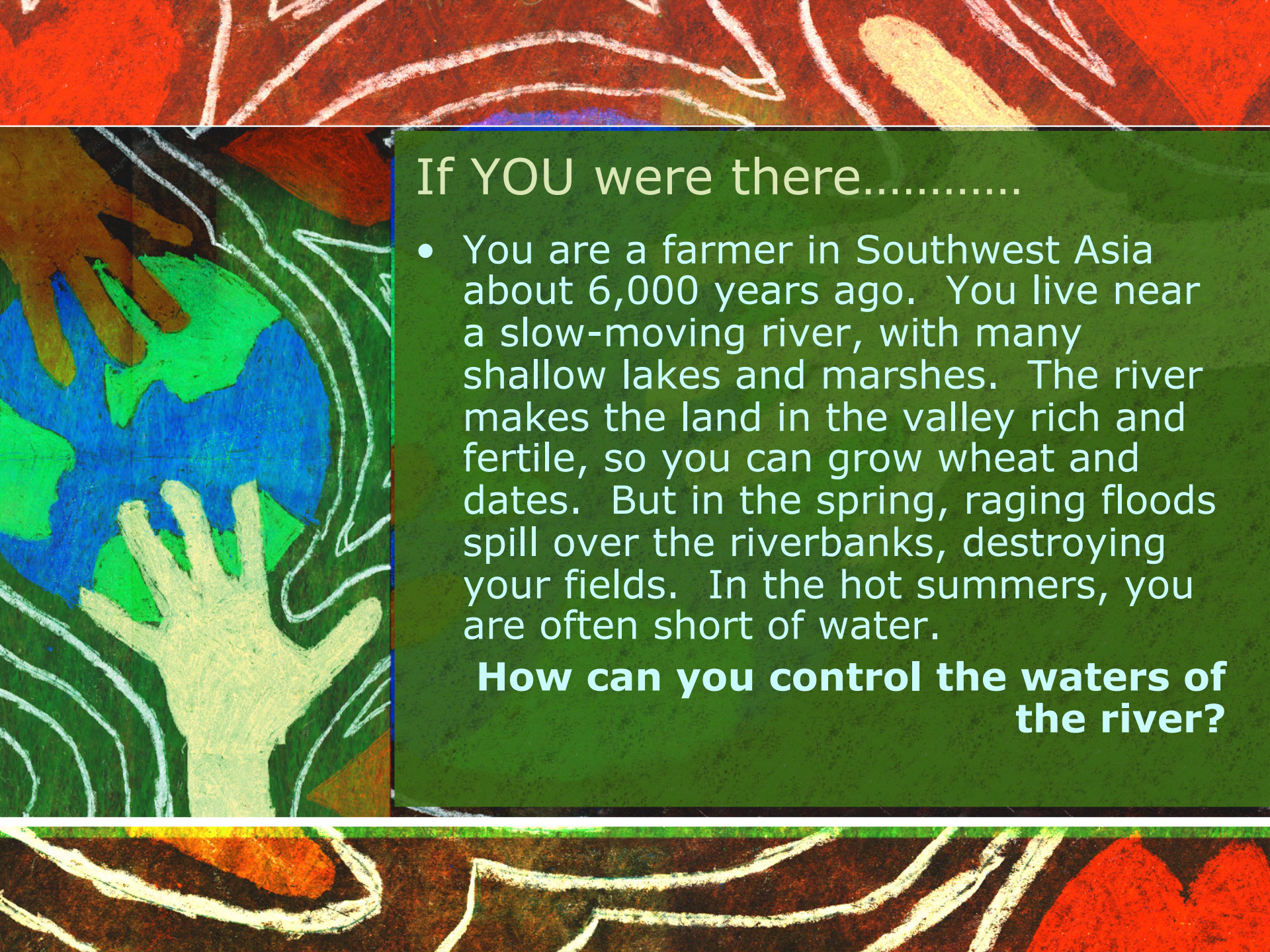




# Mesopotamia and the Fertile Crescent





## If YOU were there.....

- You are a farmer in Southwest Asia about 6,000 years ago. You live near a slow-moving river, with many shallow lakes and marshes. The river makes the land in the valley rich and fertile, so you can grow wheat and dates. But in the spring, raging floods spill over the riverbanks, destroying your fields. In the hot summers, you are often short of water.

