

The Ancient Greek Alphabet

LW4U1 - GRADE 12 CLASSICAL CIVILIZATION - MR. A. WITTMANN

UNIT 1 - LECTURE 6

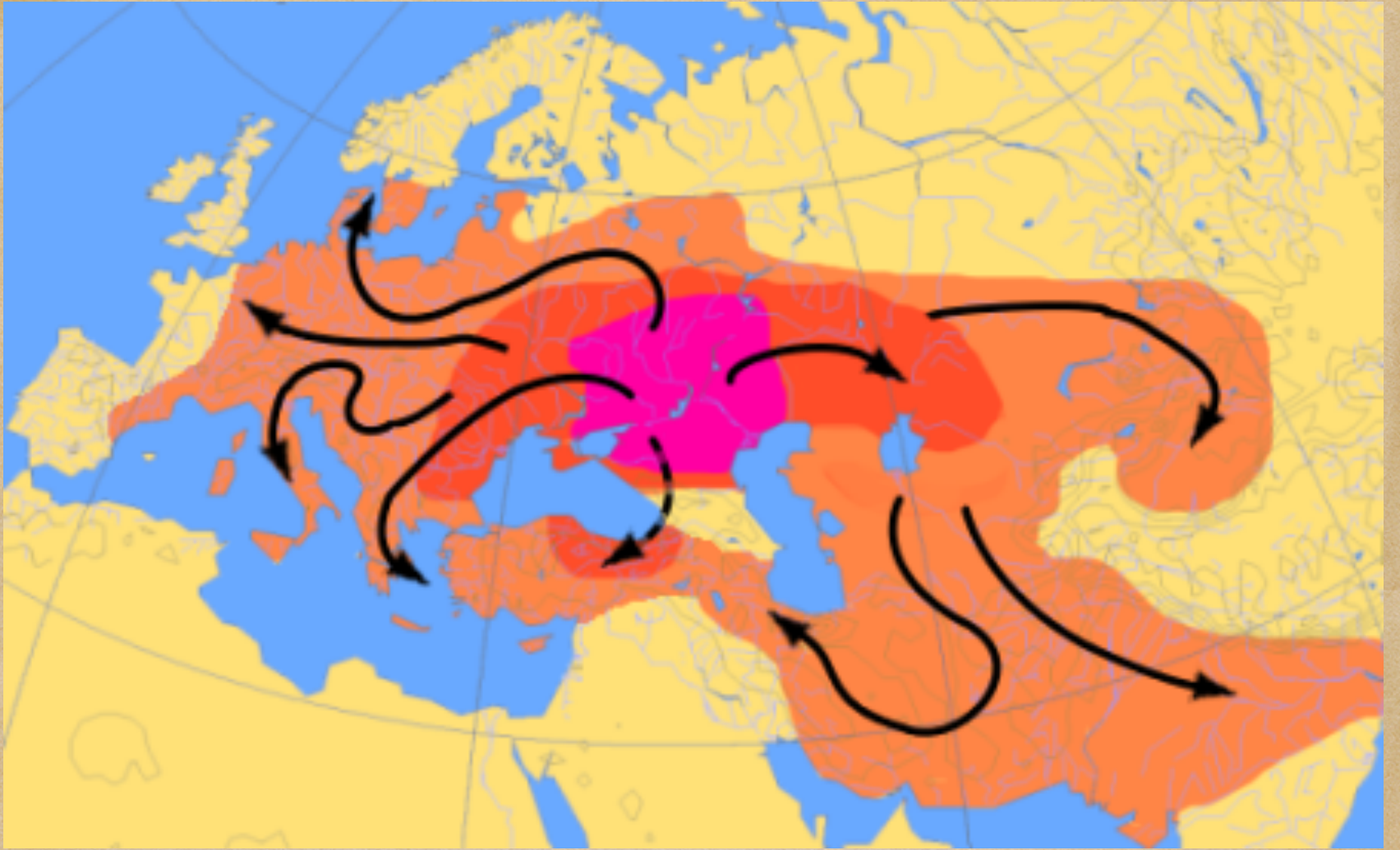


Indo-Europeans

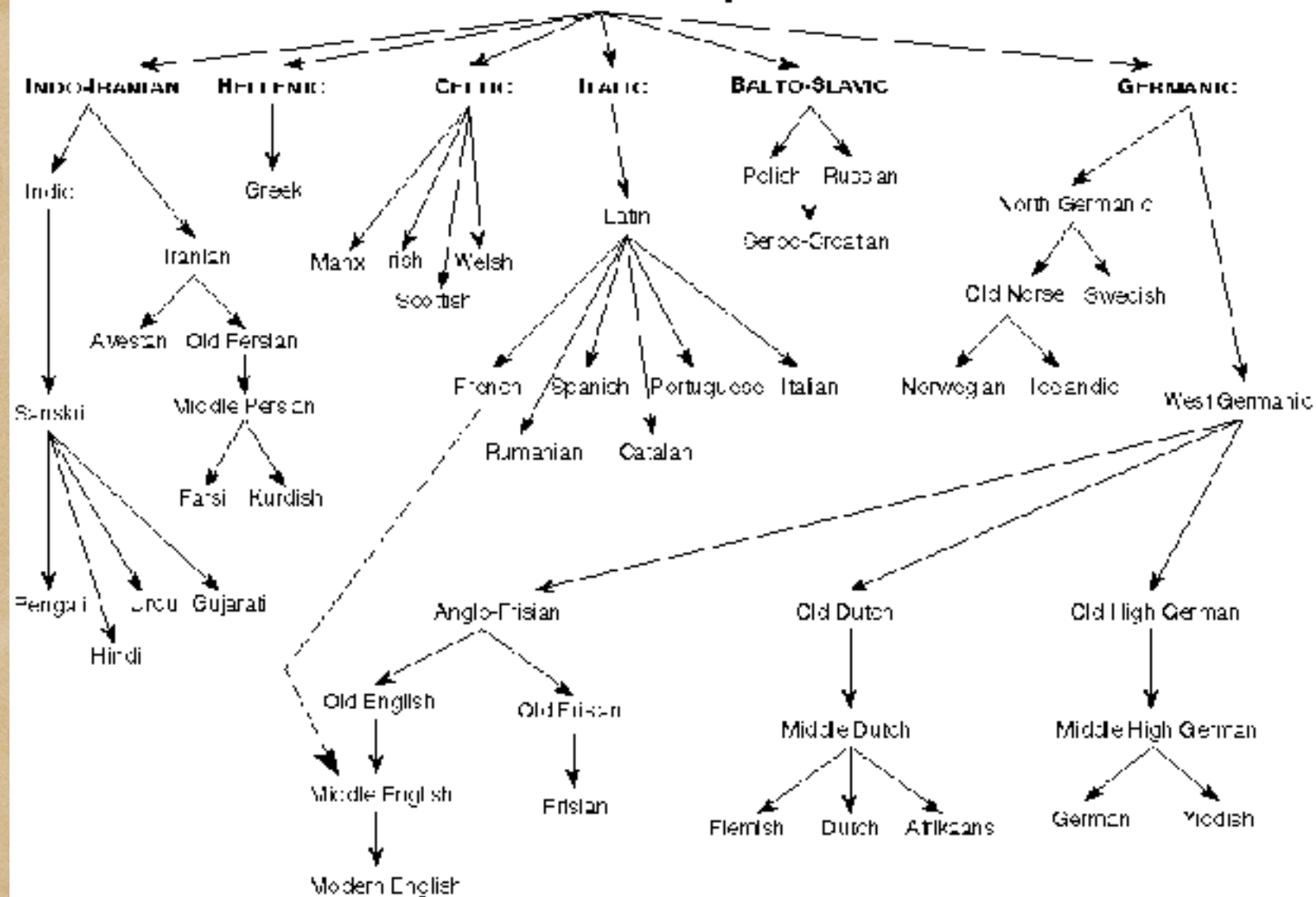
- Pre-historic, semi-nomadic peoples from the steps of central Asia
- Warrior horseman who migrated and conquered other non-horse agricultural peoples
- Spoke a language we call Proto-Indo-European
