

# chapter 2

## beginning of civilization

*As farming spread, many small settlements appeared. In time, some villages grew into cities. They began to trade with each other.*

### section 2

#### cities & civilizations

# THE CITY OF URUK

- The story of the city of Uruk is based on a legend.
  - However, the city was real.
  - Considered the world's first CITY
  - About 7,000 years old
  - Different from Catal Huyuk because around 40,000 people lived in Uruk (had a government)
  - Had houses, gardens, and temples
  - Surrounded by a wall that stretched 6 miles around the city
- Had a strong government
  - first rulers were temple priests
  - Village council
  - Eventually powerful military leaders ruled as kings



# The rise of civilizations

- Civilization (comes from Greek word: Civis= “resident of a city”)
  - Complex society
- Earliest civilization: Southwest Asia
  - City-state: Sumer in Mesopotamia
  - Early civilizations mainly emerged next to river valleys

# ECONOMY & RESOURCES

- Uruk had a complex economy
  - Economy: the system that a community uses to produce and distribute foods and services
  - 3 Basic questions in economy:
    1. What goods and services should be produced?
    2. How should goods and services be produced
    3. Who should get and use goods and services?
- Catal Huyuk's economy was mainly based on farming—Uruk's farming and trade
- Resource— supply of something that can be used as needed
  - Most important resources: fertile soil, fresh water, and seeds

# Features of a civilization

Early civilizations shared  
8 basic features

**Writing:** symbols to pictures representing sounds and letters. Numbers were first developed to keep track of grain. Eventually recorded laws, prayers, history of rulers.

**Cities:** food surpluses led to population increase.

**Organized Govt.:**  
Managed resources and train an army.

**Religion:** Often linked to government. Right to rule usually was believed to come from the Gods. Most civilizations were polytheistic.

**Job Specialization:**  
Most people farmed. Also had priests, soldiers, govt. rulers, craft workers, merchants, and traders.

**Social Classes:**  
ranking of people in society

**Public Works:**  
roads, water systems, city walls.  
DANGER!!

**Arts/  
Architecture:**  
Building of magnificent temples, tombs, and palaces.  
DANGER!!

Civilization