

Lesson 3 The First Communities

MAIN IDEAS

Culture Some simple farming villages expanded and developed into more complex villages.

Culture A cultural pattern involving early forms of government, specialized workers, and social classes began to develop in complex villages.

Culture The way of life in a complex village was different from that in a simple farming village.

Villages Around the World

ESSENTIAL QUESTION How did farming villages develop?

Surpluses Boost Development

- Farmers sometimes produced **surpluses**—more than needed to survive
- Improved agricultural techniques brought economic surpluses in food
- Also had surpluses in materials for other products, such as cloth
- Surpluses in good seasons helped villages survive bad seasons

People Develop Different Skills

- Surpluses let some people specialize in jobs other than raising food
 - **specialization**—skill in one kind of work
- Potters, weavers were probably among first to specialize
 - potters' vessels were used to carry and store water, food
 - weavers created cloth from spun cotton, wool, flax
 - potters, weavers traded their products for food
- Community's holy people interpreted natural events such as fire, rain
 - these shamans explained harvests, were healers, evolved into priests
- Unlike nomadic hunter-gatherers, villagers settled in one place
 - farmers raised food for everyone in village
 - specialized nonfarmers traded their goods, services for food

REVIEW QUESTION

How did surpluses affect village life?

Simple Villages Grow More Complex

ESSENTIAL QUESTION How did life in villages become more complex?

A Changing Way of Life

- Surpluses encouraged the growth of villages, populations, trade
 - one village might trade surplus food for another's surplus tools
- Specialization increased, craftspeople spent years learning skills
 - **artisans**—people trained in skills, crafts
 - artisans include carpenters, toolmakers, cloth makers, potters
- Shared skills led to occupational classes, then **social classes**
 - groups of people with similar customs, background, training, income
 - social classes include farmers, craftspeople, priests, rulers
- As communities grew into villages, people needed laws, leadership
 - formed early **governments**—ways of creating order, providing leadership
 - made laws to make communities safer, more stable

From Simple to Complex Villages

- Complex villages had larger population than simple villages
 - people lived closer together
- Larger populations had greater supply of skills, ideas
- Life in complex village was more varied, complicated
 - people had more needs

REVIEW QUESTION

What are some examples of specialized labor?

Life in a Complex Village

ESSENTIAL QUESTION How did life in a complex village compare with that in a simple village?

Population of Villages

- Complex villages had up to 5,000 people, small by today's standards
- Most farming villages had only a few hundred people

Catal Huyuk

- 8,000-year-old ruins of complex village Catal Huyuk found in Turkey
 - village probably located in marshy area, had population of about 5,000
- Archaeologists began unearthing, studying the village in 1961

A Village Develops

- Catal Huyuk had permanent buildings, houses with similar floor plans
- Shrines used for religious ceremonies, offerings
- People developed special skills in making tools, cloth, pottery
 - artisans created luxury items such as mirrors, metal beads
 - artists created murals on walls, religious paintings in shrines
- Specialization made Catal Huyuk a center of trade, culture, influence

REVIEW QUESTION

What characteristics of Catal Huyuk identify it as a complex village?

Lesson Summary

- Improved farming techniques enabled village farmers to grow surplus food.
- Simple villages sometimes grew into complex villages.
- Catal Huyuk is the site of an early complex village.

Why It Matters Now...

The development of complex villages was an important step in the change from simple villages to cities