

Unit 3, Lesson 4:

**How did Intensification Lead to the
Development of Writing, Laws,
and Centralized Governments in
Early Civilizations?**

Intensification:

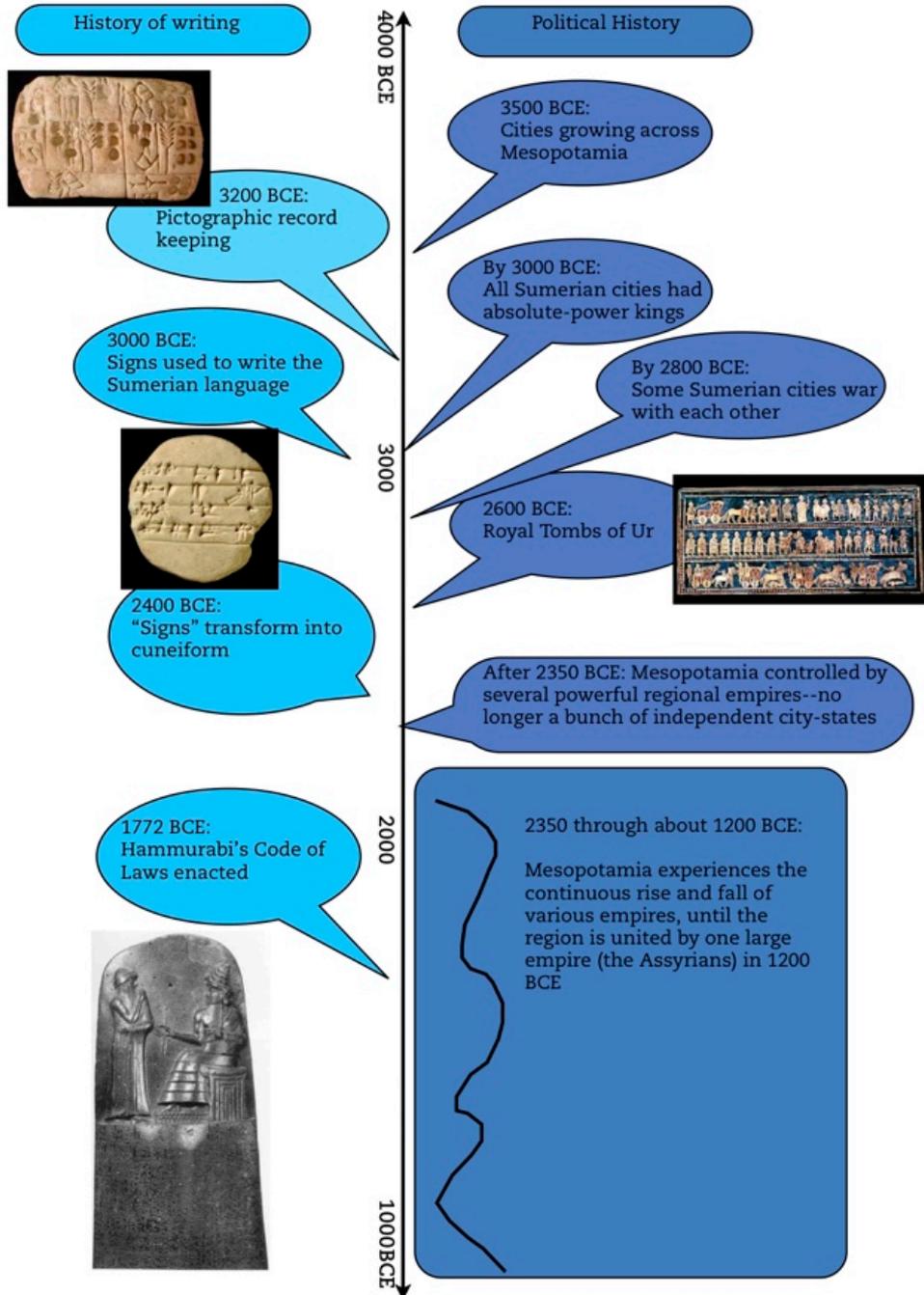
"New technologies and lifeways that enabled humans to extract more resources from a given land area."

