**What led to the establishment of civilizations?**

**Directions**: Read AND annotate the excerpt below. After your first read, complete the Stop and Jot Activity. Finally, answer the short questions that follow.

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| **Contextualize****Connect Cause and Effect** |  | The earliest civilizations developed after 3000 BCE. The first civilizations appeared in a place called Mesopotamia which is located in modern-day Iraq. Civilizations developed on every continent except Antarctica and shared common characteristics like written language, legal systems, job specialization, and a form of government. Prior to civilizations with cities, there was the Paleolithic Age during which time people hunted and gathered food. There was not a stable supply of food. Sometimes, they were able to find enough plants or kill enough animals in order to keep everyone alive. However, there were other times when they were unable to find plants and animals, and the population died off. In 10,000 BCE, there was a major turning point called the Neolithic Revolution. During the Neolithic Revolution, people learned how to domesticate animals and develop agriculture. This provided a predictable supply of food. Not only was there a predictable supply of food, there was a surplus. A food surplus is extra food. This extra food not only helped keep people alive, it also meant that the population could grow even larger because there was enough food to keep people alive and to produce more children. As the population grew, cities began to form. In these cities, there were legal codes and social classes to organize society. There was also job specialization which meant that different people performed specific tasks. For example, some people were farmers, while others may have made clothes, or built homes. As cities grew larger, they became more complex. |



Stop and Jot

Identify the following from your first read of the text above.

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| **TOPIC**What is the topic of your inquiry? |  |
| **Interesting Parts** |  |
| **Something New** |  |
| **Questions/****Confusing Parts** |  |
| **Inferences** |  |
| **Connects** |  |

1. Where did the first civilizations appear?

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2. Was there a stable food supply during the Paleolithic Era? Explain.

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3. How did the Neolithic Revolution create a predictable food supply?

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4. What is a food surplus?

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5. How did food surpluses lead to the development of civilizations?

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