

Name: _____ Date: _____ Period: _____

Introductory Question

Hypothesize about why some countries have accumulated great riches over time while others remained historically poor and share these ideas with classmates in small and large group discussions.

Directions: Before viewing the film, read each question below so you know what information and ideas you should be looking for as you watch Episode 1. Record your answers to each question by providing as many facts, details, and examples as possible to answer each question. Be prepared to discuss your answers with the class.

1. According to Jared Diamond, what are the three major elements that separate the world's "haves" from the "have nots"?
2. Jared Diamond refers to the people of New Guinea as "among the world's most culturally diverse and adaptable people in the world", yet they have much less than modern Americans. Diamond has developed a theory about what has caused these huge discrepancies among different countries, and he says it boils down to geographic luck. Give several examples from the film to support Diamond's theory.
3. For thousands of years, people have been cultivating crops. Describe the process used to domesticate crops and create plants that yielded bigger, tastier harvests.
4. According to Diamond, livestock also plays a significant role in a civilization's ability to become rich and powerful. How did the domestication of animals help people? Give several examples.

5. List the animals that can be domesticated and where they can be found.

6. Looking at the list of animals and locations from question 5, discuss how Diamond's theory about geographic luck applies here.

7. How did the movement of the early civilizations of the Fertile Crescent (Middle East) further support Diamond's idea that geography played a key role in the success of a civilization?

8. Do you agree with Jared Diamond when he says of a civilization's ability to gain power, wealth, and strength, "...what's far more important is the hand that people have been dealt, the raw materials they've had at their disposal." Why or why not?