

The Rise of Civilization - Deep time History

* Plants & animals to domesticate
↓
Food
↓
labour

1. What factors led to the development of civilizations?

- bacteria create oxygen, cambrian explosion? - Big Bang! - Pangea
- mesopotamia - learn to harvest plants - 8000 BC - begin planting seeds
- GRASS! - different species (corn, millet, rice, etc) - 100 mil yrs ago
- ↳ plants spread pollen through air, spread quickly - Mesopotamia: wheat + barely
- ↳ animals in general → cattle: goat, sheep, pigs are tamed instead of hunting (only plant eaters) (hard to domesticate meat eaters, behaviours)
- Climate change - warmth for farming, end of ice ages (10,000 yrs ago)
- snow on mountains TECTONIC collisions = rivers in summer (Tigris, Euphrates)
- ↳ irrigation - food surplus, leads to specializations (not everyone farming)
- Specialization - more things - trade → cities

2. Characteristics of civilization:

- specialized professions due to irrigation - trade + cities
- 35,000 - governments - keep people in check - ^{order} king, priests, soldiers
- ↳ stability/structure → Hierarchy: people dominate others → SLAVERY (elite ppl)
- Empire - much larger socio-political structure
- peace?
- writing systems
- trading
- Farming! + domestication of animals, labour, food (plow)
- new way of living - cities (large groups living close together) - geographic isolation

eg. technologies (crops) & products

3. How does geography influence civilization?

- proper conditions to grow lots of grasses/wheat/agriculture
- animal migration straight through mesopotamia - availability for farming
- 4 domesticate-able animals live in Mesopotamia
- one climatic zone = good climate for animals in large numbers (middle of 3 continents)
- Climate crisis (drought) → more deserts = end of farming revolution
- moist air over mountains = snow → melts in summer = major rivers
- river valley → irrigation is necessary for agriculture → use animals for plowing
- rivers - good for travel + trade - southern winds help boats go down + shore back up again (Egypt)
- cultural matrix for India, Africa, Mesopotamia - sort of the same
- ↳ china is much further + much different
- mainly North-South

snow pack (above)

East-West share climates

much harder