

Name: _____

Date: _____



Civilization

There are many ways to define a civilization, but most scholars agree that when a society begins to form cities, it becomes a civilization. In fact, the word itself comes from the Latin civilis, meaning "of the city." Most civilizations have the following elements:

- **A surplus of food.** Prehistoric people were nomadic. They had no home because they were constantly in search of food. When people cannot rely on having a steady supply of food, then finding food becomes their highest priority. When people have enough food, they begin to develop other needs.
- **Division of Labor.** When people have one job, through constant practice, they tend to do that job very well. They are also more likely to work at a job that brings them satisfaction. In order for people to work at individual jobs, people must cooperate with one another.
- **Organized government and religion.** When people have the same laws, it is easier to trade. People living under the same government, or having the same religious beliefs are likely to have the same values. A level of trust and mutual responsibility often grows among people who share the same values.
- **Writing.** Writing allowed people to keep records and communicate. With writing you can pass knowledge through time and space. A written message can travel a great distance, and a message can also live on past the life of the writer.

Answer in complete sentences

*7. **TEST** Write a paragraph that describes the elements that make up a civilization. Your paragraph must have a topic sentence, at least three support sentences, and a conclusion sentence that restates but does not repeat the topic sentence. (Try not to use the same exact words as on the study sheet. If your writing is unique, let the class and I know when we review the assignment.)

Waterfront living

Most people live near water. If you look at any large city, you'll probably find water nearby. People need the water for drinking, cooking, cleaning and transportation.

Mesopotamia, the "land between the rivers" is an obvious place for a civilization. Ancient Egypt developed along the Nile River. Many cities formed where freshwater rivers meet the ocean. New York City is located where the Hudson River meets the Atlantic Ocean. In America, New York City has a harbor. A harbor is a place where ships can seek shelter from stormy weather. Chicago grew alongside the point where the Chicago River flows into Lake Michigan. The point where two rivers meet is known as a confluence. St. Louis, Missouri is situated near the confluence of the Mississippi and the Missouri Rivers. Very few cities are located far from water.

Answer in complete sentences

*8. Almost every major city is located near a body of water. Use an encyclopedia to find the body of water near each city listed. I've asked you to find five, and select the sixth city on your own.

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania		Tokyo, Japan	
Los Angeles, California		Seoul, South Korea	
Seattle, Washington			

NOTE: I will accept a parent signature if you do not have Internet access, but you must complete this section when we discuss it in class.

*This is a higher order learning question. You must answer the question to the best of your ability, but any reasonable answer will be graded as correct.