

Student Samples

Here are three shortened selections from **students' responses to question #2**: How did place affect people from the earliest homo sapiens to the first civilizations?

Sample 1:

It was a proven fact that all homo sapiens originated in Africa. Homo sapiens didn't start to migrate until later on. They started in Africa and then migrated to Australia, to Asia, to North America and to South America. They started migrating because of the environment where they were at. Sometimes when they migrated, a place would either be too cold or too hot, or too dry or have too much rain so they kept migrating until they were satisfied with a place.

Sample 2:

The weather also really affected them as they decided to travel around the world. As the earliest humans traveled, their skin color began to change as an adaptation. That's why now we have many different skin colors today. This was call melanin. Because some parts of the worlds have different temperatures and climates and some parts had sun but some had more darkness, it changed the amount of melanin in our skin so we could get the nutrients we needed. That really had a big impact on our skin color a lot.

Sample 3:

It all depended on where they person lived at. Like somewhere with a lot of fertile soil and sunny weather can have food and water for a very long time and survive without any problems, but someone that lives with in a place that has bad climate has will not have as much food and will struggle. For example, China was able to grow rice as a major crop because they have a good climate and lived by two rivers so there is enough for everyone. It can depend on the materials in an area as well. With wood, iron, and stones, you can build canals and boats which help with trading to make money. They were also able to make weapons from these materials like swords and knives which lead to then learning how to fight in war.

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Here are **two more samples from question #5**, which asked: Ultimately, who was life better for, hunters and gatherers or farmers? For each response, write down what you notice about their response on the right-hand side and how it could help you improve your writing.

Response 1:

Before the Neolithic Revolution, humans used to gather and hunt. This means they were always going from place to place in order to survive and sustain themselves. Obviously, they didn't have many children because it would be hard to carry them around. With the Neolithic Revolution, humans settled down and learned new techniques to farm and control their production, domesticating animal and selecting desirable characteristics and eliminating bad one. With more food, populations started to grow and humans started to create civilizations with advanced culture and ways to organize society.

But this also brought problems to us. Men started to control economy and social position and women now stayed at home taking care of the children, creating patriarchy, the belief that men are superior than women. There were now high classes and low classes. The high class were the ones who had more production, had more money and status and so, had more influence in society. Low classes were the ones who did not had much of those benefits and so were considered poor.

Before the Neolithic Revolution, women position was just important as men position. Both were important to survive and needed each other equally. There wasn't classes because there was no economy and not too much trading, each group of humans sustained themselves with what they needed only. Another that bad thing was that humans were stuck with just some types of food. When they used to hunter and gather they had a variety of plants and animals they could find and eat, which is was more healthy. In conclusion, the Neolithic Revolution seemed to bring us good things but actually gave us more problems and created hate between us

Response 2:

Ultimately, I feel life for humans averaged out to be better after the Neolithic revolution. Pre Neolithic revolution life was largely based on looking for food and trying not to be eaten or killed in the process. Because of this people didn't really need to have to worry about their house being burnt down or not being able to find a place to live because a tyrant land owner didn't like them. The lack of housing definitely made the people more vulnerable but it also meant they were happier because they were never necessarily bound to a single place.

With the invention of civilizations after the Neolithic revolution, things were in theory less stressful. People didn't need to worry about being attacked by animals, or where the next days food would come from, and alway knew there was a place specifically for them and could call upon the knowledge of the larger city when they need help. This knowledge of the people being concentrated made it so that new inventions could be found and made rapidly and by word of mouth and written language, could quickly be spread among the people, fostering a healthier environment for all who lived in the city.