

Name: _____

Period: _____

WHAT IS CIVILIZATION? ORGANIZER

Use the descriptions at each station to record information and/or examples for all eight features of civilization.

CITIES	ORGANIZED GOVERNMENT	
RELIGION	<p style="text-align: center;">CIVILIZATION</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Definition:</u> an advanced state of _____ _____ marked by developments in the _____, _____ and technology, _____, and social _____</p>	WRITING

JOB SPECIALIZATION

ARTS & ARCHITECTURE

SOCIAL CLASS

CIVILIZATION

PUBLIC WORKS

CITIES

Cities were an important part of the earliest civilizations, and still are today. The first *cities* served as centers for religion, government, and culture. As farmers settled in fertile (fer-till) river valleys, they began to grow surplus or extra food. This extra food increased the population of the settlements. In time, settlements grew into *cities*. The first *cities* in Mesopotamia (mess-o-po-tamia), like Ur and Babylon (bab-alon), became central for religious purposes and trade for the civilization.

The rise of *cities* is considered the main feature of civilization. The world's first civilizations developed independently in a number of river valley around the world. These include: Mesopotamia between the Tigris (tie-gris) and Euphrates (you-fray-teez) Rivers in the Middle East; Egypt, along the Nile River; the Indus civilization, along the Indus River in India; and China, along the Huang (h-wong) River, also known as the Yellow River.



Organized Government

As civilization developed, so did the need for *government*. Food supply and irrigation systems needed to be maintained.

Governments, such as group councils or religious leaders, began to manage the business created by people living in cities. This was important because all of the necessary resources of cities needed to be well-managed to function properly. Councils of elders or chiefs ruled many of the world's farming villages. Many rulers also relied on royal officials to help them govern by creating laws, collecting taxes, and providing defense.



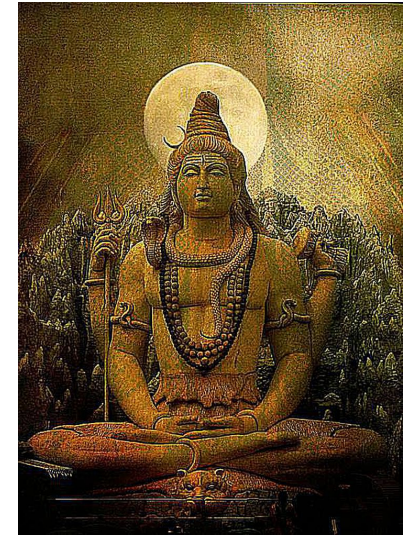
It was important for the *government* system to help organize workers for important jobs related to the daily function of the city. It was also necessary for the *government* to train an army to defend the citizens from attackers.

Many early rulers claimed that they were given their right to rule from the gods, and many of their decisions were based on pleasing the gods.





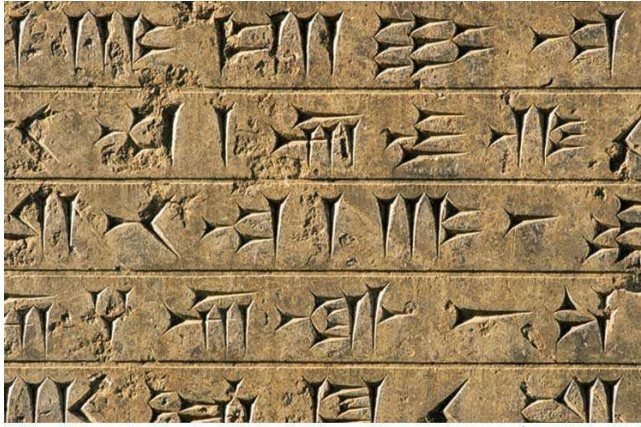
RELIGION



Religion is the set of beliefs that everyone within that society shares and believes. Most early civilizations were **polytheistic**, meaning they believed in more than one god. Their *religion* centered on the belief that these gods controlled different aspects of their lives. They believed gods controlled natural forces, such as wind or rain, or human activities, such as war or birth. Floods and droughts were blamed on the gods' anger.

Priests would lead prayers, dances, hymns, and ceremonies in hopes that they would make the gods happy and in return would be protected and provided the resources they needed. People built temples and sacrificed animals, crops, and sometimes other humans to the gods. Sacrifices and other ceremonies required the full-time attention of priests, who had special training and knowledge. Citizens relied on priests to help make the gods happy and make sure the civilization was successful.

