

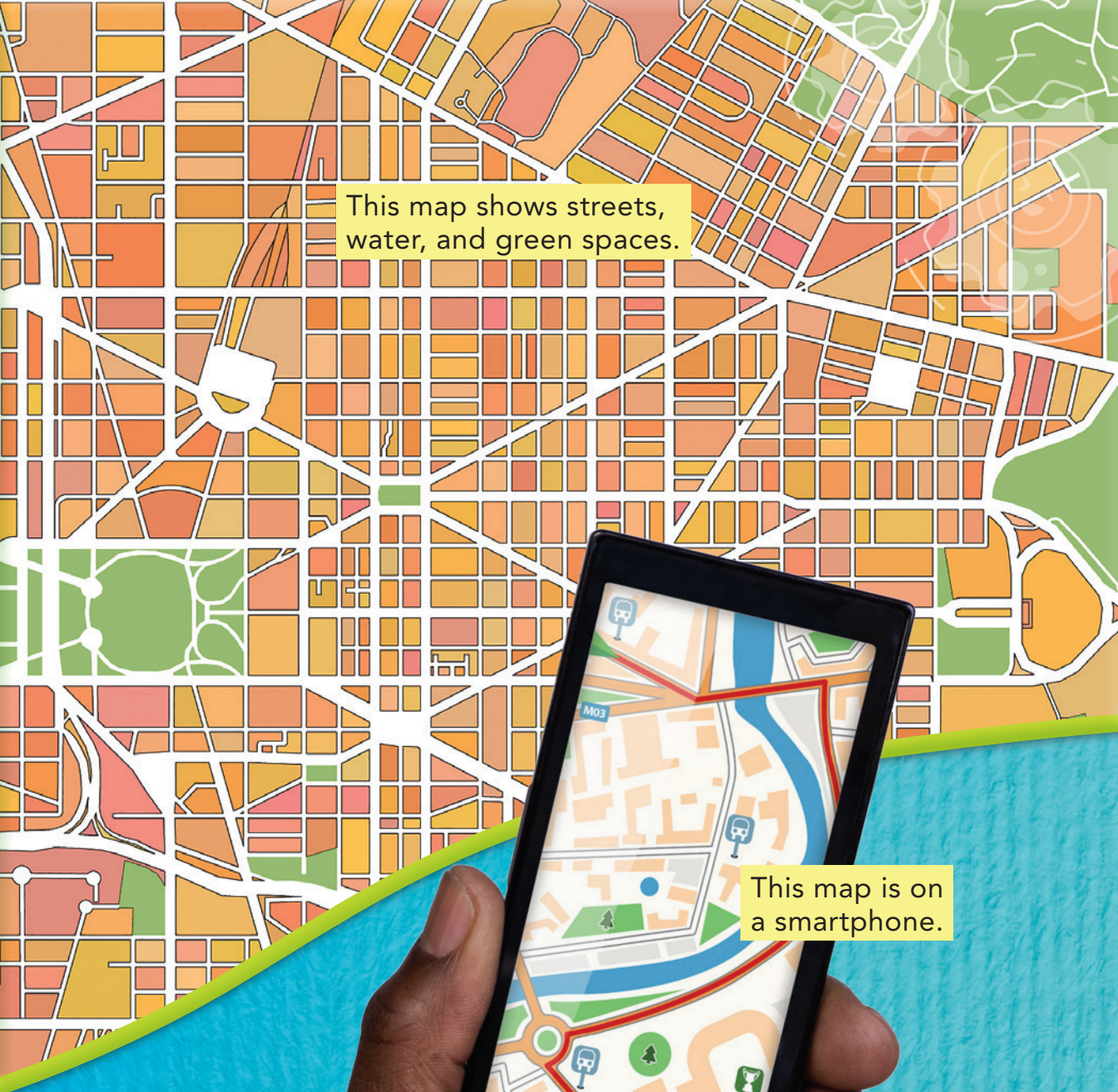
# Mighty Maps

Maps tell people which way to turn. They tell ambulance drivers how to find people who need help. Maps can help people save lives.


Maps have been around a long time. They have changed a lot since they were first made. Maps today are small enough to fit in a person's pocket—but they are a big deal.



This map is on a smartwatch.



This map shows streets, water, and green spaces.

