

## Word Cards

### 1 civilization / complex society



a type of society characterized by most of the following: dense population, agricultural economy, cities, complex social hierarchy, job specialization, centralized state, monumental building, a writing system, and a dominant belief system

**Example:** Ancient Sumer near modern day Iraq is considered the first civilization. (SS070301)

### 2 specialization

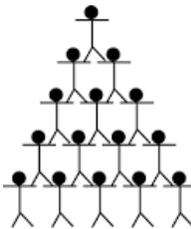


in a civilization when people adopt different jobs like artisan or priest that don't involve growing or gathering food

**Example:** Priests and chiefs are evidence of increased specialization during Era II.

(SS070301)

### 3 social hierarchy



an order of social classes with producers at the bottom and leaders or kings at the top.

**Example:** In Era 2, farmers and slaves were at the bottom of the social hierarchy.

(SS070301)

### 4 river valley civilizations



a type of civilization that developed near or around a major river and considered the earliest known large human civilizations

**Example:** The four river valley civilizations of Afroeurasia were Egypt, Sumer, Indus River, and Yellow River developed between 4,000 BCE and 1,000 BCE.

(SS070301)

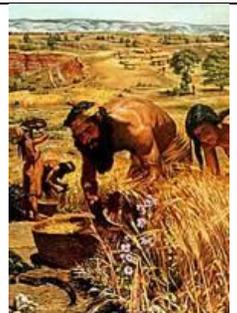
### 5 geographic luck



Jared Diamond's theory that some regions developed more rapidly and expanded and conquered much of the world because the natural resources available to them, climate, and geography gave them an early advantage into agriculture before people in other places.

**Example:** The Fertile Crescent had geographic luck because its mild climate and river valley with fertile soil which made it easier for people to begin farming. (SS070301)

### 6 domestication



the process by which people change plants and animals over time at a genetic level to increase their productivity or other desired traits

**Example:** Fruit domestication happened, for example, when people chose only the largest fruits to eat and then planted their seeds, resulting in bigger fruit in general over time.

(SS070301)

**7**  
**intensification**

action or process that makes something stronger or more extreme; the process of change and growth in Era 2



**Example:** Urbanization is a result of the intensification of the rapid change and growth in cities.

(SS070302)

**8**  
**Mesopotamia/Sumer**



the civilization that developed around the Tigris and Euphrates rivers around 3500 BC/BCE

**Example:** Sumer was a complex ancient civilization that exists in modern Iraq.

(SS070302)

**9**  
**Nile River**

the longest river in the world located in Northeastern Africa.



**Example:** Cities developed along the Nile River and were unified into a complex society over five thousand years ago.

(SS070302)

**10**  
**Indus River**

a large river surrounded by fertile land in modern India/Pakistan.



**Example:** The Harrapan culture developed along the Indus River during Era 2.

(SS070302)

**11**  
**Yellow River**

a large river in northern China, where Chinese civilization developed



**Example:** The Shang dynasty ruled the Yellow River valley for 500 years.

(SS070302)

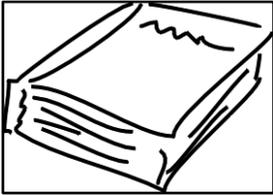
**12**  
**Fertile Crescent**

the crescent-shaped area of arable land, that is considered the cradle of civilization



**Example:** The Fertile Crescent was home to the earliest known western civilizations.

(SS070302)

<p><b>13</b> <b>historical account</b></p> <p>a representation of an event from the past that is put together using evidence from multiple sources</p> <p><i>Example:</i> The textbook's account of Mesopotamia did not mention Hammurabi's code.</p> <p>(SS070303)</p> 	<p><b>14</b> <b>evidence</b></p> <p>facts or information that can be used to test whether a belief or proposition is true or valid</p> <p><i>Example:</i> Sumerian seals in ancient Egypt are evidence of trade between the two civilizations.</p> <p>(SS070303)</p> 
<p><b>15</b> <b>scribe</b></p> <p>a person who was able to read and write, allowing for the creation of written records and messages</p> <p><i>Example:</i> Egyptian scribes were seen to live a better life than workers.</p> <p>(SS070303)</p> 	<p><b>16</b> <b>laborer</b></p> <p>a person who worked as a farmers, builder, or general worker during Era II</p> <p><i>Example:</i> Workers were at the bottom of the social hierarchy.</p> <p>(SS070303)</p> 
<p><b>17</b> <b>polytheistic</b></p> <p>worshipping or believing in more than one god</p> <p><i>Example:</i> The Egyptians recognized and worshipped more than 40 gods.</p> <p>(SS070303)</p> 	<p><b>18</b> <b>elite</b></p> <p>a group of people considered to be the best in a particular society or category because of their power, talent, wealth, or other characteristic</p> <p><i>Example:</i> The elite in Sumer controlled food production and trade.</p> <p>(SS070303)</p> 

**19**  
**cuneiform**

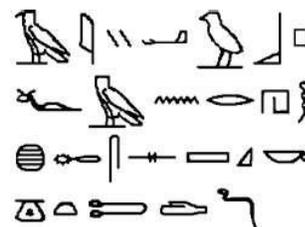
characters formed by the arrangement of small wedge-shaped elements and used in ancient Sumerian, Akkadian, Assyrian, Babylonian, and Persian writing.



