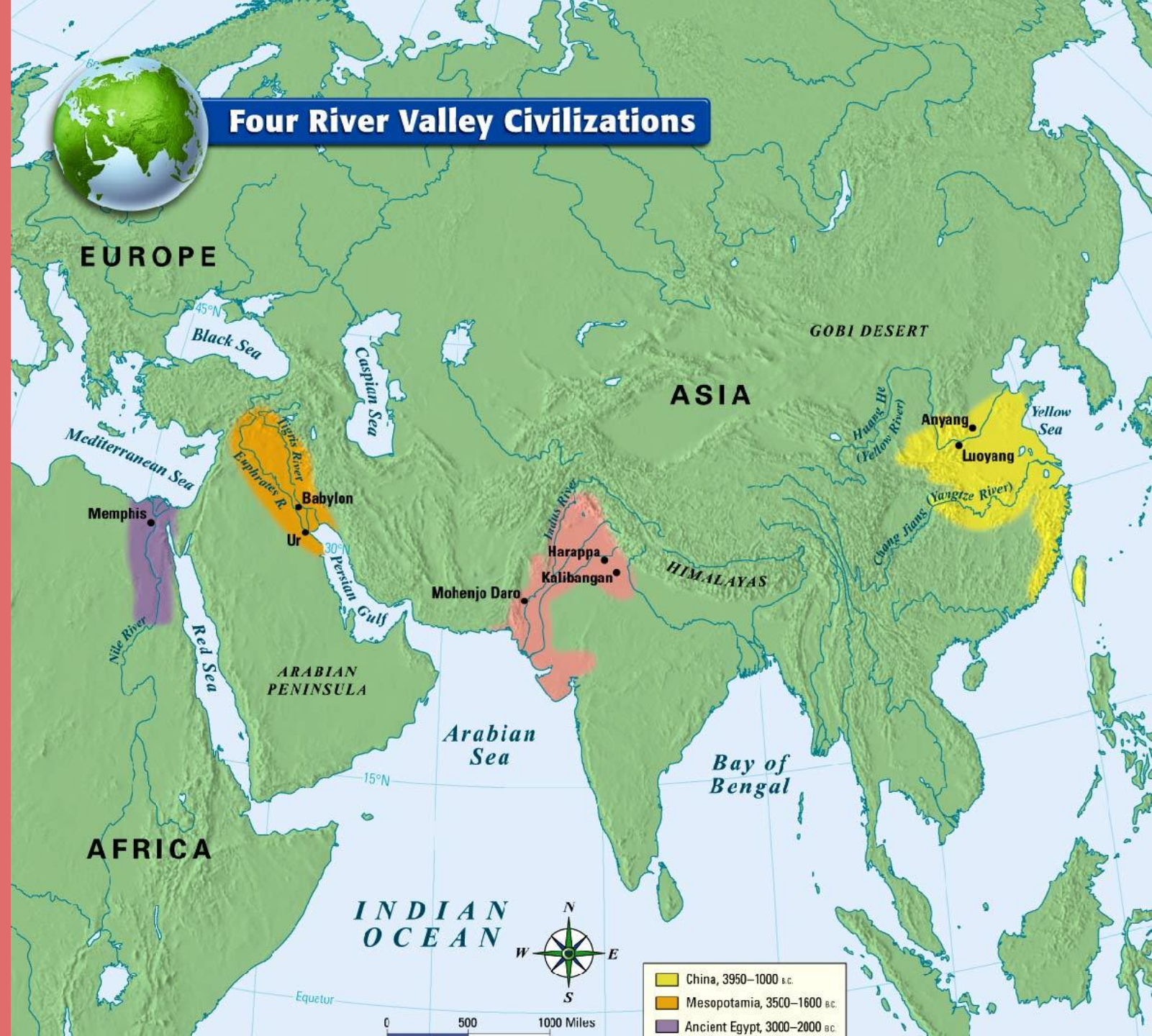