**How can you control the waters of the river?**

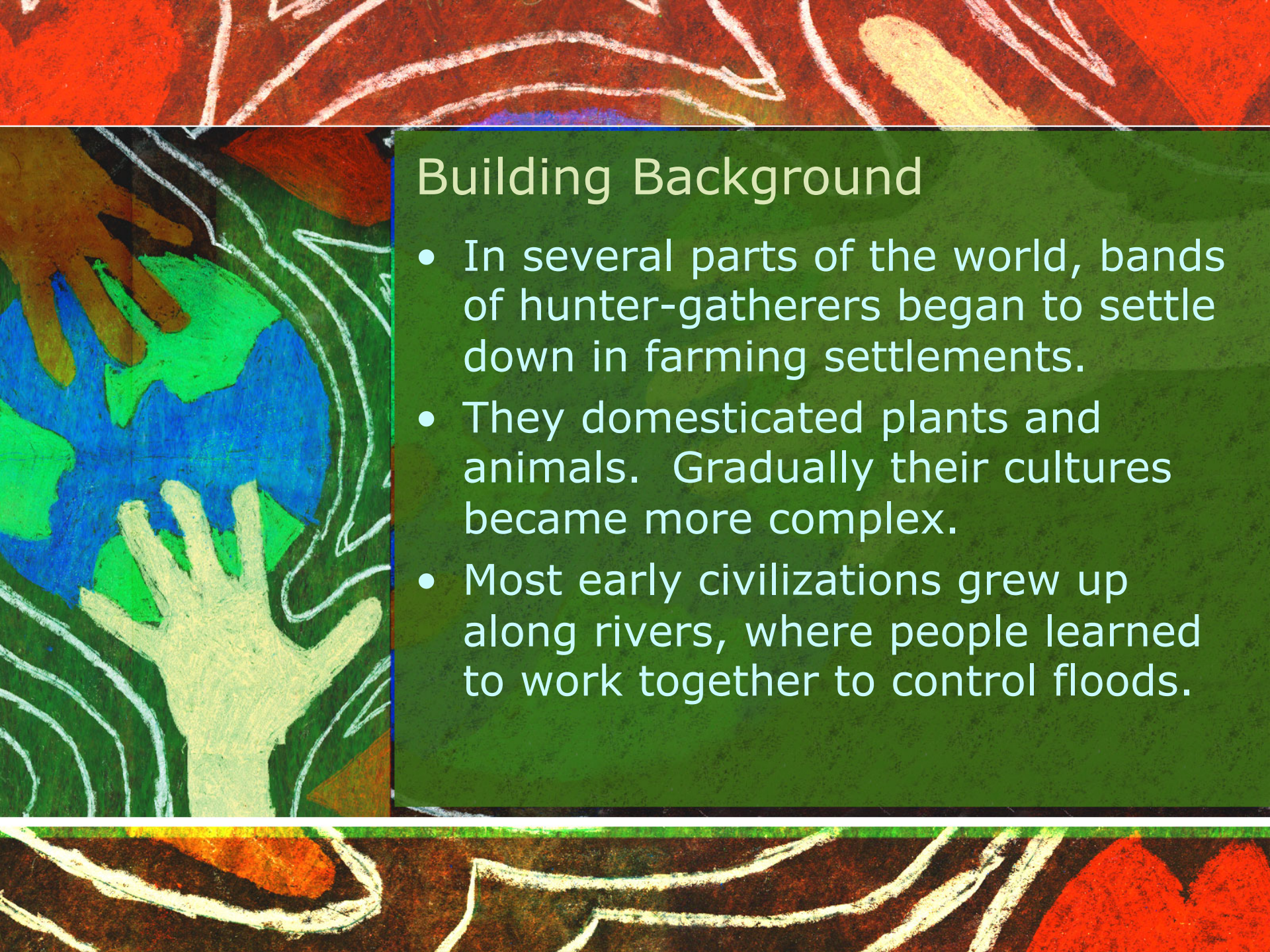




## What you WILL learn.....

- Main Ideas
  - The rivers of Southwest Asia supported the growth of civilization.
  - New farming techniques led to the growth of cities.
- The Big Idea
  - The valleys of the Tigris and Euphrates rivers were the site of the world's first civilizations.

