

CASE STUDY 19 MAIN IDEA WHY IT MATTERS NOW TERMS & NAMES Civilization 3 CASE STUDY:

Ur in Sumer SETTING THE STAGE Agriculture marked a dramatic change in how people lived together.

They began dwelling in larger, more organized communities, such as farming villages and towns. From some of these settlements, cities gradually emerged, forming the backdrop of a more complex way of life—civilization. Villages Grow into Cities Over the centuries, people settled in stable communities that were based on agri- culture. Domesticated animals became more common. The invention of new tools—hoes, sickles, and plow sticks—made the task of farming easier. As peo- ple gradually developed the technology to control their natural environment, they reaped larger harvests. Settlements with a plentiful supply of food could support larger populations. As the population of some early farming villages increased, social relation- ships became more complicated. The change from a nomadic hunting- gathering way of life to settled village life took a long time. Likewise, the change from vil- lage life to city life was a gradual process that spanned several generations. Economic Changes To cultivate more land and to produce extra crops, ancient people in larger villages built elaborate irrigation systems. The resulting food surpluses freed some villagers to pursue other jobs and to develop skills besides farming.

Individuals who learned to become craftspeople created valuable new products, such as pottery, metal objects, and woven cloth. In turn, people who became traders profited from a broader range of goods to exchange—craftwork, grains, and many raw materials. Two important inventions—the wheel and the sail—also enabled traders to move more goods over longer distances. Social Changes A more complex and prosperous economy affected the social structure of village life. For example, building and operating large irrigation sys- tems required the labor of many people. As other special groups of workers formed, social classes with varying wealth, power, and influence began to emerge. A system of social classes would become more clearly defined as cities grew. Religion also became more organized. During the Old Stone Age, prehistoric people's religious beliefs centered around nature, animal spirits, and some idea of an afterlife. During the New Stone Age, farming peoples worshiped the many gods and goddesses who they believed had power over the rain, wind, and other forces of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY Prosperous farming villages, food surpluses, and new technology led to the rise of civilizations. Contemporary civilizations share the same characteristics typical of ancient civilizations. •

civilization • specialization • artisan • institution • scribe • cuneiform • Bronze Age • barter • ziggurat

Summarizing Use a chart to summarize characteristics of the civilization at Sumer. TAKING NOTES

Characteristics 1. 2. 3. 4. 5