

WORLD HISTORY ERA 2 EARLY CIVILIZATIONS AND THE EMERGENCE OF PASTORAL PEOPLES

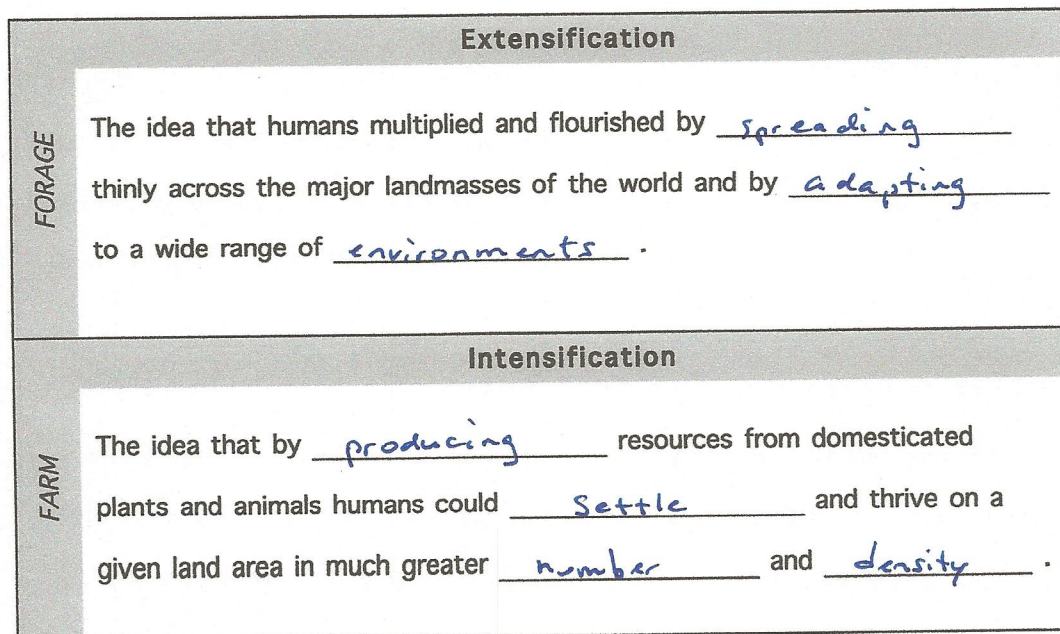
(4000-1000 BC)

Intro Activity:
"Where Did You
EAT?"

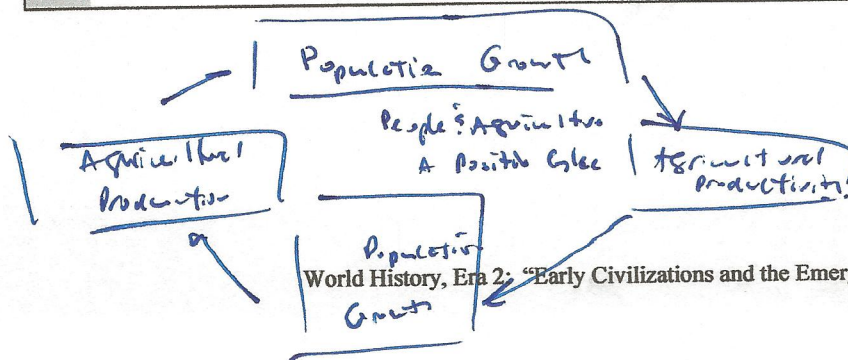
THE SPREAD OF AGRICULTURAL SOCIETIES

From Foraging to Farming

- A. **Farming.** "A set of interrelated activities that increase the production of those resources that humans can use (e.g. cattle or grains) and reduces the production of those things humans cannot use (e.g. weeds or pests)". This is also known as systematic agriculture.
- B. **Domestication.** "The ability to alter the genetic make-up of plants and animals to make them more useful to humans." Or, in other words it is the taming of animals and growing of crops.
- C. **Sedentary Communities.** The settlement of humans in hamlets or villages close to food supplies—both to forage and to farm.⁵ This differs from the hunter-gatherers of the earliest era.



