

Collapse: How Societies Choose to Fail or Succeed- Guided Viewing Worksheet
by Jared Diamond

Name: _____

a·grar·i·an

ə'gre(ə)rēən/adjective

1. of or relating to cultivated land or the cultivation of land.

synonyms: agricultural, rural, rustic, pastoral, countryside, farming

1: How is our civilization now **more adapted** to avoid collapsing than civilizations in the past?

WATER

The Anasazi- Chaco Canyon:

What did it look like?

How did they control their water system?

What caused the collapse of Chaco Canyon?

What did the Anasazi do that was allowed them to survive?

What is the projection of what could happen to Phoenix, Arizona? Why?

What is happening to the Los Angeles River?

What is happening in the Central Valley of California? Why?

Why are some farmers selling off their water allocations? What does this mean for our agriculture?

What would cause the land to sink and fracture? Explain.

What happened in Bolivia in the year 2000?

What does Diamond think is the “silver lining” with our water issues?

CIVILIZATION

A single tank of gas is worth _____ of man power

How efficient are oil/coal fired power plants?

What fueled the expanse of the Roman Empire?

What was the problem with the expansion of the Roman Empire?

What are oil sands? Where are they located? How is the oil extracted (what is needed)?

How long before our oil reserves run out? What can we do?

Explain how a solar array works.

What are some of the challenges of alternative energy?

Which alternative energy source can take the place of fossil fuels? Why is this such a problem?

RESOURCES

What does the lack of plaster on later walls indicate happened to the Mayan Population?

What are some impacts of deforestation? How does this affect the Mayans?

What is going on in Northwest China? Explain the causes.

How much of our usable farmland are we currently using?

What is modern agriculture doing to our lands?

What does Jared Diamond say we should do to reduce our agricultural impact in the grocery store?

CLIMATE CHANGE

What are the projections for sea level rise in the next century?

Why are humans so hesitant about doing anything about climate change?

What does excess Carbon Dioxide in the atmosphere do to our oceans?

What has been locked under the Permafrost?

How many more times stronger is Methane than Carbon Dioxide gas?

What is the current cost of climate change?

What is the idea of “Boom and Bust”?

What happened to the Roman Empire?

How does our current situation mirror the Roman Empire?

Summarize what Jared Diamond says will be the downfall of our civilization if we do not act or change things. What are your thoughts?

