

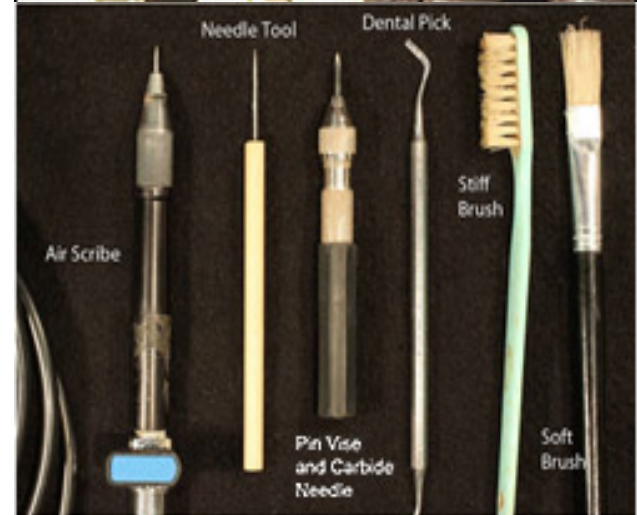
What is Prehistory?

- **Prehistory** refers to any time before written records existed, or before writing was developed.
- The story of prehistoric humans depends on archaeological, anthropological, and more recently, biological/chemical evidence (i.e. radio-carbon dating).
- Hominids- Earliest known humans, a human like creature that walked upright. Their fossils are incredibly rare.



What is Prehistory?

- **Archaeology**- the study of past societies through analysis of what people have left behind. Uses artifacts
- **Anthropology**- the study of human life and culture. Culture includes what people wear, how they organize their society, and what they value. Uses both fossils and artifacts.



Paleolithic Age- Old Stone Age

- **Paleolithic Age**- the early period of human history (approximately 2 million to 9,000 B.C.) in which humans used simple stone tools and fire to hunt and gather food.
- Historians do not consider this to be history. For some it is the development civilization, others say it is around 8,000 B.C.



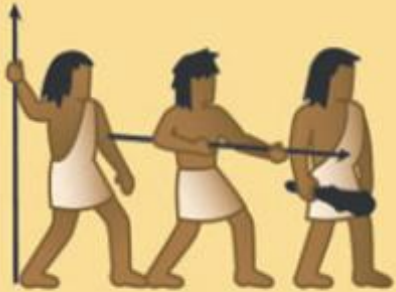
Neolithic Revolution

Some hunters & gatherers were advanced, but were never able to develop complex societies because they had to migrate to find food

Early humans were nomadic hunters & gatherers & had to move around to find their food

The Peopling of the World

Hunting-Gathering Bands



Beginning about **2 million B.C.**

- Invention of tools
- Mastery over fire
- Development of language
- Creation of art



Neolithic Revolution

Farming changed the way humans lived:

Around 8,000 B.C., the Neolithic Revolution occurred & early humans discovered how to farm & domesticate animals

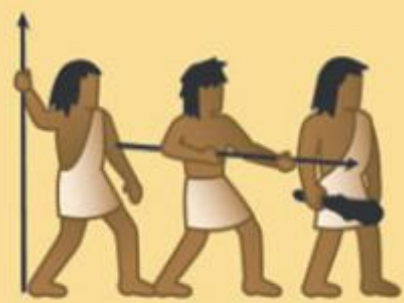
Farming villages became established along river valleys for their good soil & irrigation

