

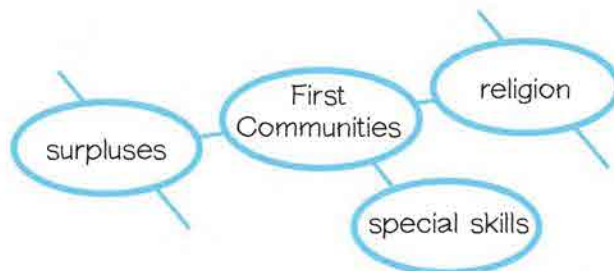
## MAIN IDEAS

- 1 **Culture** Some simple farming villages expanded and developed into more complex villages.
- 2 **Culture** A cultural pattern involving early forms of government, specialized workers, and social classes began to develop in complex villages.
- 3 **Culture** The way of life in a complex village was different from that in a simple farming village.

## TAKING NOTES

### Reading Skill: Categorizing

Sorting information into groups helps you understand differences among the groups. In Lesson 3, look for the following three categories of information about the first communities. Record examples or details for each category in a web diagram.



 Skillbuilder Handbook, page R6



▲ **Brooch** This prehistoric brooch was used for fastening a cloak at the neck. It was found on the bank of the Thames River in England.

## Words to Know

Understanding the following words will help you read this lesson:

**potter** a person who makes objects, such as pots, from moist clay hardened by heat (page 66)

*The potter gave plates and bowls to the farmer.*

**encourage** to help to bring about; to foster (page 66)

*Great increases in food production encouraged population growth.*

**inhabitant** a resident of a place (page 67)

*Artifacts found in the ancient city give clues about the religious life of its inhabitants.*

**suggest** to show indirectly (page 68)

*The presence of certain kinds of rocks would suggest that a volcano was located nearby.*



# The First Communities

## TERMS & NAMES

surplus

specialization

artisan

social class

government

**Build on What You Know** Do you live in the country, a small town, a city, or a suburb? In the distant past, simple farming villages developed, over hundreds of years, into more complex villages and eventually into cities.

## Villages Around the World

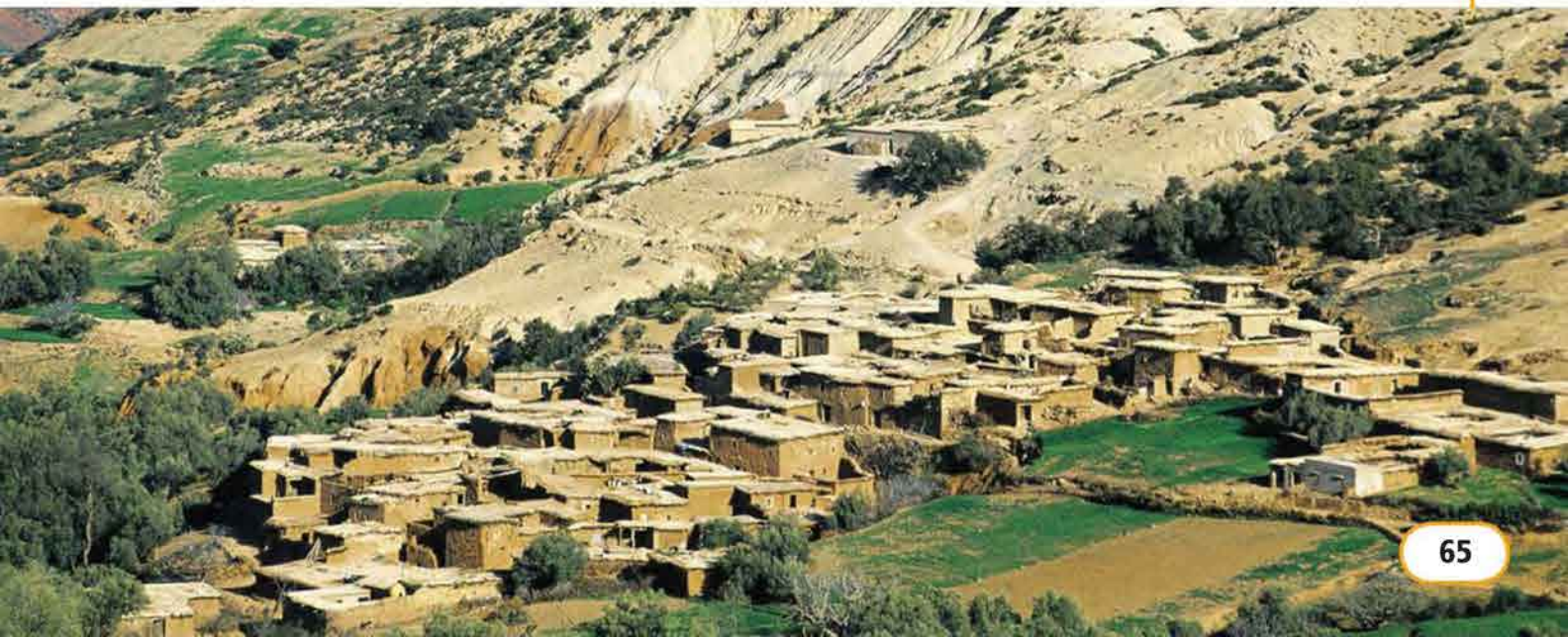
### 1 ESSENTIAL QUESTION How did farming villages develop?