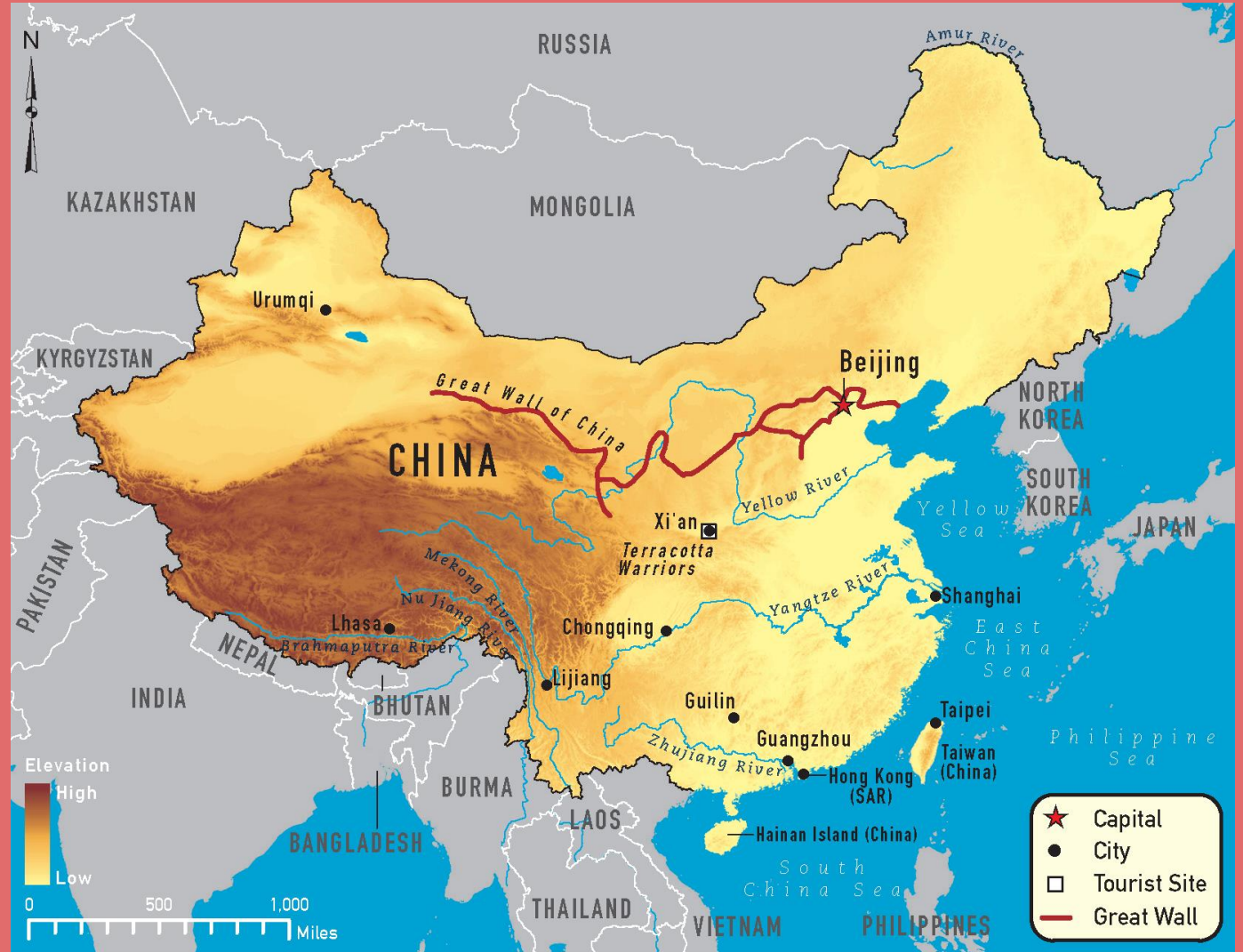


