

# THE BEGINNINGS OF CIVILIZATION



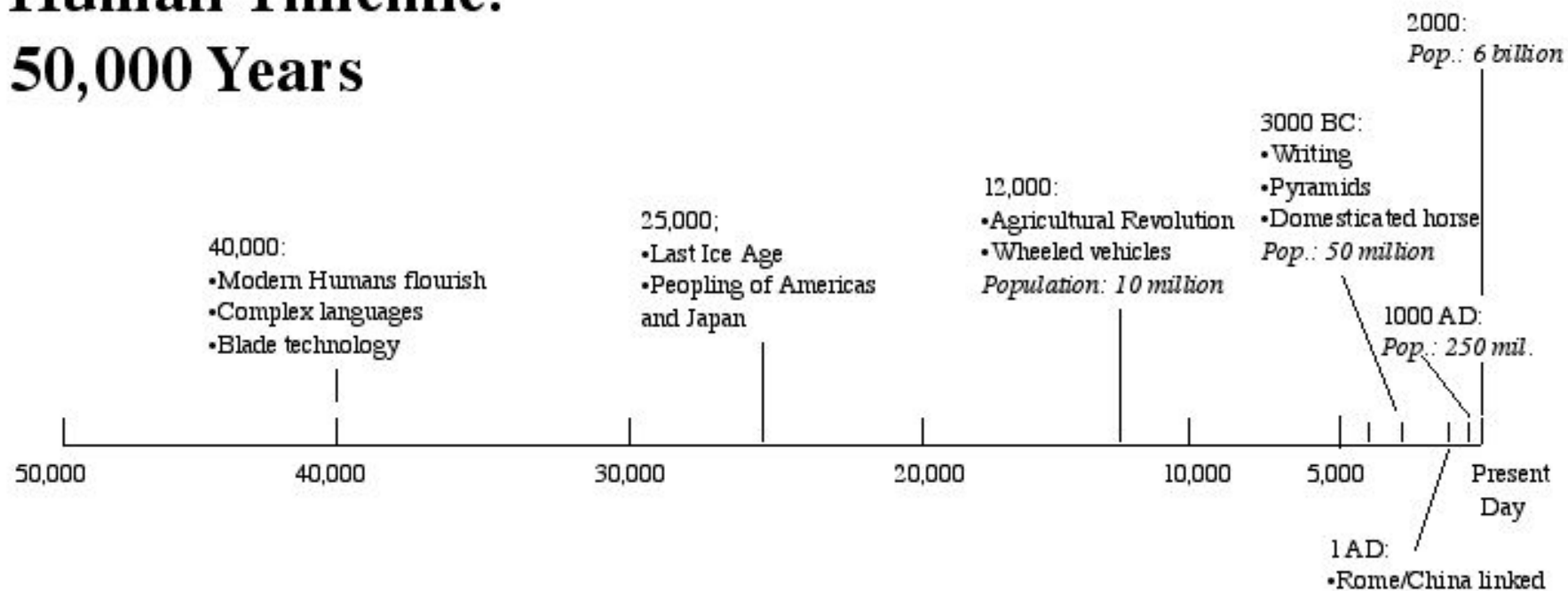
**Miss Bassitt 6th Grade Social Studies**

# What is Prehistory

- ◆ This refers to a period of time before people invented a system of writing
- ◆ Prehistoric people had no cities, organized central governments, or complex inventions



