

ANT 212 ANCIENT PEOPLES AND CULTURES STUDY GUIDE 2

PERIODS	MESOLITHIC / EPIPALEOLITHIC	16,000 - 10,000 B.P.
	NEOLITHIC	10,000 B.P. / 8,000 B.C.
	POST-NEOLITHIC / CHALCOLITHIC	6,000 B.C.
	CIVILIZATION	3,000 B.C.

MESOLITHIC / EPIPALEOLITHIC 16,000 to 10,000 B.C.

Late Pleistocene (Ice Age) hunters and gatherers.

Best known culture: the **Natufian**.

Date: 12, 900 - 9,800 B.P.

Geographic distribution: the Levant of the Near East (Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, but sites exist in the Taurus and Zagros Mountains of the Near East.

Setting: typically near the boundary of grassland and hills, where water, animals and wild plants were growing

Material culture: chipped stone tools, ground stone tools, bone artifacts.

Tool kit typically microlithic: blades, burins, scrapers, sickle blades

Ground stone mortars and pestles

Bone harpoons, sickle shafts, points, awls.

Architecture: Circular semi-subterranean houses made of stone.

2 - 9 meters in diameter.

Storage pits lined with clay

Economy: highly specialized-

Meat diet: 40-60% gazelle; other wild sheep and goat; wild pig

Plants: wild wheat, wild barley, peas, lentils, acorns, almonds, pistachios.

Demography: 50 - 150 living in permanent, semi-permanent (seasonal) hamlets.

Occupation of caves and their entranceways.

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NEOLITHIC 10,000 B.P or 8,000 B.C. (beginning)

8000 - 7000 B.C.

"Neolithic Revolution"**domestication (plants and animals)****food production****origins of farming, agriculture****origins of animal husbandry, Pastoralism**

Geographic distribution: The "Fertile Crescent" of the Near East ---

The Levant (Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria)**Anatolian Plateau and Taurus Mountains of Turkey****Zagros Mountains and Foothills of Iraq and Iran****Plants and Animals domestication**Plants: wheat and barley
(probably peas and lentils)Animals: sheep and goat
pig and later cattle

The most important evolutionary characteristic of a domesticated plant is its loss of seed dispersal. In the domesticated plant humans control the biological reproduction of the plant. Thus a fully domesticated plant can only exist as a cultivated plant controlled by humans through farming. The change from wild to domestic forms involves the toughening of the rachis of the wheat and barley plant so that the plant can no longer drop and disperse its seeds naturally. In the wild forms the rachis is brittle, in the domestic variety the rachis is tough.

In animals, domestication involves selective breeding and killing, as well as captivity. Animals are bred for particular characteristics beneficial to humans and their exploitation of the animals. Later developed characteristics are for milk and hair. Domestication has occurred by 7000 B.C. but the use of animal hair and milk comes 500 to 1000 years later.

Material culture and tools: new tools are developed having to do with a permanent settled lifestyle and new activities centered on farming and animal husbandry:

Farming: reaping= sickles

threshing= stomping

winnowing= rakes and baskets

grinding= mortars and pestles

POST-NEOLITHIC / CHALCOLITHIC CULTURES 6000 - B.C.

Settlement continues throughout the Fertile Crescent, but the focus on new innovations and development are found in northern Mesopotamia.

In this context, the importance of the Neolithic Revolution is to be found in its consequences for human lifeways. That is, after the Neolithic Revolution occurs human lifeways begin to change dramatically. Some of these consequences are:

1. There is increased and stabilized food supplies, and even the production of food surpluses.
2. People regularly settle down in one place and invest labor and "capital" in that location. There are permanent villages with higher populations in one location.
3. New social organizations begin to emerge: increased social stratification, increasing division of labor and increased craft specialization.
4. There are greater and more rapid changes in material culture and accelerated technological innovations. There are new non-portable artifacts and greater building sophistication in materials and plans of buildings. There are new foods, new artifacts for processing, using and storing foodstuffs, including elaborate storage facilities. New materials and manufacturing techniques involve the use of clay for pottery and art works, the use of metal for decorative items (jewelry) and weapons, and long distance trade for desired materials and finished artifacts.
5. For the first time in prehistory, humans begin to have an impact on the environment, through the clearing of land for fields, by the construction of irrigation dams and channels, and through the grazing of animals.
6. The Neolithic Revolution and the consequences noted above eventually led to urbanization and the world's first civilizations.

