

LESSON 2 - The Neolithic Revolution

Neolithic: "New Stone" Age - a big change from the Paleolithic (Old) Stone Age

Neolithic Revolution - Revolution (change):

Thought by historians as one of the two greatest changes in all of human history!

- people went from hunting/gathering food to producing food through farming/agriculture

- *This was a very SLOW process - hundreds, if not thousands of years!!!*

(2nd Change: **Industrialization**)

* systematic agriculture: people learned to harvest and grow food on a regular basis - they used metal tools that eventually led to the *Bronze Age c. 4000BCE

* domestication: taming, herding, breeding and raising animals (adapting for human benefit)

* *Why do historians think this was so significant?* People did not have to be nomadic anymore

They could settle in one place and live collectively.

- This occurred in different areas of the world

- Changes began to take place due to advances in knowledge and technology

For the first time they began to control their environment

What was necessary before people could settle down in one place and stop a nomadic lifestyle?

a constant and dependable source of food through farming/domestication

artisans: skilled workers who learned trades other than farming (they had time to devote to this now)

Examples: toolmakers, metal workers, potters, builders, cloth makers

culture: way of life of a certain people in a certain place (foods, clothing, beliefs, technology, arts and more)

civilization: a complex culture in which large numbers of humans share a number of common elements

See characteristics ↓

Characteristics of Civilization

Once the food supply was dependable, people had time to pursue other tasks and technology advanced

One advancement led to another and common elements of civilization developed around the world

- 1 Cities - small villages grew into larger and larger cities
- 2 Government - needed organization and order, leaders rose to control many were priests or religious leaders
 - Leaders oversaw public works projects i.e. city walls, irrigation systems, dams, bridges etc.
- 3 Religion - people believed in gods associated with nature these developed into formal religions
 - with leaders, ceremonies, traditions
- 4 Social Structure - leaders arose and dominated others. These divided into upper and lower classes
 - Slaves were common and at the bottom
- 5 Writing - people first needed to keep trade and religious records which developed into written languages
- 6 Art - (and architecture) people expressed their creativity, honor their gods and record their history

How did economies develop in the River Valley Civilizations?

trade surplus (define) and barter (the trading of goods without the use of money) Money came along later...