Unit 1: What makes a complex society complex?
Vocabulary

- complex (adj)
  - composed of many interconnected parts

- society (n)
  - A highly structured system of human organization for large-scale community living
- **prehistoric time (n)** -
  - of, relating to, or existing in times before written history

- **nomads (n)**
  - small groups of people who moved from place to place to follow a food supply

- **domesticate (v)**
  - to tame and control plants and animals so that they are beneficial to humans

- **surplus (n)**
  - an amount that is more than what is necessary
- Neolithic Revolution (n) -
  ○ wide-scale transition of many human cultures from a nomadic lifestyle to one of *agriculture* and *settlement*

- agriculture (n)
  ○ the practice of farming and raising of animals to provide food, wool, and other products
• pictographs (n) -
  ○ Pictures and marks that people used to represent physical things

• hieroglyphics (n)
  ○ Signs that represent sounds or objects

• cuneiform (n)
  ○ Sumerian way of writing
  ○ Done on clay with wedged-shaped reeds

• scribes (n)
  ○ People in a society who could read and write the language
- **fertile (adj)** -
  - rich farmland
  - capable of producing plentiful crops and vegetation

- **empire (n)**
  - a large territory or groups of people united under one ruler
  - ruler has total authority

- **city-states (n)**
  - A self-governing state consisting of a city and surrounding territory

- **tribute (n)**
  - A payment made by one to another to show obedience (tax)
● barter (v) -
  ○ To trade one thing for another without the use of money

● chinampas (n)
  ○ A form of agriculture which used small, rectangular areas of fertile land to grow crops on shallow lake beds
Features of a Civilization

- **Cities**
  - located close to agricultural centers
  - developed from smaller villages
  - centers of religion and government

- **Organized Government**
  - managed resources
  - formed and trained armies
  - oversaw the important needs of a city
Features of a Civilization

● Specialization of Labor (jobs)
  ○ allowed for development of skills and talents
  ○ farmers, traders, leaders, soldiers, priests, pottery makers, etc...

● Public Works
  ○ large scale projects
  ○ dangerous labor
  ○ built roads, water systems (irrigation), city walls, dwellings, etc...
Features of a Civilization

• Established Religion
  ○ Religions of early civilizations were connected to the government
  ○ Polytheistic - religions that believed in more than one (or many) god and/or goddesses
  ○ Belief in life after death

• Social Classes
  ○ People occupied different ranks, or levels
  ○ Formed a pyramid structure - smallest number of people in the upper class and largest number in lowest class
  ○ Upper class = priests and rulers
  ○ Middle class = farmers, craft workers, merchants, etc
  ○ Lowest class = slaves
Features of a Civilization

● Art and Architecture
  ○ Served public functions (temples, palaces)
  ○ Objects of beauty
  ○ Luxury items for upper class (such as jewelry)
  ○ Used to impress visitors

● Systems of Writing
  ○ Earliest writing consisted of symbols and pictures
  ○ Used writing to record numbers (money, crop sizes, population, etc)
  ○ Used to preserve (keep) records
  ○ Used to record laws
  ○ Created the start of history
Aztec Social Classes

Class Society

- King or High Priest (ahaw)
- Council (Priesthood) - often part of the Royal Family
- Nobles
- Merchants & Artisans
- Commoners - Farmers (and Slaves)
Mayan Class Structure

- Supreme Rules/Emperors
- Priests and Nobles
- Merchants and Artisans
- Peasants
- Slaves