Internet
Archaeology
Input



(~~page 3~~)

From "Worst to Worse to Bad to Good to Better to Best"? A look at Progress⁶

The general perception of earliest man casts him as an animalistic brute, struggling to survive against the elements. Many look at the agricultural revolution as the first great step toward becoming "civilized." How do we define PROGRESS? Write your definition here:

Progress

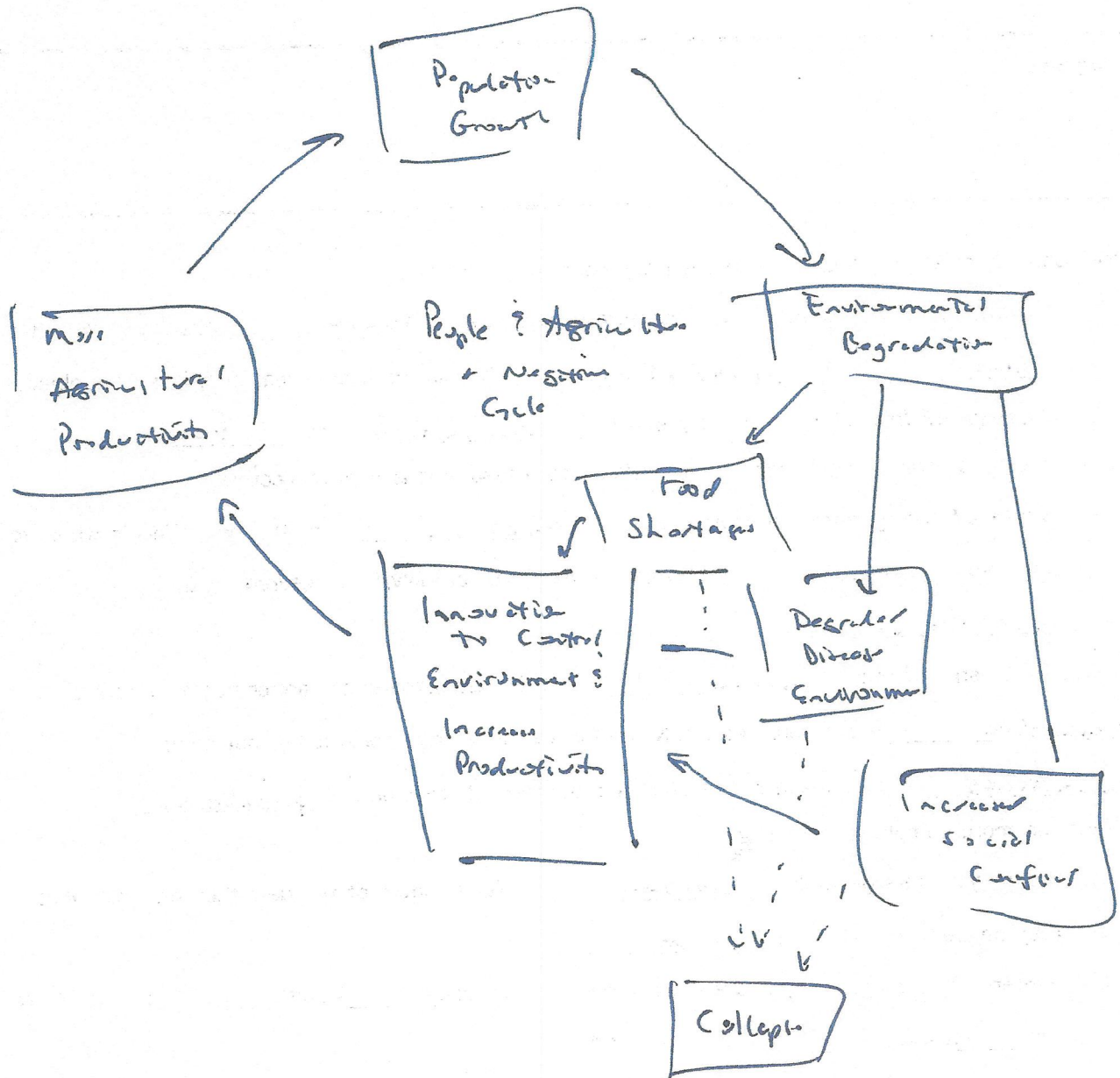
Three concepts must be understood to put progress into perspective:

1. **Standard of living** refers to a measure of what we have relative to what we need for subsistence. This can be easily measured; it is very objective.
2. **Quality of life** refers to the degree of satisfaction we feel about our lives. This becomes very difficult to measure; it is very subjective.
3. **Style of living** refers to somewhat of a mixture of the two. This is what we think we need to be happy. This can only be measured by the individual.