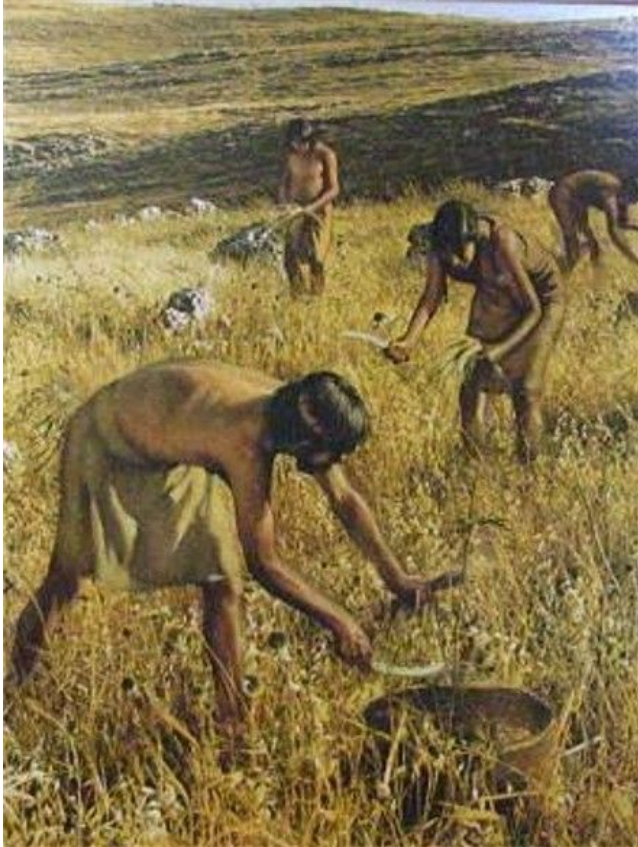
# Human Timeline: 50,000 Years



# Introduction

- As early cities grew in **size and power**, some of them gave rise to **civilizations**.
- A **civilization** is a society that has **cities**, a well organized **government**, and workers with specialized job skills.
- The word civilization comes from the Latin word *civis*, meaning “resident of a city.”
- A **society** is a group of people living in the same area.

# Introduction Continued



- The rise of early civilizations depended on the creation of a **food surplus**.
- Creating that surplus, in turn, depended on the ability of people to **manage** their **resources** well.
- A **resource** is a **supply** of something that can be used as needed.

# Introduction Continued

- The most important resources that people needed were **soil, water,** and **seeds.**
- People were needed to complete the **work** required to use the resources
- Planning and managing the resources well required a level of **planning** and **organization** that marked a new stage in human society.



# Every Civilization has:

## G.R.A.P.E.S.

- Civilizations share six features: **geography, religion, achievements, politics, economics, social structures**