(David Christian, Maps of Time: An Introduction to Big History [Berkeley: University of California Press, 2004], 207).

With more resources from one area, more people could live in one area.

Turn and Talk:

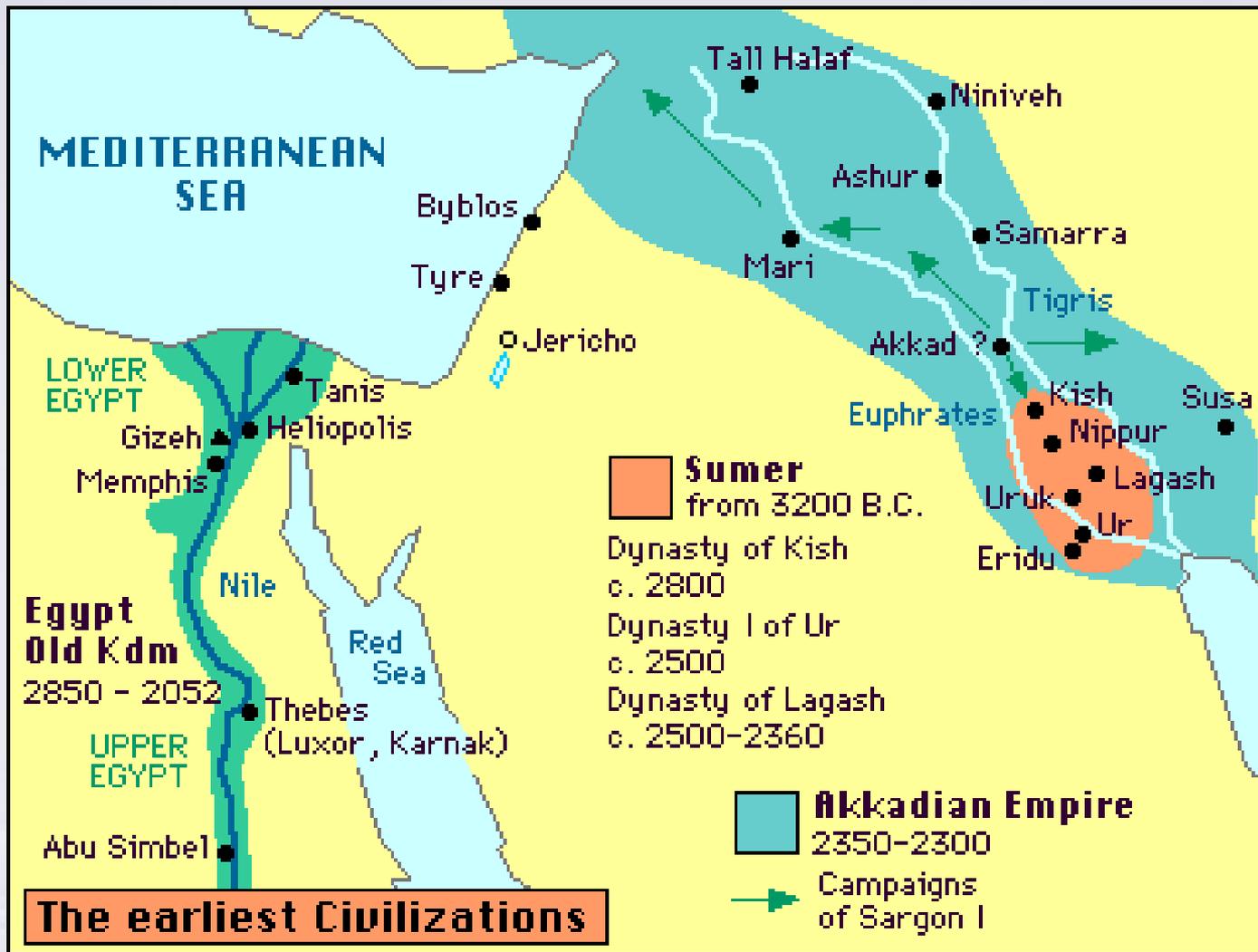
- What new problems do you think people faced with more people and more resources in one place?
- What solutions do you think people developed to solve these problems?