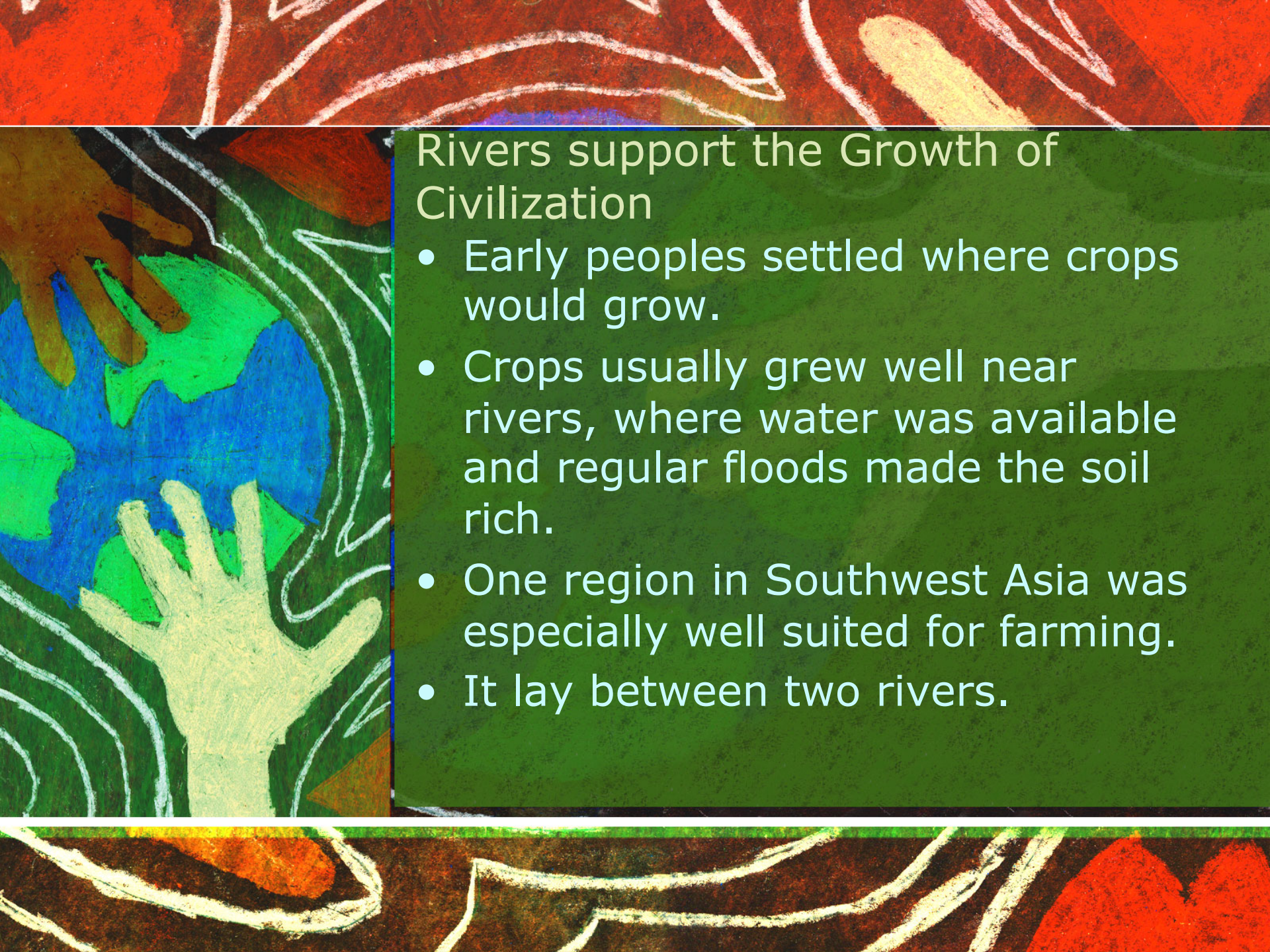




## Building Background

- In several parts of the world, bands of hunter-gatherers began to settle down in farming settlements.
- They domesticated plants and animals. Gradually their cultures became more complex.
- Most early civilizations grew up along rivers, where people learned to work together to control floods.





## Rivers support the Growth of Civilization

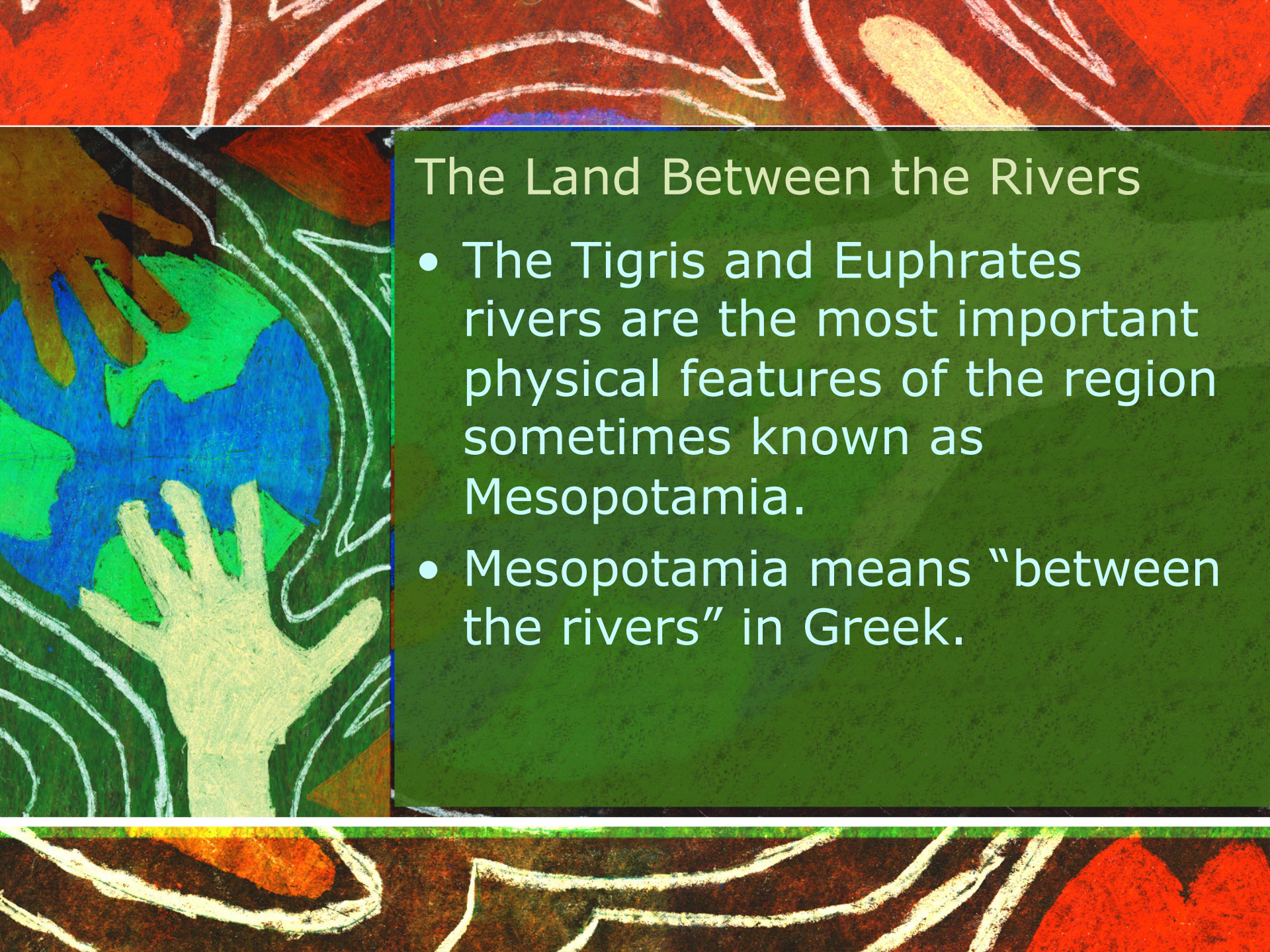
- Early peoples settled where crops would grow.
- Crops usually grew well near rivers, where water was available and regular floods made the soil rich.
- One region in Southwest Asia was especially well suited for farming.
- It lay between two rivers.



# Rivers support the Growth of Civilization







## The Land Between the Rivers

- The Tigris and Euphrates rivers are the most important physical features of the region sometimes known as Mesopotamia.
- Mesopotamia means “between the rivers” in Greek.





