

Unit 2 Neolithic Revolution

Announcements :

- Class field trip May 18th 1-4 pm
- Take home midterm handed out end of next week
- Assignment folder update post next week too

Unit 2: Neolithic

- Beginnings of agriculture
- Life ways concept map

Indigenous group board work



Next few weeks...

- **Week 4- 4/30 – 5/2**
- Unit 2 Neolithic Revolution wrapped up
- Unit 3 Classic Period
- **Week 5- 5/7 – 5/9**
- Unit 4 Artist as Scientist
- Take home midterm handed out Thurs. 5/9
- Assignment folder update posted
- **Week 6 – 5/14 – 5/16**
- Art Sessions 1 and intro to 2
 - Basic drawing
 - Atmospheric perspective
- Take-home midterm AND assignment folders due- Thurs. 5/16
- Required class field trip Sat. 5/18
- Assignment folders handed back Tues. 5/21

Unit 2 Lecture concepts

Neolithic Era – why is it important?

Environmental changes –

major event that occurred
environmental conditions



Rise of agriculture-

6 areas agriculture arose

common characteristics of these areas

3 early agricultural methods-

charact. and groups

nomadic past. , shifting agric and settled agric.

Unit 2 activities

- **Connections concept map – Neolithic era**
- **Life ways concept map :**
 - Hunter/gatherers
 - Shifting agriculture
 - Nomadic pastoralists
 - Early settled agriculture
- **Indigenous group board and research notes**
- **Earth map**

Unit #2: Lecture terms

nomadic pastoralists

subsistence

Fertile Crescent

sustainable

shifting agriculture

Connections Concept Map -- CCM

| Time period | Primary Lifeway | description of art work and examples | attitude toward nature |
|--|-----------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. <u>Prehistoric era</u> : 2 million - 10,000 years ago Lascaux, Altamira and Chauvet cave art | A. | B. | C. |
| 2. <u>Neolithic age</u> -10,000 years ago | A. | B. | C. |
| 3. <u>Classic Period</u> -5000 years ago= rise of Egyptian, Greek, Persian civilizations | A. | B. | C. |

CCM2a Neolithic Era

11,500 – 3,000 ya

★ **Beginning of Agriculture**

- H/G , shifting agriculture and settled agriculture
 - Gradual shift in life ways
- Final stage of cultural and technological development of prehistoric people
- Settlement into semi-permanent villages
- A beginning of our dependence on domesticated plants and animals



CCM2b Art Work of the Neolithic

- Utilitarian
- Appearance of pottery and weaving
- Tools, weapons, jewelry and clothing
- Decorative – religious
- Pride of ownership
- Clan or cast affiliation
- Tools- bone, stone and wood shaped by polishing and grinding
- Created for specific use



CCM2c Neolithic attitudes towards Nature

- Pagan or folk religions – nature – based
- Separation from nature began but still revered nature as powerful entity
- Worship of mother earth
- Fertility rituals
- Focus on elements that support life – water, earth, sun
- Earth Wisdom – understand the needs of livestock, crops, water sources/capturing etc.



Life Ways Concept Map

| Human Life ways Concept Map | | |
|---|-----------------|----------|
| Life way | Characteristics | examples |
| 1. Hunter/ Gatherer | a. | b. |
| 2. Nomadic Pastoralists | a. | b. |
| 3. Shifting Agriculture | a. | b. |
| 4. Early Settled Agriculture- 10,000-300 years ago | a. | b. |

LCM 1a HUNTING & GATHERING

Typical of most h/g cultures:

- nomadic
- limited population size
- egalitarian society
- earth wisdom
- few possessions
- subsistence lifestyle...
- marginal land (today)



Photo: Last of the Ona, Tierra del Fuego

LCM1a HUNTING & GATHERING



Limited impact:

Most h/g cultures did not have much of an impact on their natural environment

But there were exceptions...

