

Guns, Germs, and Steel by Jared Diamond

The **BIG QUESTION**: How did civilizations in Europe, eastern Asia, North Africa and the Middle East developed more quickly and have more advanced *technology* than the rest of the world?

KEY VOCABULARY:

hunter-gatherer: the earliest humans who survived by hunting and gathering wild food supplies

livestock: domesticated animals that are raised to be eaten or sold

agriculture: the act of cultivating the soil, producing crops and raising livestock

indigenous: a species that is native to a specific area

civilization: a society with highly developed arts, sciences, society, government and culture

technology: using science to develop tools and methods that improve the lives of humans

Fertile Crescent: area in the Middle East where humans first practiced agriculture around 9,000 BC

domesticate: to tame something wild so that it can live with and be used by humans

human-environmental interaction: how people use resources and survive in their natural surroundings

SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS:

- 1) Are all plants/crops equally nutritious for humans? Does farming have the same benefits for people *everywhere* around the world? Explain why or why not.

- 2) Describe the various ways animals were used by the first humans to develop *agriculture*. Describe the characteristics of animals that are the most useful for *agriculture*.

- 3) If *agriculture* is the key to an advanced civilization, explain why not every human culture developed *agriculture* and new *technology* at the same time (HINT: “Where you live affects how you live.”)

- 4) Explain why people in the Middle East, North Africa, Asia and Europe were able to develop more advanced civilizations faster than the people in North and South America. Provide at least **three examples** to support your answer.

Thinking Map: “FLOW MAP” – Making *cause and effect* connections and identifying relationships

ON THE BACK OF THIS PAPER, draw a detailed FLOW MAP showing the relationship between these 14 important ideas: (“best” plants, *agriculture*, advanced civilization, *domestication*, “best” animals, more time, larger populations, *natural resources*, *technology*, location, similar latitudes, writing, extra workers, and climate) based on Diamond’s theory described in “Guns, Germs, and Steel”. Begin by identifying the most important ideas – or large boxes – to start you map.

Make sure you understand the connections between the boxes on your FLOW MAP. Also, remember that certain “big” events have to happen before other “big” events are possible. There is an order to this. It is NOT random! You are showing the “flow”, or relationship, between events.