Aim: To what extent did China exhibit the characteristics of a “civilization”?



Where
would you
expect early
Chinese
civilizations
to develop?
Why?



Four River Valley Civilizations



EUROPE

Black Sea

Caspian Sea

GOBI DESERT

ASIA

Yellow Sea

Anyang

Luoyang

Chong Jians (Yangtze River)

HIMALAYAS

Mediterranean Sea

Tigris River
Euphrates R.

Babylon

Ur

Persian Gulf

Indus River

Harappa

Kalibangan

Mohenjo Daro

Memphis

Nile River

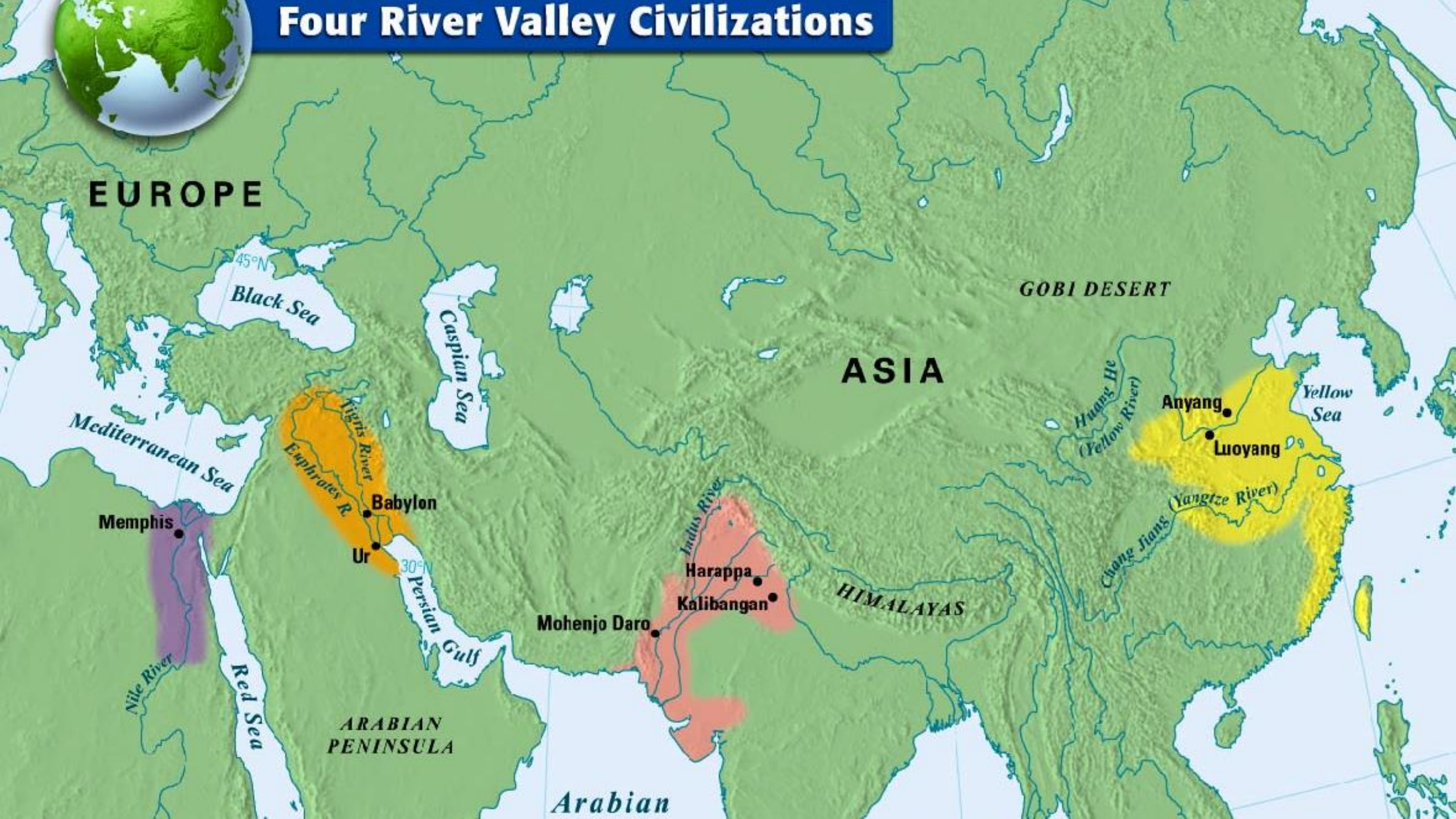
Red Sea

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Arabian

45°N

30°N



Early River Civilizations

Mesopotamia, Egypt, Indus River Valley, China developed along rivers because:

- Abundant fresh water and food.
- Water to irrigate fields.
- Flooding adds to fertile land.
- Travel by water: trade, cultural diffusion

Cultural Diffusion: the spreading of ideas or products from one culture to another.

