

7 ELEMENTS OF CIVILIZATION

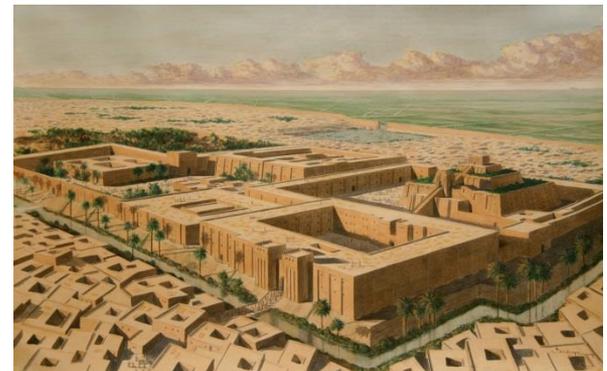
How a culture is considered a civilization

What is Civilization?

- The Oxford Dictionary gives one definition as **"the act or process of civilizing or being civilized."**
- The other definition that the Oxford Dictionary gives is: **"an advanced state of human society, in which a high level of culture, science, industry, and government has been reached."**

Element #1: Cities

- The first cities began as small villages of people who once were hunters and gatherers.
- Agricultural Revolution
 - more control over their environment.
 - could grow food to store during the leaner months of winter.
 - give up their nomadic ways and stay in one place. Portable huts became permanent houses.
- The first cities were known as **city-states** because they had a city and farmland.



Element #2: Government

- Cities brought about another challenge- how do you organize thousands of strangers and keep things from becoming chaotic?
- Hunter – gatherer government systems didn't work
- A central government is necessary to keep
 - peace, make decisions
 - ensure that things get done without people beating each other over the head.
- Ancient Kings extended to their own city-state.
 - Each city ruled like an independent country does today with its own system of money, measurements, laws, taxes and religions.

Element #3: Job Specialization

- Job specialization is the most important elements
- When people specialize, the things they make can be produced faster and with higher quality.
- These cities became centers of trade, art, and religion.



Element #4: Arts and Architecture

- In the villages entertainment keeping yourself amused from art, music, and of course the street performers.
- People have been creating art since the days of the cavemen. As people began to specialize, more goods are produced which means more wealth was being earned from trade.
- If you have the money, why not spend it?

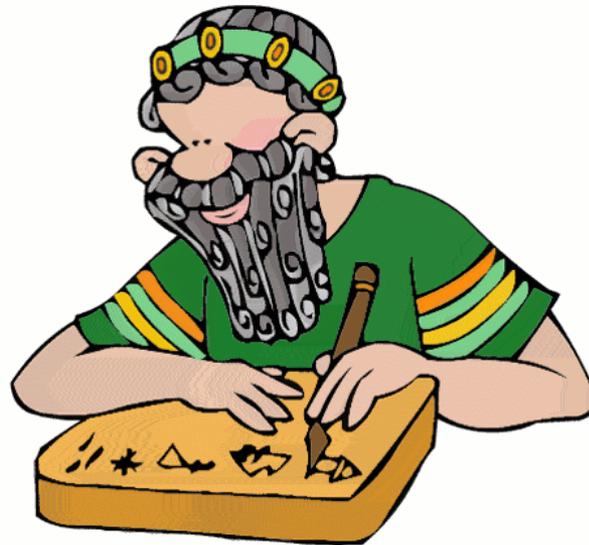


Element #5: Social Classes

- What determines a person's social class is based on your **birth (family status) and your culture**. Your **wealth, job, who you married, and where you could live**. Not all cultures value the same things and therefore not all class systems work the same way.
- Example from the Feudal System found in Medieval Europe:
 - King – whose word was law
 - Nobles – 2% of the population, but holds the most wealth and land
 - Merchants/Professionals (bankers, lawyers, doctors, factory owners)
 - Peasants – servants or farm workers – could not read or write or make enough to pay taxes.

Element #6: Writing

- The purpose of writing is pretty obvious- to **keep track** of things you'd otherwise forget.
- As societies become more complex there is a need for **keeping records** of all sorts of things from **tax records**, to **legal codes**, to **important battles**, and **birth records**.



Element #7: Religion

- The religion of ancient humans fell into one of two categories: Animist and Polytheistic.
 - **Animist:** Animists believe that there is one creator God who no longer has contact with humans. However, animists believe that a connection with God exists through spirit forces that exist in nature.
 - **Polytheists** believe in the existence of many gods and goddesses who live in a remote place but often come down to visit humans. These gods often are like giant people with super powers. They can be jealous or caring, angry or loving, forgiving, or vengeful. Most polytheistic worship involves building temples and statues to their gods to show their dedication and gain favor from the gods.

7 Elements of Civilization Recipe

- **Your Task:**
- Your task is to create a recipe about the 7 elements of Civilizations. Your recipe MUST include:
 - All 7 elements as your ingredients
 - Cooking/baking instructions on how all 7 should be put together in order for a culture to be considered a civilization.
 - MEASUREMENTS for each element in your instructions.
- **HINTS:** Look at your mom's cooking books and see how to write a recipe
- **Example:** Begin by finding a large area of land and add 3 cups of cities and stable food. You will need this area for all your people to live and farm. Next, add 1 ½ cups of governmental control. With so many strangers living in one area it is important for your leader to be powerful. Your King must create laws, keep peace, control the money system, and collect taxes.
- **DUE: Wednesday, Sept 3☺**