7 Characteristics of Civilization
What is a Civilization???

Civilization is...a society marked by developed arts, sciences, government, and social structure
The 7 Characteristics are…..

GW RAFTS
G- Government
W- Written Language
R- Religion
A- Arts
F- Food Supply
T- Technology
S- Social Structure
Government

The society’s laws and political institutions, the people who hold power within a society
Government

People form governments to provide for their common needs

- Types
  - Democracy- people have supreme power
  - Republic- people choose leaders to represent them
  - Dictatorship- a ruler or group holds power
Written Language

How people communicate their thoughts, feelings, and knowledge

- Language is the cornerstone of culture. It holds a culture together.
Written Language

Important for passing on traditions, beliefs, and customs.

Language can be written or oral (even gestures)
Stable Food Source

A stable food supply means there is enough food for all of the people all the time.
- Surplus (extra) is necessary to survive
Arts
Things that entertain, please, and teach us about a culture.
Promotes a culture’s pride and unity
- Movies, Books, Plays, Games, Sports, TV Shows, Paintings.
Religion

Helps people answer questions about the meaning and purpose of life.

-Monotheism: worship of one god.
-Polytheism: worship of many gods.
Major Religions

Monotheistic:
- Christianity
- Judaism
- Islam

Polytheistic:
- Hinduism
- Buddhism
Technology

The making, modification, usage, and knowledge of tools, machines, techniques, or systems, in order to solve a problem, improve a pre-existing solution to a problem, or achieve a goal.
Social Structure

Cultures organize members into smaller units so people can work together to meet basic needs. The family is the most important unit.

- wealth, jobs, and position
Social Structure

2 ways to classify the FAMILY UNIT:

1. Nuclear Family- parents, children

2. Extended Family- several generations in one household. Grandparents, parents, uncles/aunts