

What is a civilization? What led to the establishment of civilizations?

- Objective:
- Identify the characteristics of a civilization.
 - Describe what led to the development of civilizations.

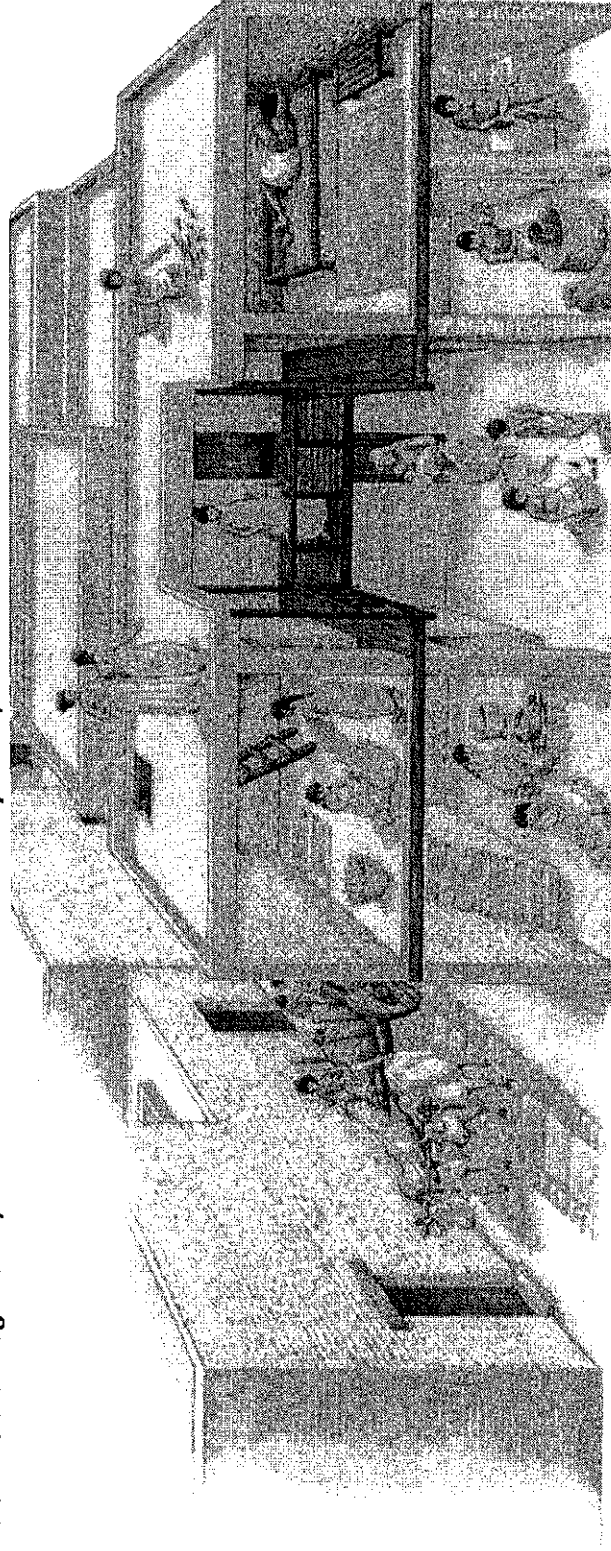


Introduction

A **civilization** is a complex society in which a large number of people live. The first civilizations which emerged after the Neolithic Revolution between 5500 and 2000 BCE were **Mesopotamia**, **Ancient Egypt**, **Shang China**, and the **Indus River Valley Civilization**. These first civilizations began as cities. These cities were larger, more populated, and more complex than Neolithic villages.

Predict

➡ Directions: Examine the image below, then fill out the chart with what you see, think and wonder about civilizations.



Source: http://www.ancient.eu/Indus_Valley_Civilization/

See

List three things you *see* in the image above.

Think

Based on your observations, what do you *think* life was like for people in early civilizations?

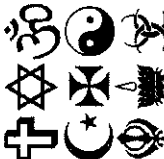



Wonder



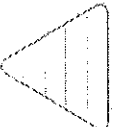
Write two questions you have about the picture above.

Do you live in a civilization?

Historians have identified several characteristics that most civilizations have in common, including: **religion, job specialization, cities, government, language/writing systems, technology, and social hierarchy.**

➡ **Directions:** For each of the following characteristics of civilizations, provide evidence from the town, city, state, and/or country you live in to prove that you live in a civilization.

Religion  <small>Image courtesy of Wikimedia and is in the public domain</small>	Job Specialization  <small>Image courtesy of opencollege.org and is in the public domain</small>	Cities  <small>Image courtesy of opencollege.org and is in the public domain</small>	Government  <small>Image courtesy of pixabay and is in the public domain</small>

Language/Writing Systems  <small>Image courtesy of opencollege.org and is in the public domain</small>	Technology  <small>Image courtesy of opencollege.org and is in the public domain</small>	Social Hierarchy  <small>Image is courtesy of opencollege.org and is in the public domain</small> The division of society based on wealth, religion, ethnicity, or other factors

What led to the establishment of civilizations?

➔ Directions: Read the excerpt below. Then, respond to the questions.



Contextualize

The earliest civilizations developed after 3000 BCE. The first civilizations appeared in a place called Mesopotamia which is located in modern-day Iraq. Civilizations developed on every continent except Antarctica and shared common characteristics like written language, legal systems, job specialization, and a form of government.

1. Where did the first civilizations appear?



Connect Cause and Effect

Prior to civilizations with cities, there was the Paleolithic Age during which time people hunted and gathered food. There was not a stable supply of food. Sometimes, they were able to find enough plants or kill enough animals in order to keep everyone alive. However, there were other times when they were unable to find plants and animals, and the population died off.

2. Was there a stable food supply during the Paleolithic Era? Explain.

In 10,000 BCE, there was a major turning point called the Neolithic Revolution. During the Neolithic Revolution, people learned how to domesticate animals and develop agriculture. This provided a predictable supply of food. Not only was there a predictable supply of food, there was a surplus. A food surplus is extra food. This extra food not only helped keep people alive, it also meant that the population could grow even larger because there was enough food to keep people alive and to produce more children. As the population grew, cities began to form. In these cities, there were legal codes and social classes to organize society. There was also job specialization which meant that different people performed specific tasks. For example, some people were farmers, while others may have made clothes, or built homes. As cities grew larger, they became more complex.

3. How did the Neolithic Revolution create a predictable food supply?

4. What is a food surplus?

5. How did food surpluses lead to the development of civilizations?

