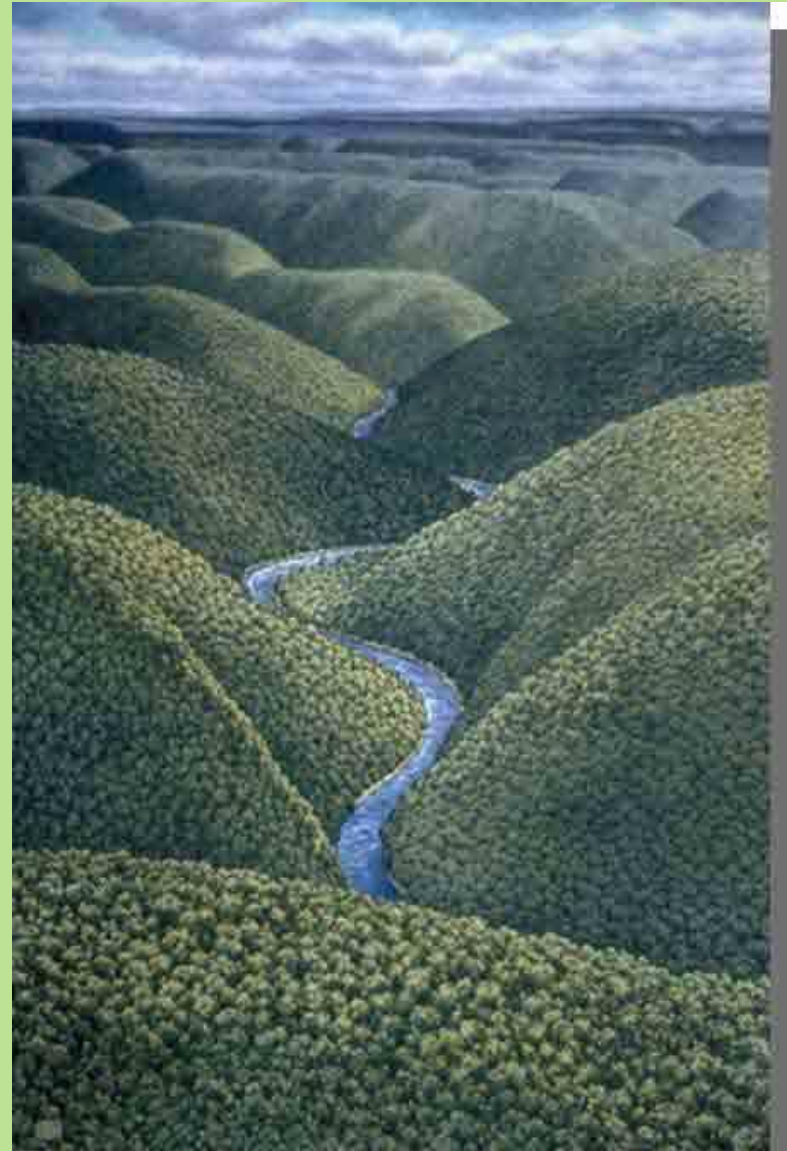# Rise of Civilization

About 5,000 years ago, the first civilizations began to develop along river valleys.

- **The rich, fertile farmlands of river valleys helped these civilizations to thrive.**
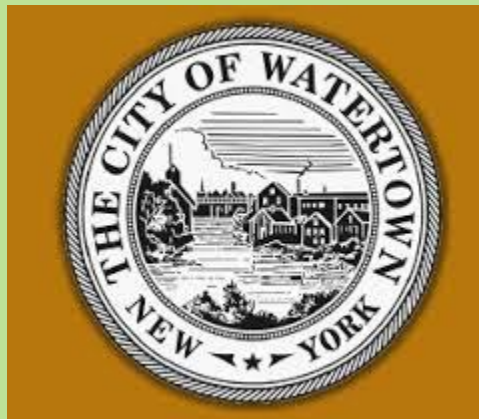
Early Civilizations

8 Characteristics of Civilizations

1. Cities
2. Organized Governments
3. Complex Religions
4. Job Specialization
5. Social Classes
6. Arts & Architecture
7. Public Works
8. Writing

1. Cities

- **Establishment of places in which people could live and trade**
  - A. Cities emerged as farmers produced **surplus** (extra) food.
  - B. **Agriculture** (farming) increased population

