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Global - Mr.Badgley    1WW

#11 What factors contributed to the development of early civilization?

1. Domestication - the process where a population of living organisms are genetically changed to benefit mankind.  
Neolithic Revolution - the wide-scale change of humans from a lifestyle of hunting, gathering, and moving to one of agriculture and staying in one place. This allowed humans to field a larger population.  
Barter - to exchange goods and services for other goods and services without using money  
Ziggurat - A pyramid like structure consisting of steps of the ancient Mesopotamians. There may be a shrine at the top.

2. There are several factors that played a role in the beginnings of agriculture. One of the first was a shifting climate. As time progressed, animals moved to different areas, plants had different growing patterns, and they also had a different distribution. Rising temperatures provided longer growing seasons and drier land for growing wild grasses. The second factor, experimentation, came along. People must have noticed that plants grew from seeds in the wild and by their campsites. They planted and nurtured them. Early farmers distributed the seeds sporadically, until they realized that bigger plants produced seeds that grew bigger plants and having different strains of crops was also beneficial. A large supply of grain led to population boom. The third factor was the diminishing returns from hunting and gathering. As the food yield decreased, more people turned to farming to make up for it.

3. There are a number of characteristics of civilization. One is advancing cities, centers of trade. A second characteristic is that the cities must have some forms of institutions whether it be governments, religions, or the economy. A third characteristic would be job specializations. As surplus food freed up time and allowed for barter, people could focus on one job to make items or perform a service. A fifth characteristic would be writing. A form of record keeping was needed as the information to manage large populations and their resources became too great to keep in one's head. A fifth would be improved technology. Ox-drawn plows, the potter's wheel, and bronze were noticeable advancements of early civilizations.

4. The social structure of village life greatly changed as their economies grew. Building and maintaining large amounts of irrigation required the work of many people. Special groups of workers emerged, forming social classes with different amounts of wealth, power, and influence. Leaders would have more wealth, power, and influence than a stone mason. A stone mason would have less than a slave. Religion also became more organized. Those who aligned themselves with the common religion found more respect than those who did not.