LCM 1a Environmental Impact



Burning grasslands: the sixth use of fire

- Altering plant communities—opening up forests encouraging grasslands therefore large herbivores.
- Halting succession and creating edges.
- Disperse prey—collect insect and small mammal species as they fled the fire.
- increase grass species for food and quality basketry material

Over hunting resulting extinctions of mega fauna:

Early Domestication of prey species

Early human's drive to domesticate the wild animals:

- the need to control our food supply in an unstable world
- ensure a constant supply of meat without expending too much energy
- eliminating dangers of hunting---although protecting their herds from predators becomes a major past time.



LCM2a Nomadic Pastoralist characteristics

- ~11,500 years ago
- Nomadic- movement from one area to another
- earth wisdom
- Need for vast amounts of land
- Small population size
- Very few possessions
- Traditional **subsistence** lifestyle
- Control over prey resource population and location
- Ensure a constant supply of meat, milk and wool.
- Least impact of all agricultural societies--local species



Neolithic Revolution

Domestication of plants:

~10,000 years ago

One of the key changes in the human experience, second only to the industrial age

Introduced by women (gatherers)

More control over our food resources

populations increased

required a more settled existence.

Spread very gradually



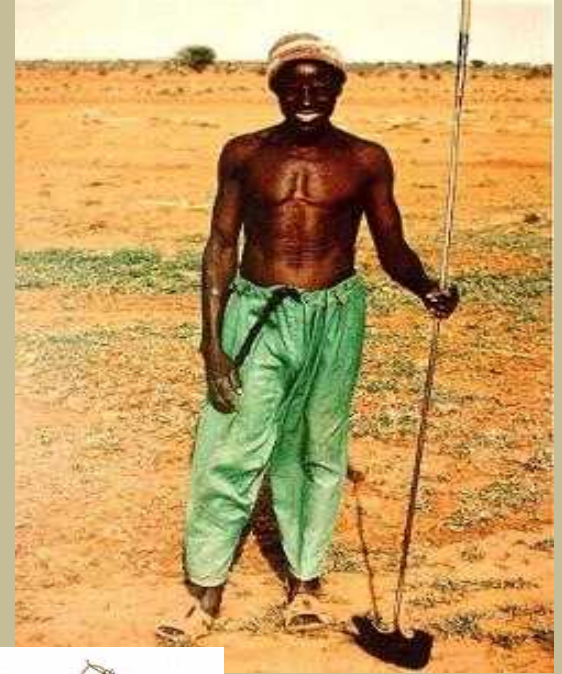
Neolithic Revolution: Early Agriculture

Began with the development of agriculture in ~ six parts of the world
Most located along flood plains of major rivers.

End of the ice age, more water and fertile soil was available.

More productive individual plants selected over time creating more optimal characteristics

Grass species were the primary plant species originally domesticated ie wheat, barley etc