When villages prospered, they were able to support more people. Their populations grew. People's skills became more specialized. Village economies became more varied.

**Surpluses Boost Development** As agricultural techniques improved, farmers sometimes produced **surpluses**—more than what they needed to survive. For example, farmers might grow more grain than their families or village could use. The extra was an economic surplus.

Surpluses in early farming villages were not limited to food. Surpluses also included materials for making cloth and other products. Sheep raisers, for example, may have had surplus wool. Surpluses of food and other materials in good seasons helped villages survive bad seasons.

**Moroccan Village**  
This modern village in the Atlas Mountains of Morocco in North Africa continues a way of life that has lasted for thousands of years. ▼





**People Develop Different Skills** As farmers began producing surpluses, not everyone had to raise food. People began specializing in other kinds of work. A **specialization** is a skill in one kind of work.

Potters and weavers probably were among the first to specialize. They made products that everyone could use. Potters made vessels for carrying and storing water and food. Weavers created cloth from spun cotton, wool, and flax—the plant from which linen is made. Potters and weavers traded their products for food.

Certain people in a community were regarded as holy. These holy people, or shamans, interpreted natural events such as rain or fire. They explained the meaning of a good or bad harvest. They were also healers. They were thought to be in contact with the spiritual world. Such people evolved into the priests of the first cities.

The way of life in a village was new and very different. Hunter-gatherers led a nomadic life, moving from place to place. Villagers settled in one place and no longer depended on hunting and gathering for food. Instead, farmers worked to raise enough food for everyone in the village. Work became more specialized, with nonfarmers trading their goods and services for food.

**REVIEW** How did surpluses affect village life?

## Simple Villages Grow More Complex

**2 ESSENTIAL QUESTION** How did life in villages become more complex?

Surpluses and specialization led to the growth of villages. Life became more complex in certain villages as they developed.

**A Changing Way of Life** Extra food and other supplies meant that more people could live together. In this way, surpluses encouraged the growth of villages and populations. Surpluses also led to increased trade. People in one village might trade their surplus food for the surplus tools in another village.



▲ Necklace and Pottery People with special skills made different objects. The pottery jar was made about 1800 B.C. The necklace is roughly the same age. Both were produced by early civilizations in Southwest Asia.



Workers became more specialized. Potters, weavers, and other craftspeople often spent years learning their skills. People trained in skills or crafts are called **artisans**. Carpenters, toolmakers, cloth makers, and potters are all artisans. People with similar skills developed into occupational classes. In this way, specialization led to the development of social classes. A **social class** is a group of people with similar customs, background, training, and income, such as farmers, craftspeople, priests, or rulers.

As ancient communities grew into larger villages, people felt the need for laws and leadership to keep order and settle disputes. People developed early forms of **government**—that is, ways of creating order and providing leadership. Early humans made laws to make their communities both safer and more stable.

#### Vocabulary Strategy

*Artisan* means “a skilled worker or craftsman.” Its **antonym**, or opposite, is *unskilled worker*. The movement from unskilled to skilled workers represented an important change.

**From Simple to Complex Villages** A complex village had a larger population than a simple village, with people living closer together. The larger population had a greater supply of skills, ideas, and needs. As a result, life in a complex village was more varied and complicated than that in a simple village.

**REVIEW** What are some examples of specialized labor?

## Life in a Complex Village

- 3 ESSENTIAL QUESTION** How did life in a complex village compare with that in a simple village?

