

Example

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World History
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Section 3: Civilization: Case Study: Ur in Sumer

Agriculture allowed people to form more organized and complex settlements – in which villages grew into cities. Civilizations brought economic and social changes (social relationships more complex)

Civilization	Defined as a complex culture with five characteristics: Acronym to remember: CARAS C: complex institutions A: advanced cities R: recordkeeping A: advanced technology S: specialized workers
Advanced City	Population, center of trade
Specialization	Development of skills in a specific kind of work.
Artisans	Some city dwellers who are skilled workers who make goods by hand
Complex Institutions	A long-lasting pattern of organization in a community. Govt, Religion are examples
Recordkeeping	Need to keep records: tax collections, laws, storage of food; priests kept track of calendar and rituals; merchants kept track of records (payments, debts).
Scribes	Professional record keepers. Tool called a stylus.
Cuneiform	Sumerian scribes invented this system of writing. Means "wedge-shaped." Stylus pressed into moist clay to create symbols. Baked clay tablets in sun to preserve writing.
Improved technology	New tools and techniques for solving problems (farming, hunting): ox-drawn plows to turn the soil. Creation of irrigation systems.

Bronze Age: time period when people used bronze, rather than copper and stone, for tools and weapons. Started in Sumer around 3000 BC. Ur was city in Sumer: importance of agriculture; Trading of goods and services w/o money is bartering. The temple (ziggurat) was the center of city life. Ziggurat (pyramid-shaped monument) means "Mountain of God".

Summary: Civilizations developed and created a more complex life that led to economic, social, political, and religious advancement – which led to more technological innovation.

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