Mediterranean  
Sea

EGYPT

Nile River

MESOPOTAMIA

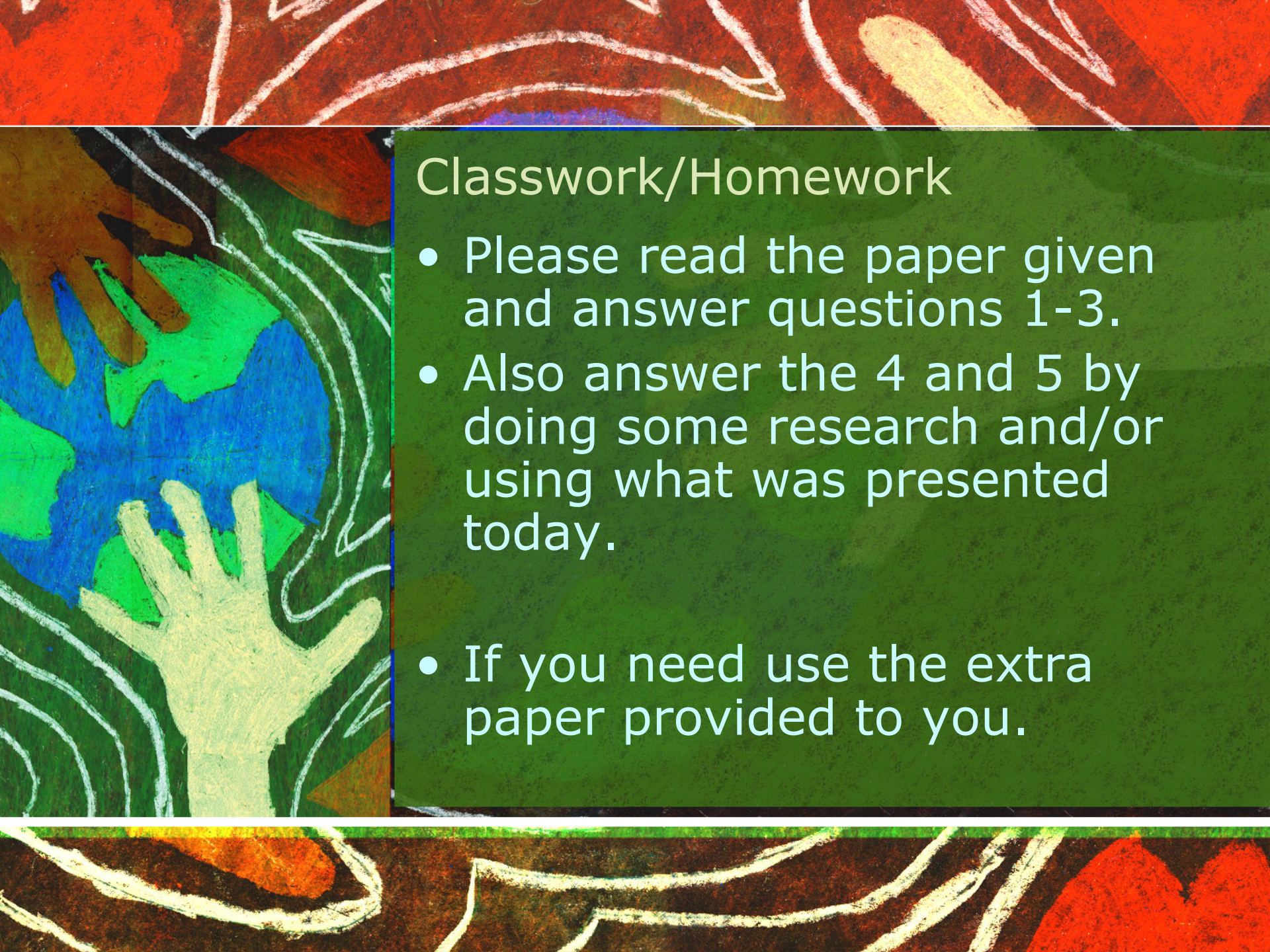
Tigris River

Euphrates River

**THE FERTILE  
CRESCENT**

Persian Gulf





## Classwork/Homework

- Please read the paper given and answer questions 1-3.
- Also answer the 4 and 5 by doing some research and/or using what was presented today.
- If you need use the extra paper provided to you.





## The Rise of Civilization

- Hunter-gatherer groups first settle in Mesopotamia more than 12,000 years ago.
- Over time, these people learned how to plant crops to grow their own food.
- Every year, floods on the Tigris and Euphrates rivers brought silt, a mixture of rich soil and tiny rocks, to the land.
- The fertile silt made the land ideal for farming.





## The Rise of Civilization

- The first farm settlements formed in Mesopotamia as early as 7000 BC.
- Farmers grew wheat, barley, and other types of grain.
- Livestock, birds, and fish were also good sources of food.
- Plentiful food led to population growth, and villages formed.
- Eventually, these early villages developed into the world's first civilization.



An abstract painting with a central focus on a globe. The globe is composed of vibrant blue and green sections, held gently by two hands. One hand is light-colored, possibly representing a Western or European hand, while the other is dark brown, representing a hand from a different culture. The background is dark, with bold, expressive strokes of red and white, suggesting a dynamic and perhaps contentious environment. The overall style is expressive and symbolic.