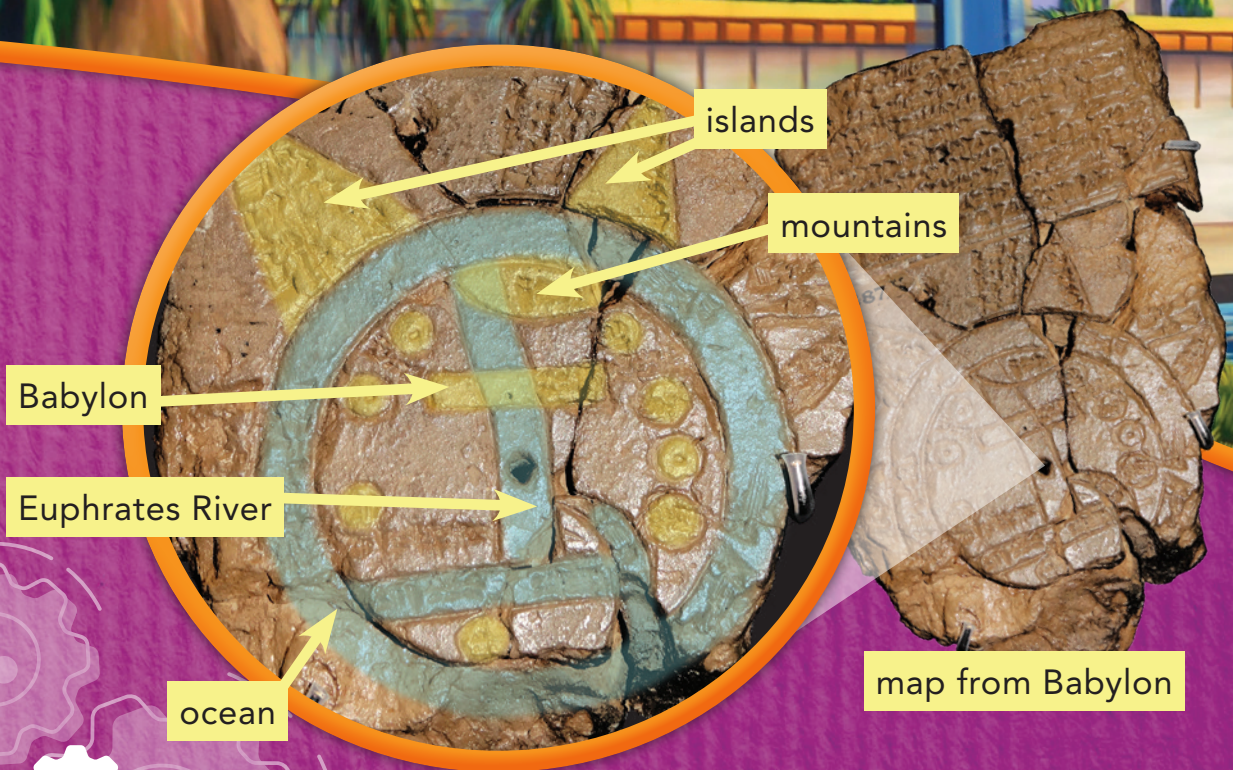


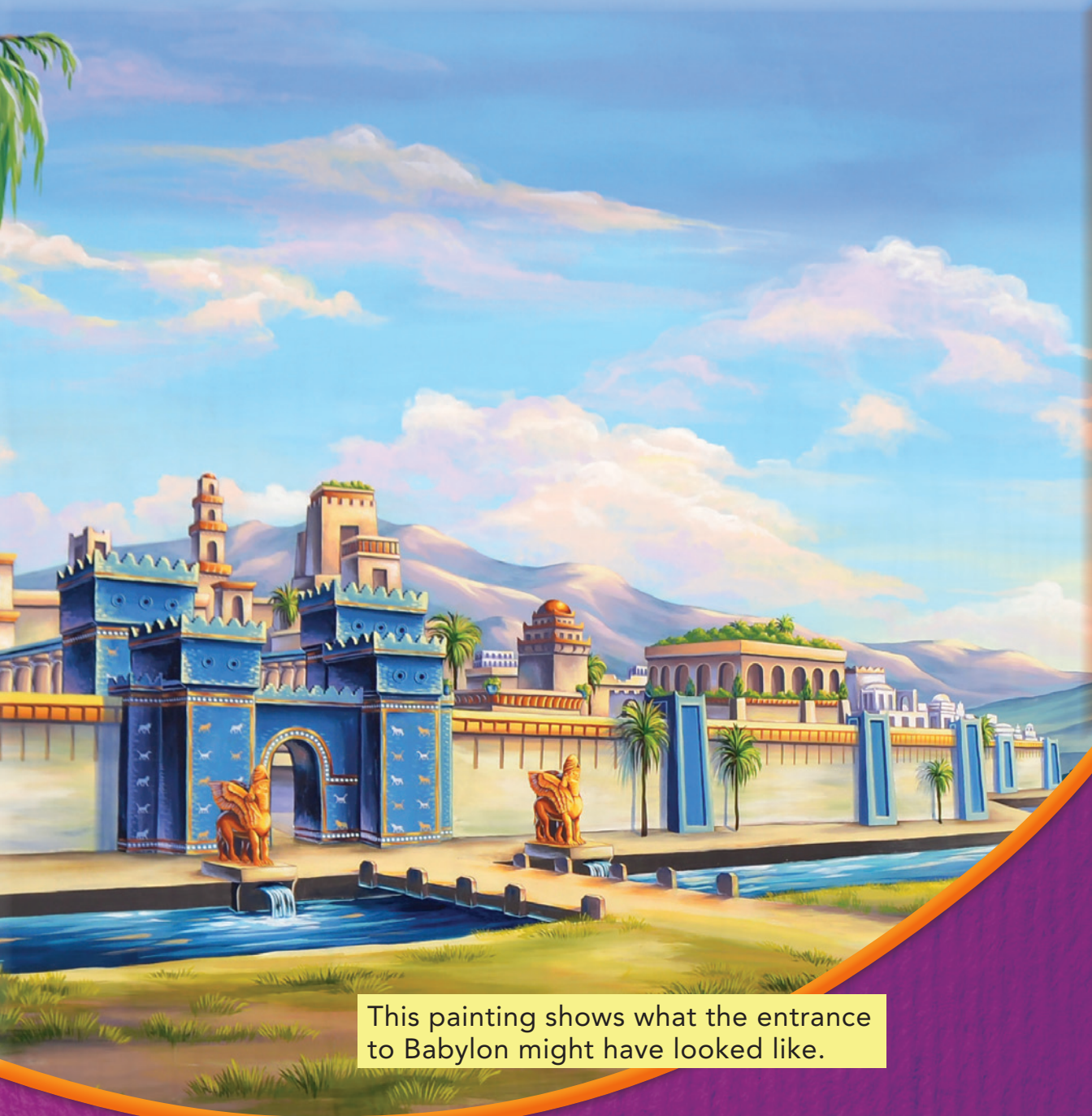
This map is on a smartphone.

# The First Maps

No one knows when the first map was made. It was probably just lines scratched in dirt.

One of the oldest maps that still survives is made from clay. It was created in Babylon, a city from long ago. The map does not have a lot of details. Some places on the map are still around. Some places are not.





This painting shows what the entrance to Babylon might have looked like.

For many years, there were not a lot of maps. Maps had to be drawn by hand. Most were not very **accurate**.