Post-Neolithic/Chalcolithic Cultures**6000 - 3000 B.C.****Northern Mesopotamia**

Hassuna	6000-5000 B.C.
Samarra	5500-5000 B.C.
Halaf	5500-4800 B.C.

Southern Mesopotamia

Ubaid	4800-3800 B.C.
Uruk	3800-3300 B.C.
Late Uruk	3300-2900 B.C.

Rise of Civilization 3000 B.C. and after**Trait Definition of Civilization**

Ten defining characteristics of cities and civilization that could be recognized in the archaeological record. These characteristics were used as a template, but he also attempted to demonstrate how they functioned and how they were interrelated. The ten characteristics can be divided into two groups, the first five relating to changes in the organization of society and the second five to various forms of material evidence documenting the changes

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in the organization of society. (after V. Gordon Childe. 1950. *The Urban Revolution*. *The Town Planning Review* 21: 3-17.)

- 1) The existence of Urban centers with large cities housing 5,000 people or more. Settlements will exhibit large size and density of sites. The enlargement of organized society would mean higher levels of social integration. Populations previously distributed over vast areas in small village farming communities become concentrated in larger towns and lesser in number cities. As one might expect, the larger cities were located near large rivers and adjacent large tracts of cultivable land, necessary to support the large population numbers in the cities.
- 2) Full-time specialization of labor. Specialized modes of production were institutionalized, as were systems of procurement, distribution, and exchange. Archaeologically documentable by the mass production of ceramics, metal and other crafts. This may not only indicate full-time crafts people, but supportive specialists of various types: e.g., merchants, accountants, scribes, warriors, etc. These specialists fulfill the requirements of an emerging elite for services and high prestige goods.
- 3) Concentration of surplus: Including social means for the collection and management of the surplus production of farmers and artisans.
- 4) Class structured society. The emergence of a privileged ruling class of religious, political, and/or military functionaries who organized and directed society. Status and wealth differentiation become highly pronounced, and evidence of the social stratification can be seen in the wealth of the temples, elaborate tombs with rich mortuary goods, and large residential structures (house sizes) and the goods uncovered within these structures.
- 5) State organization. Political organization based on residence, replacing political identification based on kinship.
- 6) Monumental public works: temples, palaces, storehouses, irrigation systems. These works reflect the ability to command labor forces to build and maintain structures, as well as to administer the institutions inherent in them. Irrigation works render some land valuable and others valueless as fields will be close to or far away from the source of critical water supplies, which give rise to differences in the value of property and conflicts can arise (and must be controlled) over the distribution of water and ownership of land. /// The smaller and less elaborate ceremonial centers of earlier periods grow into great temple complexes with elaborate art work and architectural embellishments, as well as storage facilities, administrative offices, and in some cases libraries. The temples also house priests who exercise religious as well as economic control over society.
- 7) Long distance trade: specialization and trade were extended beyond the city and its hinterland. Interregional trade greatly increases and is evidenced by a great variety of foreign imports: flint(chert), lapis lazuli, copper, tin, gold, cotton, ivory, etc. Along with this trade come the administrative means (record keeping, writing) to keep track of the transactions.
- 8) Standardized monumental artwork:
- 9) Writing: writing facilitated the organization and management of society and economic matters.
- 10) Arithmetic, geometry, and astronomy: exact, predictive science and engineering were initiated.

