

What is Civilization?

# What is Civilization?

1. Create a definition of Civilization
2. Identify the elements which you believe are essential for a civilization to exist

What does it mean to be civilized?

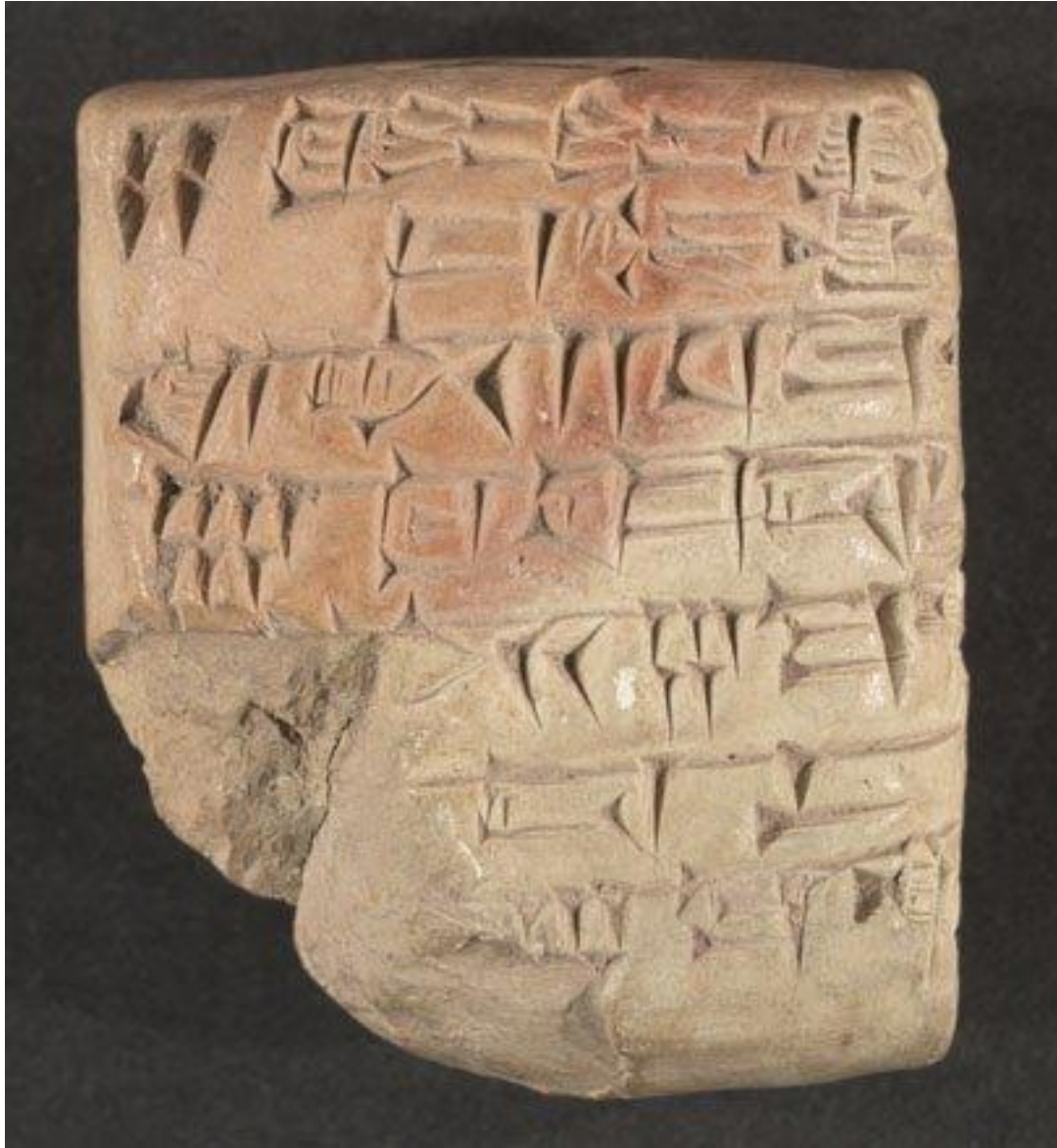
What does it mean to be uncivilized?