Study the timeline to the left.

Turn and talk about the following questions:

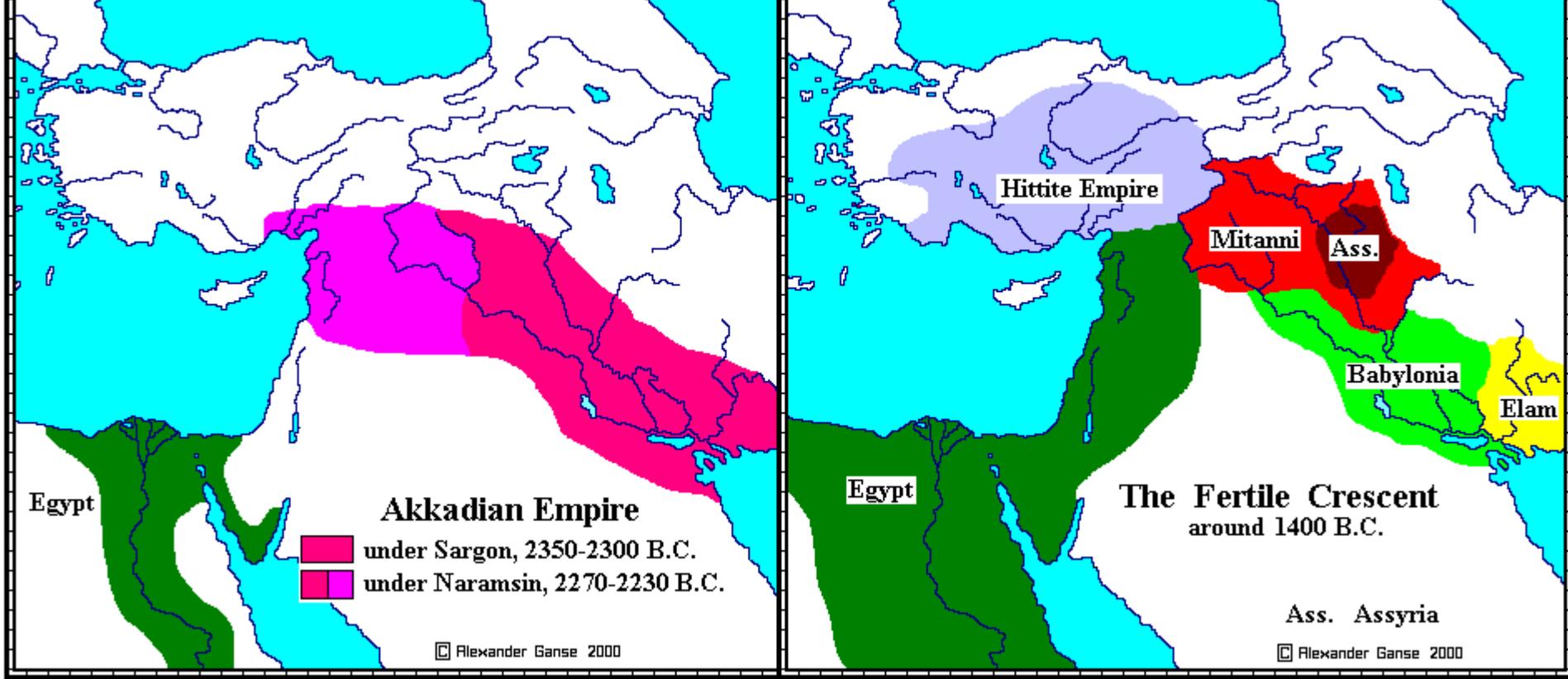
1. What is being compared in this timeline? How do you know?
2. Why do you think we don't see the appearance of writing anywhere in the world until AFTER the development of cities?
3. What purposes do you think writing served during this time period?
4. Describe the political trend in Mesopotamia between 3500 BCE and 1200 BCE. Why do you think this happened?