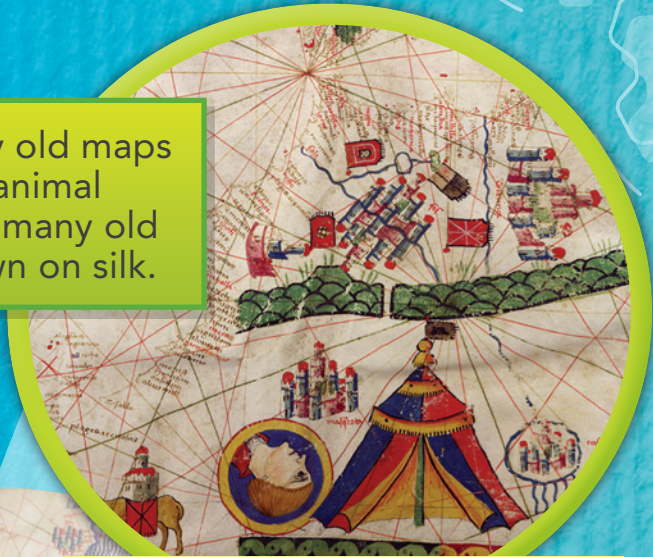
Maps cost a lot of money to make. They cost a lot of money to buy too. Only rich people could afford maps.

About five hundred years ago, people learned how to print maps. Maps became cheaper to make. They also became more common.

This map of the world was hand-drawn in 1633.



In Europe, many old maps were drawn on animal skins. In China, many old maps were drawn on silk.



Old maps had details drawn on them to tell stories about places.



This map was drawn on animal skin in Spain in 1466.