When Does Civilization Begin?

- Hunters and gatherers originally
- Changes:
  - Domestication of animals
  - Agricultural transition
    - Development of tools to establish vegetation in a set area
  - New Key Inventions
    - Wheel
    - Fire
  - Sources for Prehistory & Earliest Civilizations
    - Language
    - Writing
  - Political Authority: Who's in Charge?
    - People were once only together by blood and stayed together
    - The strongest began to emerge as leader of multiple groups of people (always male in early civilizations)
    - Leader could also emerge from strongest familial support
    - Leader could also emerge by their ability to control nature (fire)

5 Characteristics of Civilization:

- Agricultural development
- Long-distance trade
- Occupational specialization
- Social stratification - special governing class
- Urbanization/founding of cities

Social Stratification

- Governing class chosen based on:
  - Religious status
  - Intellect
  - Health
  - Land
  - Wealth

What is a City?

- A large population
- People are no longer tied only by kinship
- Full time specialists (occupational/religious) emerge
- Surplus concentration of food
- Monumental public buildings
  - Religious buildings
  - Meeting halls
Persian Administration

- 35 million people & over 70 ethnic groups
  o Many different ethnicities = different religions, customs, etc.
- Key to success: Policy of Tolerance
  o Example: Jews
  o Allows ethnic law customs while layering on Royal Persian law
  o Key goals: defense of empire & trade networks
- Persepolis
  o A mixing and melting of cultures
- Satrapies - 20 provinces ruled by a local governor or Satrap
  o Familial links to Achaemenids, but ethnically local
    ▪ Satrap usually Persian, but married into satrap and council was made up of local rulers
    ▪ Complex system stands the test of time
  o Emperor had an official spy corps known as the eyes & ears of the kingdom
    ▪ Spied on each satrapy to control satrapies
    ▪ Helped look for issues (rebellion, tax evasion, etc.)
- Official language changes to Aramaic
- Literacy rates increase

Administering the Empire

- Taxes
  o Originally, Cambyses and Cyrus had people pay them tributes (irregular)
  o Standardized coins (from Lydia)
  o All used the gold or silver daric
    ▪ Could pay in equivalent wealth in slaves or agriculture
- Connecting the Empire
  o Roads/highways – Persian Royal Road
  o Courier service “neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night stays these couriers from the swift completion of their appointed rounds”
  o Standardized law code while maintaining local customs

Persian Road System

- Lydia is the last stop on the Royal Road (economic hub)
- Susa is the “beginning” of the royal road (political hub in Persia)
- Military posts were scattered on road
  o Very safe
  o It was said a virgin with a pot of gold on her head could make safe travel down the Royal Road
- Inns were scattered down road
- Roads physically connected areas, connected resources, and moved military easily to different parts of the Empire