

ACHAEMENID EMPIRE GEOGRAPHY

Use the clues below to **label** the following on your map (you do not need to include words in brackets). If you cannot locate one of the items on the list, come back to it as you locate others. Some items will require you to use multiple clues.

You may NOT use ANY aids for these assignments. This MUST be done ONLY with the provided clues. This is a lesson in critical thinking and problem solving as much as mapping and geography. You must be prepared to justify your choices.

1) Achaemenid Empire (First Persian Empire)

Founded by Cyrus the Great in 550 B.C.E. Included the rule of Darius I (Darius the Great) and Xerxes I. The entire Empire was conquered by Alexander the Great by 330 B.C.E. Persia is modern-day Iran. Write in all caps.

2) Fertile Crescent

Located in the Middle East in modern-day Iraq, Israel, Palestinian Territories, Syria, Lebanon, Egypt, and Jordan as well as Turkey and Iran. Cyprus is also sometimes considered to be part of it. The cradle of civilization as it was here that farming first began and where the first known human civilization, Sumer, started.

3) Zagros Mountains

A long mountain range that runs through modern Iran, Iraq, and into Turkey. Located between the Persian Gulf and the Caspian Sea.

4) Taurus Mountains

Located in the South of Anatolia, North of Cyprus.

5) Pontic Mountains

Located along the Northern coast of Anatolia.

6) Hindu Kush

Mountain range located between Sindhu and Syr Darya at the Eastern edge of the Achaemenid Empire.

7) Arabian Desert

A vast desert that covers most of the “boot” (modern Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Yemen, Oman, Iraq, Jordan, and Kuwait). Reaches into the Achaemenid Empire up to the Fertile Crescent. Does not touch the Southeastern coast (the “toe” and “bottom” of the “boot”) and also does not reach the “heel.”

8) Thar Desert

Covers much of the land to the immediate Southeast of Sindhu.

9) Mediterranean Sea

Surrounded by the Mediterranean Basin, where most of the oldest civilizations in the world began. Italy and Greece project into this sea.

10) Caspian Sea

The largest inland body of water (either called the largest lake or largest sea). East of the Black Sea.

11) Black Sea

North along Anatolia.

12) Persian Gulf

South of the Caspian Sea. Connected to the Arabian Sea.

13) Red Sea

Located between Egypt and Saudi Arabia.

14) Arabian Sea

East of the Red Sea in the Indian Ocean.

15) Sea of Azov

North of the Black Sea.

16) Aral Sea

The "Sea of Islands" as there are over 1,100 islands in it. The largest lake in the world, but started to shrink in the 1960s C.E. when the Soviet Union diverted the rivers that feed it. East of the Caspian Sea.

17) Tigris

One of the two great rivers of Mesopotamia in the Fertile Crescent. Northern river of the two.

18) Euphrates

The other great river of Mesopotamia in the Fertile Crescent. Southern river of the two.

19) Nile

The other major river of the Fertile Crescent. The longest river in the world, and heart of the Egyptian Empire.

20) Sindhu (Indus River)

Runs the entire length of modern Pakistan (and the longest river in the country), flowing into the Arabian Sea.

21) Syr Darya

Northern river that feeds the Aral Sea.

22) Amu Darya (Amu/Amo River)

Southern river that feeds the Aral Sea.

23) Babylon

An important city in Mesopotamia. A small town that became a kingdom. When conquered by the Achaemenid Empire, it became the capital. Possible location of the Hanging Gardens of Babylon, one of the wonders of the ancient world. Located on the Euphrates.

24) Halicarnassus

Location of the Mausoleum of Halicarnassus, one of the seven wonders of the ancient world. A Greek city in Southwest Anatolia.

25) Tehran

Modern-day capital of Iran. Part of the ancient city of Rhages which began around 6,000 B.C.E. South of the Caspian Sea.

26) Susa

One of the most important cities in the Ancient Near East. One of the oldest cities in the region, with evidence of it having been around since 4395 B.C.E. North of Ur.

27) Persepolis

The ceremonial capital of the Achaemenid Empire. Located Northwest of Darábghird.

28) Sardis

One of the most important cities for a number of empires, constantly conquered.
Located in Western Anatolia.

29) Ur

A city in the oldest known human civilization of Sumer. Located on the coast of the Persian Gulf in the Fertile Crescent.

30) Darábghird (Darab)

One of the oldest cities in Iran, said to be founded by Darius the Great (Darius I). Located North of the Persian Gulf.

31) Pasargadae

The capital of the Achaemenid Empire under Cyrus the Great until Babylon was conquered. Located North of Persepolis.

32) Nineveh

An ancient city in the Assyrian Empire. The largest city in the world until it was taken by its former subjects in 612 B.C.E. It was largely left unoccupied once conquered, though it seems to have remained intact until Alexander the Great.
Located along the Tigris.

Colour the following on your map:

- 1) Outline all bodies of water in **BLUE**.
- 2) Draw a **BLUE** line over all rivers.
- 3) Outline the Achaemenid Empire in **GREEN**.
- 4) Colour the deserts **YELLOW**.
- 5) Outline the Fertile Crescent in **RED**.