People no longer had to be nomads

Food surpluses led to population increases

The Peopling of the World

Hunting-Gathering Bands



Growth of Villages



Rise of Cities

Beginning about **2 million B.C.**

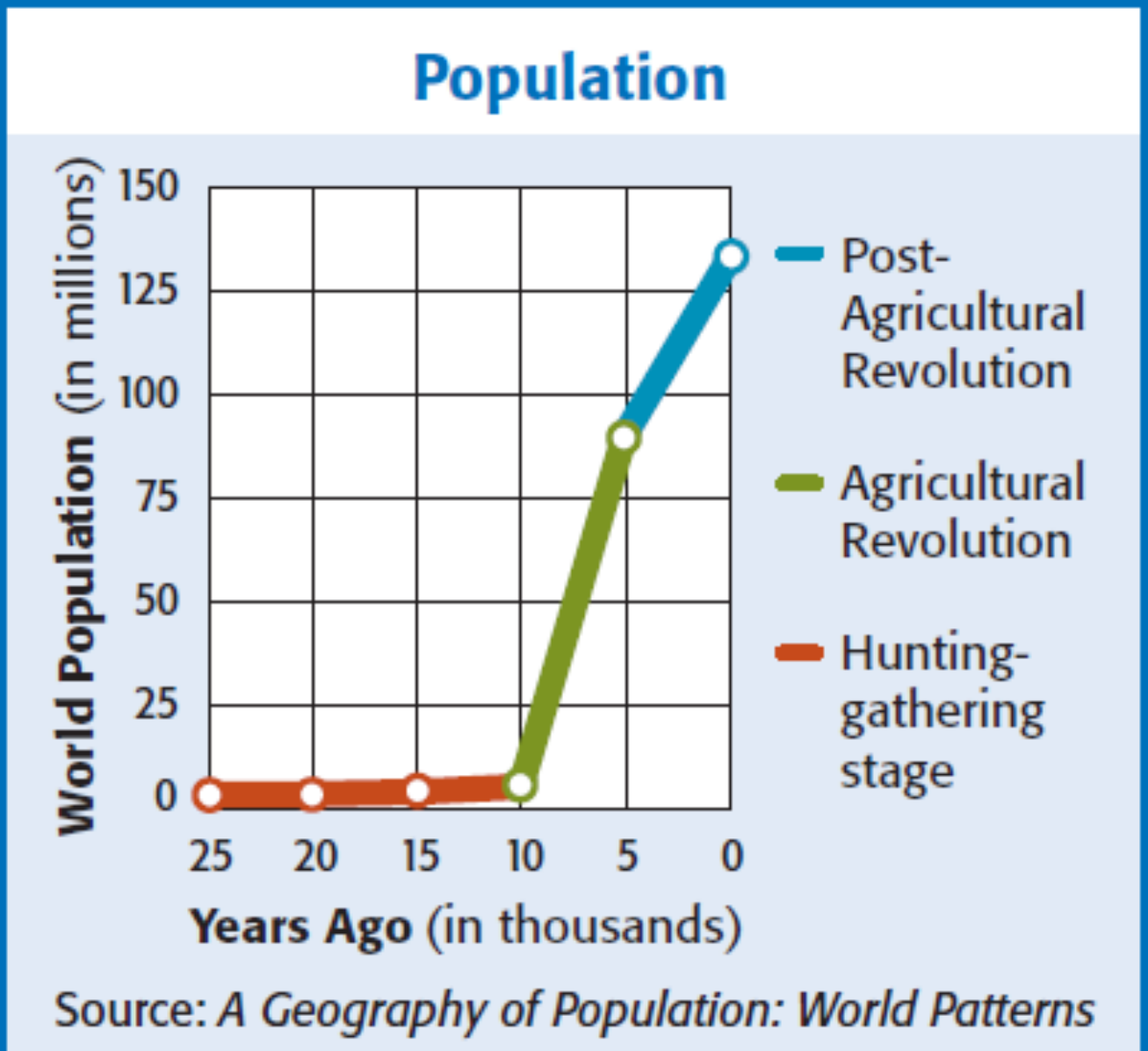
- Invention of tools
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Beginning about **8000 B.C.**

- Breakthroughs in farming technology
- Development of agriculture
- Domestication of animals
- Food surpluses

Beginning about **3000 B.C.**

Neolithic Revolution: Spread of Agriculture



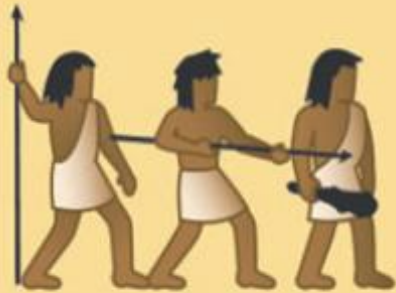
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Around 3,000 B.C., some farming villages became complex civilizations.

Brainstorm: What characteristics are needed to make people a “civilization”?

