

New Evidence: Modern Civilization Began in Iran

New discoveries at dig sites in Middle Asia are rocking the archeological world and redefining the origins of modern civilization.

Numerous sites in modern-day Iran and the surrounding region suggest that a vast network of societies together constituted the first cities, whose residents traded goods across hundreds of miles and forged parallel but strikingly independent cultures.

Archaeologists, so far, have continuously thought that modern civilization began in Mesopotamia, where the large Tigris and Euphrates rivers bounded a fertile valley that nurtured an increasingly complex society.

One site proved particularly important for convincing some scientists of the error of the accepted history. Locals had digging up artifacts in an ancient cemetery just south of Jiroft and flooding the art market with pottery and other goods. Researchers tracked these curiously unique pieces back to their source, where they found "a vast moonscape of craters made by looters".

The potential discovery of a new writing system was perhaps the largest controversy of the many this discovery gives way to. Three tablets, the first discovered by a local farmer and the others subsequently unearthed by professional archaeologists, appear to contain a unique iconography.

Adapted from: news.xinhuanet.com
Culture& Edu

Part one: Reading and interpreting

1- The text above is:

- a- A press report.
- b- A scientific report.
- c- A civilization profile.

2- Read the text and say whether these statements are true or false:

- a- The new discoveries showed possible new origins of civilization.
- b- According to archeologists, this civilization grew in Iraq.
- c- Archeologists tracked some pottery to get to the site.
- d- This presumed civilization developed writing systems.

3- What do the underlined words refer to in the text?

- a- Whose§2.
- b- These curiously unique pieces§4.
- c- The others§5.

4- Match the words to their definitions:

Words	Definitions
1. Independent	a. After that
2. Fertile	b. Thieves
3. Looters	c. Not subject to another's authority
4. Subsequently	d. Capable of producing abundant vegetation

5- Fill in the table with the missing words under each category:

Verbs	Nouns	Adjectives
.....	Destruction
.....	Inventive
To succeed

6- Complete sentence 2 so that it means the same sentence 1:

- a- 1. Though the climate was harsh, those early nations traded across hundreds of miles.
2. In spite of
- b- 1- When archaeologist had found some unique pieces of pottery, they tracked their origin.
2. As soon as.....

7- Classify the following verbs according to the pronunciation of their final-ed:

Discovered increased convinced traded
Stayed originated tracked proved

/d/	/t/	/id/

8- Reorder the following scrambled sentences into a coherent paragraph:

- a- When they switched from hunting and gathering to farming.
b- To grow up their crops and settle their trade.
c- Thus, many civilizations that depended on climate conditions.
d- Early people made themselves and us weaker against the anger of nature and the weather.
e- Had faced starvation, death and war until they fell apart.

Part Two: Writing

Choose only **one** of the following topics:

Write an essay of about 100 words on the topic of your choice.

Topic one: The discoveries that the text informs about can shape again the history of mankind.

According to what you know about the elements of civilization, mention some of the circumstances that probably favored the rise of this yet-unknown civilization in an essay of about 100 words.

Topic two: Some people argue that modern civilization has made people's lives more stressful and even threatens the very existence of Mankind.

Do you share this point of view?

Write an essay in which you comment on the risks modern civilization is putting mankind through as nuclear energy, pollution, new diseases, economic crisis and consequent disasters.



Part one :

1. A press report.
2. True or false :
 - a- True
 - b- False
 - c- True
 - d- True
3. ..
 - a- « Whose » : the first cities.
 - b- « These » : pieces- aircrafts (pottery and other goods)
 - c- “The others”: two of the three tablets.
4.
 - 1- C.
 - 2- D.
 - 3- B.
 - 4- A

5.

Verb	Noun	Adj
Destroy	Destruction	Destructive
Invent	Invention	Inventive
Succeed	Success	Successful

6.

- a- In spite of the harsh climate, those nations traded across thousands of miles.
- b- As soon as they had found some unique pieces of pottery, archaeologists tracked their origin.

7. Find “ed”

“ed”		
/t/	/d/	/Id/
Convinced	discovered	traded
Tracked	stayed/ proved	originated
	Increased	