- Fair haired & light skinned
- In India & Iran they are called Aryan
- Settled in India, Iran, Turkey, Europe & Central Asia
- These language all derived from Proto-Indo-European



Indo-European Migrations, c. 4000 BCE-1000 BCE



Proto-Indo-European



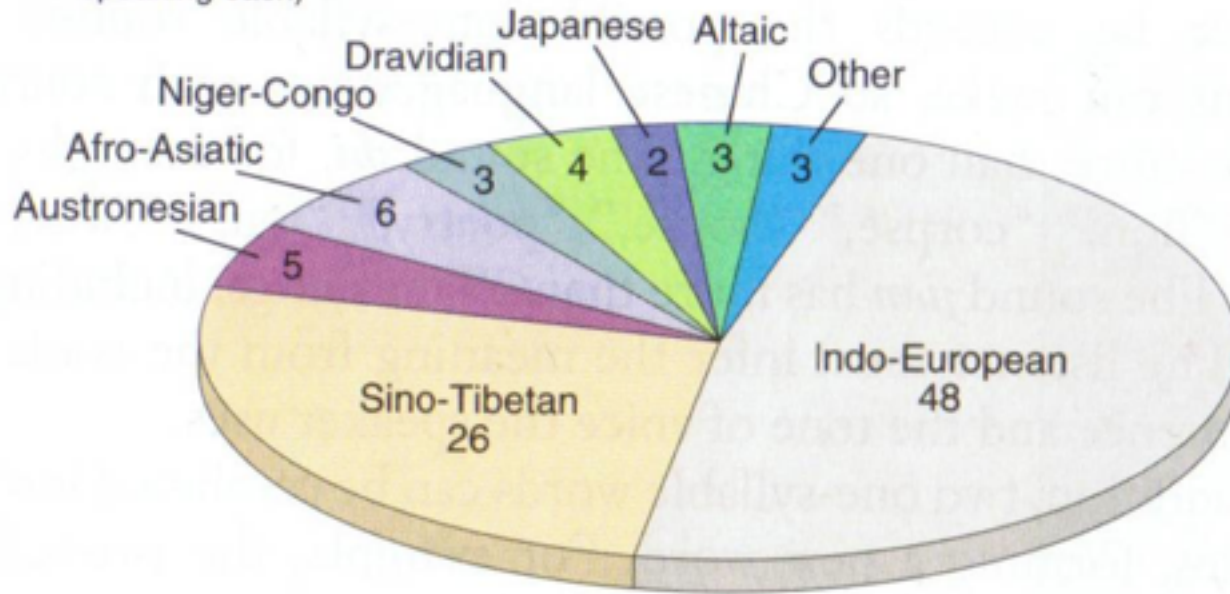
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Indo-European Languages

