

CHAPTER 1 Section 3 (pages 19–23)

Civilization Case Study: Ur in Sumer

BEFORE YOU READ

In the last section, you read about the development of agriculture and a settled way of life.

In this section, you will read about factors leading to the rise of civilizations.

AS YOU READ

Use the chart below to take notes on how civilizations develop.

TERMS AND NAMES

civilization Culture with advanced cities, specialized workers, complex institutions, record keeping, and improved technology

specialization Development of skills in a specific kind of work

artisan Skilled worker that makes goods by hand

institution Long-lasting pattern of organization in a community

scribe Professional record keeper

cuneiform Wedge-shaped writing developed in Sumer

Bronze Age Time when people began using bronze

barter Trading goods and services without money

ziggurat Pyramid-shaped monument; part of a temple in Sumer

FEATURES OF CIVILIZATION	EXAMPLES FROM UR
1. <i>Advanced Cities</i>	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	

Villages Grow into Cities (pages 19–20)

What changed as villages grew into cities?

Over time, farmers developed new tools—hoes, sickles, and plow sticks. These helped them grow even more food. They decided to plant larger areas of land. The people in some villages began to irri-

gate the land, bringing water to new areas. People invented the wheel for carts and the sail for boats. These new inventions made it easier to travel between distant villages and to trade.

Life became more complex as the villages began to grow. People were divided into social classes. Some people had more wealth and power than others. People began to worship gods and

goddesses that they felt would protect their crops and make their harvests large.

1. How did life become more complex?

How Civilization Develops (pages 20–21)

What makes a civilization?

One of the first civilizations arose in Sumer. It was in Mesopotamia, between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers of modern Iraq. A **civilization** has five features.

First, a civilization has advanced cities that contain many people and serve as centers for trade.

Second, civilizations have specialized workers. **Specialization** is the development of skills needed for one specific kind of work. Skilled workers who make goods by hand are called **artisans**.

Third, civilizations have complex institutions. Government, organized religion, and an economy are examples of complex **institutions**.

A fourth feature of civilizations is record keeping, which is needed to keep track of laws, debts, and payments. It also creates the need for writing. **Scribes** were people who used writing to keep records. **Cuneiform**, which means “wedge shaped,” was a form of writing invented in Sumer.

Fifth, civilizations have improved technology that can provide new tools and methods to solve problems.

Sumer had all the features of a civilization. One of the new technologies in Sumer was making a metal called bronze. The term **Bronze Age** refers to the time when people began using bronze to make tools and weapons.

Analyzing Key Concepts: Civilization

Civilization is defined as a complex culture with five characteristics—advanced cities, specialized workers, complex institutions, record keeping, and improved technology.

2. Name the five features of a civilization.

Civilization Emerges in Ur

(pages 22–23)

What was civilization like in Ur?

One of the early cities of Sumer was named Ur. The city was surrounded by walls built of mud dried into bricks. Ur held about 30,000 people. Social classes included rulers and priests, traders, craft workers, and artists.

Farmers outside the city walls raised the food for them all. Some workers dug ditches to carry water to the fields. Officials of the city government planned all this activity.

Inside the city, metalworkers made bronze points for spears. Potters made clay pots. Traders met people from other areas. They traded the spear points and pots for goods that Ur could not produce. This way of trading goods and services without money is called **barter**. Sometimes their deals were written down by scribes.

Ur’s most important building was the temple. Part of the temple was a **ziggurat**, a pyramid-shaped structure. Priests there led the city’s religious life.

3. What social classes existed in Ur?