Early River Valley Civilizations

Environment

Sumer	Flooding of Tigris and Euphrates unpredictable No natural barriers Limited natural resources for making tools or buildings
Egypt	Flooding of the Nile predictable Nile an easy transportation link between Egypt's villages Deserts were natural barriers
Indus Valley	Indus flooding unpredictable Monsoon winds Mountains, deserts were natural barriers
China	Huang He flooding unpredictable Mountains, deserts natural barriers Geographically isolated from other ancient civilization



Gobi Desert

Taklamakan
Desert

Yellow
River

Tibetan Plateau

Himalayas

Yangtze River

Pearl River

Ancient China: Geographic Features

Isolated by Natural Barriers

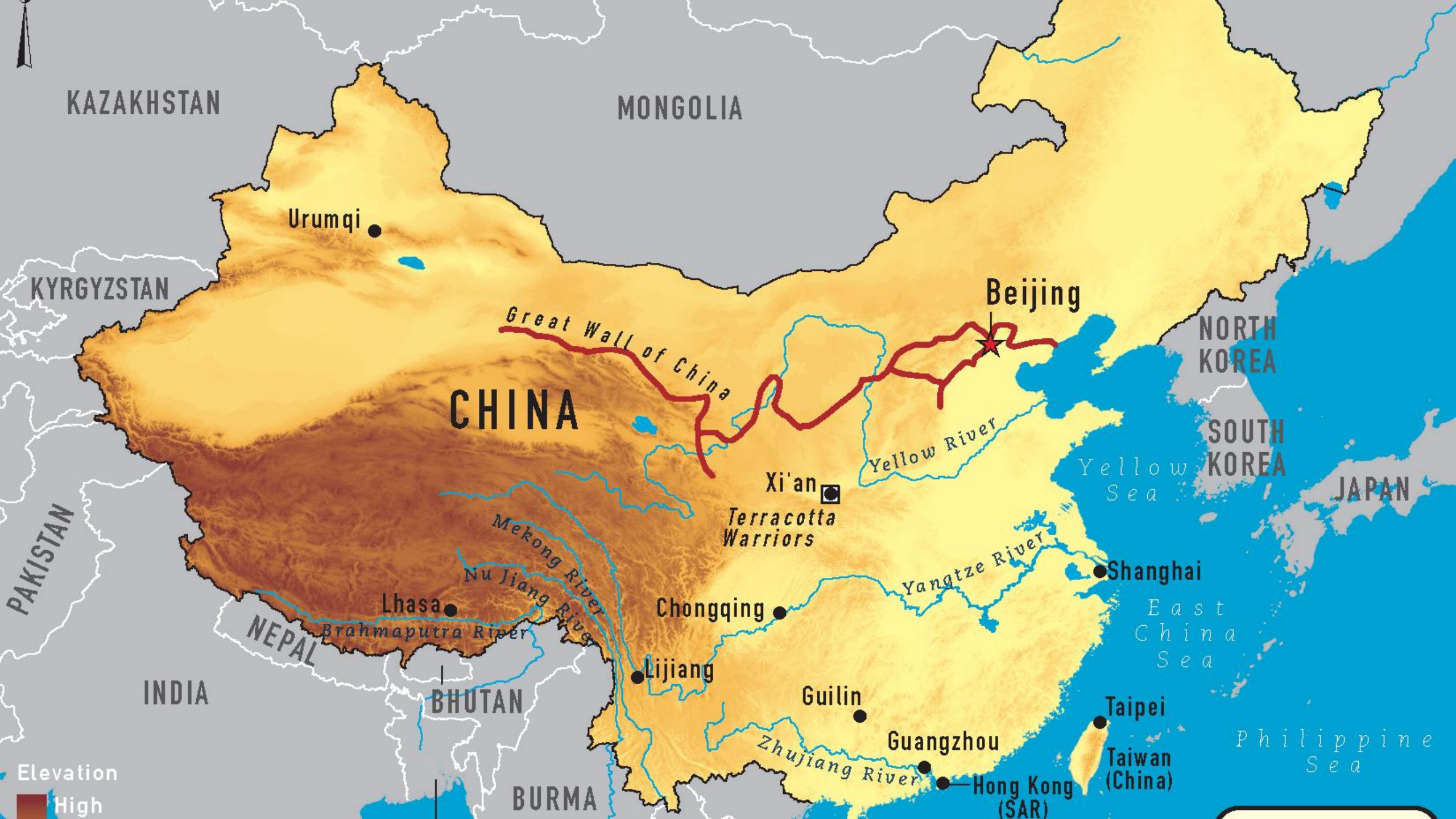
- Eastern border: Yellow Sea, East China Sea, Pacific Ocean
- North: Gobi Desert
- West: Taklimakan Desert
- Himalaya mountains curve around western border