Complex villages were not like the cities of today. Although one of these villages may have had as many as 5,000 people, it would be quite small by today’s standards. However, thousands of years ago, a village with a population of 5,000 would have been very large.

Technology was still in its early stages. Electricity, rapid transit, sewer systems, and concrete buildings support today’s huge city populations. In ancient times, these tools and technologies had not yet been invented. Most farming villages had only a few hundred inhabitants.

#### Characteristics of Complex Villages

Larger populations	thousands of people
Beginnings of government	leaders; laws or other means of settling disputes
Public buildings	shrines and other accommodations for gatherings of people
Specialized workers	artisans and other skilled workers
Social classes	groups with similar trainings and incomes
Trade	exchange of surplus goods



### Artifacts

Primary sources include artifacts, or objects, from the past. Artifacts include tools, weapons, sculptures, and jewelry made by human beings. These objects can tell us much about ancient peoples and cultures.

- The seal at the top was found in a burial site in Catal Huyuk. (chah•TAHL hoo•YOOK) It was used as a stamp to show ownership. None of the designs is repeated on the many seals that have been found.
- The dagger at the bottom was also found in Catal Huyuk. It has a snake handle. The blade is made of flint imported from Syria. It was probably used in religious ceremonies or rituals.

#### DOCUMENT-BASED QUESTION

What conclusions can you draw about the life of the people in Catal Huyuk by looking at these artifacts?



**Catal Huyuk** Catal Huyuk is an example of a complex village. Its ruins are at least 8,000 years old, and it had a population of about 5,000. Archaeologists began unearthing and studying Catal Huyuk in 1961.

Catal Huyuk is located in Turkey, where agriculture developed fairly early. (See map on page 61.) The bones of many water birds found at Catal Huyuk suggest that the village was built in a marshy area. Farming probably took place in outlying areas.

**A Village Develops** Although Catal Huyuk had a small population, its site has yielded evidence of the complex life of its dwellers. The layout of the village shows that people lived in clusters of permanent buildings. Houses had similar floor plans, although the bricks used to build them varied in size.

Other buildings served as shrines, where religious ceremonies took place. Wall paintings in the shrines have religious meaning. Small amounts of charred grain and other offerings to the gods show that these buildings were sacred sites.

The people of Catal Huyuk developed special skills, such as making tools. Artisans also created luxury items, such as mirrors and metal beads. They produced cloth, wooden vessels, and simple pottery. Artists created murals on the clay walls of many buildings. Specialization established Catal Huyuk as a center of trade, culture, and influence.



**REVIEW** What characteristics of Catal Huyuk identify it as a complex village?

### Lesson Summary

- Improved farming techniques enabled village farmers to grow surplus food.
- Simple villages sometimes grew into complex villages.
- Catal Huyuk is the site of an early complex village.

▲ **Wall Painting**  
This painting shows a red bull surrounded by humans. It was painted on the inside wall of a shrine in the village of Catal Huyuk.

### Why It Matters Now . . .

The development of complex villages was an important step in the change from simple villages to cities.

## 3 Lesson Review

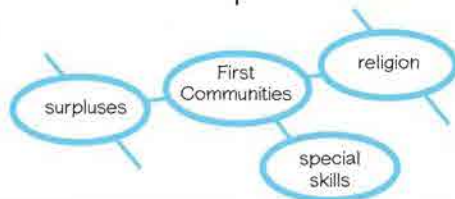
### Terms & Names

1. Explain the importance of
- |                |              |            |
|----------------|--------------|------------|
| surplus        | artisan      | government |
| specialization | social class |            |

### Using Your Notes

**Categorizing** Use your completed web diagram to answer the following question:

2. Why were pottery and weaving among the first skills to be developed?



### Main Ideas

3. Why did surpluses lead to the growth of trade?
4. What are the basic characteristics of a complex village?
5. How does its inhabitants' way of life indicate that Catal Huyuk was a complex village?

### Critical Thinking

6. **Comparing and Contrasting** What would be the pros and cons of living as a nomad? in a simple village? in a complex village?
7. **Making Inferences** How did specialization help to establish social classes?

**Homework Helper**  
ClassZone.com

### Activity

**Planning a Museum Display** Plan a museum display showing specializations that people practiced in early villages. On a poster, make a two-column chart. List the display items on the left. Opposite each item, write a brief description.