Writing



Corbis/Diego Lezama Orezzoli



In early civilizations, the main purpose of *writing* was to record trade. They would record numbers related to the buying and selling of different goods. People also used *writing* to record food storage.

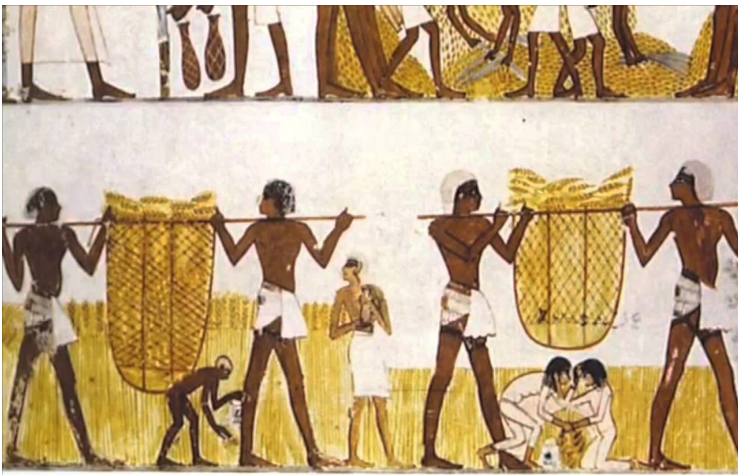
The first step that humans took toward creating *writing* systems was using pictographs. These are simple drawings that look like the item the picture represents. Hieroglyphics (hi-row-glif-ics) in Ancient Egypt are an example of pictographs. In Mesopotamia, they developed a more complex *writing* system called cuneiform (cu-nay-a-form) which represented words, syllables, and letters. As *writing* systems became more complex over time, only trained people – called scribes – could read and write.

Archaeologists have found ancient *writings* in different parts of the world and have found that these language systems developed at different times in history. They have found ancient *writings* on clay tablets and vases, stone statues, and some on building walls.

Job Specialization

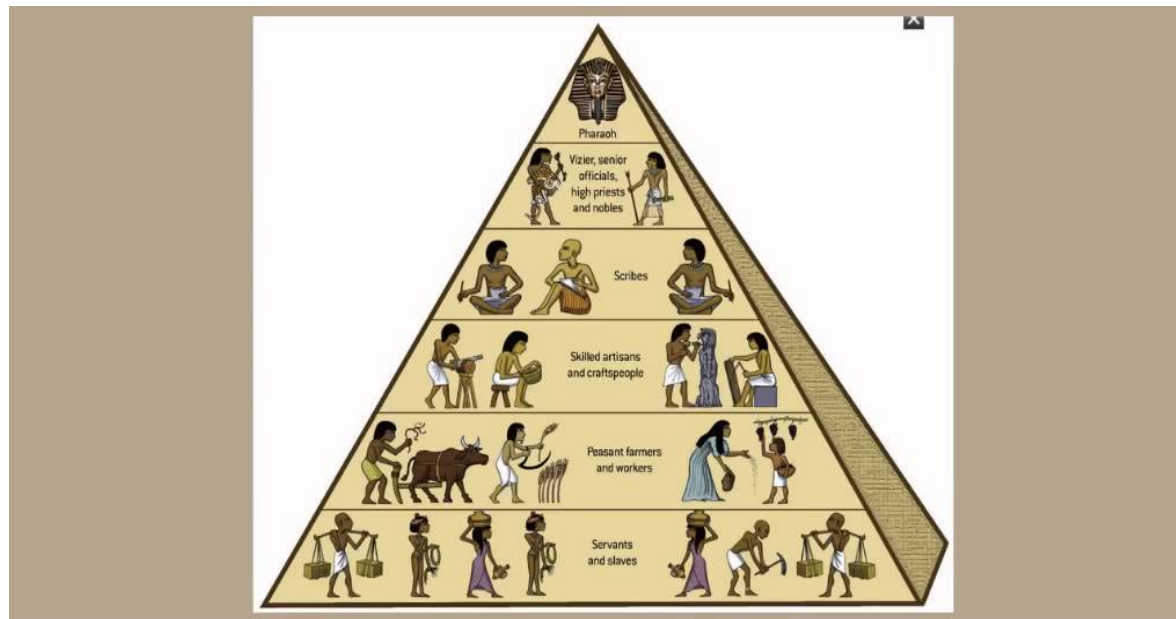
Job specialization allowed for people to develop and contribute important skills to help maintain their civilization. An individual could not develop all the skills needed to maintain specific items and tasks. Most people in early civilizations were farmers.

