

THE INDO-EUROPEANS

Indo-European is a term which describes a group of ancient and modern languages. People who spoke these languages began journeying from southern Europe and Russia to the Middle East sometime before 2000BC. Two of these groups were the Mitanni and the Hittites.

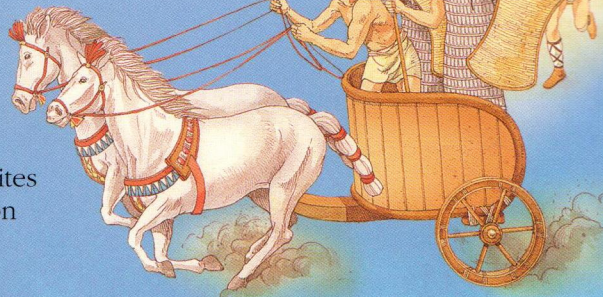
The Mitanni lived in northern Mesopotamia. They were enthusiastic about horses, and wrote books on how to train them. The Hittites were a warlike nation who settled in a region called Anatolia, in Turkey. Around 1350BC, they conquered the Mitanni and many other peoples, building up a large empire.

URARTU

The Kingdom of Urartu lay in the high region around Lake Van and Lake Urmia, between the Black Sea and the Caspian Sea. By 1000BC, the Urartians were famed as tough warriors and skilled bronze-workers. They fought many wars against the Assyrians between 900 and 600BC, but were conquered by the Medes (see page 40) around 590BC.

This ruined fortress in present-day Turkey was begun by the Urartians - later peoples added to it.

Hittite warriors leaving their capital city Hattushash (Bogazköy) to go to war



INTERNET LINK

For links to websites where you can take a photo tour of the Indus Valley or play a Mesopotamian trading game, www.usborne-quicklinks.com