Aim: Why was the Neolithic Revolution a turning point in history?

I. Paleolithic Era

- nomads = ppl./travel place to place/ search of food + shelter

- men hunted + women gathered food

- developed tools = spears + arrows

- discovered fire

II. Neolithic Revolution (~10,000 BCE)

- Neolithic = New Stone Age

- domestication of animals= taming animals/ use for work + breeding

- settled farming + domestication → permanent settlements

- dev./civilizations → 1st gov'ts

- Neo. Rev = turning point in history

<u>Aim:</u> What are the most important features of a civilization?

<u>I. Features of a Civilization</u>
1. Cities:
- settled near rivers → water + food source
- center of trade

2. Gov't:
- kept order + made laws

3. Specialized Workers
- artisan = skilled craft worker (made goods by hand)
- ex. = carpenters + blacksmiths + potters

4. Social Ranking System
- ppl. ranked based on jobs

5. Religion
- polytheistic = worshipped many gods
- worshipped nature gods → built temples + sacrifices

6. Art and Architecture
- show beliefs + values (ex. temples + palaces + gods/ goddesses)

7. Public Works
- gov't-funded projects = bridges + roads + walls

8. Writing
- pictograms = simple drawings/ represent things + ideas
- used to keep records/ ex. = taxes + pop.

<u>Aim:</u> How did geography allow Mesopotamia to become the world's first civilization?

<u>I. Geography of Mesopotamia</u>
- location = Tigris-Euphrates River Valley = Fertile Crescent
- Mesopotamia = land btwn. rivers

<u>II. Geographic Features</u>
- rivers = Tigris + Euphrates
- flooding = violent + irregular + unpredictable → fear
- floods → fertile soil + irrigation/ crops
- mtns. + desert = barriers to invasion

<u>III. Edu. + Math</u>
- created 1st schools/ only upper class males could attend
- dev. # sys. based on 60 → hour = 60 min + circle = 360°
- inventions = wheel + sail + plow

<u>IV. Astronomy</u>
- charting stars → accurate calendar

<u>V. Art + Sculpture</u>
- art/ marble + gold
- paintings + sculptures expressed rel. beliefs
- built ziggurats = step-pyramids
- temples honored gods
- higher the temple = closer to gods

<u>VI. Writing</u>
- writing = cuneiform
- used stylus to inscribe on clay tablets
- purpose = record keeping/ex. = taxes + events
- *The Epic of Gilgamesh* = series of stories → understanding Sumerian beliefs + values

Aim: Was the code of Hammurabi a fair and just law code?

I. Hammurabi

- Hammurabi = King of Babylonian Empire/ 1792 -1750 BCE

- code of laws = Code of Hammurabi

II. Hammurabi's Code

- 1st set of written laws

- 282 laws placed throughout empire

- "eye for an eye" = punishment should fit crime

- punishments based on social classes + gender

Aim: How did geography allow ancient Egypt to become an advanced civilization?

I. Geography of Egypt
- location = North Africa
- Nile River = "Lifeline of Egypt"
- floods once / year = predictable
- floods → fertilized soil → crops
- water source → transportation + trade + comm.
- Sahara Desert → protection/ invasion

II. Writing
- began ~3000 BCE
- Hieroglyphics = writing sys./ pics depict messages
- carved in stone + papyrus = paper made/ reed around Nile
- 1799/ Rosetta Stone found → decipher hieroglyphics

III. Math + Medicine
- geometry → calculation/ area + volume → build pyramids
- 365-day calendar
- experts in human anatomy
- procedures = surgery + autopsy → learn/ human body
- splints + bandages + compresses/treat fractures + wounds + diseases

IV. Mummification
- Mummification = ritual → preserve pharaoh's body
- priests removed organs → rejoin when resurrected
- brain removed + heart was left in place

V. Art + Architecture
- art + statues combined human + animals/ made of gold + semi-precious stones
- wall drawings depict everyday life
- built pyramids

<u>Aim</u>: How did geography influence ancient China?

<u>I. Geography of China</u>
- location = East Asia

<u>II. Rivers</u>
a. Yangtze/ central China
- longest river/ China

b. Huang He/ N. China
- Huang He = Yellow River/ contains yellow silt (soil) → fertilizes land
- massive floods → devastation + many deaths
- known as "River of Sorrows"

<u>III. Mountains</u>
- China + India share Himalaya Mtns.

<u>IV. Effects of Geography</u>
- mtns. + Gobi desert → only 12% of China can be farmed
- mtns. → isolation
- trade + travel + comm. = difficult
- isolation → ethnocentrism = belief one's culture is superior
- ex. believed foreigners = barbaric

Aim: How advanced were the ancient Chinese civilizations?

I. Shang Dynasty (1650 BCE -1027 BCE)
- dynasty = succession of rulers /same family
- writing = pictograms
- oracle bones = pieces of bone + turtle shell
- writing on oracles bones → prediction

II. Zhou Dynasty (1027 BCE -256 BCE)
- claimed Mandate of Heaven = divine right to rule
- good + fair ruler → keeping Mandate
- dynastic cycle = gaining + losing Mandate
- made silk = most valuable export
- bamboo binding strips → book making

III. Qin Dynasty (221 BCE -206 BCE)
- overthrow Zhou
- walls built in north → Great Wall of China

Aim: How did geography impact ancient India?

I. Geography of India
- location = South Asia
- peninsula = land/3 sides of water

II. Rivers
- 2 major rivers = Indus + Ganges
- flooding = unpredictable → problems
- rivers = sacred
- Ganges = god/ washes away sins
- Monsoons = seasonal winds + heavy rains

III. Mountains
- 2 major mtn. ranges = Himalaya + Hindu Kush
- pos. = protect/ invasion
- neg. = isolation → little cultural diffusion + trade

Aim: How advanced was ancient India?

I. Achievements of the Indus Valley Civilizations
- 2,500 BCE/ major cities appear = Mohenjo-Daro + Harappa
- urban planning → cities/ grid sys.
- irrigation sys. → public baths + wells
- drainage + sewage sys.
- writing = undecipherable

II. Disappearance
- ~1750 BCE civilization disappeared
- reasons = unknown

III. Aryan Civilizations
- 1500 BCE/ Aryans = nomads/ arrived in Indus River Valley
- Aryan history/ written in *The Vedas*
- *The Vedas* = collection of prayers + stories + rituals → basis for Hindu religion

IV. Aryan Social System
- strict social sys. → Caste System
- 4 castes/ based on occupation
- born into class + no social mobility

Aim: How did cultural diffusion affect civilizations in the Middle East?

I. The Hittites
- Conquered modern day Turkey + Mesopotamia
- iron weapons → success

II. The Assyrians
- Created 1st true empire
- use of iron weapons + cavalry → empire

III. Phoenicians
- empire/Mediterranean
- built large ships → trade → ↑ cultural diffusion
- known as "carriers of civilization"
- created 1st alphabet

IV. Other Middle Eastern Civilizations
- Lydians/ 1st coins
- Hebrews/ 1st monotheistic religion = Judaism