FIRST CIVILIZATIONS:

SOUTHERN MESOPOTAMIA, Tigris and Euphrates Rivers
ANCIENT EGYPT, Nile River
ANCIENT PAKISTAN and INDIA, Indus River

MESOPOTAMIAN CIVILIZATION

POST-NEOLITHIC, CHALCOLITHIC, 6000 - 3500 BC
Development of a village economy

HASSUNA	6500-5500 BC	Tell Hassuna (Iraq) & Yarim Tepe (Iraq)
SAMARRA	5800-4800 BC	Tell-es Sawaan
HALAF	5800-4800 BC	Choga Mami & Eridu
UBAID	5500-3500 BC	Choga Mami
		Eridu (first in Southern Mesopotamia)
		Ubaid 1 5500-4800 BC
		Ubaid 2/3 4800-3900 BC
		Ubaid 4 3900-3500 BC

Urbanization, and the emergence of civilization

URUK		
EARLY URUK	3800-3400	
MIDDLE URUK	3400-3300	
LATE URUK	3300-3100	
JEMDET NASR	3100-2900	Jemdet Nasr site
EARLY DYNASTIC I		
	2900-2750	
II	2750-2600	Khafaje, Uruk, al-Ubaid, Ur, Brak
III	2600-2375	Kish, Mari, Tell Asmar, Lagash, etc.
AKKADIAN	2375-2230	
POST-AKKADIAN	2230-2130	
UR III	2130-2000	

MESOPOTAMIAN CIVILIZATION

The process was an internal one, from rural communities to urban civilization.

A basic continuity of culture over a long time.

Achievements of Ubaid and Uruk Periods

1. Agriculture, based on irrigation technology became the primary subsistence strategy.
2. Introduction of fast-wheel-made pottery (4th millennium).
3. During the 4th millennium farming became more efficient with the invention of the plow.
4. Cultivation of fruit orchards: dates, figs, olives.
5. Growing importance of cattle.

Mesopotamian Civilization

6. Sheep were hybridized for wool.
7. Great surpluses and overall efficiency in farming.
8. Craft specialization and industries.
9. Use of cylinder seals for personal ownership.
10. Rise of monumental architecture for temples (ziggurats), palaces.
11. Development of writing 3300 B.C. - Uruk tablets (pictographic)

Rise of City-States

Priests rule as representatives of the Gods.

Elaborate temples with ziggurats (Eridu, first temple)

No unity until Sargon of Akkad

Central urban local with surrounding smaller hinterland (villages)

Writing: Cuneiform script to write several languages and the script and the writing of languages develops as well.

Rivers became avenues of transport and trade.

Diversity of the economic system, no longer just subsistence.

CHRONOLOGY OF EGYPT

Neolithic	5500-3850 B.C.
Predynastic Period	4500-3100 B.C.
Early Dynastic	3100-2750 B.C.
Dynasty I	3100-2900
Dynasty II	2900-2750
Old Kingdom	2750-2250 B.C.
Dynasty III	
Dynasty IV	
Dynasty V	
Dynasty VI	
First Intermediate Period	2250-2025 B.C.
Middle Kingdom	2025- 1627/1606 B.C.
Second Intermediate	1648-1539 B.C.
New Kingdom	1539-1070 B.C.
Third Intermediate	1070-653 B.C.
Late Period	664-525 B.C.
Ptolemaic and Roman	332 B.C. - 395 A.D.

Ancient Egypt

ANCIENT EGYPT

Nile River a unifying force, but also an isolating factor
ships with sails, 3000 B.C.; growing sophistication.
a milder climate, could produce two crops a year!!

3100 B.C. King Menes/ Narmer unites upper and lower Egypt.
A very rapid change from loose organization to the State.
From village farming communities to the State.

Political and religious organization are ONE.

Egypt was and remained theocratic for thousands of years.

Head of the Egyptian State was Pharaoh

Pharaoh was divine, and considered a God.

He/she was the secular and divine ruler.

Pharaoh was keeper of the divine order of the universe

Religion was also a strong unifying force

Pharaoh ruled by Ma'at, "truth, justice, order, righteousness"

It was the cosmic and divine force for harmony and stability.

Politically: nomes - the provinces with administrative officials

vizier - prime ministers of the provinces

Highly stratified society!!!!!!

Pyramids

Mastaba to Saqqara to Giza

Saqqara - designed and built by Imhotep for the Third Dynasty

Pharaoh Djoser (2663-2645 B.C.)

Pyramids at Giza (across the Nile from Cairo)

Built between 2613 and 2494 B.C.

Built for the Pharaohs:

Khufu the largest, almost 500 ft

3,200,000 blocks of limestone, 2.5 tons each

Khafra

Menkaura smallest

Writing;

hieroglyphics - pictographic

hieratic - cursive

demotic - cursive