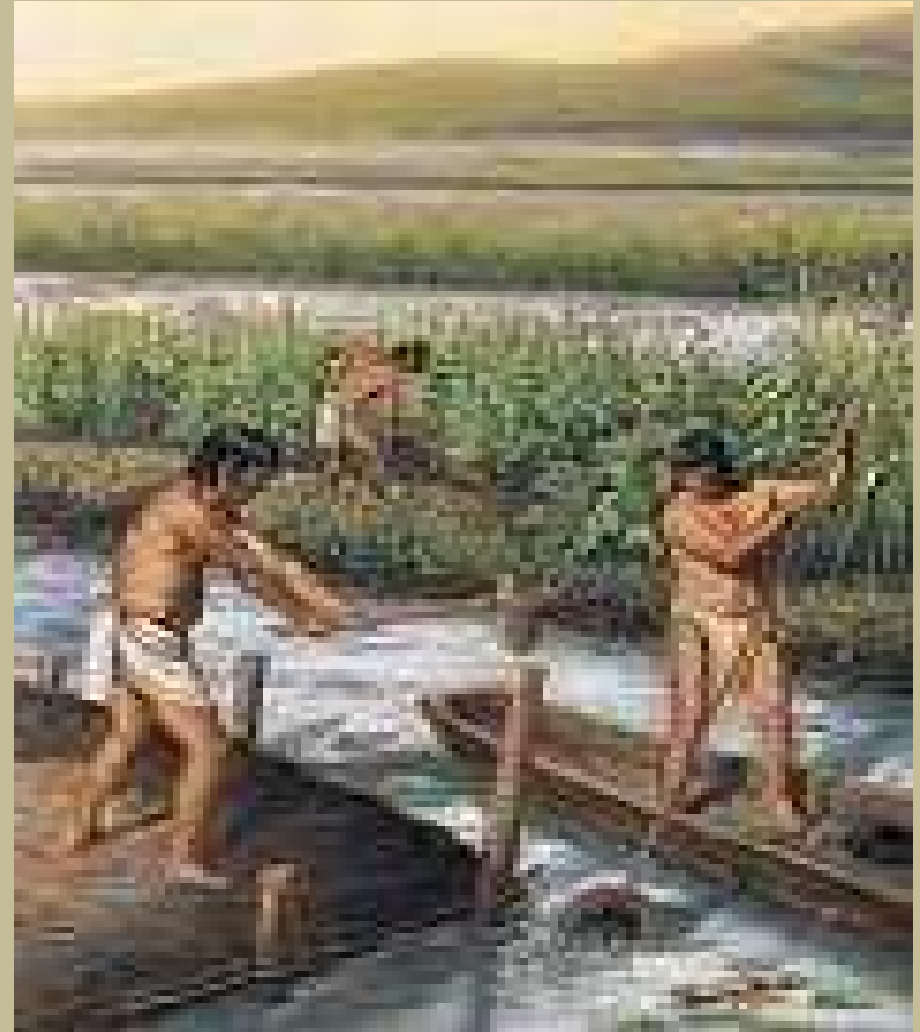
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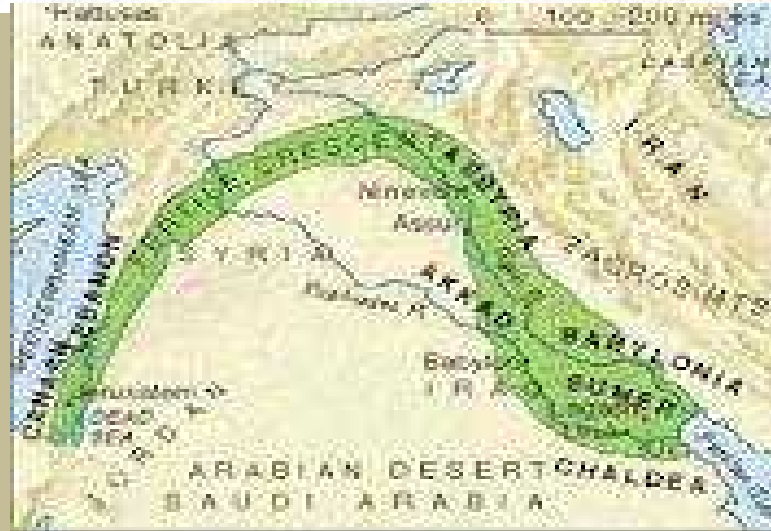
Wheat

Neolithic Revolution

- Shift to agriculture was gradual supplemented by hunting and foraging.
- Various H/G and nomadic pastoralist groups resisted the change, many never adopted agriculture.
 - Resistant to settled lifestyle
 - Culture, ritual, ceremonial relationship to nature steeped in a nomadic, nature-based view point.
 - Environmental conditions not conducive to cultivation



Neolithic Revolution



Mesopotamia– Fertile Crescent, Middle East– 10,000 ya
1st settled farming way of life – wheat and barley

