

Guns, Germs, and Steel: Episode 1

Name: _____

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

1. For thousands of years, people have been cultivating crops. Describe the process used to domesticate crops and create plants that yielded bigger, tastier harvests.

2. 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.

3. List 4 of the animals that have been domesticated
a. _____ b. _____ c. _____ d. _____

What do they have in common?

4. Looking at the list of animals and locations from question 3, discuss how Diamond's theory about geographic luck applies here.

5. 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?

6. 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?