The Peopling of the World

Hunting-Gathering Bands



Growth of Villages



Rise of Cities



Beginning about **2 million B.C.**

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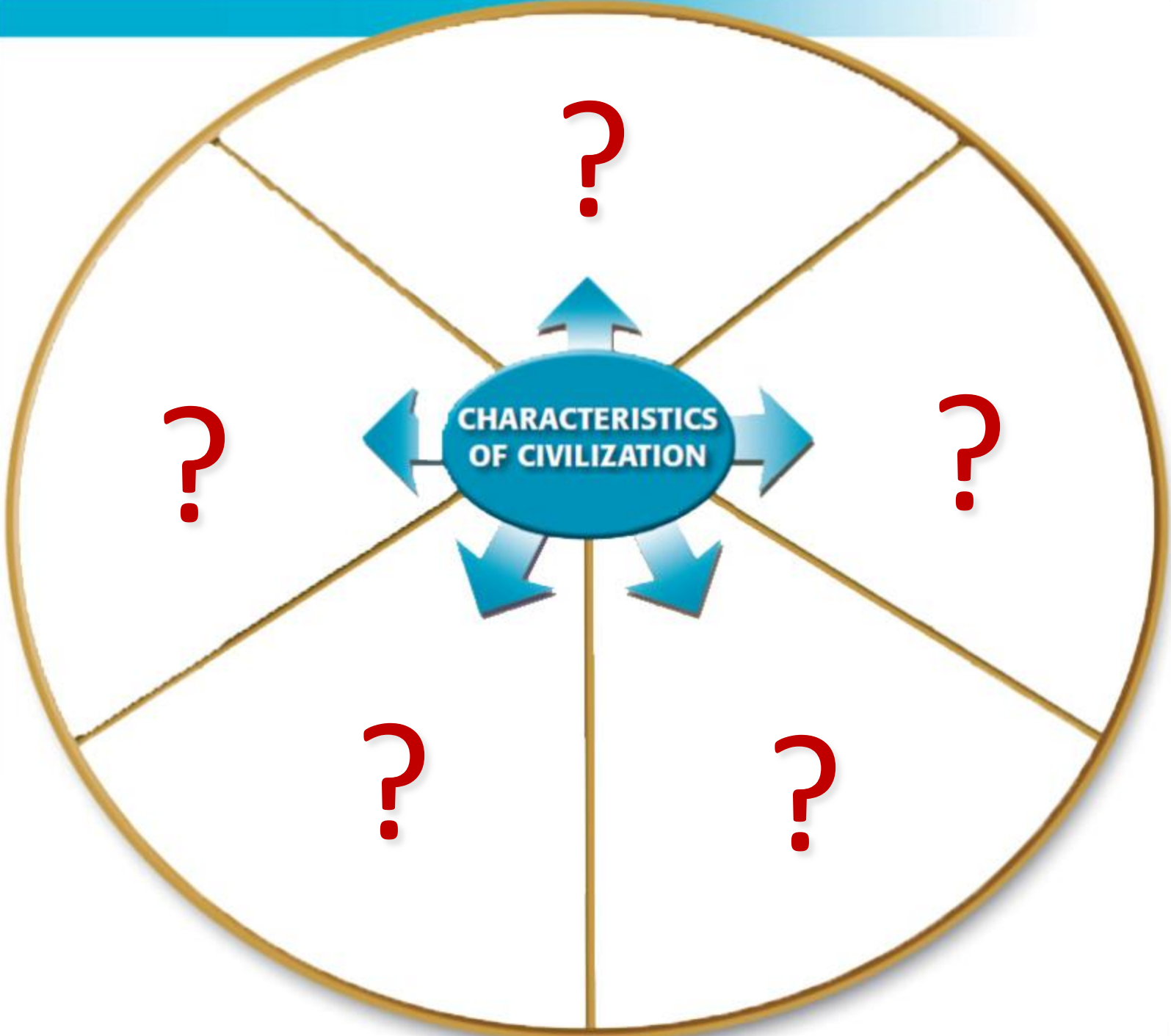
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Beginning about **3000 B.C.**



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Civilizations must have cities that are centers of trade for large areas

CHARACTERISTICS
OF CIVILIZATION

Advanced Cities

- Uruk—population of about 50,000, which doubled in two centuries
- Lagash—population of about 10,000 to 50,000
- Umma—population of about 10,000 to 50,000



Civilizations must have technologies that make their lives easier

CHARACTERISTIC
OF CIVILIZATION



Advanced Technology

By around 3000 B.C.:

- The wheel, the plow, and the sailboat probably in daily use
- Bronze weapons and body armor that gave Sumerians a military advantage over their enemies