**Example:** The Sumerians used cuneiform writing to keep track of agricultural products and trade. (SS070304)

**20**  
**hieroglyphics**

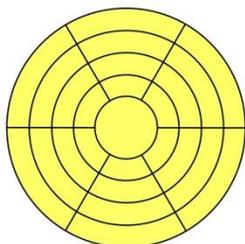
writing system that uses symbols or pictures to denote objects, concepts, or sounds, originally and especially in the writing system of ancient Egypt



**Example:** The Egyptians use hieroglyphics to record the histories of their rulers. (SS070304)

**21**  
**centralized authority**

an organizing structure where the main unit has the power, right, and ability to control smaller units



**Example:** King Sargon developed centralized authority in Sumer. (SS070304)

**22**  
**laws**

a rule of conduct or action that is binding and enforced by a controlling authority



**Example:** Early civilizations had laws to protect farmers' access to water. (SS070304)

**23**  
**nomadic**

having no fixed home and move from place to place in search of food, water, and grazing land



and

**Example:** Nomadic pastoralists living in ancient times sometimes interacted with peoples of early civilizations in Afroeurasia. (SS070305)

**24**  
**pastoralism**

a way of life where a group of people survives from the secondary products of herds. People follow patterns of grazing to keep their herds alive.



**Example:** People in Europe and inner Asia practiced pastoralism while people in the Fertile Crescent were agrarian. (SS070305)

**25**  
**pastoral nomads**

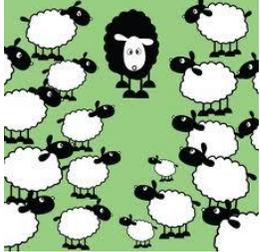


people who depend on domestic livestock, migrate in an established territory to find pasture for their animals.

**Example:** Pastoral Nomads invaded river valley civilizations.

(SS070305)

**26**  
**herds**



large groups of domesticated animals like sheep or goats

**Example:** Some people gathered herds of animals and traveled with them across great distances.

(SS070305)

**27**  
**Great Arid Zone**

the belt of dry and semi-arid land that extends across Afroeurasia from the Sahara Desert in the west to Manchuria in northern China.

**Example:** Humans used domesticated animals to live on the margins of the Great Arid Zone.

(SS070305)

**28**  
**steppes**



a vast grassland

**Example:** The Eurasian steppe was home to many pastoral people during Era II.

(SS070305)

**29**  
**cultural diffusion**



the process of different cultures adopted ideas and technology from other cultures over time

**Example:** Cultural diffusion across the Mediterranean Sea brought the Phoenician alphabet to cultures in Europe and Africa.

(SS070306)

**30**    **chariot**



a wheeled carriage powered by horses that was essential for trade and warfare throughout Afroeurasia beginning in about 3000 BC/BCE

**Example:** The Hyksos were able to swiftly attack and invade Egypt thanks to chariots.

(SS070306)

### 31 metallurgy



the art and science of producing metal goods, all the way from mining and extracting metal from mineral ores to the shaping of metal objects

**Example:** Early metallurgy in human history centered upon the mining and use of copper.  
(SS070306)

### 32 technology



the use and knowledge of tools, crafts, or technical systems to solve problems and/or complete different tasks

**Example:** An early human technology involved learning how to strategically use fire to clear land for different purposes.  
(SS070306)

### 33 bronze



a metal alloy (metal mixture) consisting of mostly copper, but also with tin or lead. It is harder and stronger than plain copper

**Example:** Swords made from bronze became important during Era 2.  
(SS070306)

### 34 textile



cloth or fabric that is woven, knitted, or otherwise manufactured

**Example:** Clothing in some areas was made from wool textiles.  
(SS070306)

### 35 Bronze Age



a period after the Stone Age characterized by the manufacture and use of bronze tools and weapons made by heating and combining copper and tin

**Example:** During the Bronze Age, some humans created more durable tools than during the Stone Age.  
(SS070306)

### 36 kingdom

A country, state, or territory ruled by a king or queen or other monarch



*Example:* The kingdom of Assyria was powerful for a time.

(SS070307)

### 37 dynasty

a series of rulers in a particular place considered members of the same family

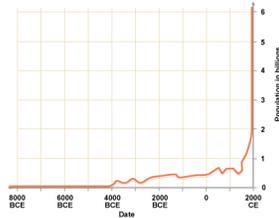


*Example:* The Shang Dynasty ruled China for many years.

(SS070307)

### 38 population growth

increase in the number of people in a particular place



*Example:* During periods of population growth, there is a need for more food and resources.

(SS070307)

### 39 conquest

taking control of a people or place through military force



*Example:* The Egyptians gained control of different areas through conquest.

(SS070307)

### 40 tribute

a gift or payment to one who has power over another to show respect and obedience

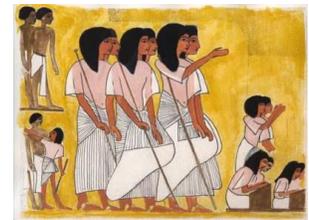


*Example:* The pharaohs of Egypt received tribute from many other societies.

(SS070307)

### 41 nobles

a group of people with high rank and privilege, generally gained through birth or connection to a ruler



*Example:* The Pharaoh's brothers and sisters were part of the nobility of Egypt.

(SS070307)

**42**  
**world zones**

areas of the world that had lots of movement and interaction among the people who lived there, but that were not connected to other world zones



**Example:** People in the world zone of the Americas did not trade with people in Afroeurasia until after 1492.

(SS070308)

**43**  
**sedentism**

when people began living permanently in one place instead of moving around to find food



**Example:** The people of Catal Hoyuk did not move from place to place, but exhibited sedentism.

(SS070308)

**44**  
**Sub-Saharan Africa**

the part of Africa below the Sahara Desert



**Example:** The Congo River is in Sub-Saharan Africa.

(SS070308)

**45**  
**The Americas**

the connected regions of North and South America



**Example:** Agriculture developed later in the Americas than it did in Afroeurasia.

(SS070308)

**46**  
**Oceania**

the region of the world centered on the islands of the tropical Pacific Ocean



**Example:** People had to travel by boat to settle in Oceania.

(SS070308)