Rulers and soldiers helped to protect and keep order. Priests specialized in religious ceremonies and services that ensured everyone's well-being. Merchants sold goods in the marketplace or to other civilizations. Craftworkers, also called artisans, made pottery, jewelry, or finely carved or woven goods. Singers, dancers, and storytellers would provide entertainment during public occasions. Having *job specialization* made people dependent on one another for their various needs.



SOCIAL CLASSES

As cities grew, so did societies. People were ranked according to their jobs. This led to the use of *social classes* to organize society. *Social classes* are groups of people that occupy different levels in a society. The highest level of most early civilizations was that of a ruler or a priest; they had the most power. Next was usually a small class of wealthy merchants, followed by artisans (skilled craftspeople). Then came the vast majority of the population, the farmers, who produced the food supply for the society. Slaves usually occupied the lowest level of the *social classes*.



Arts & Architecture

People in early civilizations produced great works of *art*, music, and literature. They were responsible for impressive building projects, which led to different *architecture* styles around the world. They studied mathematics, science, and medicine to better understand and improve their ways of life.

The desire to express one's beliefs and feelings grew as early civilizations did. The *arts and architecture* of ancient civilizations show the talents and values of the people who created them. Temples and palaces were often the center of ancient cities. Many leaders ordered buildings or statues to be constructed to remind people of their government and religion's power and strength.

All the ways that these areas work in a society and what people view, use, or believe about these topics make their culture.



Public Works

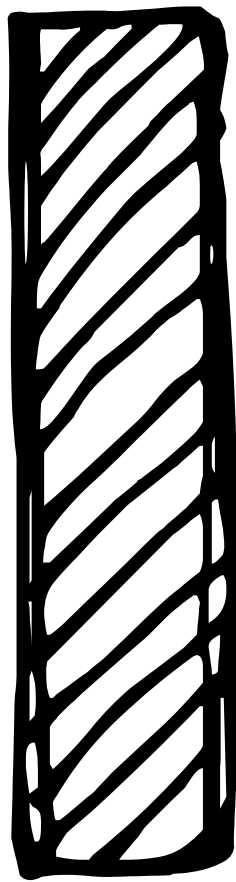
Public works are projects that are completed by people to improve the function and quality of life of people in a city or whole civilization. More people living in cities meant more needs. *Public works* were soon developed to aid and benefit communities. The government would order projects to be completed to make the civilization more efficient.

Projects like this might include: irrigation systems, roads, bridges, and walls for defense. These public work projects were meant to benefit the city by protecting it, ensuring its food supply, and/or enhancing the reputation of the leader(s).

Public works projects were often quite costly and required a great deal of human labor, sometimes resulting in the loss of lives during construction.



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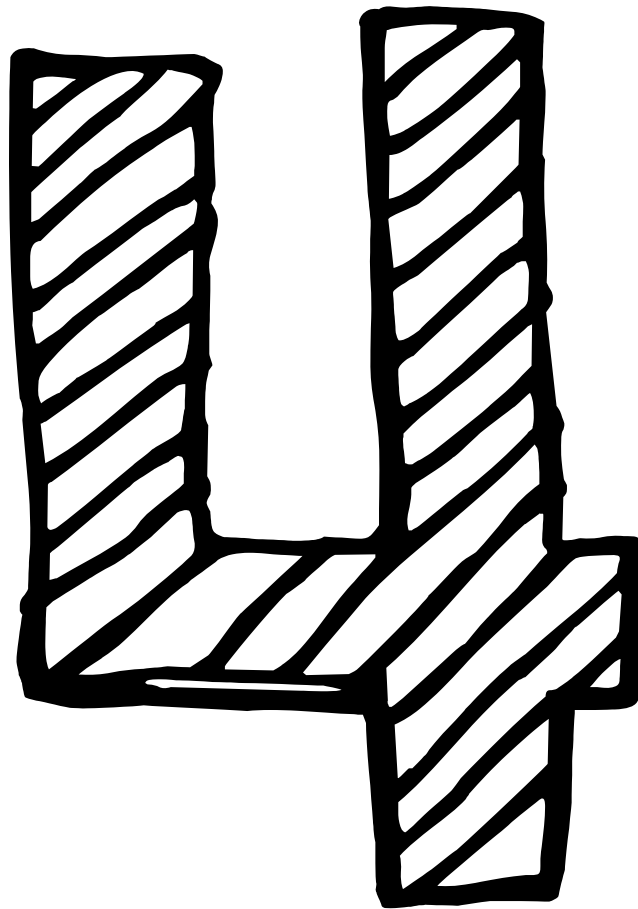
STATION