MORE FOOD=MORE PEOPLE

2. Organized Governments

- **Governments were organized to help distribute food and maintain order**

- **Led By Kings, Chiefs, Emperors, Priests**

3. Complex Religions

- **Rituals and beliefs that were maintained by the community**

- **Originally Polytheistic (believing in many gods/goddesses**

- **Cities had temples and priests to gain the favor of gods through rituals to ensure plentiful crops**
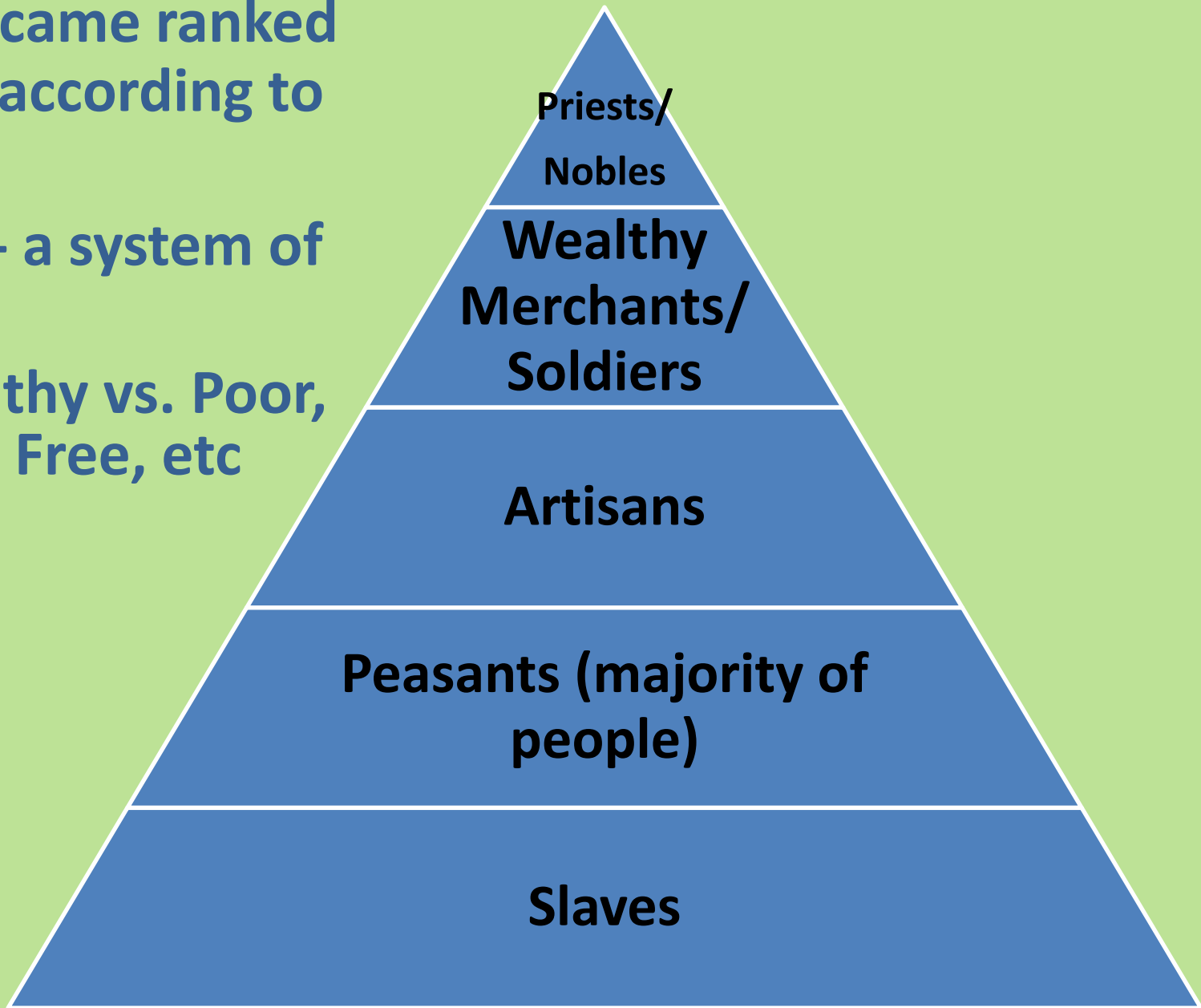
4. Job Specialization

- **People specialized in certain jobs. People developed different skills and abilities to work within the society**

  ex. **Craftworkers (artisans), soldiers, bricklayers, entertainers**

5. Social Classes

- **People became ranked in classes according to their job.**
- **Hierarchy- a system of ranks**
  - **ex. Wealthy vs. Poor, Slave vs. Free, etc**

Priests/ Nobles

Wealthy Merchants/ Soldiers

Artisans

Peasants (majority of people)

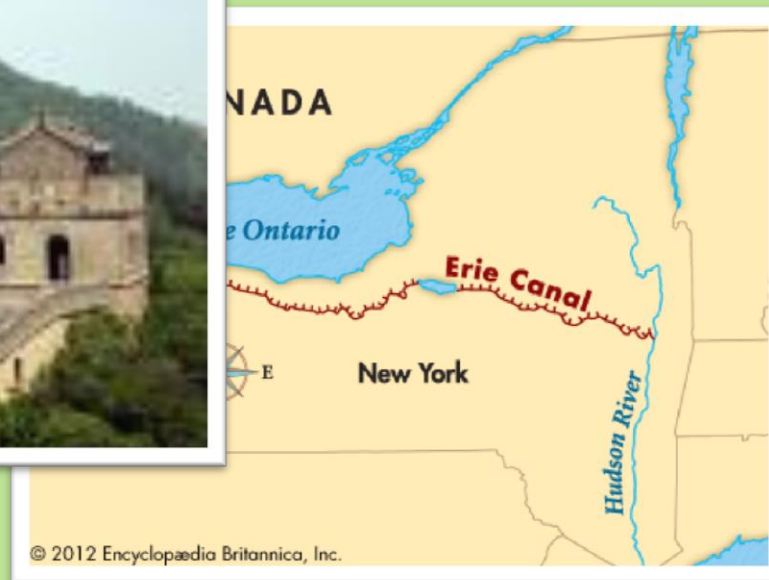**Slaves**

6. Arts/Architecture

- **Unique art and architecture to a particular society/culture**

- **Expressed beliefs and values to those who created them (temples, statutes, etc)**
- **Buildings showed religion and strength in gov't**

7. Public Works

- **Rulers built things all people could use.**
  - **Ex. roads, bridges, defensive walls, canals**

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8. Writing

- **Created to record information**
  - **Scribes (trained writers) kept needed records.**
  - **Documents for tax collections, laws, and the storage of grain**

- **Pictograms or pictures were created that tell a story**