

Chapter 3
Lesson 2
The Agricultural Revolution

Neolithic Times

- Ice Age ended and nomads moved into mild climate with fertile land
- people began staying in one place to grow grains and vegetables
- also **domesticated**, or tamed, animals for human use

The Neolithic Age

- This change began the **Neolithic Age**, or New Stone Age
 - not just because new stone tools were created
 - because the shift from hunting and gathering to a **systematic agriculture** = growing food on a regular basis
- this change happened slowly. During Mesolithic Age (Middle Stone Age) some still hunted and others began farming.

Big Changes for Humankind

- Neolithic Age also called Agricultural Revolution
 - revolution is any change that has an enormous effect on people's way of life
- population grew quickly with better food supply
- some historians refer to this as the most important event in human history

Widespread Farming

- Southwest Asia
 - wheat and barley
 - domesticated pigs, cows, goats, and sheep
- Southeastern Europe
 - 4000 B.C. farming was an established economic activity
- Nile Valley in Egypt
 - wheat and barley
- Central Africa
 - root crops, yams
 - bananas
- India 8000 to 5000 B.C.
 - wheat and barley
- Northern China 6000 B.C.
 - grain called millet
 - domesticating dogs and pigs
- Southeast Asia 5000 B.C.
 - rice
- Western Hemisphere between 7000 to 5000 B.C.
 - corn, squash, potato
 - domesticated chicken and dogs

Life in the Neolithic Age

- settled in villages near fields and a water source

Neolithic Communities

- oldest community was Jericho found in present-day Israel and Jordan
 - 8000 B.C.
 - sun-dried-brick houses surrounded by walls several feet thick
- Catalhuyuk
 - present-day Turkey
 - home of 6,000 people
 - doors in rooftops
 - also had shrines, holy places
 - role of religion was growing
 - grew fruits, nuts, different grains,
 - raised sheep, goats, and cattle that provided milk and meat
 - ate fish and bird eggs

What Were the Benefits of a Settled Life?

- provided security
- surplus of crops
 - began to trade food for supplies
 - fewer people needed in the fields
 - specialization, the act of training for a particular job, began
 - became artisans (skilled workers)
- role of men and women changed
 - men worked the fields and became responsible for protection
 - women took care of children and stayed in the village managing food supplies and sewing clothes

The End of the Neolithic Age

- began to work with copper
- craftspeople in western Asia discovered mixing copper and tin to make bronze
- bronze was stronger than copper
- widely used between 3000 and 1200 B.C. the Bronze Age

Civilizations Emerge

- complex cultures began
- Mesopotamia, Egypt, India, and China emerged around 3000 B.C.

Cities and Government

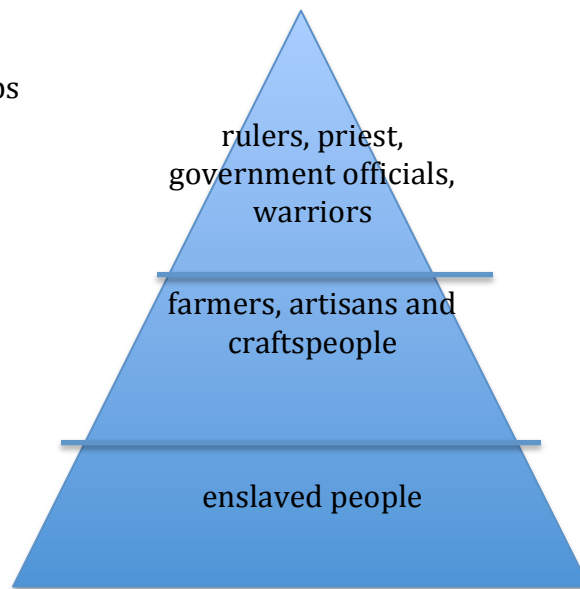
- early civilizations developed cities and formed governments to protect themselves and food supplies
- settled near fertile land for crop production
- encouraged trades of goods and ideas
- First governments were monarchies. Monarchy is a government whose ruler is a king or queen.
 - created armies
 - made laws to keep order
 - appointed government officials

Religions

- early people believed gods were responsible for survival
- ceremonies to show support to the gods
- rulers claimed their power was based on the approval of gods

Social Structure

- people were organized into groups
- defined by work, wealth/power,



Writing and Art

- people started inventing ways of writing
- used symbols instead of letters and words
- began keeping records
- paintings and sculptures of gods and forces of nature
- massive buildings
- burial tombs for kings