Civilizations must have writing in order to keep records of taxes, laws, or trade

CHARACTERISTICS

Record Keeping

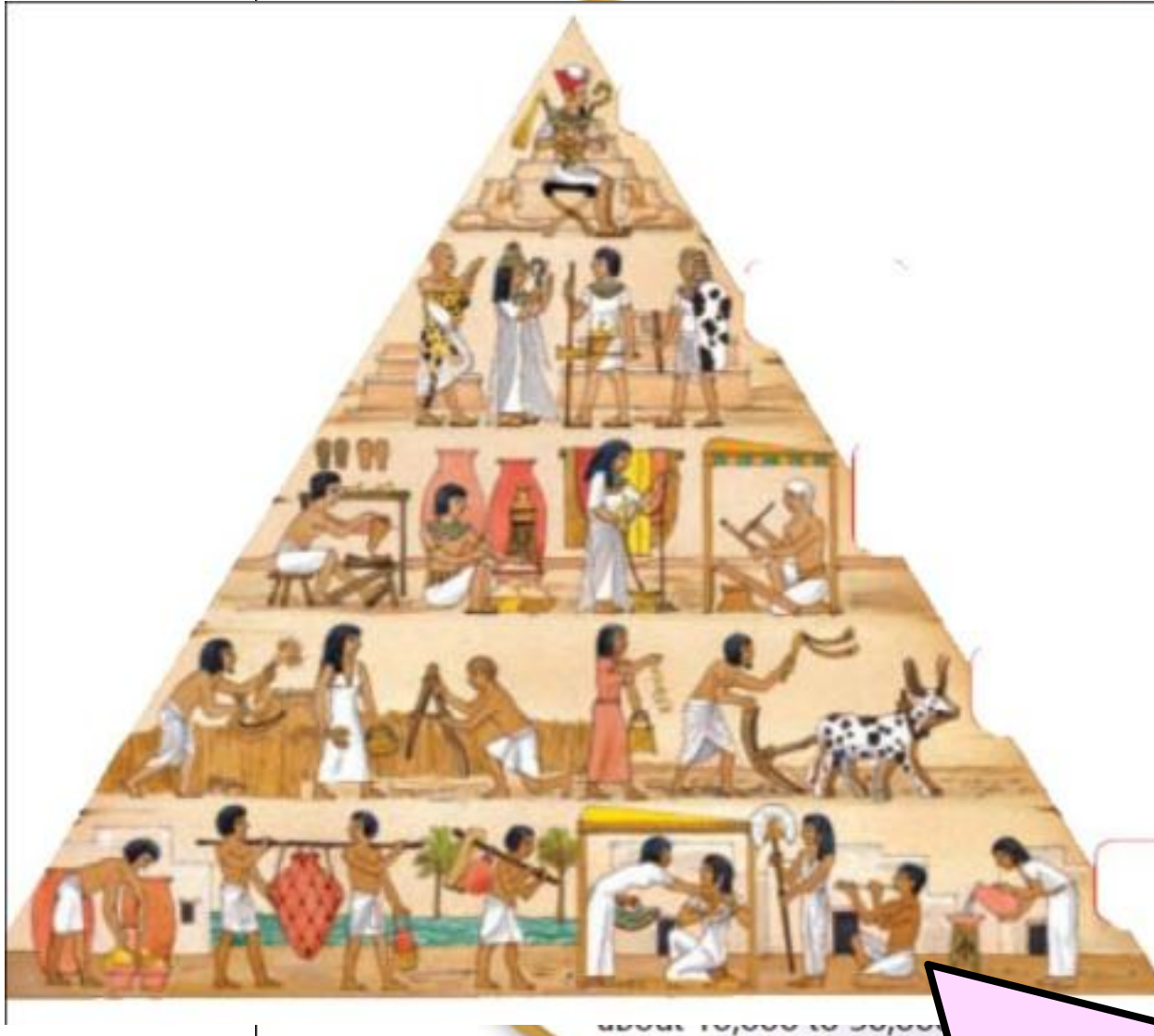
- Cuneiform tablets—records of business transactions, historical events, customs, and traditions

