

CONTEXTUALIZATION: AGRARIAN SOCIETIES

Purpose

Deepen your understanding of contextualization by considering conditions from which agrarian societies emerged around the globe. This will highlight how geography is an important factor to consider when you're contextualizing historical events or processes.

Process

Part 1

1. Fill out the Contextualization Tool using what you've learned from this lesson about early agrarian societies.

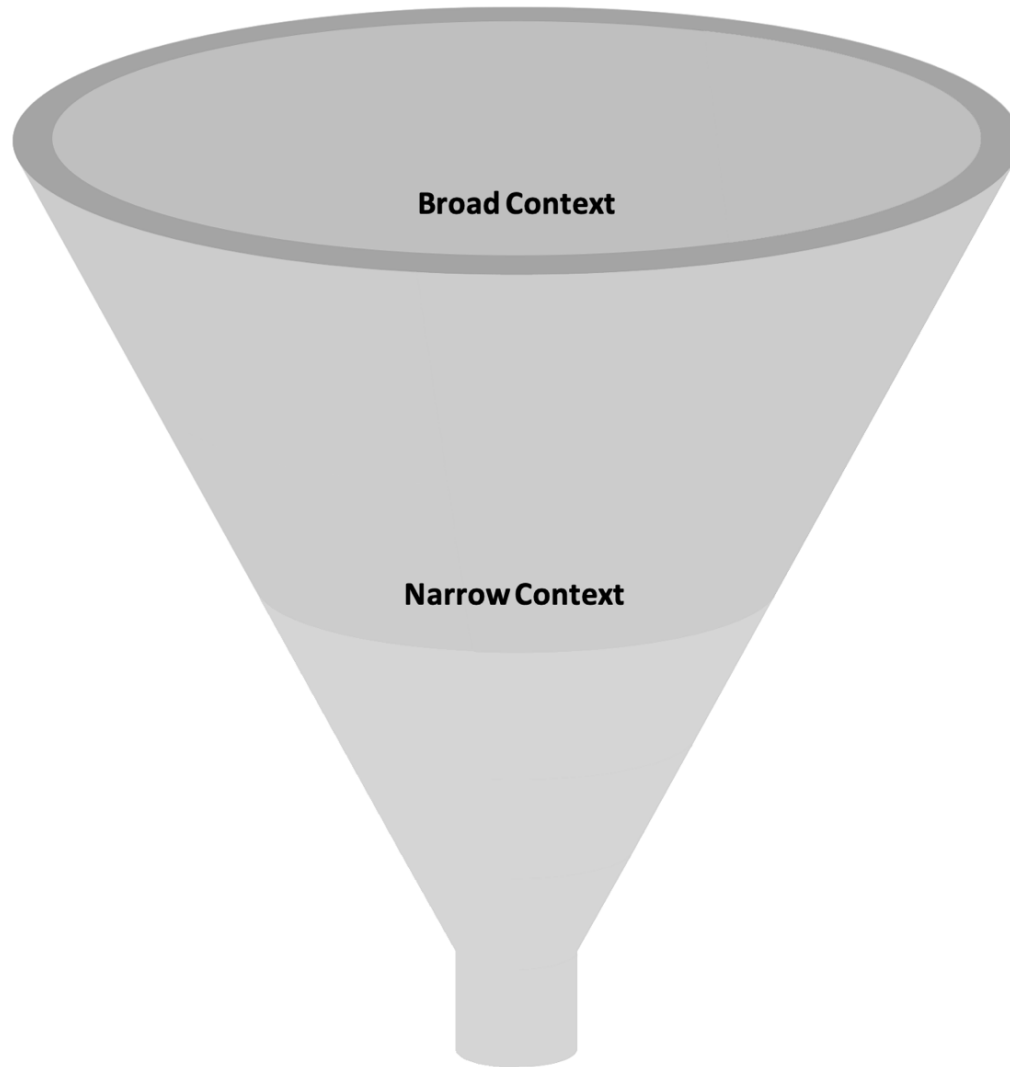
Contextualization Tool

1. Write the historical event/development being studied.

2. Write the date(s) and location(s) of the historical event being studied.

3. **Event Cards:** Cut out [the Events Cards](#), and then place them on the funnel to show whether they represent narrow or broad context. Be prepared to explain your placement. You can also complete this portion of the activity by clicking the link for [Google Slides](#). You'll need to create a copy of the slides.

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Broad context: Wide ranging or long term

Does the context represent wide-ranging themes, trends, events, eras, or regions related to the historical development?

Does it represent a long-term (underlying) cause or contributing factor?

Narrow context: Limited or short term

Does the context represent limited themes, trends, events, eras, or regions that are more closely tied in time/place to the historical development?

Does it help us see the short-term (immediate) causes or contributing factors?

Historical event/development: _____

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4. Write one or two sentences that describe the broad context of this event.

5. Write one or two sentences that describe the narrow context of this event.

6. Analyze how the broad and narrow context help you better understand the historical event.

7. What geographic context enabled early agrarian societies to emerge?

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Part 2

1. Read one of the articles below. Your teacher may assign you an article and/or a group. If not, choose whichever article you'd like to read. Circle the article.

[Mesopotamia](#)

[China—Shang
Dynasty](#)

[Nubia and
Ancient Egypt](#)

[Mesoamerica—
Olmec and
Chavín](#)

[Aksum](#)

[Nok](#)

[Indus River
Valley](#)

2. As you read, look for answers to the following questions:

- Where and how did this agrarian society form?

- How does the information from the article support, extend, or challenge the arguments you made about geographic context and the formation of agrarian societies in this activity?