

# The Lydians

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# Early History

- ◉ Lydians originally from Europe
- ◉ Small states throughout Asia Minor following fall of the Hittites
- ◉ 10<sup>th</sup> century B.C.E. – dominated western Asia Minor (modern-day Turkey)

# Lydian Civilization

- ◉ 400 years of prosperity
- ◉ Mineral wealth
  - > Especially gold and electrum
    - Electrum – mixture of gold and silver found in riverbeds
- ◉ Controlled Asia Minor's trade routes
- ◉ Conquered by Persians (547 B.C.E.)

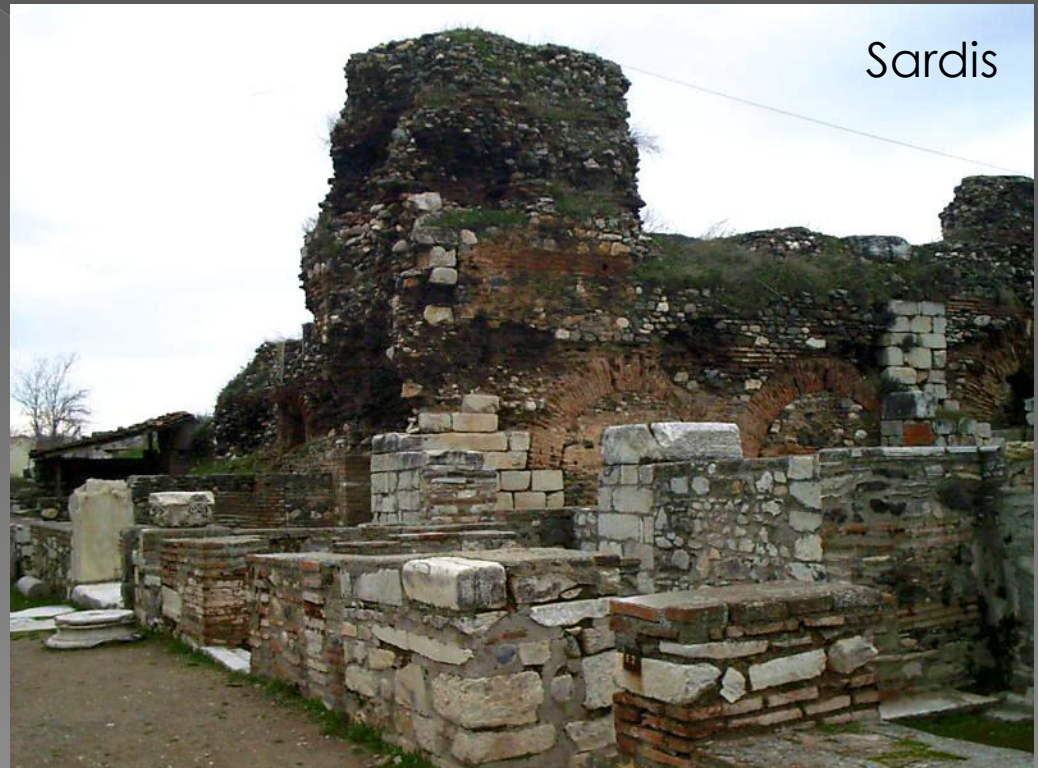
# Lydians Coined Money

- ◉ Before the Lydians, goods had to be traded for other goods
  - > Only thing close to money were lumps of gold and silver, which had to be repeatedly weighed and tested for purity
- ◉ Lydians made standard-sized pieces of gold and silver and stamped them with their value
  - > Invention of money
- ◉ Use of money spread quickly
  - > Helped to spread international trade



# Government

- ◉ Capital – Sardis – trading center
- ◉ Ruled by a king
  - > Most famous king was Croesus – “as rich as Croesus”



# Review Questions

- ◉ Where was Lydia located?
- ◉ What are the Lydians credited with inventing?
- ◉ What Lydian king is world-famous for his wealth?