

The Beginnings of Cities

As population growth resulted in larger settlements, the agricultural world experienced the rise of cities. Urban areas offered further specialization of labor and more sophisticated technology. New roles emerged as cities required administrators, collectors of taxes and tribute, and religious leaders. Cities also acquired influence over larger territories than villages did.

Rapid Review

The Neolithic Age saw independent origins of agriculture worldwide. As the knowledge of agriculture spread, cultural diffusion marked the ancient world. When crop cultivation produced increasingly larger yields, some farmers specialized in other tasks or crafts. As population concentrations grew increasingly dense, settlements grew into villages and, later, cities. Cities developed a more complex social structure to administer wealth, provide order, and study the meaning of life itself.

Questions

1. Define Paleolithic and Neolithic.
2. How did agriculture originally arise?
3. Where are the 7 places that developed agriculture?
4. What was slash and burn? Why was it used?
5. Why were people able to do other things than farming? Why did these people do?
6. What are two of the earliest agricultural settlements?
7. Besides agriculture, what other skill did early humans develop?
8. List basic cultural attributes of Neolithic societies.
9. What new roles emerged as bigger towns and then cities emerged?