**H.A. 1 – ENGLISH FOR SPECIFIC AND ACADEMIC PURPOSES**

**CULTURE**

**1. QUESTION: How does *culture* relate to the content of the following quotation?**

**There are these two young fish swimming along, and they happen to meet an older fish swimming the other way, who nods at them and says, “Morning, boys, how’s the water?” And the two young fish swim on for a bit, and then eventually one of them looks over at the other and goes, “What the hell is water?”**  
— David Foster Wallace

**Source: https://anth101.com/the-art-of-seeing/**

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**2. Culture**

**Culture, in all its dimensions, is a fundamental component of sustainable development. As a sector of activity, through tangible and intangible heritage, creative industries and various forms of artistic expressions, culture is a powerful contributor to economic development, social stability and environmental protection. As a repository of knowledge, meanings and values that permeate all aspects of our lives, culture also defines the way human beings live and interact both at local and global scales.**

**Culture is:**

* **A source of identity, innovation, and creativity.**
* **A set of distinctive spiritual and material, intellectual and emotional features of a society or a social group.**
* **A complex web of meanings, relationships, beliefs, and values that frames people’s relationship to the world.**
* **Acquired through the process of cultivation and improvement of the individual, especially by means of education.**
* **An evolving dynamic force relevant to all societies, local or global.**
* **Influenced by and in turn influences world-views and expressive forms.**
* **Located in a time and a place. While culture *in the abstract* is a set of mental constructs, it is rooted in a place at a moment in history and is always local.**
* **A renewable resource if it is carefully nurtured for it to grow and flower. When neglected, it is easily lost or destroyed.**

**Source:** [**https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000189382**](https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000189382)

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**CIVILIZATION**

**Civilization /// Civilisation:**

* the stage of human social and cultural development and organization that is considered most advanced.

**e.g.:** "the Victorians equated the railways with progress and civilization"

**Similar:**

human development

advancement

progress

enlightenment

edification

culture

cultivation

refinement

sophistication

* the process by which a society or place reaches an advanced stage of social and cultural development and organization.
* the society, culture, and way of life of a particular area.
* **A civilization** is any complex society characterized by the development of the state, social stratification, urbanization, a currency, and symbolic systems of communication beyond natural spoken language. [Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Civilization)

**Source:** [**https://www.google.com/search?client=firefox-b-d&q=what+is+civilization**](https://www.google.com/search?client=firefox-b-d&q=what+is+civilization)

**Sites:**

**1.**

* [**https://education.nationalgeographic.org/resource/key-components-civilization/**](https://education.nationalgeographic.org/resource/key-components-civilization/)

**Key Components of Civilization**

Civilization describes a complex way of life characterized by urban areas, shared methods of communication, administrative infrastructure, and division of labor.

**2.**

* [**https://education.nationalgeographic.org/resource/civilizations/**](https://education.nationalgeographic.org/resource/civilizations/)

# Civilizations

A civilization is a complex human society that may have certain characteristics of cultural and technological development.

**Subjects:** Anthropology, Archaeology, Sociology, Geography, Human Geography, Social Studies, Ancient Civilizations

**3.**

* [**https://www.worldhistory.org/civilization/**](https://www.worldhistory.org/civilization/)

Civilization (from the Latin civis=citizen and civitas=[city](https://www.worldhistory.org/city/)) is a term applied to any society which has developed a [writing](https://www.worldhistory.org/writing/) system, government, production of surplus food, division of labor, and [urbanization](https://www.worldhistory.org/urbanization/). The term is difficult to define because not all 'civilizations' include every one of the above facets. The term is often used, therefore, to suggest a highly developed [culture](https://www.worldhistory.org/disambiguation/culture/).

The first civilizations include:

* [Indus Valley Civilization](https://www.worldhistory.org/Indus_Valley_Civilization/): c. 7000 to c. 600 BCE
* [Mesopotamia](https://www.worldhistory.org/Mesopotamia/)'s [Sumerian](https://www.worldhistory.org/Sumerians/) civilization: c. 6000-1750 BCE
* [Egyptian](https://www.worldhistory.org/disambiguation/Egyptian/) civilization: c. 6000-30 BCE

Although the [Göbekli Tepe](https://www.worldhistory.org/Göbekli_Tepe/) civilization (c. 10000 BCE) and [China](https://www.worldhistory.org/china/) are sometimes included in this list, the above were already well-established by the time of China's prehistoric [Xia Dynasty](https://www.worldhistory.org/Xia_Dynasty/) (c. 2070-1600 BCE) and its [cities](https://www.worldhistory.org/city/), while the people of Göbekli Tepe seem to have been semi-nomadic and moved on after building the site. Others, such as the [Minoan](https://www.worldhistory.org/disambiguation/Minoan/), [Mycenaean](https://www.worldhistory.org/Mycenaean_Civilization/), and [Gandhara](https://www.worldhistory.org/Gandhara_Civilization/) civilizations, all formed after China's Xia Dynasty.

At the same time, China highlights the difficulty of defining 'civilization' as there were already permanent settlements (though not 'cities') along the Yellow River by 5000 BCE. Mesopotamia, as the site of the [Fertile Crescent](https://www.worldhistory.org/Fertile_Crescent/), is famously known as the 'cradle of civilization' which saw the rise of the first cities, but this designation was made prior to the identification of the [Indus Valley](https://www.worldhistory.org/Indus_Valley_Civilization/) Civilization in 1924-1925 or the discovery of Göbekli Tepe (first recorded in 1963) in 1994.

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