Neolithic Revolution



Yangtze River Valley and Yellow River Valley, China—
rice and millet 8,000 ya

Neolithic Revolution



Northern Greece --Macedonia

sheep, wheat, grapes--Olive harvest--

Earliest agriculture in Europe --7,000 ya

Neolithic Revolution



Nile River Valley, Egypt— 9,000 ya

Wheat and barley—earliest farming settlement in Africa

Neolithic Revolution



Peru , South America

8,000 ya wheat, barley, quinoa and legumes

7 – 8,000 ya irrigation canals

Neolithic Revolution

Mexico, Mayan and Aztec- Central American-

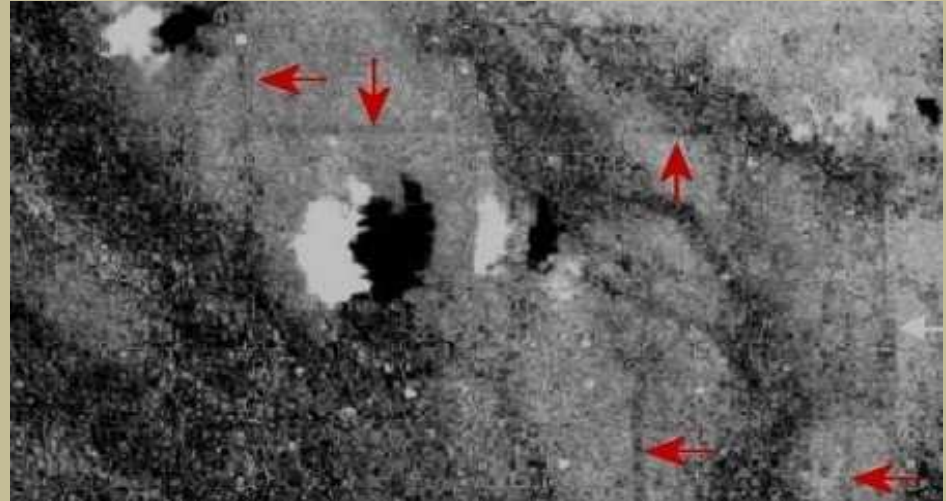
- 3 sisters --Maize, squash and beans– 10,000 ya
- Spread to North America
~5,000 ya from central America
- By 3,000 ya they had highly developed stratified societies.
- By contact, population in the millions



Neolithic Revolution

IKONOS satellite
image of likely Mayan
irrigation canals
dating from
approximately 3000

ya. Yucatan, Mexico



LCM 3a. SHIFTING AGRICULTURE

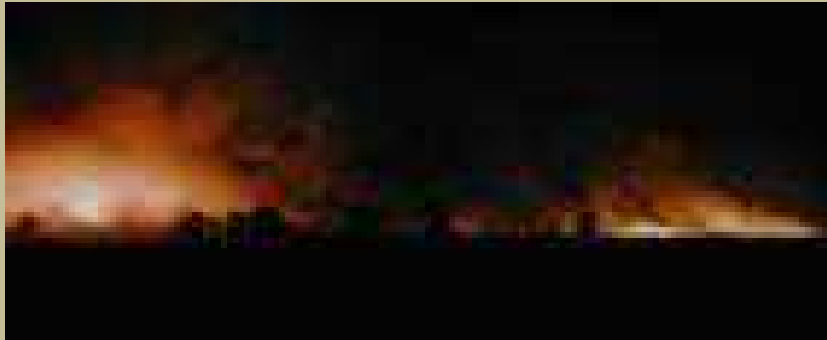
Slash and burn agriculture

- Earliest subsistence method – Neolithic period in Middle East, Europe and the Americas
- Closest agriculture comes to being nomadic



SHIFTING AGRICULTURE

the process



- **Small plot is cleared**
 - by hand using primitive tools.
- **Fire is used to clear slash**
 - Ash provides nutrients for crop plants
- **Plots are cultivated**
 - for ~5yr or fewer depending on habitat type
- **plots are abandoned-**
 - Allows soil to regenerate
 - return to plot 10 yr. later
- **Many families having multiple plots they move between in a circuit– handed down generations**

SHIFTING AGRICULTURE

3a. Can be sustainable IF:

- Plots are small and not on steep terrain.
- Continuous forest surrounds plots
- clear manually before being burned.
- Reseeding of forest occurs before moving on to another plot
- Area not further disturbed 10+year
- supports small human population



LCM 4a. Settled agriculture- 10,000 – 300 ya

Early subsistence agriculture:

Neolithic 10,000-1000ya

- Permanently settled
- Variety of crops cultivated and livestock raised on one farm.
- Subsistence
- Use of natural methods of fertilization of soil and pest control, etc.
- Local impact
- Small family farms on a large area of land
- Individual ownership of land



