

Period 1 Key Concepts 8000 BCE to 600 BCE

Key Concept 1.1. Big Geography and the Peopling of the Earth	Key Concept 1.2. The Neolithic Revolution and Early Agricultural Societies	Key Concept 1.3. The Development and Interactions of Early Agricultural, Pastoral, and Urban Societies
<p>I. Archeological evidence indicates that during the Paleolithic era, hunting-foraging bands of humans gradually migrated from their origin in East Africa to Eurasia, Australia, and the Americas, adapting their technology and cultures to new climate regions.</p> <p>A. Humans developed increasingly diverse and sophisticated tools—including multiple uses of fire—as the adapted to new environments.</p> <p>B. People lived in small groups that structured social, economic, and political activity. These bands exchanged people, ideas, and goods.</p>	<p>I. Beginning about 10,000 years ago, the Neolithic Revolution led to the development of new and more complex economic and social systems.</p> <p>A. Possibly as a response to climatic change, permanent agricultural villages emerged first in the lands of the eastern Mediterranean. Agriculture emerged at different times in Mesopotamia, the Nile River Valley and Sub-Saharan Africa, the Indus River Valley, the Yellow River or Huang He Valley, Papua New Guinea, Mesoamerica, and the Andes.</p> <p>B. People in each region domesticated locally available plants and animals.</p> <p>C. Pastoralism developed in Afro–Eurasian grasslands, negatively affecting the environment when lands were overgrazed.</p> <p>D. Agricultural communities had to work cooperatively to clear land and create the water control systems needed for crop production, drastically affecting environmental diversity.</p> <p>II. Agriculture and pastoralism began to transform human societies.</p> <p>A. Possibly as a response to climatic change, permanent agricultural villages emerged first in the lands of the eastern Mediterranean. Agriculture emerged at different times in Mesopotamia, the Nile River Valley and Sub-Saharan Africa, the Indus River Valley, the Yellow River or Huang He Valley, Papua New Guinea, Mesoamerica, and the Andes.</p> <p>B. People in each region domesticated locally available plants and animals.</p> <p>C. Pastoralism developed in Afro–Eurasian grasslands, negatively affecting the environment</p>	<p>I. Core and foundational civilizations developed in a variety of geographical and environmental settings where agriculture flourished, including Mesopotamia in the Tigris and Euphrates River Valleys, Egypt in the Nile River Valley, Mohenjo-daro and Harappa in the Indus River Valley, Shang in the Yellow River (or Huang He) Valley, Olmec in Mesoamerica, and Chavín in Andean South America.</p> <p>II. The first states emerged within core civilizations in Mesopotamia and the Nile Valley.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>B. As states grew and competed for land and resources, the more favorably situated — including the Hittites, who had access to iron — had greater access to resources, produced more surplus food, and experienced growing populations, enabling them to undertake territorial expansion and conquer surrounding states.</p> <p>C. Pastoralists were often the developers and disseminators of new weapons and modes of transportation that transformed warfare in agrarian civilizations.</p> <p>III. Culture played a significant role in unifying states through laws, language, literature, religion, myths, and monumental art.</p> <p>A. Early civilizations developed monumental</p>

	when lands were overgrazed.	architecture and urban planning. B. Systems of record keeping arose independently in all early civilizations and subsequently spread. C. States developed legal codes that reflected existing hierarchies and facilitated the rule of governments over people. D. New religious beliefs that developed in this period — including the Vedic religion, Hebrew monotheism, and Zoroastrianism — continued to have strong influences in later periods. E. Trade expanded throughout this period from local to regional to interregional with civilizations exchanging goods, cultural ideas, and technology. F. Social hierarchies, including patriarchy, intensified as states expanded and cities multiplied.
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