Period 1: Technological and Environmental Transformations, to c. 600 B.C.E.

# **Key Concept 1.1.** Big Geography and the Peopling of the Earth

The term Big Geography draws attention to the global nature of world history. Throughout the Paleolithic period, humans migrated from Africa to Eurasia, Australia, and the Americas. Early humans were mobile and creative in adapting to different geographical settings from savanna to desert to Ice Age tundra. By making an analogy with modern hunter-forager societies, anthropologists infer that these bands were relatively egalitarian. Humans also developed varied and sophisticated technologies.

ENV-4: Explain how environmental factors influenced human migrations and settlements.

1.1.I.A - As humans adapted to new environments, they had to develop increasingly diverse and sophisticated tools — including multiple uses of fire. Explain what types of tools and technologies they developed.

1.1.I.B. - Describe the small groups in which early people lived. How did these groups structure social, economic, and political activity? Explain how these groups exchange people, ideas, and goods?

# **Key Concept 1.2.** The Neolithic Revolution and Early Agricultural Societies

In response to warming climates at the end of the last Ice Age, from about 10,000 years ago, some groups adapted to the environment in new ways, while others remained hunter-foragers. Settled agriculture appeared in several different parts of the world. The switch to agriculture created a more reliable, but not necessarily more diversified, food supply. Agriculturalists also had a massive impact on the environment through intensive cultivation of selected plants to the exclusion of others, through the construction of irrigation systems, and through the use of domesticated animals for food and for labor. Populations increased; family groups gave way to village life and, later, to urban life with all its complexity. Patriarchy and forced labor systems developed, giving elite men concentrated power over most of the other people in their societies. Pastoralism emerged in parts of Africa and Eurasia. Pastoral peoples domesticated animals and led their herds around grazing ranges. Like agriculturalists, pastoralists tended to be more socially stratified than hunter-foragers. Because pastoralists were mobile, they rarely accumulated large amounts of material possessions, which would have been a hindrance when they changed grazing areas. The pastoralists’ mobility allowed them to become an important conduit for technological change as they interacted with settled populations.

1.2.I.B. - People in each region domesticated locally available plants and animals. What impact did this have?

1.2.I.C. - What environmentally negative effect resulted from pastoralism developing in Afro-Eurasian grassland?

1.2.I.D. - How did agricultural communities go about clearing land and creating water control systems needed for crop production? What effect did this have on environmental diversity?

1.2.II.A – Pastoralism and agriculture led to more reliable and abundant food supplies. Explain how this created the following chain of events…Increased population – Specialization of labor – New social classes including new classes of artisans and warriors – Development of elites.

1.2.II.B. - Explain how the following technological innovations led to improvements in agricultural production, trade, and transportation.

* Pottery
* Plows
* Woven textiles
* Wheels and wheeled vehicles
* Metallurgy

1.2.II.C. - Why did patriarchal forms of social organization develop in both pastoralist and agrarian societies?

# **Key Concept 1.3.** The Development and Interactions of Early Agricultural, Pastoral, and Urban Societies

From about 5,000 years ago, urban societies developed, laying the foundations for the first civilizations. The term *civilization* is normally used to designate large societies with cities and powerful states. While there were many differences between civilizations, they also shared important features. They all produced agricultural surpluses that permitted significant specialization of labor. All civilizations contained cities and generated complex institutions, such as political bureaucracies, armies, and religious hierarchies. They also featured clearly stratified social hierarchies and organized long-distance trading relationships. Economic exchanges intensified within and between civilizations, as well as with nomadic pastoralists.

As populations grew, competition for surplus resources, especially food, led to greater social stratification, specialization of labor, increased trade, more complex systems of government and religion, and the development of record keeping. As civilizations expanded, they had to balance their need for more resources with environmental constraints such as the danger of undermining soil fertility. Finally, the accumulation of wealth in settled communities spurred warfare between communities and/or with pastoralists; this violence drove the development of new technologies of war and urban defense.

1.3.I. - Explain how a core/foundational civilization developed in Mesopotamia in the Tigris and Euphrates River Valleys.

1.3.I. - Explain how a core/foundational civilization developed in Egypt in the Nile River Valley.

1.3.I. - Explain how a core/foundational civilization developed in Mohenjo-daro and Harappa in the Indus River Valley.

1.3.I. - Explain how a core/foundational civilization developed with the Shang in the Yellow River (or Huang He) Valley.

1.3.I. - Explain how a core/foundational civilization developed with the Olmecs in Mesoamerica.

1.3.I. - Explain how a core/foundational civilization developed with the Chavin in Andean South America.

1.3.II.A. – States were powerful new systems of rule that mobilized surplus labor and resources over large areas. Rulers of early states often claimed divine connections to power. Rulers also often enjoyed military support. Give examples of how this all played out in Mesopotamia.

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1.3.II.B. – What advantages did the Egyptians have over their competitors? What did they gain from these advantages?

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1.3.II.C. – Pastoralists were often disseminators of new weapons (composite bows, iron weapons) and new modes of transportation (chariots and horseback riding) that transformed warfare in agrarian civilizations. Give examples of where this occurred.

1.3.III.A. - Explain how this civilization used monumental architecture and urban planning.

1.3.III.A. – Explain the purpose of the following developments in monumental architecture and urban planning.

* Ziggurats
* Pyramids
* Temples
* Defensive walls
* Streets and roads
* Sewage and water systems

1.3.III.B. – The following systems of record keeping arose independently in all early civilizations and subsequently spread. Identify where the following systems of record keeping were developed and some of the uses of each.

* Cuneiform
* Hieroglyphs
* Pictographs
* Alphabets
* Quipu

1.3.III.C. – How did the Code of Hammurabi (Babylonia) reflect existing hierarchies and facilitate the rule of the government over the people?

1.3.III.D. – Explain the importance of the Vedic religion.

1.3.III.D. –Explain the importance of Hebrew monotheism.

1.3.III.D. –Explain the importance of the Zoroastrian religion.

1.3.III.E. – Trade expanded throughout this period from local to regional to interregional with civilizations exchanging goods, cultural ideas, and technology. Explain how this occurred between Mesopotamia and Egypt.

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1.3.III.F. – How did social hierarchies, including patriarchy, intensify as states expanded and cities multiplied?