http://www.freemaninstitute.com/Gallery/ancientEgyptMap_copy.gif

Stop and Jot:

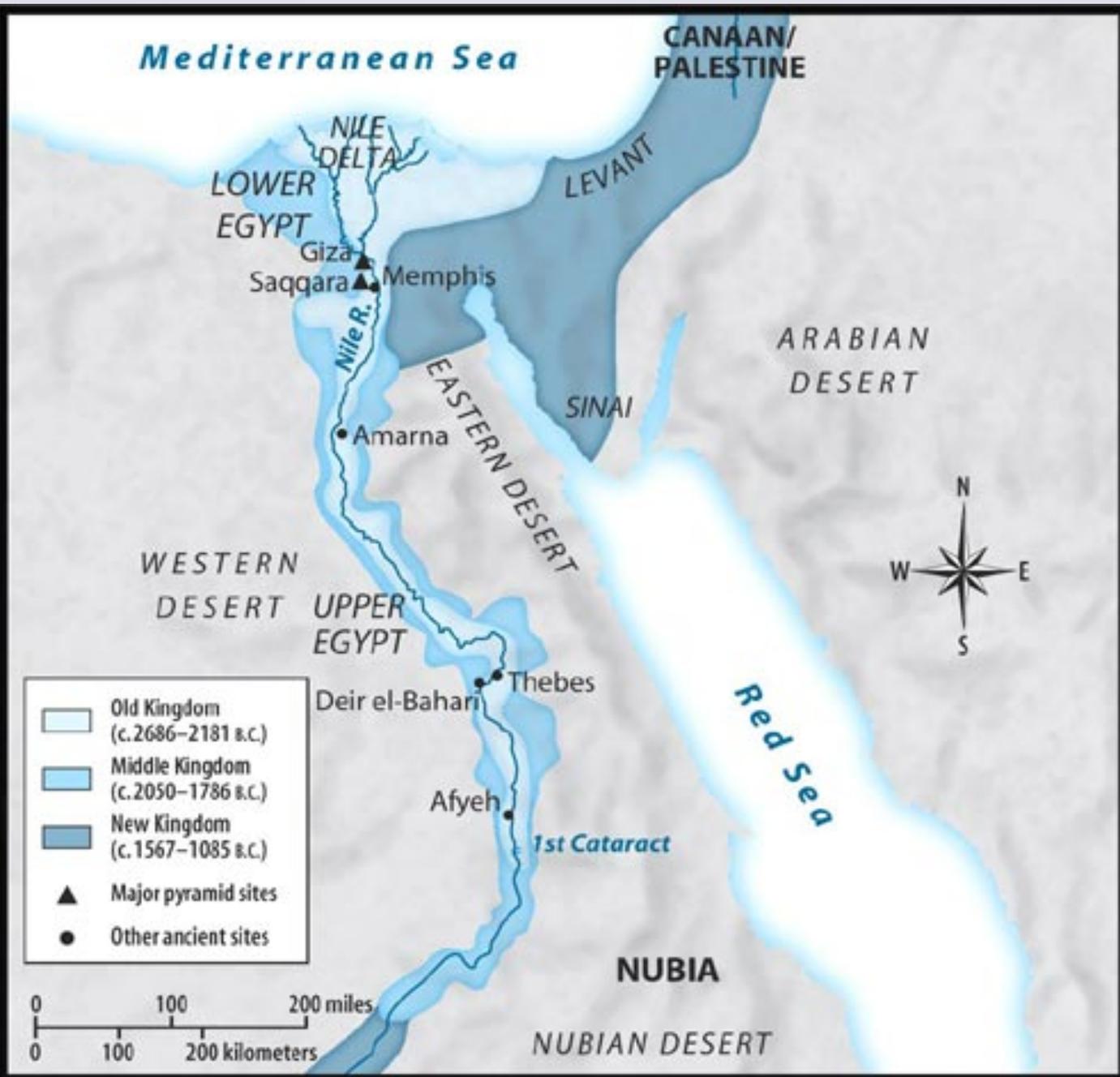
1. What happened in Mesopotamia between 3200 BC and 2300 BC? What does this map show?
2. What do you think the word "campaign" means on this map?



http://www.lost-history.com/images/Akkadian_Empire2.bmp

TURN AND TALK:

- What is the difference between these two maps? What changes do these maps show?
- What happened in this region between 2230 BC and 1400 BC?
- What do you think happened to the Akkadian Empire?
- Egypt increased its territory. By what means do you think Egypt achieved this?