**What made civilization possible in Mesopotamia?**

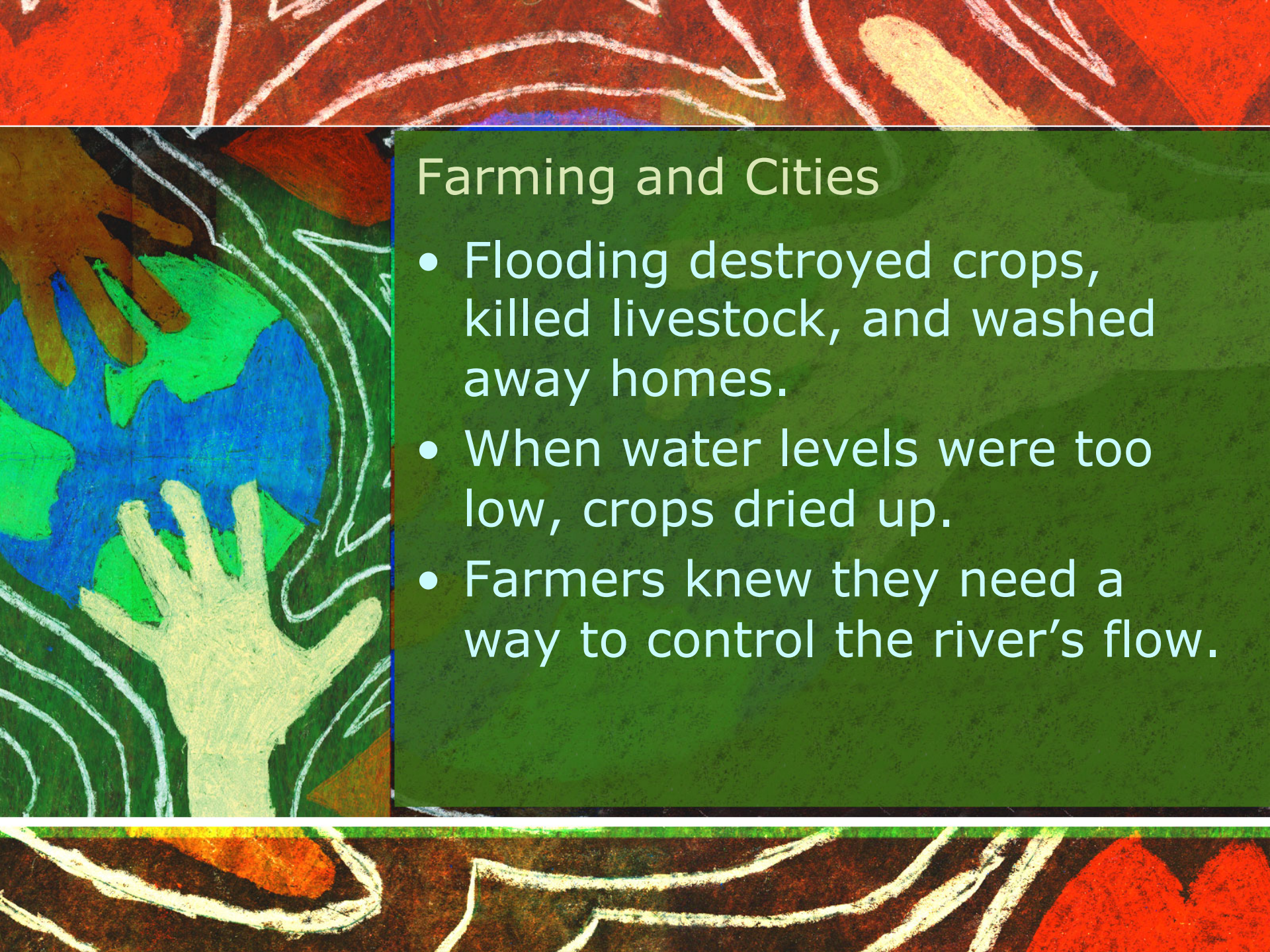




## Farming and Cities

- Although Mesopotamia had fertile soil, farming wasn't easy there.
- The region received little rain.
- This meant that the water levels in the Tigris and Euphrates rivers depended on how much rain fell in eastern Asia Minor where the two rivers began.
- When a great amount of rain fell there, water levels got very high.

