Origins of Civilization: Civilization Begins

Key Terms

surplus

traditional economy

civilization

steppe

theocracy

polytheistic

artisan

pictograph

scribe

cultural diffusion

city-state

empire

Academic Vocabulary

**complex:** made up of many interrelated parts

**significant:** relatively large in amount

**The First Cities and Civilizations:** **Text**

**Summarize** Read the opening paragraphs of “The First Cities and Civilizations.” Summarize the reasons that the earliest civilizations developed in river valleys.

Features That Define Civilization: Text

1. **Draw Conclusions** Why did cities need complex governments? Cite details from the text to support your answer.
2. **Draw Conclusions** Why was job specialization essential for the development of civilizations?
3. **Summarize** Use the chart below to list the social classes found in many ancient civilizations. 
4. **Determine Central Ideas** Ancient rulers may have had multiple purposes for building temples and impressive buildings. Name those reasons.
5. **Draw Conclusions** What effects would the invention of writing have on ancient civilizations?