KQ1: WHEN AND WHY DID PEOPLE START LIVING IN CITIES? (7 SLIDES)
KQ1: When and why did people start living in cities?

- Definition of a city
  - Conglomeration of people & buildings clustered together to serve as a center of politics, culture & economics

- In every region in the world, people are moving from the countryside to urbanized areas
  - It’s a reflection of the changing global economy and the increasing ease of movement in our globalized world

- In Western Europe, the USA & Japan, 4/5 of people live in cities
  - Overall percentage is now just over 50%(51%)
KQ1: When and why did people start living in cities?

- Urbanization can happen rapidly in today’s world
  - Shenzhen, China was a small fishing village in the 1970s (less than half the size of Mansfield today); today they have 3.1 million people
  - Skyscrapers now sit where rice paddies used to be
- Communities have existed for approximately 100,000 years
  - Town & city clusters only developed in the last 10,000 years
- Major even that had to happen before people could gather in cities: switch from hunting & gathering to agriculture
  - Made people more sedentary, staying in one place
  - First cities emerged as agricultural villages—filled with subsistent farmers
  - Began in the Middle East (Mesopotamia), and later in the Nile River valley, Indus River valley, the Yellow & Yangtze river valleys and the future homes of the Aztecs, Incas & Mayans (Mesoamerica)
- These are the 5 urban hearths
Urban:

The buildup of the central city and the suburban realm – the city and the surrounding environs connected to the city.
Shenzhen, China

Shenzhen changed from a fishing village to a major metropolitan area in just 25 years. 25 years ago, all of this land was duck ponds and rice paddies.
In each of these hearths, an agricultural surplus and social stratification created the conditions necessary for cities to form and be maintained.
KQ1: When and why did people start living in cities?

- Two components enable the formation of cities
  - Agricultural surplus
  - Social stratification
    - Must have plenty of food in an area to make people want to live there
    - Levels of leadership & wealth emerge in places such as these
- Most ancient cities were built with protection in mind
  - Walls were built in many early cities
- Most cities were NOT built with sanitation in mind
  - Garbage thrown into open spaces
  - Led to disease issues---kept populations of cities small (biggest were 10,000 to 15,000 people)
- Cities eventually became centers of religion & regional power
- Also became chief marketplaces and places where livestock owners & traders did business
KQ1: When and why did people start living in cities?

- Eventually, cities emerged in the Greek & Roman empires
- By 500 BC, Greece was the most urbanized place on earth
- Athens & Sparta became the leading cities—vying for power
  - Most think Athens was the biggest city in the world for centuries (250,000)
- Every city had an acropolis
  - High point in a city—usually religious buildings were built there
  - Parthenon in Athens remains one of the most famous ones
- Had open spaces for festivals, meetings, debates, etc (sometimes in a structure called an “agora”)
- Had theaters & places for recreation
- Same issues still existed (poor sanitation, housing was no better)
KQ1: When and why did people start living in cities?

- Roman urban areas became bigger than Greece’s.
- Rome was the apex
  - Linked all regions of the Roman Empire to Rome ("all roads lead to Rome")
  - Eventually, Paris was created in much the same way...as was Washington, DC
- Romans were great at picking the "site" for cities
  - The absolute location...picked for a good trade location, defensive location or religious location
- Romans took the ideas of the public area & acropolis of the Greeks to create the Roman “Forum”
  - Focal point of Roman life
  - Rome’s had its Colosseum; home of the gladiators; site where Christians were thrown in and attacked and eaten by lions(before Christianity was adopted by Roman Empire)
KQ1: When and why did people start living in cities?

- Middle Ages (500 to 1300 AD) saw a decline in urbanization (especially in Europe).
- Most of the urban growth that did take place was along the Silk Route between Europe & Asia.
- Some of the biggest cities at the time outside of Europe were the former Aztec capital of Tenochtitlan (present-day Mexico City), Timbuktu (in Mali today), Tokyo, Kyoto & Seoul.
- Most major cities began in interior regions (caravan trade routes like the Silk Road).
- Eventually, due to European colonialism, most cities became coastal (ease of arrival, trade, geographic advantages).
KQ1: When and why did people start living in cities?

- As important as “site” is, “situation” is just as important
  - Site: absolute location
  - Situation: relative location of a place and the world around it

- No event made cities grow more than the Industrial Revolution
  - Mushrooming population, proliferation of factories, expansion of transportation systems and construction of homes for the labor force

- The 2nd Agricultural Revolution preceded this in every region
  - To support more people, you needed more food
  - Agricultural innovations made this possible
KQ2: WHERE ARE CITIES LOCATED AND WHY? (4 SLIDES)
KQ2: Where are cities located and why?

- Every town and city has a “trade area”
  - An adjacent region where it has a dominant influence
  - Customers from smaller towns & villages come to the city to shop and to conduct business
  - A city’s newspapers are read and its TV stations watched in the surrounding areas

- Many countries have a “rank-size” rule
  - The 2\textsuperscript{nd} biggest city has half the number of people as the biggest city
  - The 3\textsuperscript{rd} biggest city has half the number of people as the 2\textsuperscript{nd} biggest city, and so on
    - Differences between cities become smaller at lower levels
    - Countries with a primate city do not follow the rule (Mexico, France, etc).
KQ2: Where are cities located and why?

- Another urban geography theory is called “central place theory”, an idea of Walter Christaller
  - Based on the following assumptions:
    - Surface of the region is flat with no physical barriers
    - Soil fertility is the same everywhere
    - Population and wealth are evenly distributed
    - Region has a balanced transportation network
    - From any place, a good or service could be sold in all directions out to a certain distance
  - Looks like a hexagon (city in center)
  - Maintains that each central place has a surrounding region
    - Which means that the further one gets from the central place in a region, the more likely a person might travel to that surrounding region to shop, do business, etc.
Hexagonal Hinterlands

C = city
T = town
V = village
H = hamlet
KQ2: Where are cities located and why?

- Central Place Theory is based on four main ideas
  - 1) Central places are urban areas that provide services to surrounding rural people
  - 2) The “threshold” is the minimum number of people needed to fuel a particular function’s existence
    - Threshold for a convenience store is much lower than the threshold for a pro sports team
  - 3) The range of a good or service is the maximum distance a person will travel to get that good or service
  - 4) Competition will exist between central places to get customers
KQ2: Where are cities located and why?

- Even though all of his assumptions are almost never entirely met, his theory does explain that the distribution of cities, towns and villages is not an accident----it is tied to trade areas, population size and distance.

- He created this theory in the 1930s...obviously things have changed.