Discussion

Questions:

- What time period does this map show?
- What is the big change that has taken place? Who is in control of Egypt and Sumer by 699 BC?
- What do you think is happening in the areas that are not shaded in? Do you think there were people there, and if so, how do you think they lived?

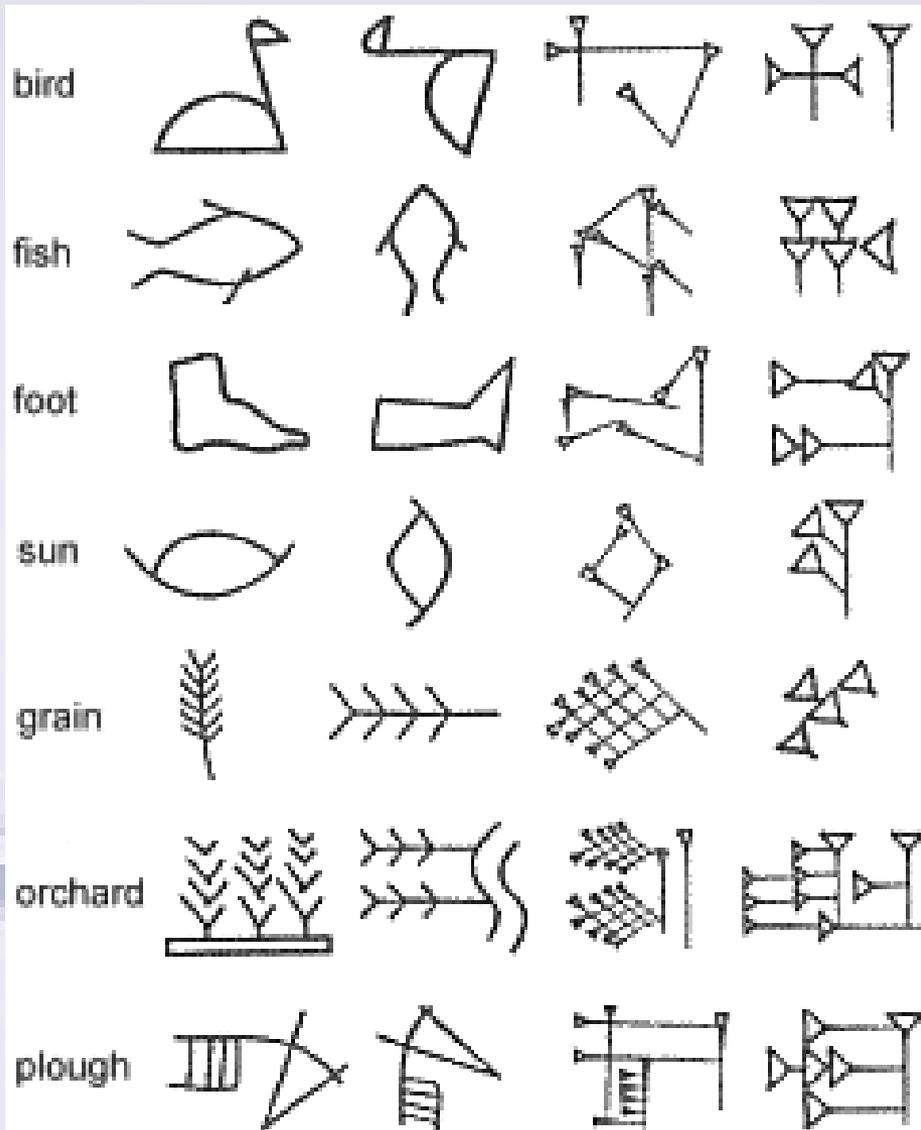
Summarization Exercise

- Read the passage on Handout 1 once as a whole section. Important information is underlined.
- Take turns reading the underlined sentences out loud with a partner.
- Talk about how you could summarize these ideas in your own words.
- Create a summary with no more than three sentences.

