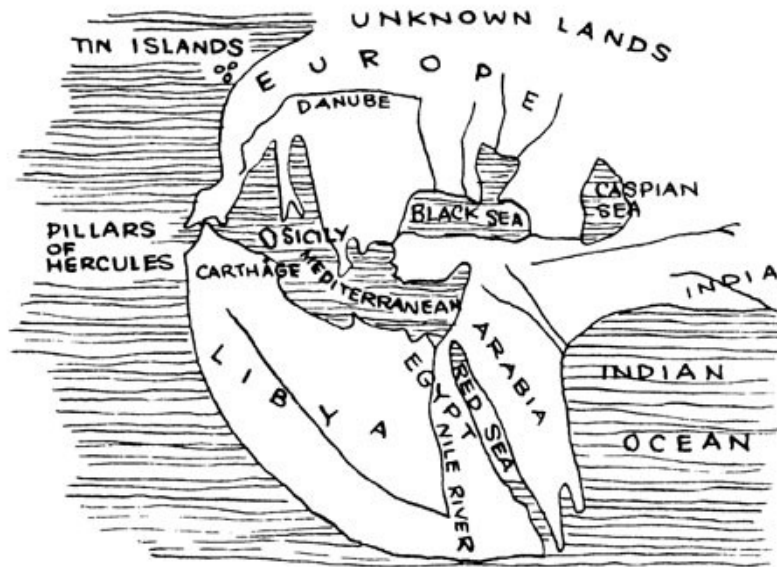


2. The World of Archimedes

IF YOU LOOK at a map of the world, you will find Sicily in the Mediterranean Sea—an island off the toe of Italy.



A map of the world in Archimedes' time looked like the one on this page.

To the north, in Europe, lived many half-civilized tribes who still wore skins for clothes, and lived in caves or crude houses.

To the west, where the Mediterranean Sea flowed through the Pillars of Hercules, there were only endless oceans, as far as anyone knew.

To the south, past the thin strip of civilized Egypt, there were great deserts, and beyond these, explorers who sailed down the coast told of thick and steaming jungles inhabited by savages they called “gorillas.”

East of the Mediterranean Sea there were civilized countries and great cities, but beyond these stretched a wild and barren land through which an occasional caravan traveled to trade for silk in the Far East, which had a great civilization of its own.

From *Archimedes and the Door of Science* by Jeanne Bendick