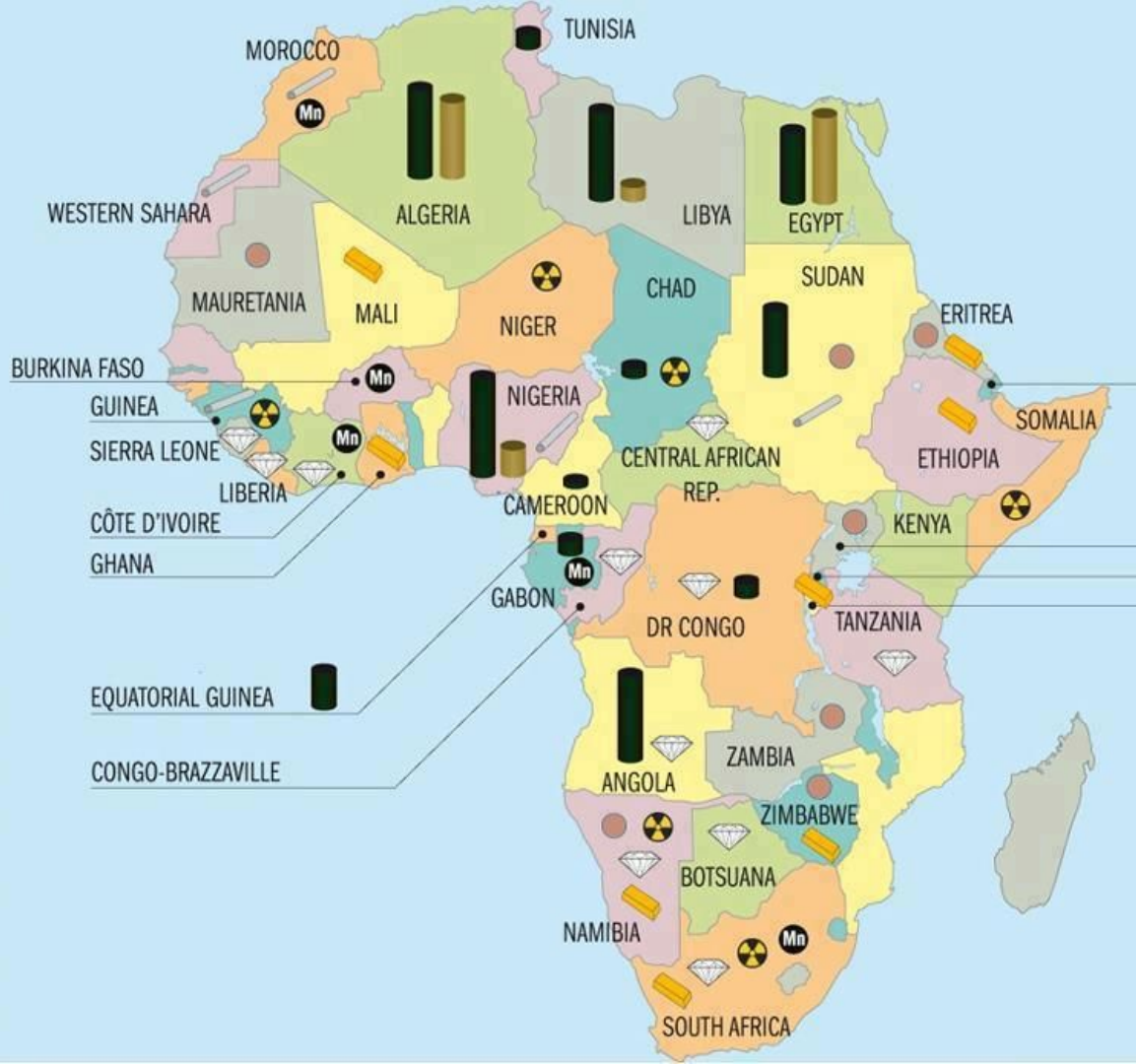
# Geography

Geography is the physical environment and how it may **influence** an economy and **culture**. For example: deserts, islands, rivers, oceans, and mountains.



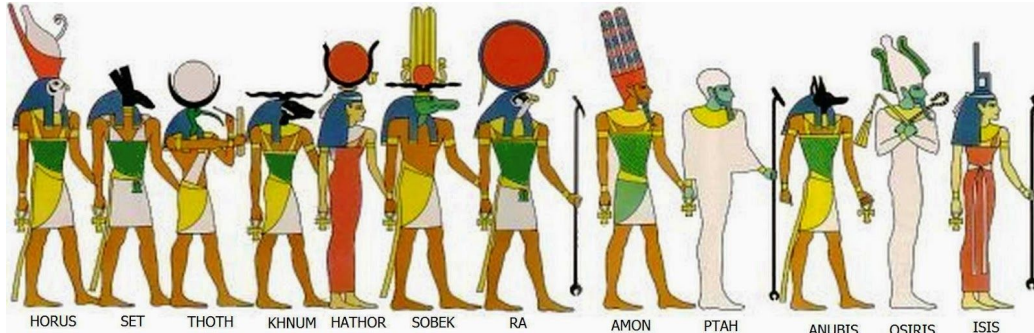
**SELECTED RESOURCES**

-  Oil production
-  Gas production
-  Diamonds
-  Uranium
-  Copper
-  Manganese
-  Iron ore
-  Gold



# Religion

- An established **religion** or set of religious **beliefs** are shared by everyone in a society.
- In most early civilizations, people shared the belief that many **gods** controlled most **events** in their lives.
- **Priests** led prayers and offered sacrifices, hoping to keep the gods **happy**.
- In return, people hoped their gods would **protect** them from **harm**.