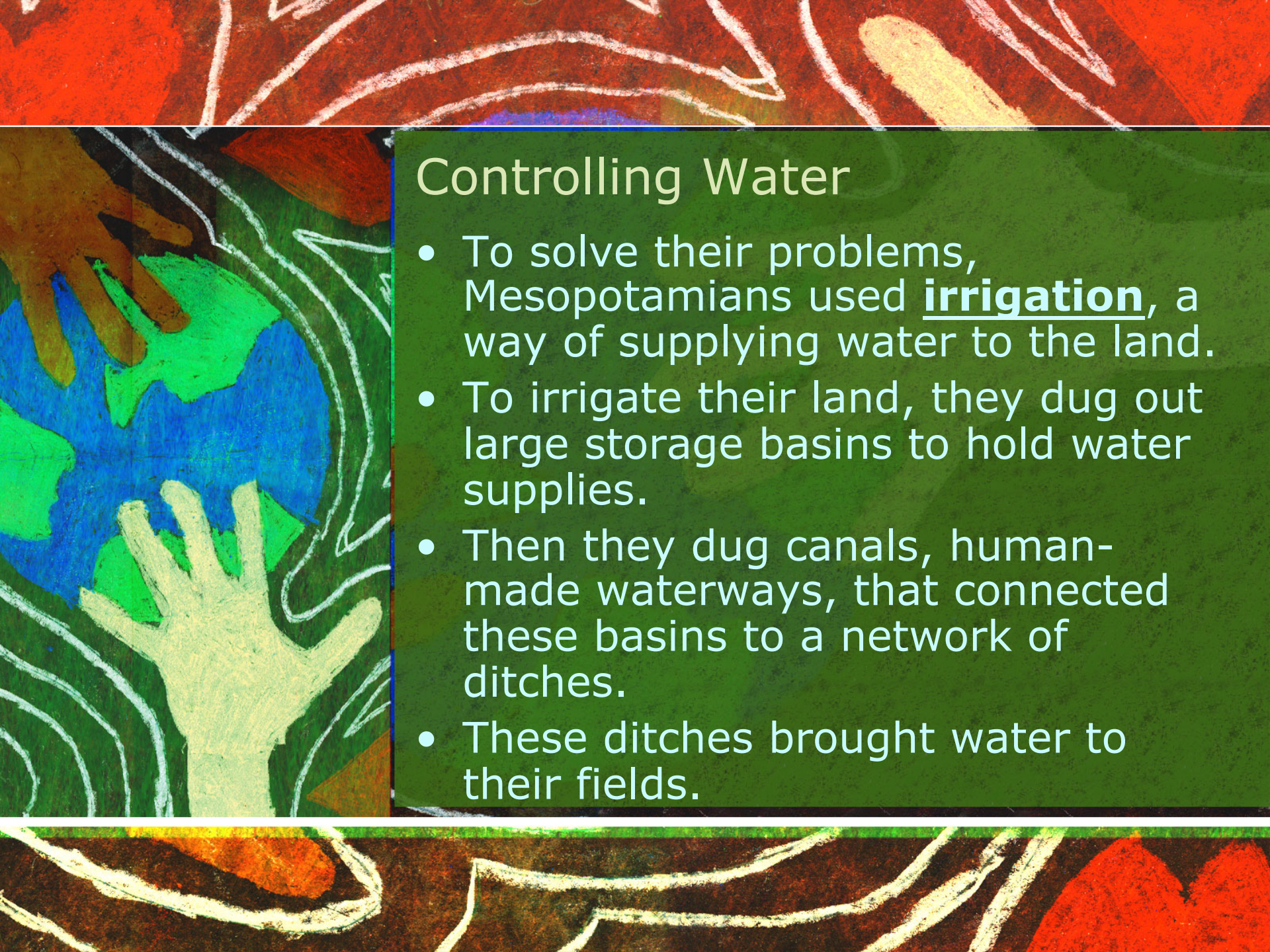




## Farming and Cities

- Flooding destroyed crops, killed livestock, and washed away homes.
- When water levels were too low, crops dried up.
- Farmers knew they need a way to control the river's flow.

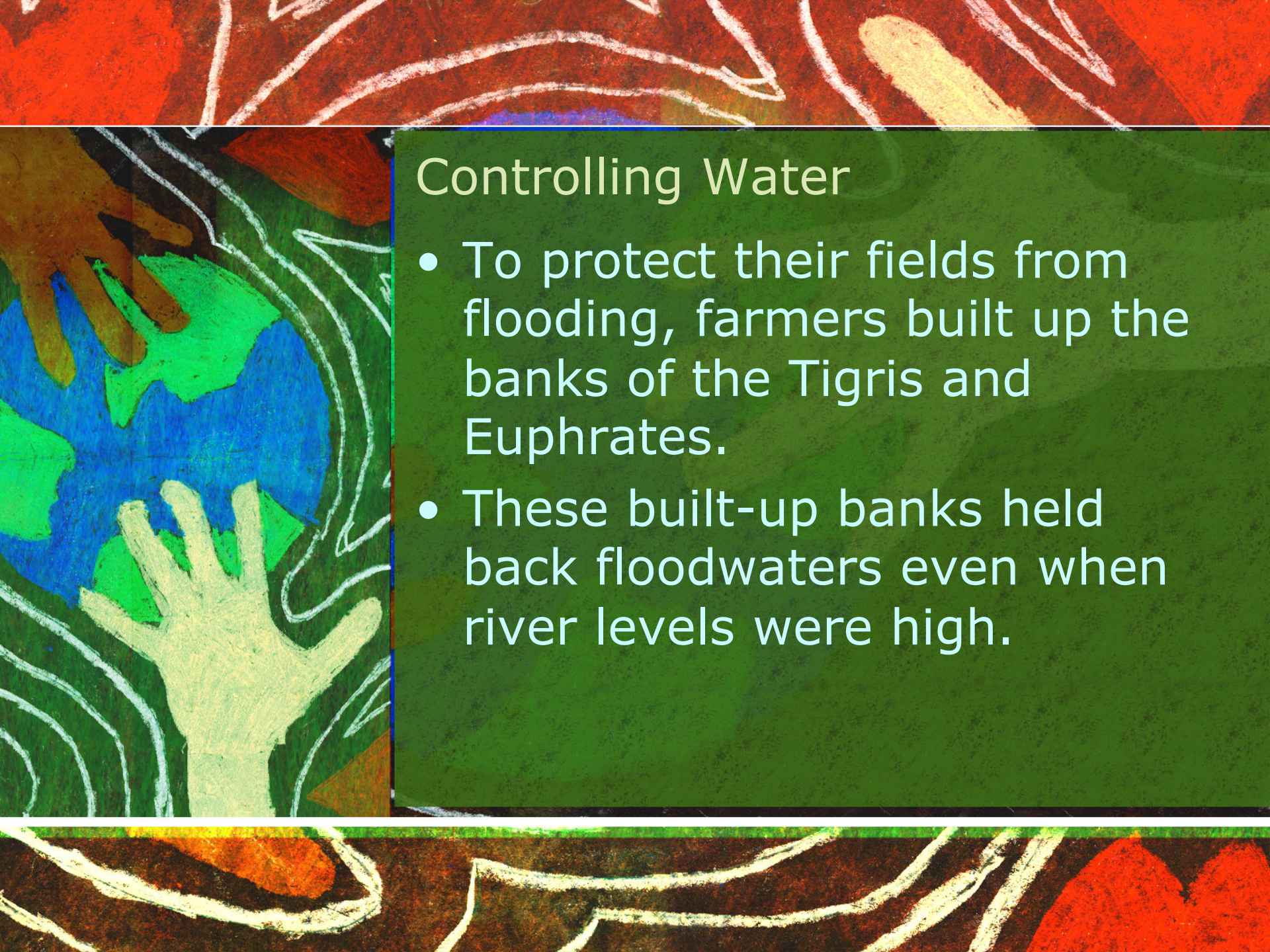




## Controlling Water

- To solve their problems, Mesopotamians used irrigation, a way of supplying water to the land.
- To irrigate their land, they dug out large storage basins to hold water supplies.
- Then they dug canals, human-made waterways, that connected these basins to a network of ditches.
- These ditches brought water to their fields.





