

Name:

Date:

Guns, Germs and Steel: Episode 1 viewing guide



1. Who is Jared Diamond? What does he do for a living? Why is he in New Guinea?
2. What does the man in the movie mean when he refers to “cargo”? What bigger question does Diamond turn this into?
3. Why are the people in New Guinea still hunter gatherers? How would Diamond explain this?
4. Explain how plants and animals were domesticated and what advantages this gives a society.
5. What animals were domesticated? List at least 5.
6. Where did most animals that were domesticated originate? How did this influence civilizations in that area?



7. Explain Diamond's theory about geographic luck. Be specific.

8. How did the movement of the early civilizations of the Fertile Crescent (Middle East) further support Diamond's idea that geography played a key role in the success of a civilization?

9. Do you agree with Jared Diamond when he says of a civilization's ability to gain power, wealth, and strength, "...what's far more important is the hand that people have been dealt, the raw materials they've had at their disposal." Why or why not?