SANSKRIT	OLD IRANIAN	GREEK	LATIN	GERMAN	ENGLISH
PITAR	PITAR	PATER	PATER	VATER	FATHER
MITAR	MITER	METER	MATER	MUTTER	MOTHER
DYAU PITAR	DYEUS	ZEUS	JU-PITAR (JOVE)	TUES	ZEUS
TRAY AS	TRI	TREIS	TRES	DREI	THREE
ATMAN		ANAP NEA	ANIMA	ATMEN	BREATH

LANGUAGE FAMILIES

(Percentage of people speaking each)



Development of the Alphabet

- Greek is an Indo-European language (5500-4500 BC).
- Mycenaean Greeks used Linear B pictographs (2000-1100 BC).
- Dark Age Greeks adopted the Phoenician alphabet (1100-900 BC).
- Adopted by Romans = Latin alphabet (c.800 BC).
- Adopted by Eastern Europe = Cyrillic alphabet (c.700)

PROTO-LANAANITL	EARLY LETTER NAMES AND MEANINGS	PHOENICIAN	EARLY GREEK	EARLY MONUMENTAL LATIN	MODERN ENGLISH CAPITALS
𐤀	ale - eubrat	𐤀	Α	↗	A
𐤁	bet - house	𐤁	Β	B	B
𐤂	gaml - throats	𐤂	Γ	↖	C
𐤃	dale - fish	𐤃	Δ	D	D
𐤄	he - min-calling	𐤄	Ε	E	E
𐤅	waw - linked voice	𐤅	Ϝ	F	F
	ayin - ?	𐤆	Ι		
𐤇	het - fence	𐤇	Θ	H	H
	tet - spunk	𐤈	⊗		
𐤉	yod - eye	𐤉	Ζ	I	I
𐤊	kaph - palm	𐤊	Χ	K	K
𐤋	lamed - forehead	𐤋	Λ	L	L
𐤌	mem - water	𐤌	Μ	M	M
𐤍	neke - snake	𐤍	Ν	N	N
𐤎	ayin - eye	𐤎	Ο	O	O
𐤏	pe - chamber	𐤏	Π	P	P
𐤐	sade - plant	𐤐	Ρ		
𐤑	qaph - ?	𐤑	Ϟ	Q	Q
𐤒	resh - head of ox	𐤒	Α	R	R
𐤓	shin - composite bow	𐤓	Σ	S	S
𐤔	tau - tower's (flag) mark	𐤔	Χ	T	T

Evolution of Greek & Roman Alphabet

Αα	alpha	a: father	άνήρ (aner) = man
Ββ	beta	b: boy	βασιλεως (basileus) = king
Γγ	gamma	g: graph	γυνή (guna) = woman
Δδ	delta	d: democracy	δημος (demos) = the people
Εε	epsilon	e: get	αρετη (arete)= virtue
Ζζ	zeta	zd: glazed	ζωον (zoon) = animal
Ηη	eta	a: late or Andre	αρετη (arete)= virtue/honour
Θθ	theta	th: theatre	ανθρωπος (anthropos)= person
Ιι	iota	i: pit (short) ski (long)	ἵππος (hippos) = horse
Κκ	kappa	k: kite	κακος (kakos) = bad
Λλ	lambda	l: lady	λιθος (lithos) = stone
Μμ	mu	m: metaphor	μηνιν (menin) = rage

Νν	nu	n: nap	μηνιν (menin) = rage
Ξξ	xi	x: axe	ξενος (xenos) = stranger
Οο	omicron	o: optic	ανθρωπος (anthropos)= person
Ππ	pi	p: pick	ἵππος (hippos) = horse
Ρρ	rho	r: rhino	αρετη (arete)= virtue/honour
Σσ(ς)	sigma	s: semi	μενος (menos) = energy/strength
Ττ	tau	t: tactics	αρετη (arete)= virtue/honour
Υυ	upsilon	u: French tu	γυνή (guna) = woman
Φφ	phi	ph: phone	φιλια (philia) = love
Χχ	chi	ch: German machen	χρυσος (chrusos) = gold
Ψψ	psi	ps: eclipse	ψυχη (psuche) = soul
Ωω	omega	o: note	ανθρωπος (anthropos)= person

Diphthongs

ai

ai: aisle

ei

a: fate

oi

oi: oil

au

ow: cow, house

eu

eu: feud

ou

ou: soup

THE END
