

Guns, Germs and Steel. Episode One: Out of Eden

Answer the following questions whilst watching Episode One.

1. What is Cargo? How did New Guineans view cargo? How did Westerners view cargo?
2. According to Diamond what have all great civilizations had in common?
3. What is the main geographical difference between the Middle East 13,000 years ago and today? How did this help its inhabitants?
4. What is one of the major differences between the rainforests of Papua New Guinea and the Middle East 13,000 years ago?
5. What building was discovered by archaeologists at Dhra'? What do archaeologist believe that this proves?
6. How did the original farmers at Dhra' begin to domesticate crops?
7. What crops were beginning to be farmed all over the world?

a. China:	
b. Americas:	
c. Africa:	
d. New guinea:	

8. Why was the transition to farming a decisive turning point in human history?
9. What is the difference between the crops farmed in the rest of the world and those farmed in New Guinea?
10. What advantage have Americans had over New Guineans?
11. What advantages did the domestication of animals give to the farmers of the Middle East?
12. What are the differences between the animals domesticated in Europe and Asia and the animal domesticated in Papua New Guinea? What benefits did this give the farmers of Europe and Asia?

13. What makes an animal a suitable candidate for domestication?
14. Why have the inhabitants of Africa been unable to tame the Zebra?
15. How many terrestrial mammals that weigh over 100 pounds have ever been successfully farmed for any length? Where did the ancestors of these animals come from?
16. The big four livestock animals; cows, pigs, sheep and goats, were native to which area?
17. What major benefit arose because people could produce food more efficiently?
18. Why did the people of New Guinea not advance technologically?
19. How did the Fertile Crescent lose its head start?
20. How did geography help the people of the Fertile Crescent after they had lost their head start?
21. Some geographers think Jared Diamond's argument is too neat and easy and he has been criticized for being too deterministic, for ignoring the part people have played in shaping their own destiny. What is Diamond's response to this?
22. What is Diamond's answer to the question asked by Yali? " Why you white man have so much cargo and we New Guineans have so little?"