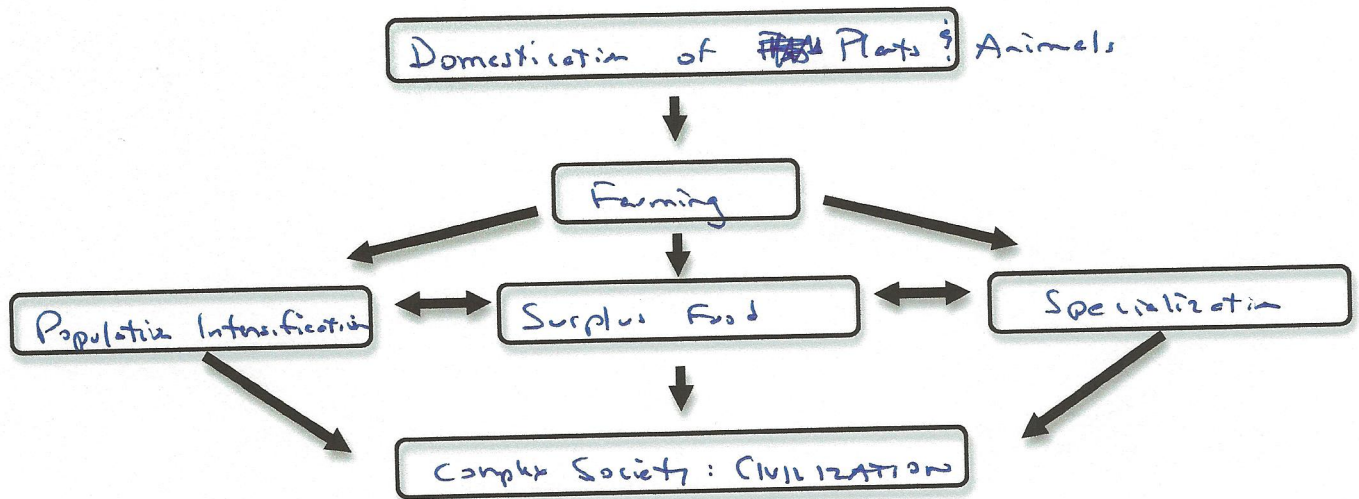
New studies question if the move from hunter-gatherer to farmer put man onto a Selective path of progress, only seen in certain areas—could it be that some sacrifices were made in the sake of progress? Or that new problems accompanied more complex societies?

1. Hunter-gatherers generally worked fewer hours of the day; they only did what they needed to do to survive.
2. Hunter-gatherers generally had a more varied and healthier diet; farmers ate the same crops and foods.
3. Hunter-gatherers left their trash and germs behind; agricultural societies incubated disease.
4. Hunter-gatherers lived as relative equals; agricultural societies led to the division of people by class and gender.

Where do we stand today? Are our lives better?



THE RISE OF EARLY CIVILIZATIONS



A civilization is a complex culture in which large numbers of people share a number of common elements.⁷

- A. Cities arose on the foundations of early settlements.
- B. People specialized in occupations and professions rather than spending time collecting, producing, or processing foods.
- C. A hierarchy of social classes appeared in which some men and women—the elite classes—had more wealth, power, and privilege than did others.
- D. A centralized government regulated behaviors.
- E. Complex exchanges of food and other products took place within the society and lines of trade connected the society to neighbors far and near.
- F. Technological innovations multiplied, and each new useful invention leading to several others.
- G. Monumental building took place—city walls, temples, palaces, public plazas
- H. A system of the writing, or at least a complex method of record-keeping, came into use.
- I. Spiritual beliefs, public laws, and artistic expression all became richer and more complex.
- J. The emergence of collective learning to share information and ideas and to pass beliefs and ideas from one generation to the next.

Complex societies exhibited constant change—change over time; change by progress; change through contact with other societies.

The Four River Valley Civilizations

Mesopotamia. "The Land Between the Rivers"

Use your textbook to write 3 or 4 descriptors about the geography of Sumer:

