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| Basic governments are formed to establish rules, divide lands and resources, and settle disputes among the people. | Now that people can stop moving from place to place, they make more permanent housing structures. | Often out of a common language and religion, creative arts are made by skilled people and shared within the community and beyond. |
| The population grows as more and more people settle in the fertile river valleys. |  | Out of a need to make governing and trade less confusing, a common language is established among all people in the community, which allows detailed records to be kept. |
| The community has grown into an advanced society that has a high level of social and political organization, as well as advanced levels of achievement. | Nomadic hunters and gatherers see patterns in nature and eventually learn how to plant seeds and grow food. | Steady food supplies of grains, meats, vegetables and dairy lead to better health, and people are able to have more children.  |
| The surplus food can be used to feed animals that can be domesticated and kept on or near the settlements.  | Storage areas can now be built near houses to store surplus crops for emergencies, winter months, or trade. | People of the community become a more homogenous group with shared culture (food, language, religious beliefs, traditions, etc.) |
| Instead of a household making all of the tools, food, clothes, and other needed items, they begin to buy or trade with skilled workers who make these goods. | Realizing the importance of a steady fresh water supply to maintain their crops, people settle in fertile river valleys. | With more time on their hands, people begin to develop individual skills that allow for differing jobs that help serve the whole community. |
|  | Cultural characteristics develop within the community, including arts, crafts, architectural styles, storytelling, and religious beliefs. | As different families settle in the same region, conflict over lands and resources begin to occur. |

***Steps to Civilization***