Impact of Geography on Ancient Chinese Civilization

- Lack of Cultural Diffusion: geography made it difficult to: spread ideas, goods.
 - Chinese civilization developed very distinctly
- Two major river systems flow toward the Pacific Ocean
 - North China Plain – (between rivers) - center of Chinese civilization
 - Chang Jiang (Yangtze) - Central
 - Huang He (Yellow River) - North
 - Flood waters deposit silt; create fertile soil for farming

Middle Kingdom

- Center of the civilized world



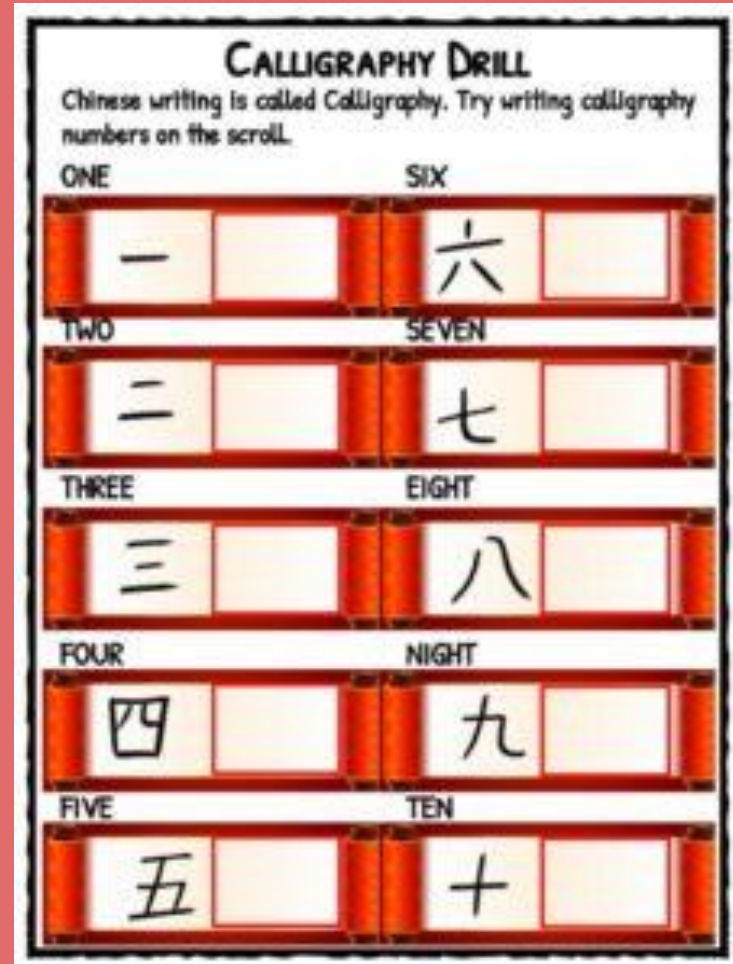
Handout: Timeline of Chinese Dynasties

- For how long did Chinese First Dynasty last?
- Second Dynasty?
- What evidence is there that China had developed a “civilization” during the Shang period?

Writing

- Top to bottom
- Left to right

|



- What do you notice about the transition between the Zhou and Qin Dynasties?
- What does this tell you about China from 772-221 B.C.E.?

China 772-221 B.C.E. (Zhou-Qin)

- Decentralized power
- Instability and conflict