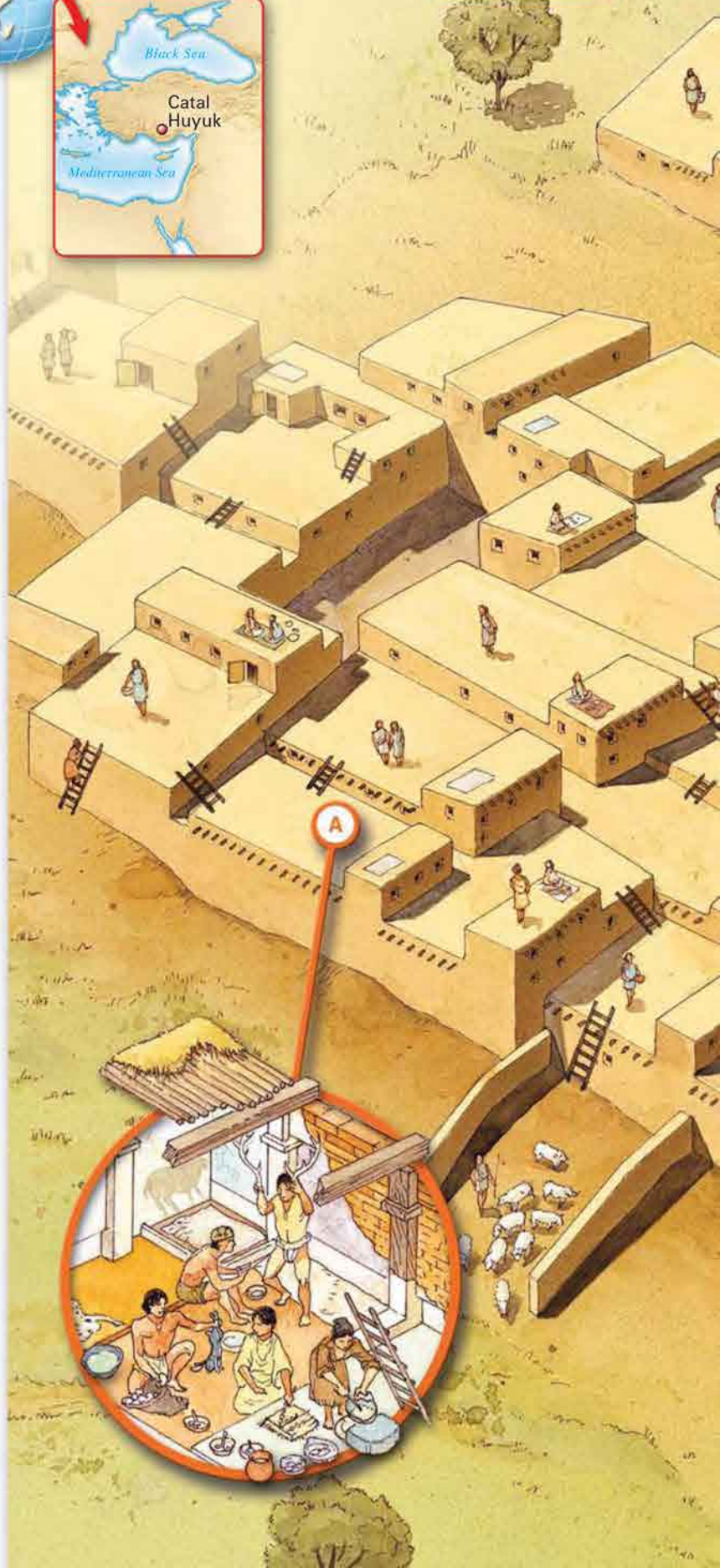


## Living in a Complex Village

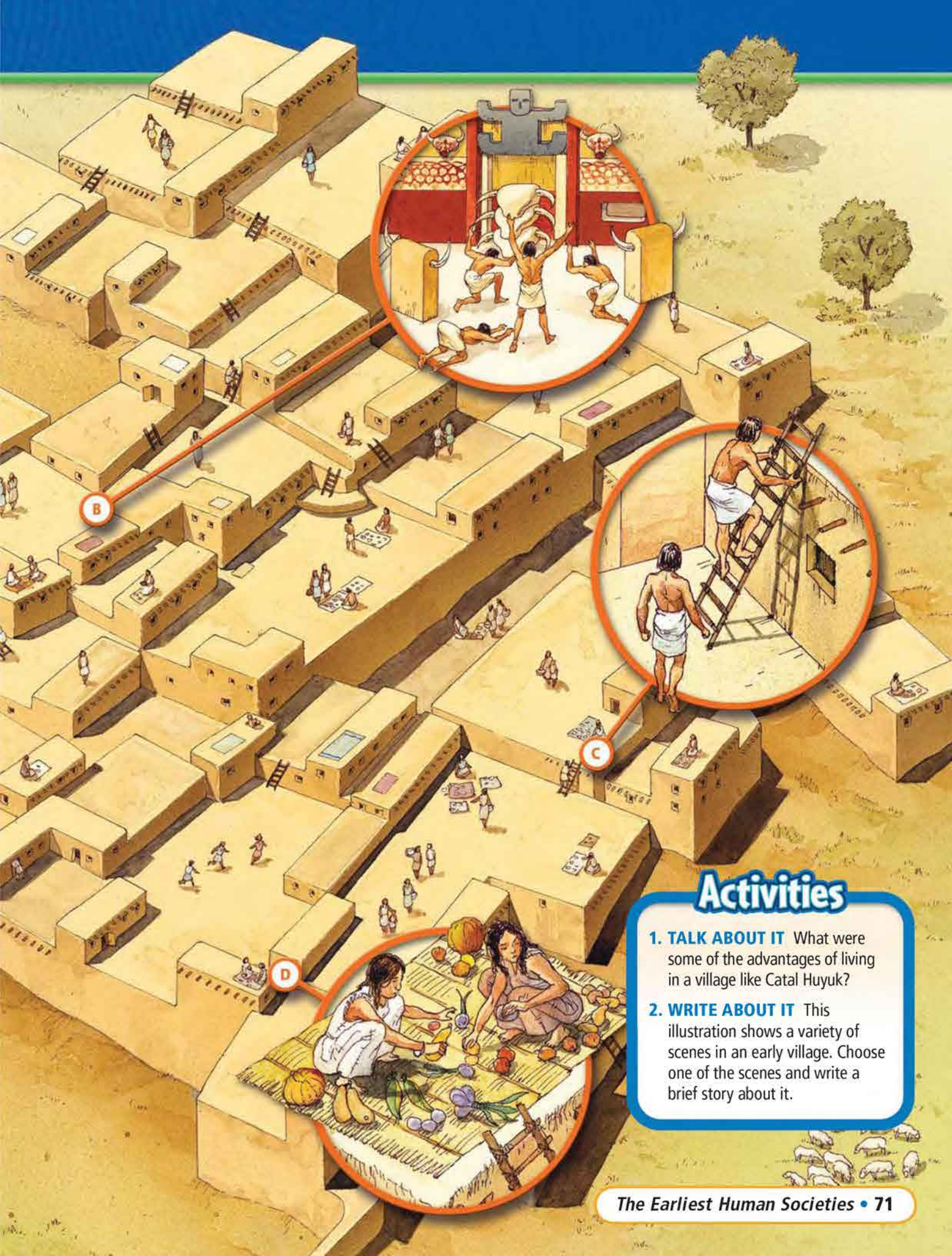
**Purpose:** To learn about life in a village around 7000 B.C.

Catal Huyuk was located on a river in a plain that was well suited for growing crops. As the settlement prospered, permanent homes were built of mud brick. Around 7000 B.C., perhaps as many as 5,000 or 6,000 people lived in the town, which contained more than a thousand houses. Many different activities were part of daily life in the town.

- A House Interiors** The houses had windows and doors. Within the houses, people attended to their daily chores, including the preparation of food. The clay hearths and ovens were built in and had curbs around them to prevent embers from spreading.
- B Shrines** Shrines contained bulls' heads and horns. These were common religious symbols in the village.
- C Houses with Ladders** Over a thousand houses were packed together. No streets or alleys separated the houses. For security, people used ladders to enter the village.
- D Rooftops** People used the rooftops for a variety of purposes. They traveled across roofs. They slept on the roofs in hot weather. They also used the roofs to dry their crops in the sun.







## Activities

- 1. TALK ABOUT IT** What were some of the advantages of living in a village like Catal Huyuk?
- 2. WRITE ABOUT IT** This illustration shows a variety of scenes in an early village. Choose one of the scenes and write a brief story about it.