River Valleys

Cradle of Civilization
River Valley Civilizations
Agricultural Based Societies

- 3500 BCE the first civilizations developed in River Valleys
- Yearly flooding of rivers left behind SILT deposits for fertile soil
- Silt allowed for agriculture (farming)
  - Increased population
  - More complex cultures
India and China

- Indus River Valley in India
  - Harappa
  - Mohenjo-Daro
- Huang He (Yellow River) and Yangtze Rivers in China
  - Shang Dynasty
  - Zhou Dynasty
Mesopotamia

- Located in the Middle East
- “Land between two rivers”
  - Tigris
  - Euphrates
- Mesopotamia is also known as the Fertile Crescent
- Civilizations include the Sumerians and the Babylonians
Mesopotamia

- The Middle East is a crossroads between Africa, Asia, Europe
- Leads to cultural diffusion
  - Movement and exchange of people, goods, customs, and/or ideas.
  - Occurs through migration, trade, and war
Egypt

- Ancient Egyptians settled along the Nile River
  - Flows north into the Nile Delta
- Egyptians traveled and traded on the Mediterranean Sea
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