**Civilized**

**Uncivilized**

# Basic Features of a Civilization

- Writing System
- Cities
- Government
- Public Works
- Religion
- Job Specification
- Art & Architecture
- Social Classes



# Writing Systems

Pictograms (picture writing)

Scribes (trained writers) kept needed records.

Documents for tax collections, laws, and the storage of grain.

## **Pre-History**

- Period before written records

## **History**

- Existence of records



## Cities

- Cities emerged as farmers produced **surplus** (extra) food.
- Agriculture (farming) population

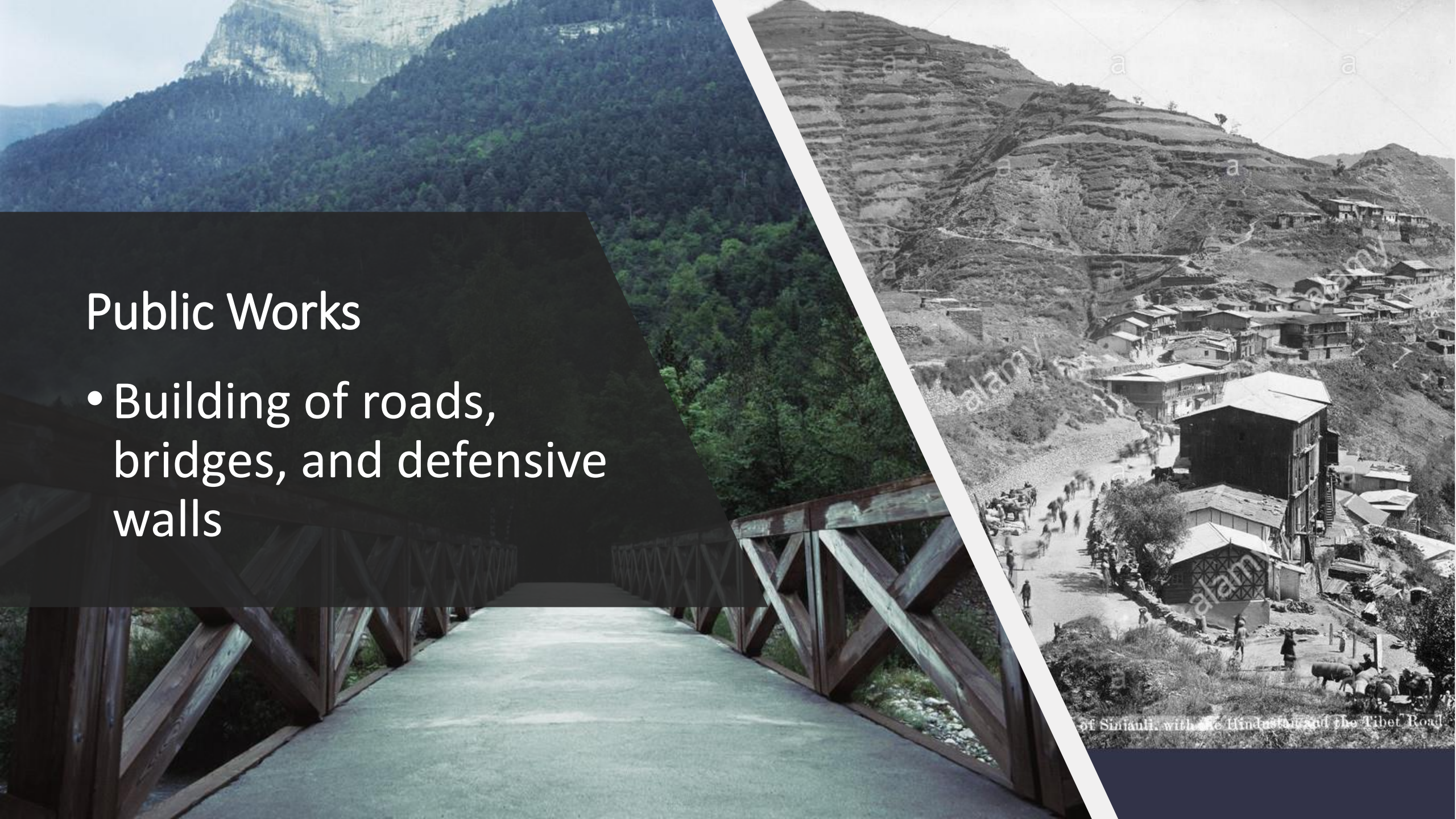
# Central Government

- ensured the food supply and protection.
- Bureaucracy is a system of managing gov't through departments run by officials



