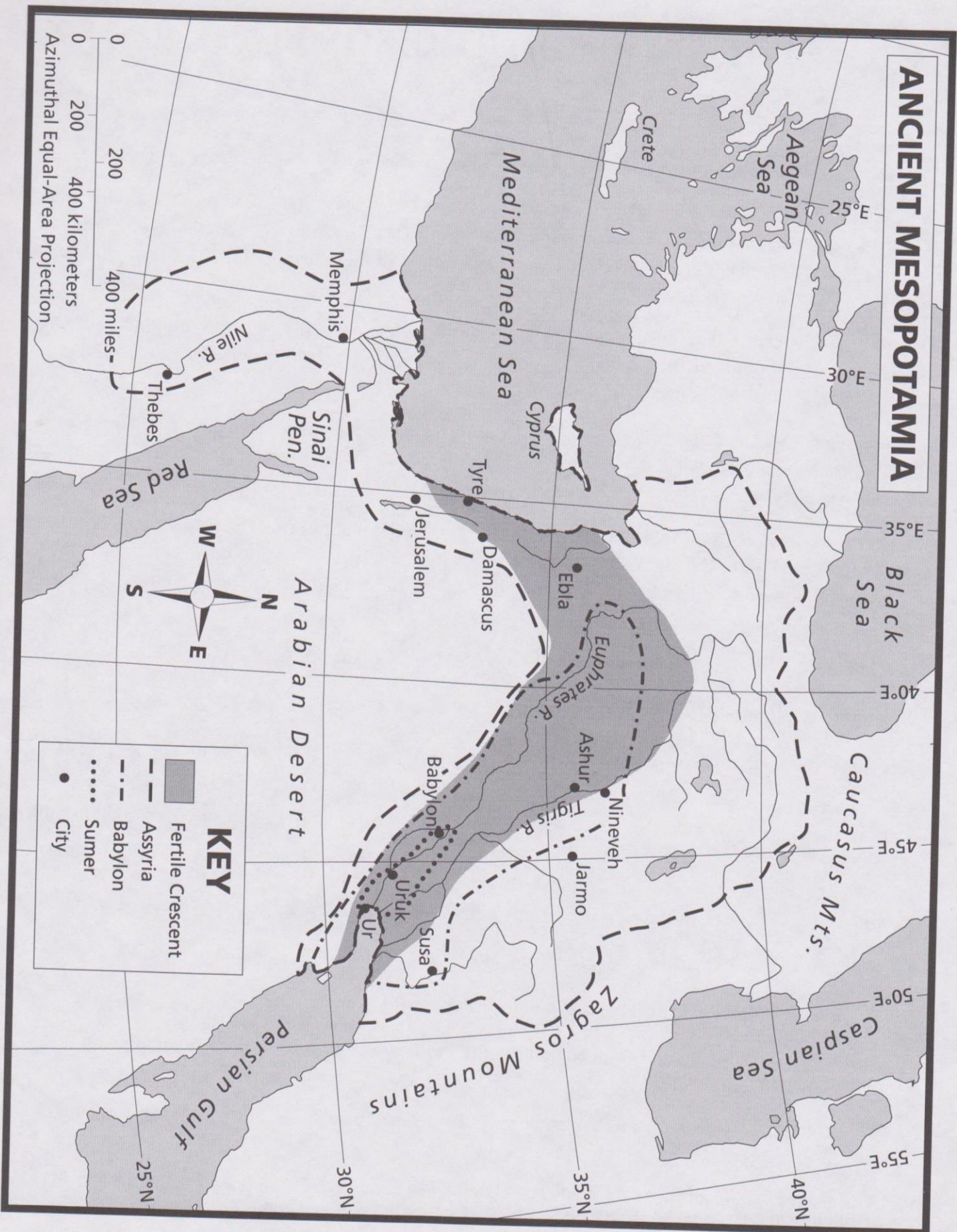


# ANCIENT MESOPOTAMIA



**KEY**

- Fertile Crescent
- Assyria
- Babylon
- Sumer
- City

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_



Read the paragraph for background information. Then use the map to answer the questions.

**M**esopotamia was not a country. In the same way that the Midwest in America refers to a specific group of states, Mesopotamia names a specific region in the fertile crescent. The word means, roughly, “land between two rivers.” Mesopotamia was the land between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers. Mesopotamians were the people who lived there.

In the beginning, small nomadic groups settled into independent city-states. They built high walls around the cities to protect them from one another. Much of the area around the fertile crescent was desert. Mesopotamians had access to water with which to grow crops, so they were fortunate compared to the desert nomads. They used their relative prosperity to build beautiful buildings and carve sculptures. They are best remembered for inventing writing. Sumer is credited with being the first city-state to think of recording information on clay tablets. Later, the Assyrians and Babylonians would use writing to record their conquests—and poetry and myths such as the story of Gilgamesh. It is for these reasons and others that Mesopotamia is also known as the birthplace of civilization.

Use the information above and the map to answer the following questions.

1. This is a map of the area known as:
2. What hemispheres are shown in this map?
3. The gray shaded area represents:
4. Name three cities along the Euphrates River.
5. Which one of the Euphrates River cities was almost certainly the capital of one the early empires?
6. Which city is likely to have a greater population: Ashur or Jarmo? Explain.
7. Use your scale to measure the distance between Tyre in Mesopotamia and Egypt’s capital, Memphis. How many miles are between them?