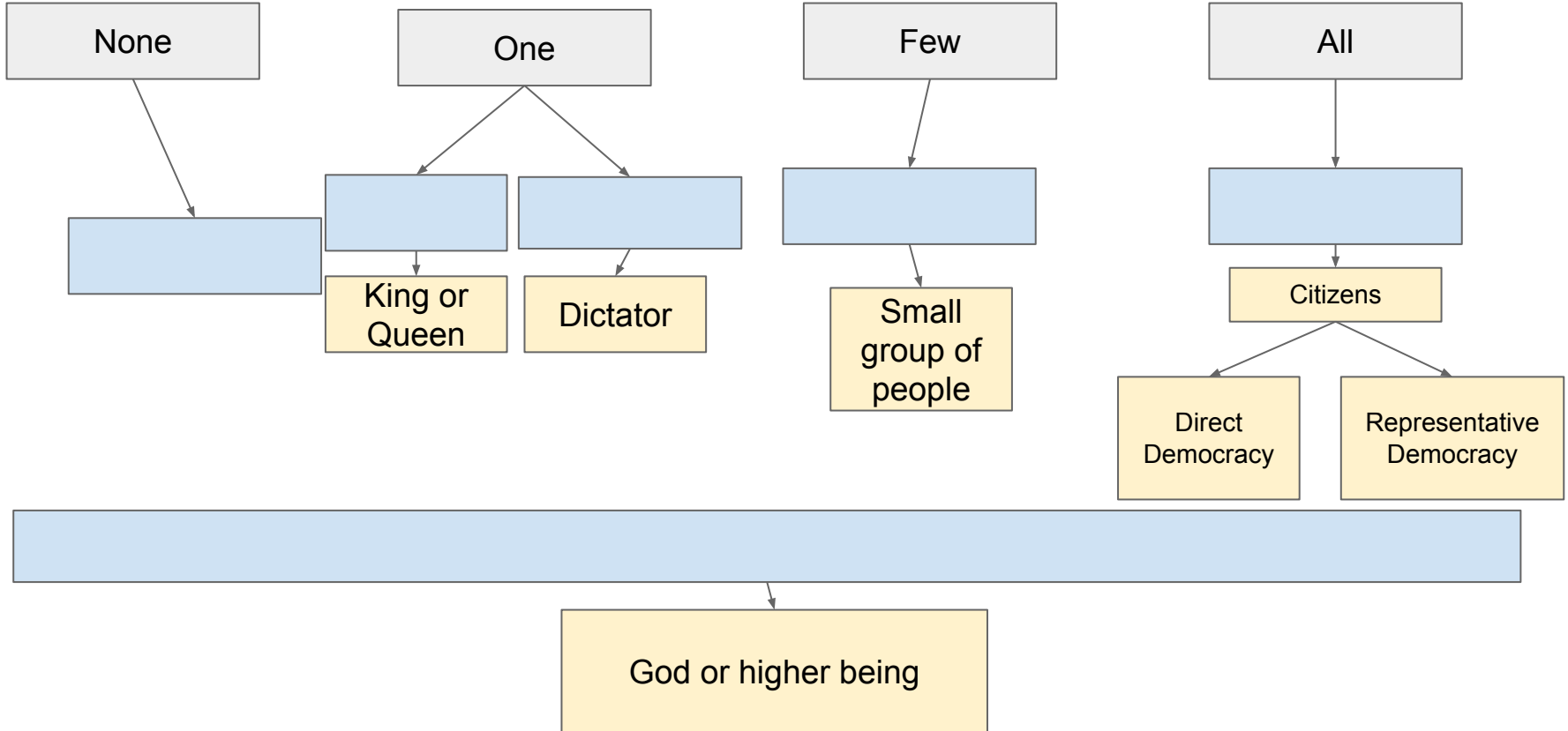
# Achievements

- Achievements are **evidence** a civilization has a highly-**developed** culture.
- People produced great works of **art, literature, and music**.
- Magnificent **temples**, tombs, palaces, and places of **worship** were built.
- People studied the movement of the **stars**.
- **Math** and **medicine** were studied and used in ancient cultures.
- **Writing** systems were created to record **numbers** to track **resource** supply.
- Eventually writing was used to record all information.
- Historians know about early civilizations because of written records dating back to **3000** B.C. (the beginning of history).