## Public Works

- Building of roads, bridges, and defensive walls



of Sufiani, with the Hindustani of the Tibet Road



# Religion

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Ancient people were **polytheistic**, believing in many gods.

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Cities had temples and priests to gain the favor of gods through rituals to ensure plentiful crops.

# Job Specialization

People specialized  
in certain jobs.

Artisan- skilled  
craft worker





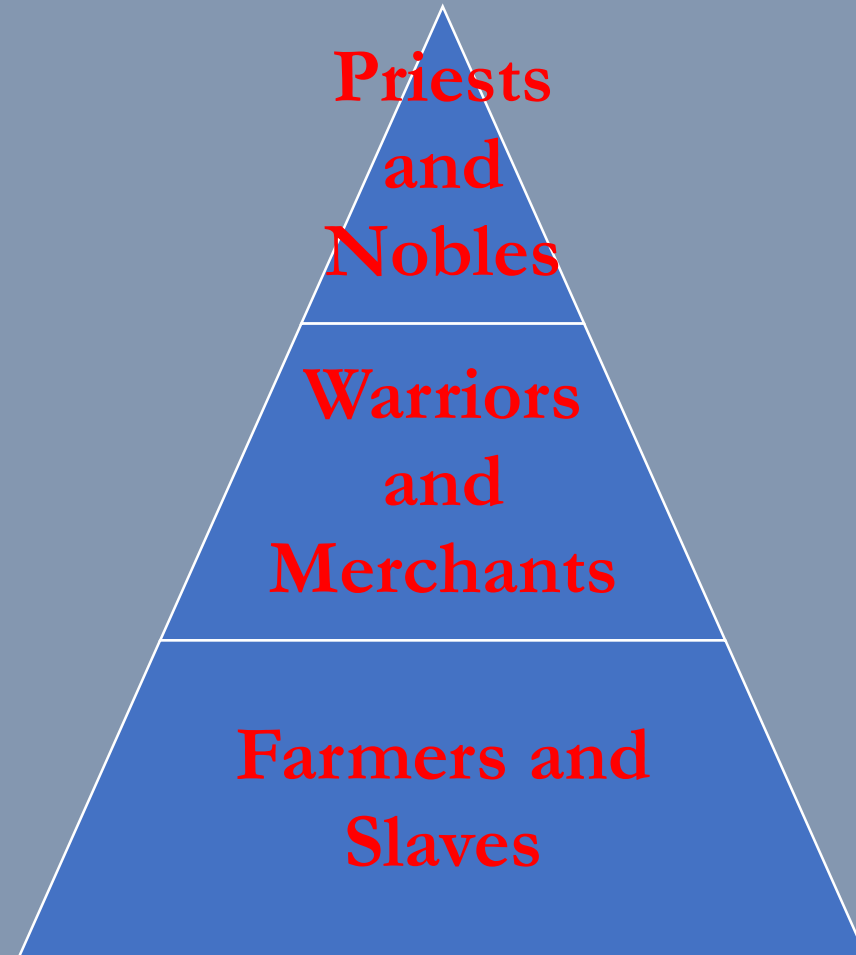


## Art and Architecture

- Expressions of beliefs and values
- Buildings showed religion and strength in government.

# Social Classes

- People became ranked in classes according to their job.
- **Hierarchy** - a system of ranks



# Discussion

- These are the characteristics that many historians believe qualify a society for a “civilization”. Do you agree?
- Do you think it’s preferable to live in a “civilized” vs a primitive society. What are the advantages and disadvantages of each?