Summarization Model

Writing emerged in the region of Mesopotamia, although it was not the creation of any one people. It developed because it was needed to keep track of trade, production, and government. Writing started off in the form of small pictures and changed over time to more complex, less literal symbols.

Evolution of Writing: Cuneiform

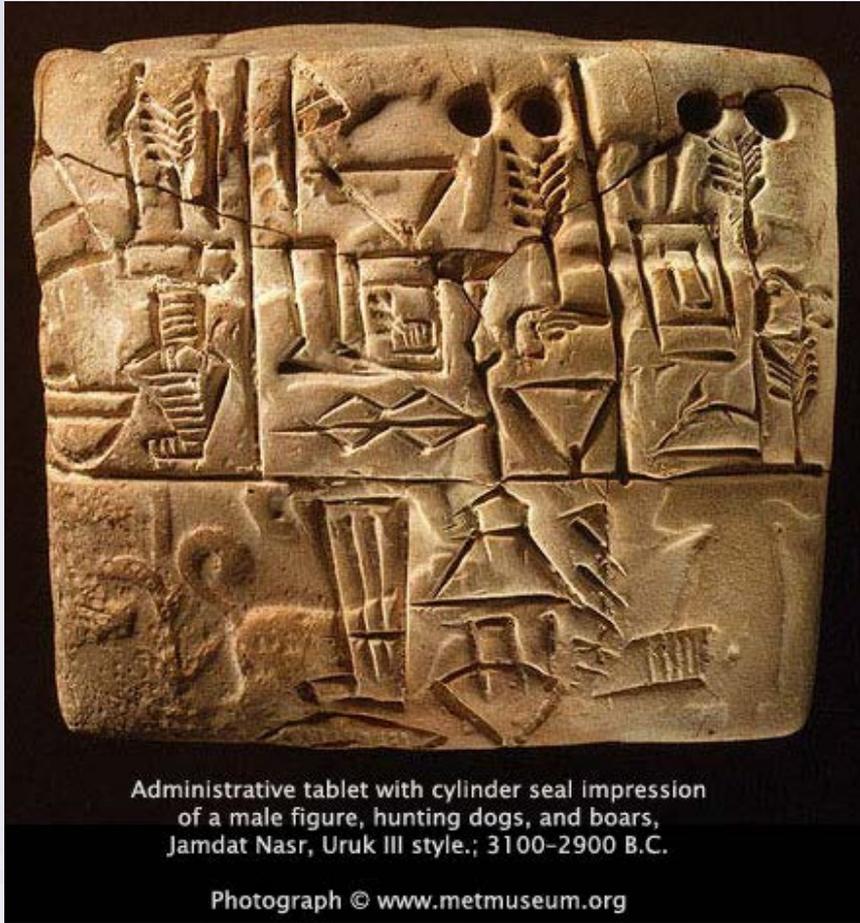


The development of Mesopotamian cuneiform script

Stop and Jot:

- Pick one word and observe how it changes. Describe the changes you see (be sure to write which word you are analyzing).
- How did it start and how did it end up?
- Which example for that word shows when it became cuneiform? (describe the change)

