Name

Blocks

**Guns, Germs & Steel**

**Episode 1 Viewing Guide**

**PART 1: Yali’s Question**

1. What is Yali’s question? What is Yali really asking?
2. What is “cargo”? How does this relate to POWER?

**PART 2: Time of Equality**

1. When were all humans on Earth equal? Describe their lifestyle.
2. Why is hunting (and gathering) so inefficient? How does this explain why hunter-gatherer societies don’t produce large civilizations?
3. Describe the food of Papa New Guinea. Can it be mass-produced? Can it be easily stored for long periods of time? Explain the challenges this poses to feeding a civilization.
4. How were the plants of the Middle East different? In what ways were these plants better?

**PART 3: An Agricultural Revolution**

1. How old is the first farming village?
2. What was the secret to sustaining a settled community?
3. What grains were stored here? What characteristics to these grains have?
4. Describe the **process** used to domesticate crops and create plants that produced bigger, better harvests.
5. Why is farming a “decisive” point in human history?
6. Where did farming first emerge on the planet and what did they grow?
7. What were the effects of farming in these places?
8. Why didn’t Papua New Guinea develop a large-scale civilization if they, too, had farming?

**PART 3: The Luck of the Draw**

1. What is GEOGRAPHIC LUCK?
2. Describe the process of animal domestication and the benefits this brought.
3. How are domesticated crops and domesticated animals mutually beneficial for each other?
4. What art the characteristics of animals that are suitable for domestication?
5. List all of the animals that can be domesticated and where they can be found in the world.
6. Where are these 14 animal species found? Describe how the theory about geographic luck applies to animals.

**PART 4: From Tools to Cities**

1. How is fire, yet again, a game-changer for people living in early civilizations?
2. Why did people in Papua New Guinea never develop advanced technology like metalworking?
3. How did people of the Fertile Crescent lose their “head start”? Where did these entire communities, ideas, advances, etc. move to?
4. Describe the shape Eurasia (east-west or north-south). What do places of the same latitude share?
5. According to Jared Diamond, what are the **three** major elements that determine the “haves” and the “have nots” or the people who have more power in the world?
6. How does having GEOGRAPHIC LUCK lead to a HEAD START?

**PART 5: Epilogue**

1. Jared Diamond says that a when it comes to a civilization’s ability to gain power, wealth and strength, “…what is far more important is the hand people have been dealt, the raw materials they’ve had at their disposal [their geographic luck].” Explain how this theory works in your own words.



**Guns, Germs & Steel**

**Predictions**

Make predictions about how guns, germs and steel relate to geography and power.

**Questioning**

Write 2-3 questions that you have right off the bat about the theory of Guns, Germs and Steel and their relationship to power.

**Mapping**

As you watch:

1. Label each continent/region
2. Identify the movement of the early civilizations of the fertile crescent
3. Put a tally mark where people were able to domesticate plants and farm mass produced food
4. Put a tally mark for each domesticated animal on the continent where it’s found
5. Put a large **B** for books where the first libraries were found
6. Put a large **GERM** where people first became sick from major diseases/viruses and developed immunities
7. Put a large **S** where steel
8. `Put a large **GUN** where people first developed guns.