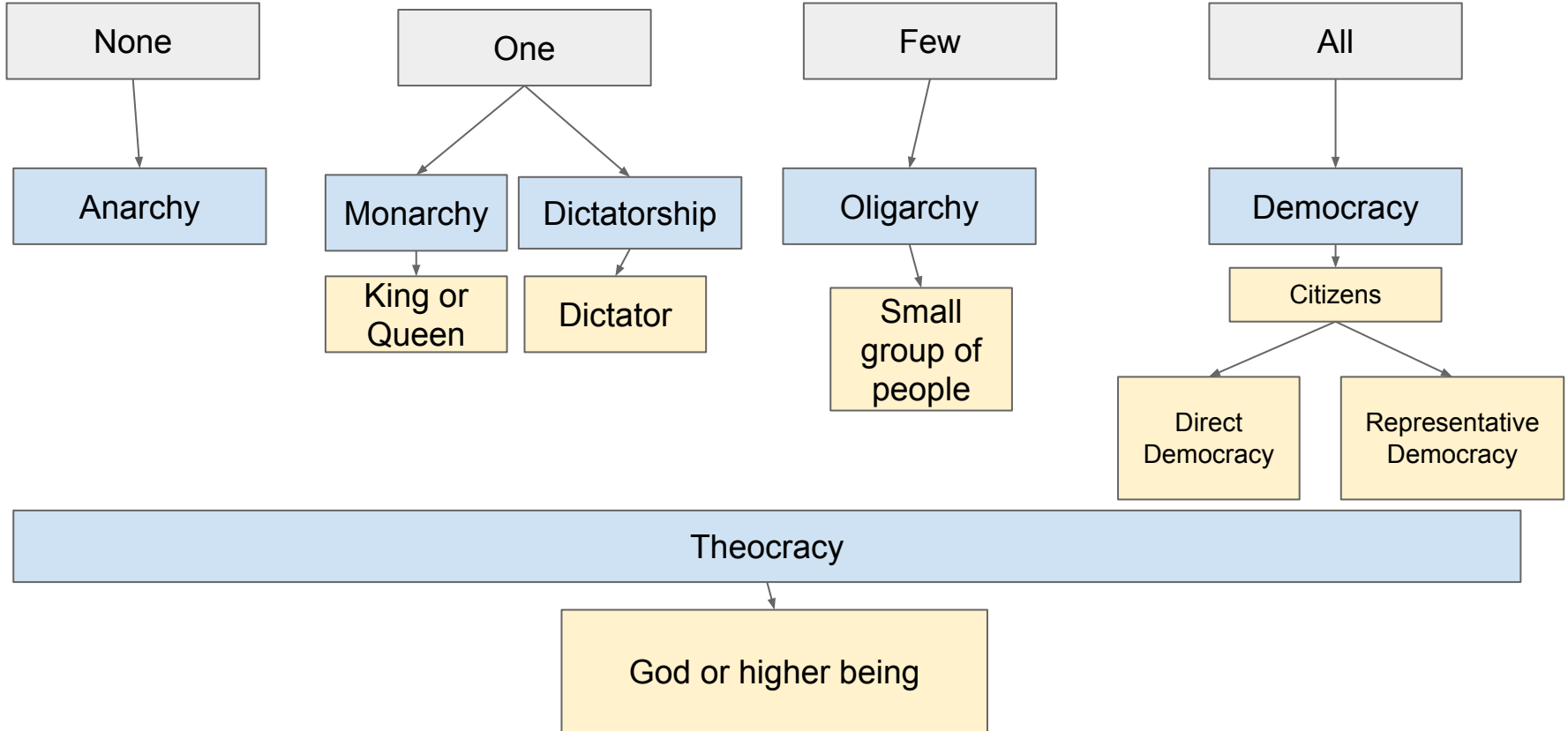
# Politics

- Politics is the governing of a **society**.
- Early civilizations had well organized **governments**.
- The purpose of early government was to manage society's **resources**.
- Another purpose is to organize **workers** to build public works such as water systems, **roads**, and **city walls**.
- A strong government can form and train an **army** to defend a society from **attack** or to expand its **borders**.
- Rulers who ruled in early civilizations claimed their **right** to rule came from the **gods**.
- For example, a Chinese emperor called himself the “Son of **Heaven**”

# Types of Government- Who Rules?



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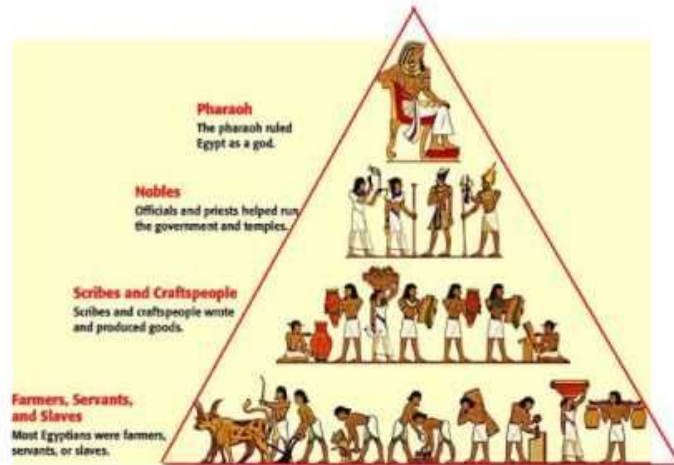
# Economics

- Economy is how a civilization makes **money** through the **buying** and **selling** of **goods** and **services**.
- Examples: resources, trade routes, agriculture, products



# Social Structures

- Social structures are how a civilization is divided into **classes** that have different **roles, responsibilities, and privileges**.
- For example: **slaves, kings and queens, nobles, and priests**



Social Structure  
and the Pharaohs



# REVIEW

- What makes a civilization different from the hunter-gatherer way of living?  
Cite a specific example from your in-class notes today.