Sumerian Script with Pictographs



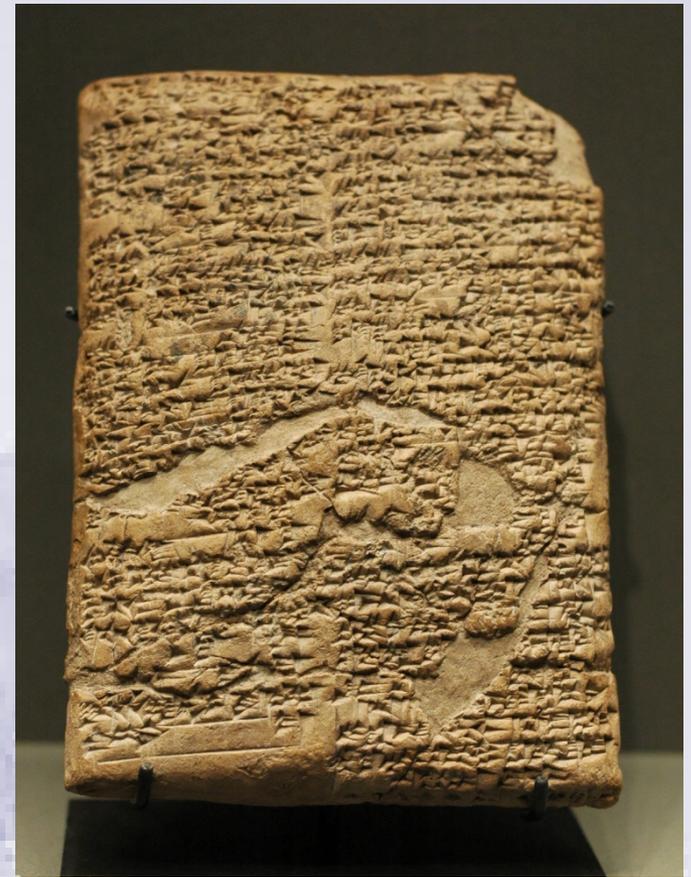
Reed Stylus and Cuneiform



Turn and Talk:

- Which way of writing do you think would have been faster and easier?
- Which way could record more information in less space?

These are artifacts related to Hammurabi's Code....



Turn and Talk and share your best guesses to these questions:

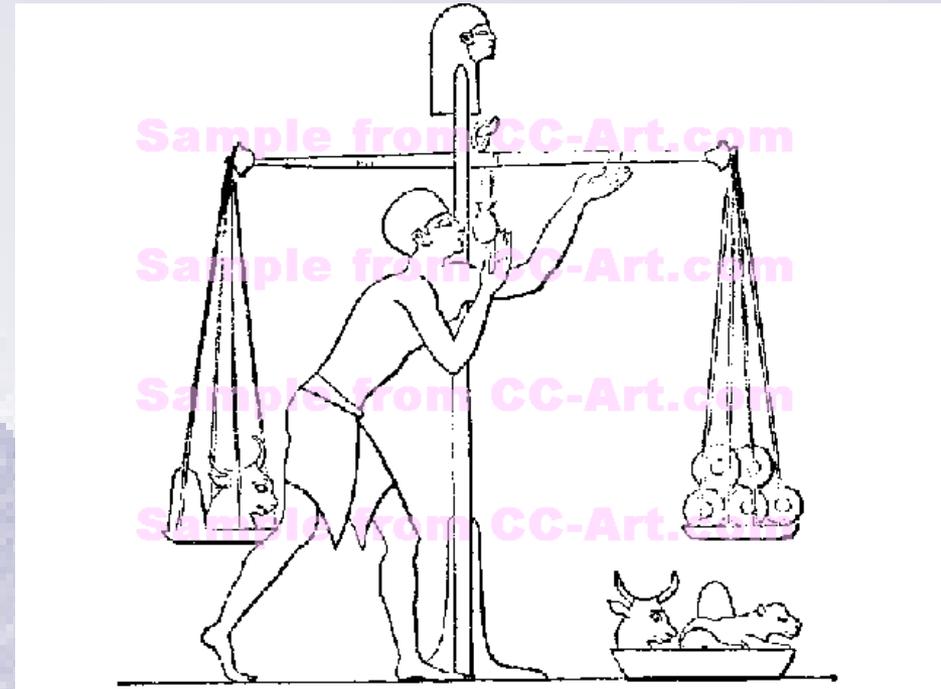
- What do you think these artifacts are?
- What do you think Hammurabi's Code was?





If a man opens a canal for irrigation and neglects it and the water floods a nearby field, he shall pay grain to the owner of the adjacent field.