LCM 4a. Settled agriculture

IMPACTS: localized

Hybridization of plants and animals

Soil degradation and erosion

Loss of habitat and open space

Decrease of water quantity/quality

Increase in surplus- waste



Research Homework

Sign up for one:

Gwich'in - Arctic

Tuareg- N. Africa

Baiga- India

Guna- Panama

a. characteristics-

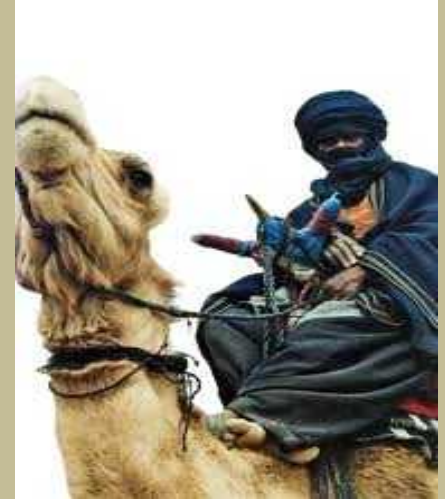
who are they?

how do they survive?

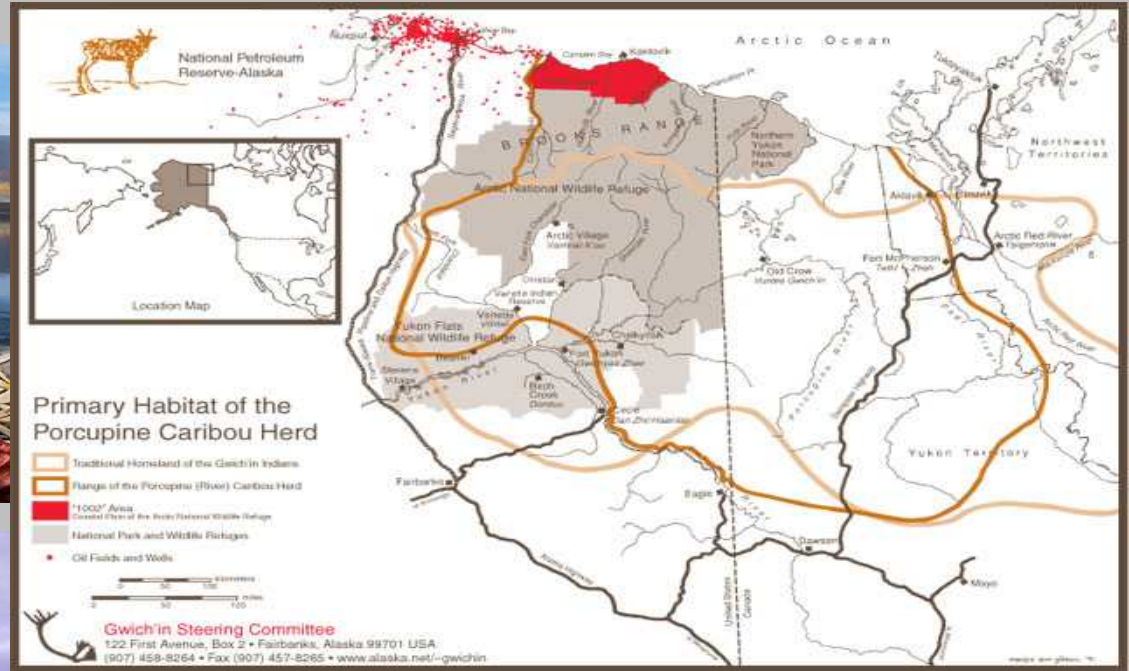
where and how do they live?