## Controlling Water

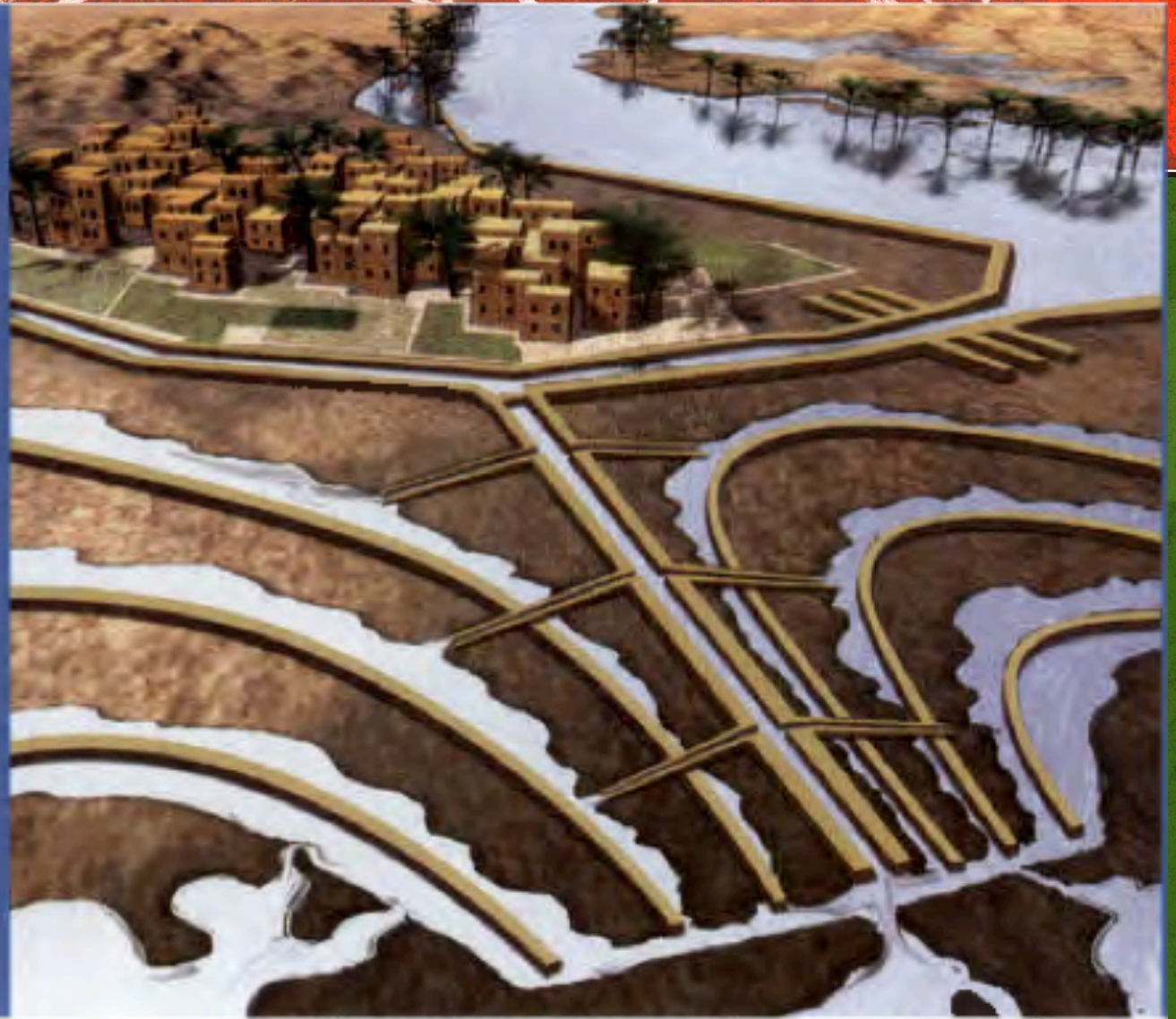
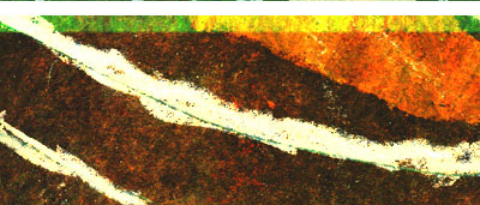
- To protect their fields from flooding, farmers built up the banks of the Tigris and Euphrates.
- These built-up banks held back floodwaters even when river levels were high.





**1** Early settlements in Mesopotamia were located near rivers. Water was not controlled, and flooding was a major problem.





**2** Later, people built canals to protect houses from flooding and move water to their fields.







## Formative

- Due Date: Friday September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2016
- Make a travel brochure for a trip back to Ancient Mesopotamia.
- Make this brochure double sided and please print or have printed your brochure by next Friday.
- This will be graded on the following points (worth 30 points):
  - Understanding of Mesopotamia History
  - Creativity with how to get people to go to Mesopotamia
  - Organization of the content.



# Formative (example)

## City of Pleasantries

### Florence is always in style

The cultural and historical impact of Florence is overwhelming.

Close up, however, the city is one of Italy's most atmospheric and pleasant, retaining a strong resemblance to the small low-medieval center that contributed so much to the cultural development of Europe.

Its striking buildings, formidable palaces and treasure-crammed churches attest to the Florentine love of display. Long after it had set on the political and economic decline, Florence upheld its elegant appearance: its skyline, all mosaic rooftops and lofty domes, is indeed photogenic.



## City Surrounded by Water

### Venice is a unique marvel

Venice, La Sereissima, Queen of the Adriatic, city of canals and palaces! On trendy seven isles with crowds and charlatans! Venice's romance is dust, water and land, long history and doubtful future, airy delicacy and dim mystic holy. When this precious place sinks, the world will be the poorer.

For a thousand years the city was one of the most enduring, unscathed sea ports on the face of the earth. Today the brilliance and influence have long since faded, leaving a town of tarnished glories, out of time and out of place, so achingly beautiful it's hard not to look for the back of the set.

