

CHAPTER 2 PREVIEW: Core Civilizations

Guiding Question: Compare and Contrast the location, characteristics, and development of early civilizations.

Brainstorm: What characteristics are associated with a “civilization?”

- agricultural / economic surplus
- division of labor
- form of social hierarchy
- emergence of political organizations
- a population center or city that functions as the focal point of government, commerce, trade, and cultural exchange
- shared art and architecture
- religious beliefs, values, and/or philosophies
- currency and systems of trade
- systems of slavery or coerced/forced labor
- creation of military / shared defense
- development of communication or form of writing to record ideas, events, manage taxes, treaties, contracts, laws, etc.

Discussion: What makes a “civilization?”

<u>Central Government</u> - to administer and control peoples and territories; military for defense or maintenance of power	<u>Organized Religion</u> - new beliefs developed and continued to have strong influences in later time periods
<u>Cities</u> - growing population allowed urban centers to develop; population centers; shared food and subsistence	<u>Arts and Architecture</u> - monumental architecture and urban planning; reflected state control
<u>Infrastructure</u> - buildings, roads, transportation, etc needed for the operation of a society	<u>Systems of Writing</u> - record keeping arose independently; spread through interregional exchanges
<u>Specialization of Labor</u> - as more knowledge of agricultural combined with innovative new tools work was divided up, thus allowing greater expertise and efficiency in production	<u>Laws and Legal Codes</u> - reflected existing hierarchies; facilitated rule of government over people
<u>Trade and Commerce</u> - competition for land and resources; more favorably situated had greater access to resources; greater production and profit; territorial expansion and conquest	<u>Social Classes</u> - including patriarchy intensified; typically defined by income and type of work or role in society

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