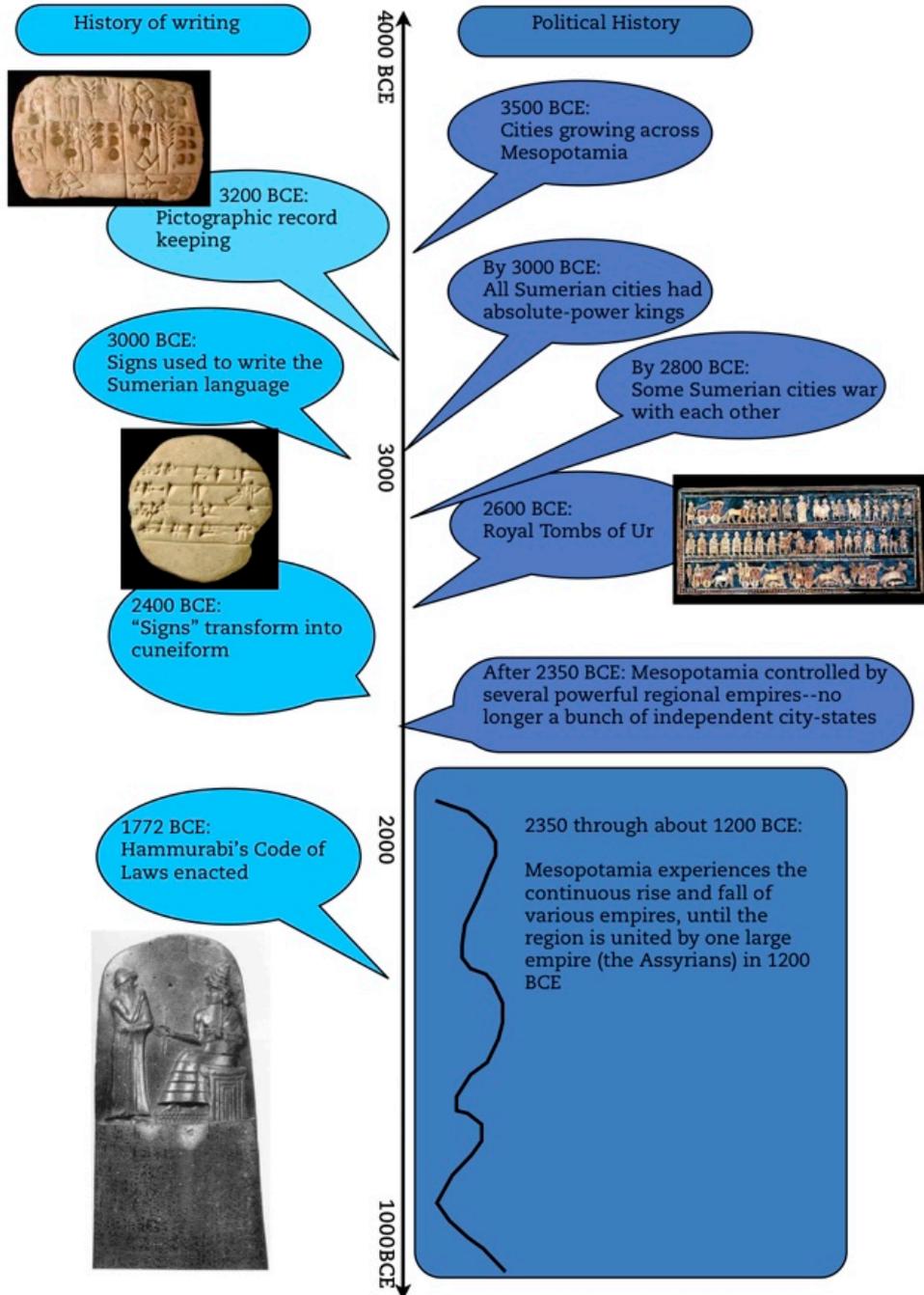




“I have not added to the weight of the balance.”

Turn and Talk:

- Why would this be a problem?
- Why would someone “add weight to the balance”?



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