Advanced Technology

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Specialized Workers



Workers
Government officials

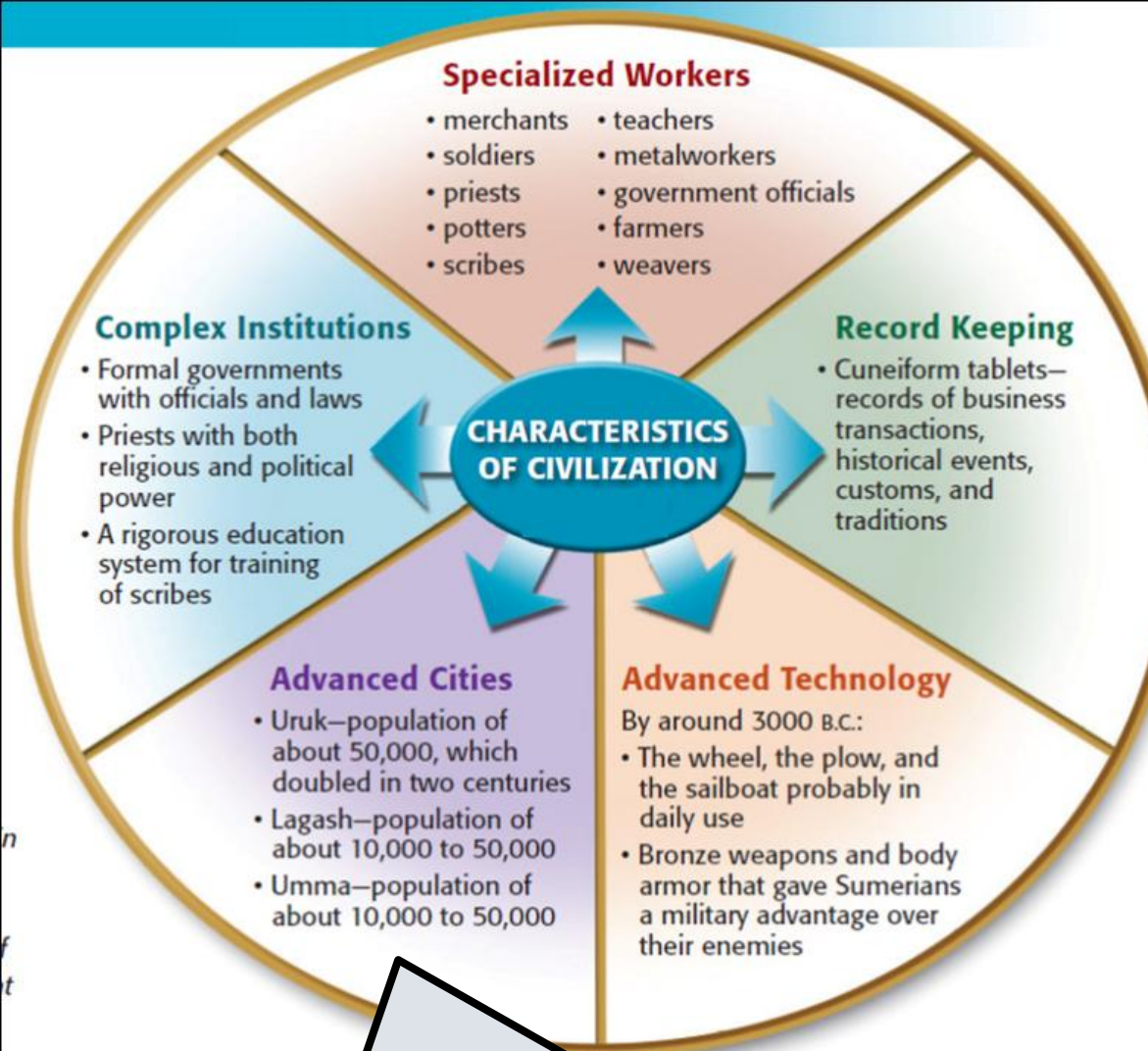
Record Keeping

- Cuneiform tablets—records of business transactions, historical events, customs, and traditions

Advanced Technology

around 3000 B.C.:
the wheel, the plow, and the boat probably in use
new weapons and body armor that gave Sumerians a military advantage over

Civilizations must have specialized workers that create a class system



Civilizations must have complex institutions like government & religion to keep order

Closure Activity

- Now that we have defined “civilization”:
 - Is the United States a civilization? Give evidence to support your answer.