## When In Rome...

### See and do everything Roman

It's hard to say what you'll find most breathtaking about the Eternal City: the arrogant opulence of the Vatican, the timelessness of the Forum, the top speed of a Fiat Brambilla, the gory resonance of the Colosseum, trying to cross a major intersection, or the bill for your coffee latte.

Make like the locals and sense your senses in the city of pleasures: the city has to offer, from the grandiose thrill of feeling centuries of turbulent history under your feet to the small but potent intoxication of eating the best pizza on a hot day.



## Living on the Edge

### The Breathtaking Amalfi Coast

As travelers journey down the fabled Amalfi Coast, their eyes take them past rocky cliffs plunging into the sea and small boats lying in sandy coves like brightly colored fish. Erosion has converted the rocks into shapes resembling figures from mythology and folk tales, colorful cottages where the air is fragrant and the water is crystal blue. In winter, pretty scenes of moss and ivy are everywhere in the rocks. White villages clinging to flower-covered hillsides or climb like vines up the steep, terraced hills. Lemon trees abound, loaded with blossoms or fruit — and nothing in winter to protect the fruit. The road must have a thousand turns, each with a different view, an 180-degree 43 mile journey from Sorrento to Salerno.

**your adventure awaits...**





## Food Surpluses

- Irrigation increased the amount of food farmers were able to grow.
- In fact, farmers could produce a food **surplus**, or more than they needed.
- Farmers also used irrigation to water grazing areas for cattle and sheep.
- As a result, Mesopotamians ate a variety of foods. Fish, meat, wheat, barley, and dates were plentiful.





## Food Surpluses

- Because irrigation made farmers more productive, fewer people needed to farm.
- Some people became free to do other jobs.
- As a result, new occupations developed.
- For the first time, people became crafters, religious leaders, and government workers.
- This type of arrangement in which each worker specializes in particular task or job is called a **division of labor**.





## Food Surpluses

- Having people available to work in different jobs meant that society could accomplish more.
- Large projects, such as constructing buildings and digging irrigation systems, required specialized workers, managers, and organization.
- To complete these projects, the Mesopotamians needed structure and rules.
- Structure and roles could be provided by laws and government.





**3** With irrigation, the people of Mesopotamia were able to grow more food.





- 4** Food surpluses allowed some people to stop farming and concentrate on other jobs, like making clay pots or tools.





## The Appearance of Cities

- Over time, Mesopotamian settlements grew in size and complexity.
- They gradually developed into cities between 4000 and 3000 BC.
- Despite the growth of cities, society in Mesopotamia was still based on agriculture.
- Most people still worked in farming jobs.
- However, cities were becoming important places.





## The Appearance of Cities

- People traded goods there, and cities provided leaders with power bases.
- They were the political, religious, cultural and economic centers of civilization.





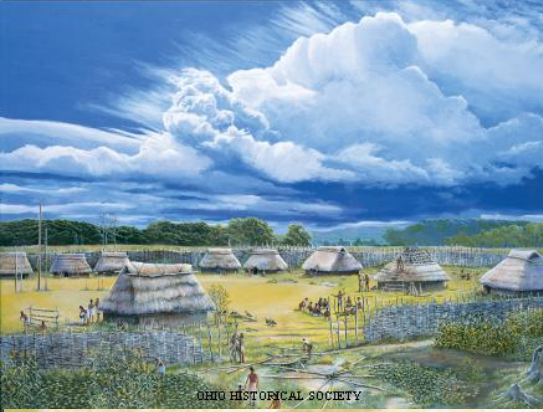
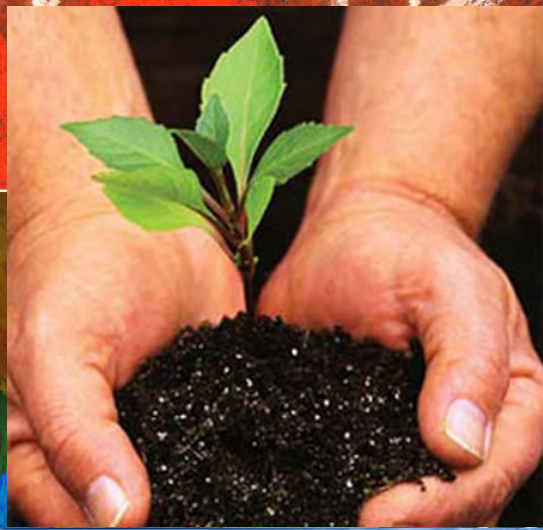
**Why did the Mesopotamians create irrigation systems?**





# The Rise of Sumer





## An Advanced Society

- In southern Mesopotamia, a people known as the Sumerians developed the world's first civilization.
- No one knows where they came from or when they moved into the region.
- However, by 3000 BC, several hundred thousand Sumerians had settle in Mesopotamia, in a land they called Sumer.
- There they created an advanced Society.









## The City-States of Sumer

- Most people in Sumer were farmers.
- They lived mainly in rural, or countryside, areas.
- The centers of Sumerian society, however, were the urban, or city areas.
- The First cities in Sumer had about 10,000 residents.

Over time, the cities grew.

Historians think that by 2000 BC, some of Sumer's cities had more than 100,000 residents.







## The City-States of Sumer

- As a result, the basic political unit of Sumer combined the two parts.
- This unit was called a city-state.
- A city-state consisted of a city and all the countryside around it.
- The amount of countryside controlled by each city-state depended on its military strength.
- Stronger city-states controlled larger areas.
- City-states in Sumer fought each other to gain more farmland.
- As a result of these conflicts, the city-states built up strong armies.
- Sumerians also built strong, thick walls around their cities for protection.





## The City-States of Sumer

- Individual city-states gained and lost power over time.
- By 3500 BC, a city-state known as Kish had become quite powerful.
- Over the next 1,000 years, the city-states of Uruk and Ur fought for dominance.
- One of Uruk's kings, known as Gilgamesh became a legendary figure in Sumerian literature.