### The 8 Features of Civilization

1. **CITIES:**
   -Began in river valleys
   -Emerged as farmers began to produce a surplus of food to support growing population.

2. **ORGANIZED GOVERNMENTS:**
   -Needed to oversee and maintain food surplus, irrigation, collecting of taxes, defense, and laws.
   -Bureaucracy – system of managing government through departments run by appointed officials.

3. **COMPLEX RELIGIONS:**
   -People appeal to sun gods, river gods, and other spirits that they believed controlled natural forces and human activities.
   -Had complex rituals
   -Built temples
   -Many sacrifices
   -Polytheism – belief in many gods.

4. **JOB SPECIALIZATION:**
   -Many new jobs and skills developed:
     -Pottery making
     -Cloth making
     -Metal working
     -Brick layers
     -Entertainers

5. **SOCIAL CLASSES:**
   -People were ranked according to their job
     -Top – priests & nobles
     -2nd – merchants
     -3rd – artisans
     -4th – peasants/farmers
     -Last – slaves

6. **ARTS & ARCHITECTURE:**
   -Expressed the beliefs & values of the people
     -Many huge temples & palaces
     -Paintings, jewlery, & furniture

7. **PUBLIC WORKS:**
   -Building projects ordered to be built by strong rulers for the benefit & protection of the city:
     -Irrigation systems
     -Roads
     -Bridges
     -Defensive walls

8. **WRITING:**
   -Began in temples where priests recorded information about rituals and prayer.
   -Used to record tax rolls, marriage contracts, & treaties.
   -Pictograms – drawing used to represent a word.