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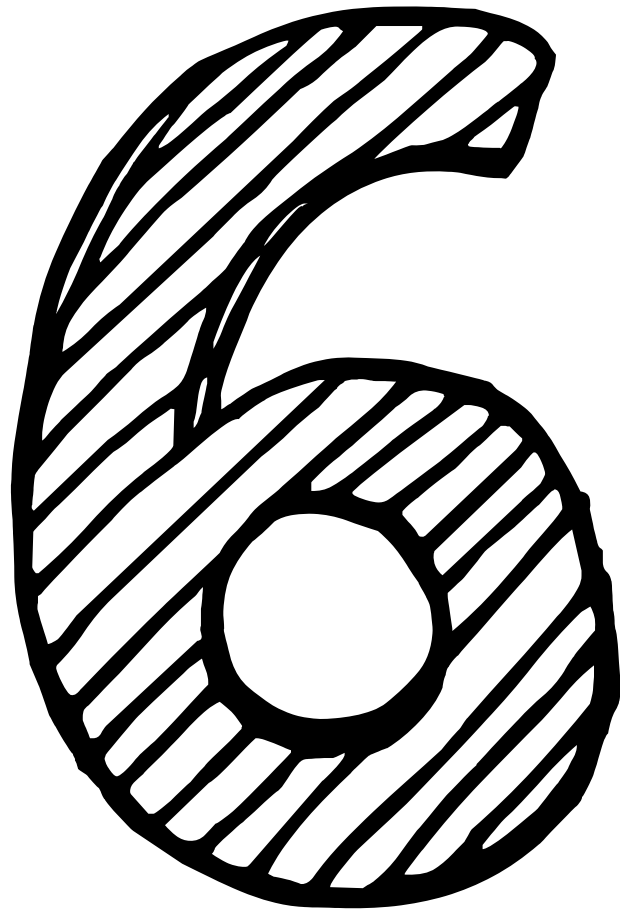
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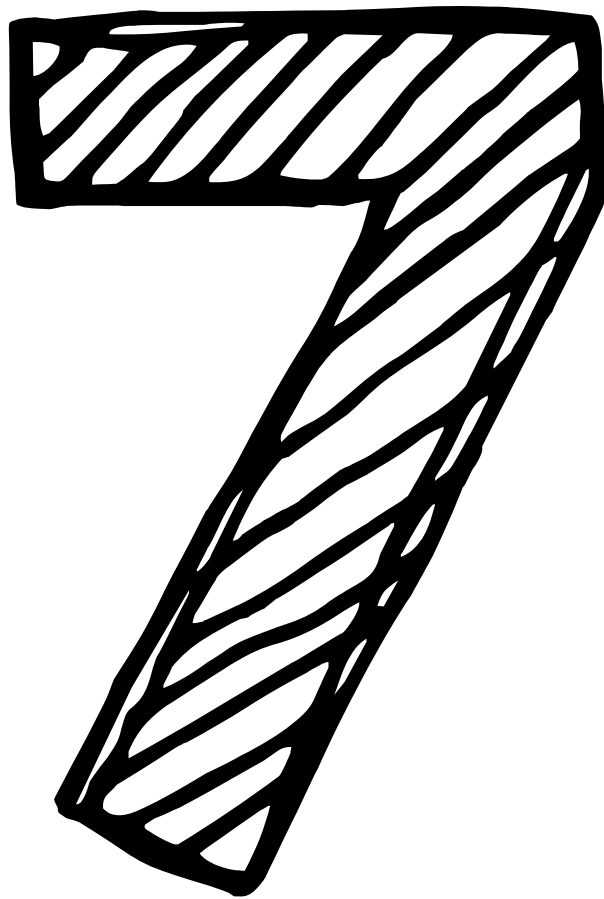
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