

LETTERS FROM THE EDGE OF COLLAPSE

Purpose

Reflect on what you learned in this lesson about how societies and individuals experienced both collapse and continuity—and how people adapted during times of uncertainty.

Process

1. Imagine you're living through a moment of collapse—like the fall of the Roman Empire, Han China, or the Mayan city-states. Now it's your chance to be like Dhuoda, (the worried mother from the [Unit 5 Overview video](#)) and write a short letter to someone younger than you (a sibling, cousin, or future student), giving them advice for how to survive and thrive in uncertain times.
2. Your letter should include:
 - One insight from the lesson about what happens when societies collapse (for example: loss of networks, rise of religion, shifting power).
 - One example of how people adapted, rebuilt, or preserved knowledge (for example: monasteries in Europe, survival of Mayan highland cities, Islamic scholarly networks).
 - One piece of personal advice (serious or humorous!) that reflects what you've learned from this period in history.