b. impacts /challenges today and past

offer examples



Gwich'in of the Arctic



Tuareg, of Northern Africa

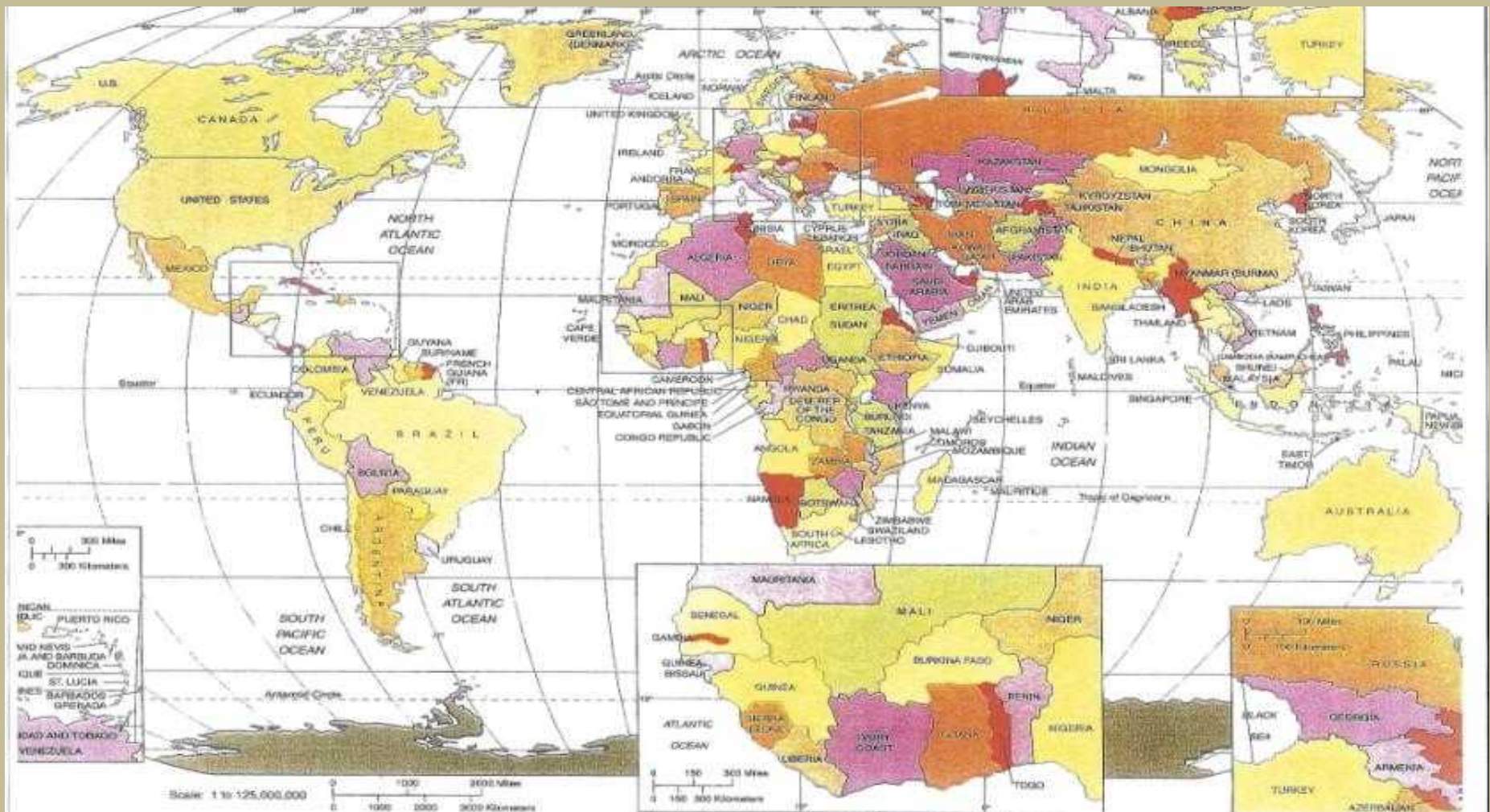


Baiga Culture, India



Tule or Guna culture, Panama and Columbia





Unit 2 Earth Map update:

- 2a. Fertile Crescent, Middle East
- 2b. Yangtze River Valley, China
- 2c. Macedonia, Europe
- 2d. Egypt, North Africa
- 2e. Peru, South America
- 2f. Yucatan, Central America