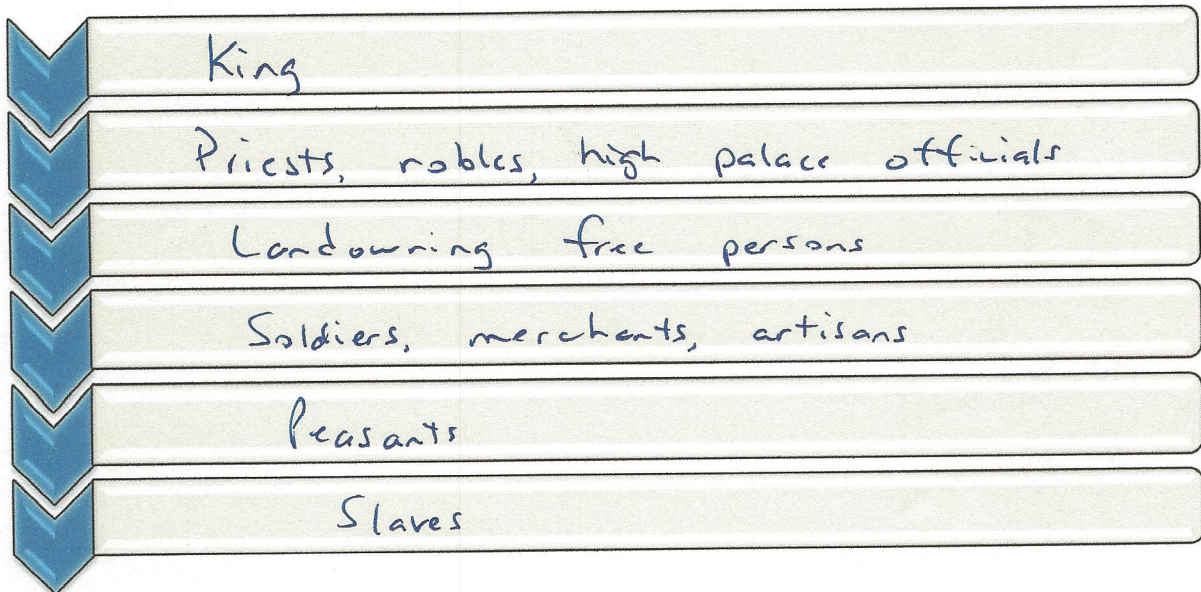
Tigris & Euphrates Rivers

Deposits of silt → "The Fertile Crescent"

Irrigation systems and dams

8-
p. 10

- A. For the early part of its history Sumer was a collection of warring city-states, each independent from the other. Examples: Ur, Uruk, Kish
- B. Priests were the leaders in society. The people built ziggurats: temple-towers as centers of religious and political life. The Sumerian religion honored many gods—they were polytheistic. Religion played such an important role in the society that many historians classify early Sumerian society as a theocracy -- a government by divine authority.
- C. A hierarchy developed in the society, with each class of people on a specific level. This will become the pattern for nearly every civilization—not only in the ancient world, but throughout all history.



- D. The Sumerians relied on agriculture and trade. Artisans made textiles and pottery. Metalworkers advanced their craft by adding tin to copper, making bronze. Craftsmen utilized the wheel for trade-carts to make transportation of goods more efficient and for the potter's wheel. (ride clip)
- E. They transformed pictographs (writing using pictures) into **cuneiform** (writing using a wedge shaped stylus on a clay tablet). Men skilled in writing became scribes who held some of the most important positions in society. The Sumerians introduced a number system based on 60, which, added to their use of a sundial, gave us time measurements. p.11

Egypt. "Along the Banks of the Nile" p.14

A. Two Unifiers.

1. The Nile River, the world's longest river, was the center of Egyptian life and history. Annual flooding of the Nile brought rich, fertile soil establishing an agricultural foundation for early Egyptian economy. It also added to a natural defensive barrier from would-be attackers. (The deserts in the west and east; the **cataracts** [series of waterfalls] of the river itself.)
2. Religion. Originally, each city had their own gods; however, as a common culture spread throughout neighboring areas, certain gods became honored above others. The polytheistic Egyptians viewed their deities as gods of the sun or gods of the land. Each god assumed different forms and roles. Some were depicted as man (like Ra, the sun-god) and some were depicted as combinations man and animals (like Ra, the sun-god).

- B. Three Kingdoms. Once Menes united Upper (the southern part) and Lower (the northern part) Egypt, pharaohs established dynasties (a family of rulers whose right to rule is passed on within the family). The Egyptian kingdoms represented periods of long-term stability under strong leadership, freedom from invasion, great building projects, and rich cultural activity.

