

Name: _____ P: _____ Date: _____

Guns, Germs, and Steel – Episode One: “Out of Eden”

1. According to Jared Diamond, what are the three major elements that separate the world’s “haves” from the “have nots”?

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2. How long have people been living in New Guinea?

3. What is Yali’s important question that sparks Diamond’s interest? What is ‘cargo’?

4. What is the fundamental problem with hunting?

5. What does the video identify as the “radical shift in human behavior”?

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

7. Compared to farmers, hunters and gatherers were always going to be at a “ _____
_____ ”

8. How did highland agriculture (New Guineans) differ from the agriculture of more prosperous regions?

9. Besides their meat, how could newly domesticated animals be used by a community?

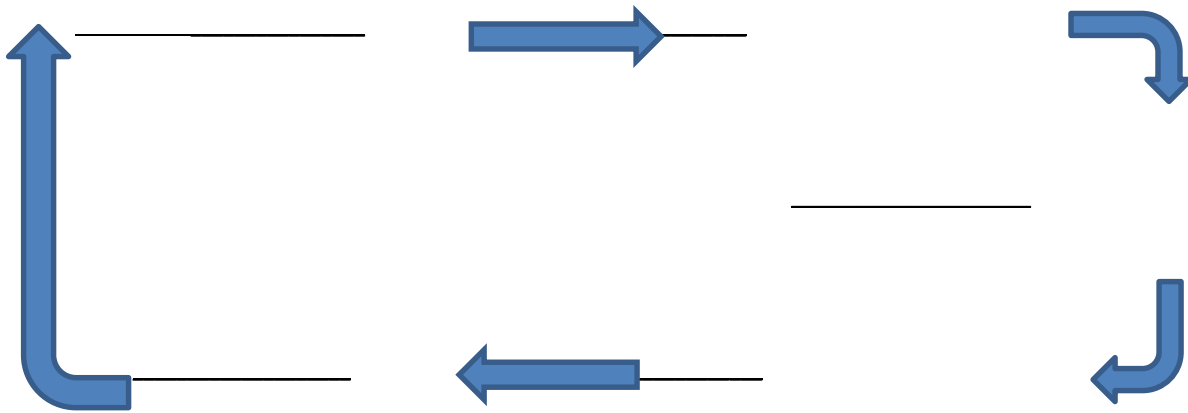
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10. Why were “beasts of burden” so crucial for development? What invention made them extra useful? Why didn't New Guineans ever use plows?

11. There is nearly 148 species of wild animals perfect for farming (large, plant eating mammals over 100 pounds), but how many have actually been domesticated?

(Of all 14, there were ZERO from Sub-Saharan Africa, North America or Australia. South America had ONE. The other 13 were all from Asia, North Africa and Europe)

12. Draw feedback loop diagram to fill in the blanks)



1. villages grew bigger
2. there were more people to work on the land
3. more people could produce food more efficiently
4. specialists/new skills
5. new technologies developed

13. How did the Fertile Crescent lose its head start?

14. “Any two points of the globe that share the same _____ automatically share the same length of day, and they often share a similar climate and vegetation”

15. Where were the crops and animals of the Fertile Crescent eventually taken during the 16th Century?