3. Were many powers at first in the area
   a. Later just Medes and Persians
   (1) Persia conquered the Medes

B. Cyrus the Great Founds an Empire
1. 550-539 B.C.
   a. Cyrus lead his army to victories
   (1) Took empire 2000 miles wide
   (a) Indus river to Anatolia

2. Governing
   a. Kindness toward conquered peoples
   (1) Prevented looting in cities
   (2) Believed in honoring local customs
   (a) Let Jews go back to Jerusalem and rebuild a temple

3. Cyrus died fighting against nomadic invaders in his eastern border
   a. Tombstone read, "A man, I am Cyrus, son of Cambyses. I established the Persian empire and was king of Asia. Do not begrudge my memorial"

Inspectors called "kings eyes and ears"

Made sure people didn't disobey the king

Key: Each color represents a different section