- ▲ Approximately 2700-2200 BC
- ▲ Rulers became known as **pharaohs**, meaning "great house"; they were revered by the people as gods wielding complete power; some refer to the Old Kingdom as the "age of the pharaohs"
- ▲ Government workers of the **bureaucracy** (an administrative organization with officials and regular procedures) managed the affairs of the kingdom. The **vizier** was the chief administrator, second only to the king
- ▲ The building of the pyramids began during this kingdom. (video)

- ▲ Approximately 2055-1650 BC
- ▲ A time of strength and expansion—south to Nubia; east into Palestine and Syria
- ▲ The "age of the people" as the pharaohs viewed themselves less as divine rulers and more as stewards responsible for guiding and providing for the people
- ▲ Public works: draining of swamps in the Nile Delta; digging a canal from the Nile to the Red Sea
- ▲ Invaders from western Asia—the Hyksos—conquered Egypt, bringing an end to the Middle Kingdom. Under the Hyksos rule, however, the Egyptians learned advanced metalworking and military techniques (especially the use of horse-drawn war chariots) which would help in their liberation.

- ▲ Approximately 1550-1070 BC
- ▲ The Egyptians overthrew the Hyksos, reuniting under a new dynasty
- ▲ This kingdom is sometimes referred to as the "age of empire" because of its success not only in keeping invaders out, but also in expanding their territory to become the most powerful state in Southwest Asia
- ▲ A number of famous pharaohs ruled during this time
 - ♦ Thutmose – the warrior pharaoh
 - ♦ Hatshepsut – the woman pharaoh
 - ♦ Amenhotep IV – the worshipped pharaoh - religious revolution
 - ♦ Tutankhamen – the boy pharaoh
 - ♦ Ramses II – the "great" pharaoh
- ▲ Invasions by the "Sea People" forced the Egyptians back to their traditional borders, ending their golden period

C. Many Accomplishments.

1. The pharaoh, who technically owned all the land, granted large sections to the nobility who supervised the peasants who worked the land and paid taxes to the nobility and priests.
2. Though a **patriarchic** society (men held the leadership positions in government and the home), women owned property, managed the household and were entitled to compensations.
3. Formal education was restricted to boys from the upper or middle classes. Hieroglyphics (meaning "priest-carvings" or "sacred writings") used pictures and complex symbols. They used the papyrus plant to make paper.
4. Pyramids and temples demonstrate not only architectural and artistic achievements, but also sophisticated mathematics.
5. The Egyptians developed an accurate 365 day calendar.
6. The practice of **embalming** (preserving a dead body to protect from decay) led to medical expertise in human anatomy.

The Indus Valley.

- A. Natural borders (the Himalayan mts. capped the north, the Arabian Sea and Bay of Bengal to the south and east) sheltered the civilization from attack and disease. Water from the Indus fertilized and irrigated crops. **Monsoons** (seasonal rain-bearing winds) brought moisture to the dry plains areas.
- B. Cities centered around a **citadel** (fortress) but had no other large monuments. A well-organized public works system included wastewater drainage and trash collection.
- C. Advancements in technology were primarily limited to skills necessary to advance farming—boats and carts, weights and measurements—but they also traded copper, precious stones, cotton.
- D. The collapse of the culture remains a mystery, but the evidence points to either environmental changes (both natural and man-made) or foreign migrations.

China.

- A. Civilization in China followed the same pattern as other early civilizations: dependency on a river valley with fertile soil as the foundation for agriculture. The Huang He River carried fine yellow dust blown across the North China Plain; the yellowish soil, called **loess**, gave the river its nickname: the Yellow River. Unlike other civilizations, the Chinese were confronted with destructive flooding, long/cold winters, short/hot summers, dust storms and unpredictable rainfall.
- B. The Yangshao (5000-3000 BC) and Longshan (3000-2000 BC) Cultures. The people were generally farmers, hunters and fishermen, but archaeologists have uncovered evidence of painted pottery as well. Some evidence exists that they raised silkworms. The arrangement of houses indicates a strong family connection.
- C. Chinese civilization developed with limited contact with early contemporary civilizations. Geography restricted trade and communication. Isolation will become a theme for Chinese history.

THE AMERICAS

The first inhabitants of North America probably migrated across a land bridge that once connected Russia and Alaska. Many left the cold climate of northeast Asia and northwest America to move southeast throughout the continent. Others foraged for large game and plant foods. Still others settled throughout the continent becoming farmers (pumpkins, potato, squash, maize).

The Olmec.

- A. The term **MESOAMERICA** refers to the land in southern Mexico and northern Central America. It may have been the location of the first civilization in North America. They "civilized" much later than the four river civilizations—in fact, not until 1200 BC! The region provided a warm climate and abundant water necessary for farming.
- B. The Olmec developed cities in San Lorenzo and La Venta. The society was divided into just two classes of people: the farmers, who worked the land, and the elites, who governed, owned the best land and supervised religion. They were a productive agricultural society with large cities and architectural accomplishments yet lacked iron tools.